



NUNATSIAVUT

katimakvingani

Assembly

Nunatsiavut kavamanga
Nunatsiavut Government

FOURTH ASSEMBLY

OF

NUNATSIAVUT

SPRING SESSION 7th Session 1st- SITTING

kAVAMALIGIJET

KAUJITITSIUTINGA

PARLIAMENTARY REPORT

March 17, 2020

In Attendance:

Speaker and Ordinary Member for Canada, Honorable Edward-Blake Rudkowski

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

President of Nunatsiavut, Honorable Johannes Lampe

First Minister and Ordinary Member for Postville, Honorable Tyler Edmunds

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

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

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

Minister of Education and Economic Development and Ordinary Member for Rigolet, Honorable Carlene Palliser

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

Ordinary Member for Makkovik, Mr. John Andersen

Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Mrs. Marlene Winters-Wheeler

AngajukKâk for Nain, Mr. Julius Dicker

AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Mrs. Marjorie Flowers

AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen

AngajukKâk for Postville, Mr. Glen Sheppard

AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Mrs. Charlotte Wolfrey

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

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

Director of Legal Services, Mr. Mark Gillette

Legal Counsel, Ms. Annike Flomen

Clerk of the Nunatsiavut Assembly, Ms. Mary Sillett

MS. FLOWERS: [Recites prayer]

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk Flowers. Now around us today there's two empty seats, specifically the Chairperson of the Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation, Ms. Maxene Winters, and the AngajukKâk for Postville, Mr. Glen Sheppard are both properly excused from this Assembly and will not be joining us today. With that, we'll move on to Item Two on the *Orders of the Day* and I will call upon the President of Nunatsiavut, the Honourable Johannes Lampe to give us his opening remarks.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: *Nakummek, UKatti*. In the absence of the interpreter, translators of the Assembly, I will present my address in English. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This will be my last address to this Assembly before the May 5, Presidential election. I want to take this time to thank each and everyone of you for your support over the past four years and for your dedication and determination in helping to improve the lives of our people and the state of our communities. When I was first elected President, I committed to doing whatever I could to preserve, protect and revitalize Labrador Inuit culture, identity and language. There have been numerous challenges along the way. But I do feel we are making progress and we will continue to make progress if we remain focused on a job at hand. Our language, Mr. Speaker, continues to remain in a state of flux despite many efforts to find ways to make sure it not only survives but flourishes. It is obvious that the wounds of the past continue to

haunt us. The continued marginalization over the past 200 years or so shamed many of our people into not speaking our language, as they associated it with poverty and low social status. Those who were relocated from Hebron and Nutak, for instance, all spoke fluently. As they settled in other communities, they felt isolated, were treated differently and eventually, began to speak more and more English and less Inuttitut. Many of those who attended residential schools were often disciplined, and in some cases, beaten because they spoke Inuttitut. Language is so important to our identity as a people. And we have to continue to push forward in finding ways to protect it. I, for one, no matter where life takes me will continue to do my part to protect our language. And I would expect the same for each and every Member of this Assembly. The next few years are crucial, Mr. Speaker, and I ask all Assembly Members not to lose focus of what defines us as a people, so that future generations of Labrador Inuit can look back with pride in knowing that we've done what we could to protect our cultural identity. While progress has been slow, Mr. Speaker, I am confident we have made some significant strides. We renamed the former Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism to Language Culture and Tourism to reflect a renewed emphasis on promoting, protecting and revitalizing Inuttitut. Mr. Speaker, serving as President has been an honour. It hasn't been easy, but it certainly has been rewarding. I've learned as President and as an Ordinary Member for Nain previously, that the power of this Assembly lies in its ability to reach out to our beneficiaries no matter where they

live, to listen to their concerns, to recognize their challenges and to act in their best interests. I learned that as an Assembly, we need to be understanding, patient, supportive and above all, united in our resolve to do what is best for our people in our communities. I will always cherish my time as President, of the work we have done here in this Assembly. I am deeply humbled to have had this opportunity and I wish each and everyone of you nothing but success. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, President Lampe. Item Three is "Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery" but of course, given our circumstances, we have none. This Assembly was absolutely essential to transpire because of the pressing issues we need to deal with in advance of the end of this fiscal year. However, in an effort to mitigate any impact or perception of impact on the community of Hopedale we have-, I've asked that all staff members of this building be excused or to be able to work from home today and indeed that's why we find ourselves alone in this building. Similarly, translators and OK Society have also been asked not to attend on this sitting. So it is the sign of the times that I look upon an empty chamber. With that, on to Item Four of the *Orders of the Day*, "Ministers Statements". Are there any Ministers wishing to make a statement this morning? The Speaker recognizes the Honourable Gerald Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK:

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform the Assembly that the Family Connections Program continues to do great work in supporting families. In Hopedale they established a partnership with Aboriginal Head Start to offer programming to parents and children. It involves an educational

topics about parenting or mental health, traditional elder invitations, et cetera. The staff from AHS do activities with the children while parents attend the program. Case planning with children, seniors and social development in families involved with the Family Connections Program have been ongoing. This involves discussions with social workers and clinical program supervisors assisting Inuit families. The Family Connections Department offered a formal presentation to Legal Aid in Newfoundland and Labrador about Family Connections Program. We are pleased to welcome Ben-Sue Merkuratsuk as a new Family Connections Worker in Nain. Mr. Speaker, the Indigenous Representative position came about with the implementation of the most recent legislation. Krista Mogridge began in the Indigenous Representation Role on January 27th. The IR is responsible for working with the team, family, CSSD Social Worker, significant others, child or youth if developmentally appropriate, to develop a cultural connection plan for Nunatsiavut Beneficiary children in care. The aim of the Cultural Connection Plan is to aid in fostering an Indigenous child or Indigenous youth connection with their culture, heritage, traditions, community language and spirituality to preserve the Indigenous child's or Indigenous youth's cultural identity. From January 31st to February 20th, the IR attended the development of 18 Cultural Connection plans. There are five other Cultural Connection Plans that were filed before the court. The Caring for our Children Project is a program designed to recruit and support current foster parents. Social worker Megan Edmunds and previously Krista Mogridge have been

working with and traveling to communities to spread awareness about the Foster Home Support Program. In February, Krista and Megan traveled to Makkovik where there was a Foster Parent Appreciation, Recruitment event. Two foster home applications were received. There was also a Foster Home Recruitment Community Event Supper with assistance from DSSD Staff as well as an elder's lunch where Megan and Krista offered an informal presentation. Mr. Speaker, on February 27th and 28th, the 3rd Forum for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse in Inuit Nunangat, as well as a workshop on Child Sexual Abuse, "Our children, Our Responsibility", was held in Ottawa with several staff from the Department attending. Danielle Baikie, Director of Family Services and Darlene Jacque, regional Social Worker Liaison have been attending the Technical meetings on Federal Bill C92 which was implemented on January 1st, 2020. This Act affirms the right for Indigenous Governing bodies to assume jurisdiction over child welfare services. Legislative review working group meetings are ongoing where the Family Services Department are reviewing CSSD legislation and policies in preparation for devolution. A funding formula for National Inuit Suicide Prevention Strategy was approved by ITK. We are planning for submission for those funds, building upon the work we have done so far. Several mental health staff attended the Provincial Recovery Forum in St. John's. Staff are involved in many provincial workgroups regarding towards recovery. A vision for renewed mental health and addiction services for Newfoundland and Labrador. Mr. Speaker, the Survivor Support

Coordinator Residential school position has been reposted. This individual will ensure the delivery of programs and services identified by Residential School Survivors including but not limited to, land-based programming, individual and group counselling, support and social group and gatherings, community and regional gathering or conferences, culture and language programming for survivors, development of a written material, example, a yearbook or newsletter, home visits and outreach, particularly to elders, educate others on residential schools and their impact. Mr. Speaker, the Director of Mental Wellness and Healing is working on a service delivery model for the Child Specialist Services under the Child First initiative. The following positions are in the process of being filled; Child and Youth Mental Health specialist, Child Service Support Manager, and eight new positions as Child First Intervention Worker. The Trauma and Addictions team offered Empowering Community through Healing and Connection to Tradition in Hopedale. Much planning went into the development of this program and the feedback was very positive. The seven-plex in Nain is now complete and seven families have been selected for units, however there's currently an issue with water pressure, so the families cannot move in until this issue is resolved. There's also one unit vacant in the six-plex in Nain, and this is currently being advertised. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to say that NG was successful in their bid for the Nain Transition House property and have plans to use this building in the short term as an emergency shelter. We have been able to secure funding for a six-month pilot project and are

currently working on staffing, hydro, telephone to make this happen quickly. In closing, Mr. Speaker, the Status of Women Coordinator has received funds for a two-year project. The Nunatsiavut-, excuse my mispronunciation, Ikamut Project, Nunatsiavut Remembers, is an initiative of the DHSD, a collaboration of the Mental Wellness and Healing Staff and the Status of Women Office. This project will honour the Inuit Women in Nunatsiavut who have been missing or murdered by creating a monument with input from families and will include a community feast to honour the unveiling of the monument March 2021. Family members impacted by Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls are encouraged to contact Tracy Evans Rice. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Minister Asivak. The Speaker recognizes The Honourable Greg Flowers.

MR. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I'll try to be as brief as I can. From our Renewable Resource Division, Mr. Speaker, our fishery; in preparation for the upcoming fishing season, the department multiple DFO Science meetings to receive the latest science advice in area species we fish commercially. Mr. Speaker the 2020 Commercial Fishing applications are now out and will be available until April the 3rd. Our wildlife-, the 2020 moose hunting season opened on September 16th. To date, 11 licences are filled. The hunting season will close on March 31st. The 2020 polar bear hunting season opened on February the 3rd. To date, eight licences are filled. The hunting season will close on June 30th. The Torngat Secretariat completed an aerial survey for moose this winter

with support from our department. The moose survey was scheduled for Kipikak North, but due to the lack of snow in the area, it took place Kipikak South and is now completed. Due to the concerns with the ongoing Corona Virus Pandemic, the survey for the Torngat caribou that was supposed to happen this winter, Mr. Speaker is postponed until March 2021. The Provincial hunting ban on the George River Caribou continues to be in effect and the NEC recently posted a notice to beneficiaries, explaining that it is still illegal to hunt the George River caribou or any caribou south of the Torngat Park. Non-renewable Resource Division, Mr. Speaker-, Mr. Speaker, on the exploration front, Vale has received approval from the Province to continue exploring adjacent to the mine. Mr. Speaker, the Labrador Gold has delivered a community presentation on February the 12th in Hopedale on the Udjutok Project. To date, our Division has not received any workplans from Labrador Gold for 2020. Also, Mr. Speaker, Geological Survey of Canada has rescinded the results of the geo-mapping for NG and mineral programs, GEM that took place near the Hopedale area over the past few summers. Also Mr. Speaker, the IBA update. The Voisey's Bay IBA implementation is going well. Our IBA coordinator Trent Pottle, Vale Inuit Employment Coordinator has been in Nain and Hopedale in the last few weeks past. And also Mr. Speaker, they will be traveling to the other communities in the coming months. Also Mr. Speaker, the Mealy Mountain National Park Co-Management Board was held in Happy Valley Goose Bay on March 10th and 11th. This was the first meeting for the

CMB. The Environment Division, Mr. Speaker; the Environment Division continues to work with the base camp working group to ensure that research projects operate out of the base camp and existing environmental and waste issues are addressed. The Environment Division is pleased to announce the hiring of Frederick Dwyer Samuel as the Environmental Assessment guy and Elizabeth Tuglavina as the Research Outreach Coordinator. So congratulations to these individuals, Mr. Speaker. Finally, the three permanent Immapivut positions that were-, that will be posted throughout Nunatsiavut will happen in the near future. From the Lands Division, Mr. Speaker, the manager of Lands reported five new applications have been submitted in 2020 and are at various stages of progressing. Mr. Speaker, our department recently completed land transfers to the Department of Language Culture and Tourism for their program at Hebron and the Kayak Revival Project at (Inaudible) Bay. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, the Lands Division is developing signs to inform non-beneficiaries that a permit is required to access Labrador Inuit land from-, for harvesting purposes. The signs will be installed on the winter trails outside of the communities of Postville and Rigolet. Mr. Speaker that concludes my Members statement. Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Minister Flowers. Are there any other Ministers wishing to make a statement this morning? The Speaker recognizes The Honourable Carlene Palliser.

MS. PALLISER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Inuit Pathways-, Indigenous Skills Employment Training Program. Inuit Pathways has 35 people in long and short-term

skills development training now in various fields such as heavy-duty equipment technician, welding, electrical and cooking. They have partnered with LAMP and are cost sharing four of these with LAMP for the CAS Trades program currently being offered at the College of the North Atlantic in Goose Bay. ABE at the Learning Centres in Nain and Hopedale continues to be supported by 15 seats sponsored between the two communities with an active waitlist for new applicants to enter as a funded space opens up in one of the centres. We have 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 completion of Management, HEO Assessment, Development projects. In addition to this we have been contacted by the ICG's of Rigolet and Postville for similar types of projects to support training leading to enhanced productivity and services in the communities. Staff continue to work through Inuit Human Resource Development Technical Committee and ITK on overall continuity and administration of the Indigenous Skills Employment Training Program, allowing for consultation with other Inuit Groups and the ESDC on a national level. As part of this process there was 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 Indigenous Skills Employment Training Program allocation. As this is the first year of the ISET, it has been a transition year for staff in terms of

finalization of a new National Guideline and how it fits into the internal policies of funding programs. The end of the assets also came with a substantial increase in funds and due to not receiving it until the end of the year, last year, the majority of these funds were carried forward into the current year to be spent. This is in addition to the regular yearly allocation which was increased under Inuit Skills Employment Training Program and has resulted in a fairly healthy budget at the moment. As we concentrate on spending these extra last-year funds, as it cannot be carried beyond March 31st of this year, but current-year funds can be carried forward for future spending, plans were developed to provide some more community-based training during this year, but due to scheduling issues with the college, these community safety courses will not be completed until spring. The Department of Education and Development. Inuit Post Secondary Education Steering Committee. New Federal Monies are forthcoming from the 2019 budget for Inuit Post Secondary Education. Funds for 2019 to 2020 are available now and the Contribution Agreement for 2021 has been signed. Funds from 2021 onward will flow through our FFA. In the 2019 Federal Budget, 125.1 million over 10 years with 21.8 ongoing, was announced for Inuit Post-Secondary Education. 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. Nunatsiavut Government has confirmed that we will be the recipient in administration of these funds, and we will be

able to set out the policies and procedures for support. K to 12 Inuit evaluation-, K to 12 Inuit evaluation is complete and a draft report is being reviewed by our department. The final report will be ready by the end of March. Education counsellor position-, the Position of Education Counsellor has been filled. Charlene Gear of Postville, has accepted the position and will start soon. Since 1990s, the Education Counsellor job was a full-time position. In 2013 this role became part of the new Education Manager Position. Over time, it was deemed necessary to bring back the counsellor position to full-time capacity to provide more hands-on support to students in the K to 12 system to help prepare them for post-secondary studies. The Department of Education and Economic Development, Economic Development Division-, Financial Literacy Training-, we are completing Phase Two Training working with each one teacher, one facilitator in mid-February, we completed financial literacy training with junior high and high school students and the public, in Upper Lake Melville. Due to prevention measures with Covid-19, sessions in Postville, Makkovik and Hopedale has been postponed indefinitely. Offering these sessions will be reviewed once public gatherings are permitted. Policy development. We have begun the process of research recommendations for policy options related to our procurement process with an investment of 80,000, these policy recommendations will formalize our Inuit Business Registry processes and support our procurement delivery. Those recommendations will be complete and brought to the NEC in coming months. Economic

Assessments. We have signed a contract with the MUN Harris Centre to expand on the Pilot Economic Template for Rigolet. Rigolet's profile is in the final stages of completion. The research on Makkovik has begun and we will tackle the remaining communities and regional profile. We will be seeking telephone interviews versus in person survey delivery to gather community specific information required for the completion of each community profile. We will create an internal working group on this file and we'll reach out to the Inuit Community Governments in the coming weeks with information and interview requests. Rigolet Gas Station. The Gas Station continues interim operations while we evaluate long-term options. We have facilitated the development of the final draft of the RFP which has been advertised in February, closing March 17th. We will assist our RICG in the review of applications and select a possible successful provider in later March. To ensure the continuation of the gas station, whether public or private, we are also researching the options of a cooperative model. In the event that RFP process does not yield a successful private option, we will have the research of a co-op to review. The consultant for this project has been engaged. The results are expected early in the new fiscal year. Business Support. Our division is seeking to assist business in increasing their profile. Our Inuit Business Registry-, what we initially planned as in person training session and pictured contact development session in three communities, expanding to the remaining communities later in the year, we are exploring options for increasing business profiles from a distance, due to recent travel and

health realities. More details to come as we explore these options.

Mealy Mountains Entrepreneurship Program. We released an RFP for an entrepreneurship Support Program. We are currently reviewing and received submissions in partnership with our Education Division. We will have this awarded next week. Community Economic Program. We currently have funds available within our CEDP Program. Funding is available for the continuation of ICG Development Officer positions for the current fiscal year. Applications are available and funding proposals are reviewed on a case by case basis. Submit your Community Development Project to take advantage of this opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

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

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, UKatti. I do have a few things in my statement today. I will try to be as brief as I can. If I do omit anything, I will provide the statement to the Members around the table for their information. Mr. Speaker, I with two other Members of the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission Steering Committee, Deputy Minister Shiwak and Crawford met with Torngats at their AGM in February to have a discussion about the role of the NHC and how that aligns with TRHA once the Commission is established. There were several concerns, questions from the Board of Directors, especially around Torngat's assets and the possibility of the ending of our contribution agreement March 31st, 2021. Overall, Mr.

Speaker, it was a productive meeting. There was a commitment made to ensure that information continually flowed between NG and Torngat and the Board selected three Members to act as their representatives to meet on occasion with the Steering Committee. With respect to the development of the Commission, Mr. Speaker an RFP which asks for an organization to set up the necessary foundation for the NCH has been issued on March 2nd. Qualified firms will make their submissions for a detailed plan on the next steps to establish the Commission and the closing date on that is March 30th. In terms of our Affordable Warmth Program, Mr. Speaker, the 2020 Program allocation letters have gone out to all those who have applied. In total for the 2020 program there were 58 applications that were received by the departments. Of those 58, 20 were rejected for receiving previous repairs, exceeding income or other reasons. Twenty-one were approved based on their completed applications and 17 were marked incomplete and we're working with those 17 to ensure that their applications have the proper information. The RFP process for the 2019 program has finished and an award for that contract will be issued in the very near future and we hope that, that work can commence in the upcoming spring, but of course we have to be vigilant of everything that's going on in the current climate. With respect to the multiplexes, Mr. Speaker, Minister Asivak had alluded a little bit to this earlier, that we are having issues with the water pressure in Nain and that's really unfortunate. We do have families that need to get into that space but this is a safety concern and until that's addressed, we can't

open up that space to those seven families. In terms of the housing needs assessment, at the last Assembly we spoke to this issue and we said that there was some concerns around the lack of data for Nain and Hopedale. We have been looking at that recently, and we're anticipating that the extra work collecting the data will begin next week in these two communities. It's extremely important that we get a full picture of the housing needs in both these communities and it will guide the decisions that we make going to the future. In terms of membership and enrollment, Celeste Andersen of Happy Valley, Goose Bay has been appointed to the Membership Appeal Board. In Makkovik, we have Barbara Andersen on the Makkovik Postville Membership Committee and Dan Pottle, originally of Rigolet who lives in St. John's has been appointed to the Rigolet and Upper Lake Melville Membership Committee. Mr. Speaker, I'll just take a couple minutes to speak to some of the meetings that our department has been involved in over the last few weeks, namely Northern Lights and some transportation meetings. In terms of Northern Lights, as the Assembly may be aware, we met between February 5th and 7th and we have five meetings with different Ministers. Some key topics that we addressed throughout all of those meetings, included the Nain airstrip. Throughout those discussions we've talked about the funding for base camp to make it sustainable. We talked about commitments to housing dollars and broad band services. In terms of the Nain airstrip, we talked about the issue of commitments on the feasibility studies to move forward on this issue so that we can-, again, we do need

funding to advance the feasibility studies. So that was brought forward to nearly every single meeting that we had in February. We also talked about the advancement of the Arctic and Northern Policy Framework with several Ministers and using the Inuit Nunangat Policy approach when we think about programs, services and dollars for the North. Mr. Speaker, I think that this message has been delivered around the table several times before. We are in a unique situation where we are in the North of 60 line and often times that means that we can be excluded from funding potential and we feel that these issues need to be advanced, that the Inuit Nunangat Policy approach needs to be implemented across all Federal Programs, Federal initiatives, so that we're not prevented, precluded from getting the funds that we need for infrastructure and other programs. On February 18th, Mr. Speaker, I met in Goose Bay with AngajukKâk Sheppard and AngajukKâk Andersen and MHA Evans with Minister Crocker and Woodward's Group of Companies and Labrador Marine Incorporated. An agenda was sent out previous to our meeting but our belief was that there was gonna be a strong focus during that meeting on the establishment of the User's Committee and we believed that there was gonna be a lot of discussion around that. We were frustrated when we got there, that there were no representation there from the User's Committee. Patty Dicker was able to join us through teleconference. It was clear that when we got there this was going to be a presentation from Woodward's, from LMI, talking about the changes that they plan to implement to improve the freight service and

the passenger service and the messaging that they delivered to us was that they believe that the vessel's still the appropriate one, and that the changes that they're going to make will match the needs of our beneficiaries. We were not happy with those messages. We were not happy with that presentation. There were a number of improvements that they committed to tracking of freight. They committed to a new racking system in the storage shed. They committed to heating the warehouse entirely. But we haven't deviated from our position, Mr. Speaker and we made that clear at that point in time and we still maintained the position that this vessel's not appropriate and that the weather's going to continue to play a role in the effectiveness of this vessel. A letter was sent to the Minister right after that meeting, again, reiterating that we're not reassured by the presentation or the messaging, from either Woodward, LMI. What was really concerning to me at that meeting, Mr. Speaker was to hear that there's been a significant drop in the passenger numbers for that service, alarmingly so. And we all have seen the effects of the weather on this vessel and passengers being stranded and our passengers being unable to rely on the service. One of the things that I mentioned in that letter to the Minister was that the five-day weather policy that exists right now for delays is inappropriate for our region and I asked that the Minister look at that policy to reduce it down as much as I can, and even in the meetings two weeks ago, I said a two-day policy at the maximum would be more appropriate for our region. It's not appropriate to compare our

service to the rest of the Marine Atlantic with the short-haul service and to have a weather delay policy for five days, that basically mimics the run of this vessel. It's not appropriate. And as I mentioned, we met with Minister Crocker again separately the other week, March 9th. That focus-, the focus of that meeting was mostly on the road and the Nain Airstrip. We did talk about the ferry service as well during that time, and I still haven't gotten a response back from the Minister on that letter that was sent. So I told him that I'd like to see that soon. But the messaging around the road was that the discussion needs to happen now, that there needs to be commitments around the feasibility study, the pre-feasibility study, and that if the province is genuine when they say that they will start on the North Coast discussions, on the road after the South Coast is completed. The necessary work needs to start now with the feasibility study. The Province came back and said that they were going to look at what information they had and potentially costing out a feasibility study and to continue discussions with us on that issue. As the Assembly knows, the implications of delays and improving our transportation is really devastating. It can be devastating to our communities. The messaging that we continue to relay to the province is that we live these realities daily on the North Coast and our well-being is jeopardized with substandard transportation services. It affects nearly every aspect of our beneficiaries' lives. Mr. Speaker, we also met with five other Inuit leaders on March 6th through the ICPC. I won't go into it too much but basically, we renewed a workplan between the Inuit leaders and the Federal

Government. Some of those things included advancing procurement opportunities, education, economic development. We stressed Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and ensuring that, that is a common issue we need to work towards over the next couple years. We talked about again Arctic Northern Policy Framework, ANPF, housing dollars and perhaps most importantly, a message that was stressed throughout that entire meeting is that there's a very significant infrastructure gap between the north and the rest of Canada. We've stated that there needs to be-, there's going to be an analysis of all the infrastructure across all of Inuit Nunangat and once we've compiled that list, then we will work with the Federal Government to try to secure funding to ensure that our communities have the resources that they need to deliver proper services on at least the same standard as our counterparts throughout the rest of Canada. Those were all the-, I said I wasn't gonna go on, but I think I did. Mr. Speaker, that's all I had to say today. *Nakummek.*

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, First Minister Edmunds for your very interesting and pertinent updates from your department. Are there any other Ministers wishing to make a statement this morning? Seeing none, we'll move on to Item Six of the *Orders of the Day*, which are "Members Statements". Are there any Members wishing to make a statement this morning? The Speaker recognizes the AngajukKâk for Rigolet Ms. Charlene-, I saw your hand-, I'll take you after Marlene, sorry, Charlotte Wolfrey.

MS. WOLFREY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm gonna be brief in my statement. First I'd just like to congratulate all the racers in Games Quest and I think they're all winners, and I would especially like to take the opportunity to give a big shout out to the two women teams that were in there, that, you know, it shows great courage for-, to enter into a race like that for sure, and I'm really glad that one team finished, but I'm proud of both of them. You go, girls. And, Mr. Speaker some congratulations are in order for our community in Nunatsiavut. To all the participants in the Inuttitut Speak-Off, it's really good to see our youth trying and speaking Inuttitut, and of course, I was a proud Grandma, when Brooklyn, my Ingutak was in there and my niece, Elsa Shiwak. They did a great job. And there was also the Pan Labrador Choir in Hopedale. It was fantastic, and it's so good to see those things streamed out on social media-, a beautiful concert, indeed. And congratulations to Rigolet on their second-place finish in the sports meet. Rigolet was also fortunate enough to have one of our elders celebrate their 90th birthday, so happy birthday, Uncle Bert Allen. You're an inspiration to our community. And Mr. Speaker, I pray for the health of our beautiful communities, that we will come through this pandemic without too many casualties. I pray that this will all turn out okay. And Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to offer condolences to Henry John Palliser and his family and their extended families. Harriet, Henry John's wife, passed away in late January. She's sadly missed by everyone. Rest in peace, Harriet, we love you. *Nakummek*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Flowers. *[sic]* And today, to the list of condolences, I would add Tony Adams who is Harriet's brother as well who lives in our constituency. The Speaker recognizes Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Ms. Marlene Winters-Wheeler.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to give a brief update to our colleagues on the activities of Upper Lake Melville. I had to edit a bit because of the situation we're in right now with the Covid-19. Some events kinda got rescheduled. I would like to congratulate Ms. Heather McLean on her promotion to Detachment Commander of the RCMP, Sheshatshui North West River detachment, in January 2020. Raised in North West River, Ms. McLean first became interested in becoming an RCMP officer when she was a summer student with the RCMP in 1994, so just I think it's great to show that it's an interest she had as a youth, and it, you know, kinda led her to her current career. Excuse me. I also had the honour of attending Mr. Robert Lyall's Investiture for the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador on Friday, March the 6th at the Long-term care facility in Happy Valley Goose Bay. It was a privilege to watch the first presentation of this award outside of Government House in St. John's. It was wonderful to see so many of Mr. Lyall's family in attendance and I thank them for the invitation. I would like to acknowledge the accomplishments of TJ Gear of Happy Valley Goose Bay who recently competed at the 2020 Canadian Power Lifting and Bench Press Championships in Winnipeg. He's obviously, very strong, much stronger than me-, where he finished second in his division. It's an

amazing accomplishment, TJ. I recently attended the Headland Apartment Complex with my colleague, NunaKatiget Chair, Kemuksigak. It was great to spend a fun afternoon socializing with elders who are not always able to get out at various events, especially in the winter months, and I look forward to attending more events with NunaKatiget. During the week of March 6th, I also saw the Regional Labrador Drama Festival in Happy Valley Goose Bay. All the plays were well-produced and the acting was great by all participants. Congratulations to the organizers, participants and sponsors. It was great to hear our government supports this event, as I think it's a worthwhile event that has many benefits to our region and beneficiaries. I would also like to congratulate the teams in the recent Cain's Quest. It's always an exciting event and it truly brings our communities together as we cheer on these brave and strong men and women who accept the challenge of racing around Labrador. It is heart-warming to see how the communities provide a warm welcome to the racers as they stop, even if only for a few moments at the check points. Congratulations to the organizers and community volunteers who helped make this event a huge success. Finally, I would like to say, *Nakummek*, to President Lampe on his service, his leadership on many tough issues and his dedication to our beneficiaries. I've enjoyed sitting with you, I'll say it, this side of the table during my term as Ordinary Member. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors and I hope you feel well soon. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member Winters-Wheeler. The Speaker recognizes the Ordinary Member for Makkovik, Mr. John Andersen.

MR. J. ANDERSEN:

...about this time when I would give my first statement in the House. Mr. Speaker, I'll just tell you somewhat of I've done. Mr. Speaker, when I walked into these Chambers on January 21st, I felt like a rookie walking into a dressing room for the first time and here was all these veterans that I would be working with. My first reaction was, Mr. Speaker, was, "Oh, my God, what have I done?" Then, as I sat listening to everybody giving their presentation, then I started to relax some. Mr. Speaker, after I turned to my community and met with our AngajukKâk, and he filled me in on the happenings in the House, and how I should react and things, I met with the Director of Education, Jodie Lane and got filled in on the Educational part of things. I sent a couple of emails to First Minister Edmunds and-, on some issues that I had, and he helped me out. Thank you, First Minister for that. I have been talking to the Newfoundland and Labrador English School Board on getting a music teacher for Makkovik. I read everything, Mr. Speaker. I read Hansard, *Constitution, the Nunatsiavut Assembly Act, Code of Conduct, Standing Order, the Assembly Orientation and Procedure*, how an Ordinary Member should act and what an Ordinary Member can do. And I never did find out what it was. Mr. Speaker, someone once said that no one ever learned how to be right or wrong or where to act in a right and good manner from reading it in a book. And you learn, Mr. Speaker through actions in the real world. You learn when you do things and you get out there involved

in the world, making decisions and making things happen. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with the whole Assembly. I look forward to getting involved with decisions and happenings in Nunatsiavut. I will to the best of my ability, help to make decisions that makes our communities a better, safer, healthier and more enjoyable place to live. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member Andersen. Are there other Members wishing to make a statement today? The Speaker recognizes the AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, again, Mr. Speaker. I didn't have any written presentation. I did have it but I didn't bring it with me. I didn't realize that we were gonna have an official sitting. I thought we were dealing with the budget today, given the circumstances, but I'd like to rise today to congratulate the Makkovik JCAM, John Christian Erhardt Memorial School, on winning the, uh, Winter Sports Meet in Postville. And they did an excellent job there and also to the Cain's Quest Racers and all the First Responders who stood by to help keep this race very safe overall this year. Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Andersen. Are there any other Members wishing to make a statement this morning? The Speaker recognizes Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Gerald Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Congrats to Cain's Quest 2020, to all the racers, sponsors, staff, volunteers and community supporters. I hope you

enjoyed the thrill of a lifetime, experienced the hospitality in Nunatsiavut, and Labrador by our friendly, caring people and our beautiful land. I hope you'll be back in 2022. I want to send condolences to the family of the late Mr. Russel McNeil of North West River. Thoughts and prayers with you on the passing of your loved one. I want to wish congratulations to Jersey McNeill, age 12, son of Lori McNeill of Happy Valley, Goose Bay. Jersey won a gold medal at the 2020 Skate Canada Newfoundland and Labrador Provincials. Jersey skates with the Snowflake Figure Skating Club. He also heads to Newfoundland next month-, before this Covid-19 this was done, for Newfoundland and Labrador Hockey Provincials and to Nova Scotia in May for Triple A Hockey Tournament with the Newfoundland and Labrador Rock Devils. Your endless practice and devotion to sports has paid off. All the best for future competitions and hats off to your coaches and mother who supports you in your sports. Congrats to Mr. Robert Lyall of Happy Valley, Goose Bay on the investiture of the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador. He resides at the Long-term Care Centre in Happy Valley, Goose Bay. The Honourable Judy Foote, Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador and Chancellor of the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador, was joined by the Honourable Dwight Ball, Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador at the ceremony for Mr. Lyall. Here is the excerpt of his biography taken from the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador website. "Robert Lyall has spent decades working to make Labrador a better place and strengthening the services

for Indigenous people in the Province. For more than 35 years, he worked as a maintenance supervisor for the Regional Health Authority and despite helping to raise eight children, he still found time to serve with a number of community organizations. Mr. Lyall was involved with The OKâlaKatiget Society, the Labrador Inuit Association, Labrador Legal Services, the Lions Club, the Moravian Church and the Melville Native Housing Association. He was also instrumental in the establishment of the Labrador Correctional Centre. One of Mr. Lyall's greatest achievements was being a founder of the Labrador Friendship Centre. This important organization continues to provide a hostel, senior's transportation, a facility for training and education and a community food bank. In recognition he was made a lifetime honorary member of the National Association of Friendship Centres. He received the Queens Golden Jubilee in 2002 and the Queens Diamond Jubilee in 2013. Today, at the age of 86, Mr. Lyall continues to be involved with the Moravian Church." His family was present, along with myself and my colleague Ms. Wheeler. Mr. Lyall, thanks for your dedicated volunteerism over the years making the community a better place by your tireless hours of giving back. Congrats on such a prestigious award. I had the pleasure to attend Headland Apartments in Goose Bay to visit senior beneficiaries with NunaKatiget Chairperson, Patricia Kemuksigak for a social and to call bingo. I had a great time calling bingo, seeing their faces light up with some fun. I will be back to visit them again in the future. I attended the Family Treatment Grad at Charles J. Andrew treatment Centre in

Sheshatshui the families who've completed the program. Congrats and well wishes to one family from Nain for a healthier family and all the best in the future. In closing, Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Ms. Wheeler and I will be finishing our first newsletter in the coming weeks, for beneficiaries in the Upper Lake Melville area as well as open houses this spring.

Nakummek.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member Asivak. The Speaker recognizes the Ordinary Member for Rigolet, Ms. Carlene Palliser.

MS. PALLISER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They say that the youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow. Looking at the accomplishments of the youth in our community these past few months, we are bound to have some great leaders. Congratulations to Rigolet Eagles who took home the silver medal for their overall performance in Postville Winter Sports Meet in February. The team will be representing the North Coast in badminton regionals in May. This was before Covid came on. Congratulations to Samantha Williams on winning the most valuable female player award at the meet. Ocean Pottle-Shiwak attended a Junior Canadian Ranger Provincial Marksmanship competition in Happy Valley, Goose Bay on February 15th. She had top score for the standing position in the match. Congratulations to Ocean on her sharp shooting skills. Ocean Pottle-Shiwak and Brooklyn Wolfrey attended the 17th Annual Inuttitut Speak-Off held in Nain in February. Congratulations to both Eagles who represented their school well in the Inuttitut Speak-Off this year. Students from NLA join other choir members in Hopedale. Isabel Palliser,

Zoe Shiwak, Alison Palliser, Ella Jacque, and Brooklyn Wolfrey did a great job representing our community at this event. Congratulations Brooklyn and Ella for placing first in the Lego competition that was held during that time also. Thanks to the staff at Amos Community School in Hopedale, we did get to watch both the choir and the Lego competition live at home. Congratulations to Breanna Wolfrey and Samantha Williams from Rigolet who will be traveling to Halifax Nova Scotia as part of the badminton team representing Newfoundland and Labrador at the North American Indigenous Games in July. Lastly, Rigolet's drama group who performed Les Rigolets drama group who performed their play "Stressed" on Thursday evening for our community. The drama group traveled to Goose Bay on March 4th to take part in the annual drama festival where they won five awards for their play. Congratulations to Claire Blake, Ella Jacque, Alison Palliser and Zoe Shiwak who did an outstanding performance at the Drama Festival and at home. Our youth had wonderful support from teachers and leaders who guide them to perform to the best of their abilities. Thanks to the following for supporting our students in the community: Steve Brazil, Rhoda Palliser, Ray Bennett, Candice Elson, Chelsea Morris, Jennifer Dente and Lexi Palliser. On February 26th, Uncle Bert Allen celebrated his 90th birthday. During his birthday celebrations, it was well attended by approximately 100 family and community members. I presented him with a milestone certificate to mark his very special occasion. Belated birthday greetings are also going out to Mr. Garland Baikie who had celebrated his 86th

birthday on March 10th. Mr. Baikie is also a very well respected elder of our community and a great craft producer. I hope they both had a great birthday. Congratulations is also extended to all the teams in the Cain's Quest. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

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

MS. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll keep my statement very brief given the situation we're going through here today and so we can get to the budget. I just learned early this morning that we had a passing of an elder, last night. So I'm extending condolences to the family of Jim Flowers and also condolences to the family of David Shuglo who passed away just recently. I also want to announce that we are fully staffed at our HICG office. We've just hired our town clerk who's David Igloriorte and he's just started this week, so it's wonderful for the first time in years, we're fully staffed. And also, congratulations to the Cain's Quest racers and also the volunteers. Mr. Speaker, it was wonderful to see that we had 30 volunteers this year and many of those were youth and it was just so enlightening to see how excited they were to be taking part in this wonderful event that brings so many communities together.

Unfortunately, I missed the Pan Labrador Choir and I was really disappointed as I was out of town, but I heard it was a great event, and I extend my congratulations to everyone involved there. And lastly, I want to extend my condolences to the family of Ruby Maidment even though she's not a beneficiary, she's my son's mother-in-law who passed away

just after I was coming back from the Combined Council Meeting. So I ended up doing her memorial service in Goose Bay and another man, Mr. Paul from North West to help the United Church out. So it was busy times and I just want to extend my well wishes to our President, Johannes Lampe. I wish him well in his surgery. I know that he hasn't been well and just let him know that he's in our thoughts and our prayers and to thank him for the work that he has done as our President. Very privileged to have worked with him. And on behalf of Hopedale Inuit Community Government, I wish him all the best in his endeavors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Flowers. Are there other Members wishing to make a statement this morning? The Speaker recognizes The Ordinary Member for Postville, Mr. Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, UKatti. I just wanted to make a couple remarks. I want to thank Johannes, our President for leadership he's demonstrated on the language file over the last few years. And I think he's set for me, a great example, and all of us within this house, by speaking it around this table and some Members were here a few years ago when I did make a-, when I did use Inuttitut for the first time here and that was a challenge for me to get through and, you know, I did make a remark about why I felt the way I did about the language and, you know, that I wanted my grandmother to be able to hear that I could do this within the House. For me, seeing our President use the language within our House has reassured me within my own personal journey and in my own family's

journey, trying to learn the language and trying to hold onto it. We still have a long way to go. I have a long way to go, but I wanted to thank you for feeling free at all times to, with the exception of today, to use the language and demonstrating that it is important for us to hear that within these Chambers. So, *Nakummek*, for your service to the Government and thank you, personally, for demonstrating that example for the language. *Nakummek*.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member Edmunds. Are there other Members wishing to make a statement this morning? I'll canvas one final time, any Members wishing to make a statement? Seeing none, I'm gonna call for just a 10-minute recess, and when I say 10 minutes, usually it's longer, but today this will be 10 minutes, just to check out some logistical issues. We'll reconvene at 11:25.

[Recess]

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Welcome back. And we're back in session. That was a prolonged 10-minute break due to the fact that lunch decided to show up a little ahead of schedule so we took advantage of that to attend to our lunch needs. We left off on Item Five on the *Orders of the Day* and we'll resume at Item Six, namely, "Returns to Oral Question". At the last sitting, the AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Ms. Charlotte Wolfrey asked the Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology, the Honourable Tony Andersen if there was a process whereby the RICG can change their auditors and if there was any way that the NG can assist the RICG to fulfill the requirements identified by the auditors? And at this point, I'd like to

recognize the Honourable Tony Andersen, the treasurer of Nunatsiavut to respond.

MR. T. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, at this time, the Rigolet Inuit Community Government or any other Community Government for that matter, cannot change the auditors under their own initiative. *The Labrador Inuit Constitution* under 10.8.9 states, "Inuit Community Governments must be audited by the auditor of Nunatsiavut". The auditor of Nunatsiavut is defined under Section 8.11.1. I would encourage the AngajukKâk from the Rigolet Inuit Community Government and all other Inuit Community Governments as well to contact the comptroller or the assistant comptroller to discuss the assistance that they require to prepare upcoming audits. In addition to that, Mr. Speaker, I recently made the Community Governments aware of new money, \$100,000 per community that could assist with the preparation or fees for their audits. And I hope that, that will be helpful to them as well. But again, I stress...

[Applause]

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

I note the applause of the AngajukKâks.

MR. T. ANDERSEN:

Again, I stress to contact the comptroller or assistant comptroller to get the necessary help. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister Andersen. Again, at the last sitting of our Assembly, the AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Ms. Charlotte Wolfrey asked the Minister of Health and Social Development, the Honourable Gerald

Asivak about the Status of Women portfolio. In the past, this portfolio was under the direction of the Deputy Minister, but the Minister stated that there was a restructuring and it would now come under the umbrella of Community Health Programs. The AT's Community Health Programs is one of the bigger areas of responsibility of DHSD and putting the Status of Women's Issues. Under that section is minimizing the resources that can be dedicated to such an important role. What is the basis of this decision and why did this restructuring occur? At this point I'd like to recognize the Honourable Gerald Asivak, the Minister of DHSD to respond.

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Tracy Evans-Rice, Status of Women Coordinator reports to Bev Thompson, Director of Community Programs as of Monday, January 20th. The move was made at the recommendation of Human Resources to reduce the number of people reporting to the Deputy Minister of DHSD. The MMIWGS commemoration events are only in the planning stages, so it seemed a little early to be presenting on these events. An update will be provided in March 2020 Assembly. Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Minister Asivak. Again, at the last sitting, the Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Ms. Marlene Winters-Wheeler asked the Minister of Education and Economic Development about NG's future plans to do other school textbooks on Labrador Inuit. At this point, I'd like to recognize the honourable Carlene Palliser to respond to this question.

MS. PALLISER:

I would like to thank the Ordinary Member from Upper Lake Melville, Marlene Winters-Wheeler for her question. In response to the question regarding future course developments, the Department of Education and Economic Development is open to support such projects. There are many opportunities to enhance the current curriculum as well as develop more of our own. Decisions are currently ongoing to secure both budget commitments and personnel to carry out the work involved. As projects begin, I will provide updates on progress at each Assembly sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Minister Palliser. There are no more Returns to Oral Questions today. And so with that, we'll move on to the next Item on the *Orders of the Day*, namely "Oral Questions". Are there any oral questions this afternoon? The Speaker recognizes the AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Sorry about that, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the President. I think it would be appropriate. At this unprecedented time, with the Covid-19, pandemic sweeping across our country, I ask why we needed to sit as an Assembly in person, possibly putting our communities at future risk of spreading the viruses that is already present in our region? Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

First Minister, I'll turn that over to you. Perhaps I can shed some light on that as well.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, *UKatti* and *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk Andersen for the question and I will address that. It is a difficult position for us to be in,

here today and was not a decision that was made lightly. There have been numerous discussions between the President's office and the Speaker's office as to how we could potentially make this work-, make the budget work. As the Assembly is aware, if we're unable to pass the budget, come April 1st, we don't have the spending that could be authorized to deal with this crisis, to deal with all the other programs that exist within the Government. There was a question that was directed to Legal Counsel as to if another mechanism could be identified to do this without us being here in person. The reality is, that there isn't. Our *Constitution* makes it very clear. Our *Legislation* makes it very clear that we have to do this in person. There's no provision for the remote meeting of the Assembly to pass *Legislation*. And again, it was-, there was lots of conversations that have taken place and I tell you, you know, personally, if there was any other way to have done this today, I would've loved to have seen that and, you know, again, the Speaker's office has taken some measures to try to reduce the risk to the community today. I think that some of those measures were, I think the right ones to take, but at the end of the day, the reality is that there was no provision in *Legislation* that enabled us to do this remotely. *UKatti, Nakummek, AngajukKâk*.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

I'm just-, typically, the Speaker doesn't intervene on these things, but given the fact that the Speaker had a reasonably significant portion, you know, something to do with this decision, I'll offer additional background, *AngajukKâk Andersen*. So, as the Honourable First Minister alluded to,

there was numerous discussion between myself, the Speaker's office, and President Lampe, The First Minister, AngajukKâk for Postville and as well, the AngajukKâk for Hopedale. I did attempt to reach out to yourself as well, and I didn't receive a response at the phone number that I had listed for you. So anybody who did raise a concern, I tried to contact them and just to get their insight and guidance before this decision was made. However, as the First Minister did point out, at this juncture, there's no other mechanism for this Assembly to meet. There is nothing recognized in the *Constitution*, in the *Assembly Act*, or in the Standing Orders for anything other than a face-to-face meeting. So we were somewhat handcuffed by the fact that we had to be here face-to-face. Given that reality, all was done that I could think about to minimize any sort of cross contamination-, potential cross contamination between the Assembly Members and the communities, which is why we have the building, which includes ourselves and nobody else here today. So I just wanted to let you know that there was some-, that there was-, there were some-, every effort was made to try to involve the people who identify concerns. With that, AngajukKâk Andersen, do you have a supplementary question?

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Yeah, it's a similar question, Mr. Speaker. Now with regards to self isolation, that's gonna be a personal decision, I think, on behalf of all Members today at the House here and it's time to come here and then have to go back and maybe put ourselves into self isolation-, not only impacts me personally, but professionally as well, for my staff. And also,

we all have family members at home that we may be coming in contact with after this, so my question is do we have a firm answer on whether we should self isolate or is it a personal decision?

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

I'll treat that as a supplementary question to the First Minister and if you want to turn it over to somebody else other than yourself, I'll recognize that.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Recognizing that I'm in a precarious position to be answering some of these questions, I know Speaker, you've taken the liberty to shine a light to some of this already. You've been involved in the logistics of all of this and some of the measures that are in place. So I'm not particularly comfortable answering that question, but whether or not the Speaker or any other Member wanted to shine a line on that, I'll leave that to Speaker's discretion. *Nakummek.*

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Again, what I can do is just bring some information to the table, and what I'll do is I'll sort of bring you down our decision tree when it comes to this, AngajukKâk Andersen. So again, the idea-, once it became clear that we had to have a face meeting of the Assembly, that was confirmed on Monday morning-, that was my strong suspicion all along because based upon my previous conversations I had with our old Legal Counsel, but I certainly wanted to reconfirm that they're current legal, head of Legal Department, Mr. Gillette, and-, but once it became clear that our only option as a face-to-face meeting, then we sort of-, I went down to the path of, you know, if we had to meet face-to-face, how do we alleviate to the maximum extent possible, any concern that would arise in the

communities? The self isolation, was something that I had seen reflected in other levels of Government and subsequent to Monday morning, I did have an opportunity to speak to some people in the medical community, Dr. Baikie, specifically, who advised that what is typical right now, is that self isolation only occurs when people travel from international destinations. That's - that's where we're at with that. That being said, if, you know, I can't gauge what people's comfort level rein Postville, or Makkovik, Hopedale or Nain-, whatever the case may be. So that's why I thought it best to turn over the decision making surrounding self-isolation to each individual Member in this chamber, and for them to assess for themselves what they think is the most appropriate response. So there is no mandated self isolation but again, I believe that, you know, there may be some people in this room who will choose to do that for the comfort of their beneficiaries. So that's the process we're (inaudible). Do you have a final question?

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Oral questions? The Speaker recognizes The AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Ms. Charlotte Wolfrey.

MS. WOLFREY:

...Corona Virus, Covid-19, whatever it is. Are there any plans to address that? I mean we've got this one virus now with the world warming up, the potential for other kinds of stuff like this happening. Are we gonna go there? Is there any way that we can go anywhere? You know what I mean, is there any way that we can do anything else or is there any way that we can make some law so that we could do something else if we're

faced in some kind of situation like this again, because the world warming up is gonna give us more viruses, more dangerous viruses and I mean these are extenuating circumstances. So are we gonna try to plan anything different?

MR. RUDKOWSKI: AngajukKâk Wolfrey, I would ask that you direct your question to a Member.

MS. WOLFREY: You seem to be answering them all, but anyway, I'll direct it to our First Minister, I guess.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: The Speaker recognizes the Honourable First Minister. Any responses from the office of the Speaker are driven by necessity as opposed to want and that's a line-, crossing that line is something that I try to avoid doing but sometimes we're driven. First Minister.

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek, UKatti.* AngajukKâk is correct. We're in a precarious situation. It's unprecedented territory. Again, this is something that I think falls between Secretary-, between Affairs, and some other departments, but it is an important question that needs to be asked. We are in a position where we may need to look at how we can adapt how we do business, to respond to situations like this. Now as the Members around this table are aware, the only way for us to try to identify any sort of mechanism to do that is for us to look at the *Constitution*. There would have to be provisions made within the *Constitution* in order for us to be able to meet remotely or have some other mechanism to do business in a dire situation. And of course, whatever conversation

happens around the *Constitution*, we have to look at plebiscites and consulting the public. It's-, again, it's a really important concern. It's a really important question. Those discussions, as far as I'm aware, haven't taken place as of yet, but maybe these discussions that are necessary to have at some point in the very near future. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

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

MS. WOLFREY: No, that's okay. Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Are there any other oral questions this morning? The Speaker recognizes the AngajukKâk for Nain, Mr. Joe Dicker.

MR. DICKER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the First Minister, I guess and thank you First Minister for answering part of my question that I'm gonna pose to you. I guess given the situation while we're here now, and given the situation that we are in now with regards to the *Constitution* not clearly stating as to how we could meet to address a situation like we are in, in order to make a decision on behalf of our beneficiaries, does-, what is the process now to change the-, well, what is the process to change the *Constitution*, I guess, to address this kind of situation? Is it now triggered or does-, as far as I understand, we need to have 500 signatures of beneficiaries in order to change the *Constitution*? I'd like some more detail please. Thank you.

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

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. As I said, the plebiscite will be key with respect to any changes under a *Constitution*. It is not a process, as everyone is aware, that can be entered into lightly but again, in light of the current situation and as AngajukKâk Wolfrey had mentioned, there may be instances in the future where we're in a similar scenario. It's-, it requires-, it goes through the similar processes of other pieces of *Legislation* that enters this House. There would have to be consultation within the Executive Council with Legal Counsel and, you know, once those discussions were had, again, plebiscite would be necessary, and at the end of the day there would have to be ratification of any amendments to that *Constitution*. I'm not-, that's basically all I can, I think, say on that issue at this point in time. You know, I'm not sure if the President's office or-, had anything else to add further on this, Mr. Speaker, but it is potentially a discussion that needs to be had quite soon about any mechanisms that we can have to deal with a situation like this. So, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, First Minister. Honourable President, the First Minister identified you as a possible resource. Would you care to add to the discussion?

MR. PRESIDENT:

Nakummek, *UKatti*. Certainly a very important question and I will not even attempt to look at the process of changing the *Constitution* in order to look at future Assembly sittings. But it is important to know that one of the agenda items is of the *Budget Act* and it is in the *Constitution* that the Assembly has to sit face-to-face in order to debate the *Budget Act*

and so, the Assembly has to vote on the *Budget Act* and in order to make the Nunatsiavut Government operate beyond April 1, we have to make sure that we are happy with the *Budge Act* and to put it through. But for the question of the Covid-19, the whole world is being challenged, including Labrador Inuit and certainly, issues that are beyond our control, but on a question of self isolation, with, you know, the help of DHSD and Dr. Maureen Baikie, who is our Medical Officer of Health, I believe that the doctor has said that as long as we are responsible and to make sure that we are aware of, you know, processes that we have to follow, social distancing and to make sure that if you have a flu-like symptom or a cold or a high fever, that you will notify the healthcare resources right away and we will be safe. And so-, and then I'm not a health professional, but I certainly would have to, you know, follow those principals that are put out by the healthcare system. But as I said, and the Speaker has said, we were a bit-, hand-cuffed by the situation, the evolving situation and it is getting worse in other parts of the world. But again, Nunatsiavut has to be responsible and at the same time, our responsibilities sometimes are challenged by the *Constitution* and most certainly, the *Budget Act*, if he *Budget Act* were not presented and debated and voted on, all of the services that we provide to programming would not, you know, go beyond or even start from April 1st. And so it is very important that the Assembly sits face-to-face today. I don't know if that answers your question. *Nakummek UKatti.*

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

MR. DICKER: Yes, a final one. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just ask that the First Minister and his colleagues at the next sitting, that we have something that we can be updated on with regards to the question itself. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk Dicker. Are there any other oral questions? The Speaker recognizes-, I apologize, the Chairperson of the NunaKatiget-, The Speaker recognizes the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is, I guess, for the First Minister. Can someone find out for me if it's-, I have a very important stakeholder meeting to attend tonight and I want to know, would I be putting others at risk if I attended that meeting. I need to know. I don't need to make my own decisions. I need a health profession to tell me. Can someone find that out for me please? Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: The Speaker sees that the First Minister is turning that over to the Minister of Health and Social Development, so I'll let the Honourable Gerald Asivak, if you're comfortable, to field that question.

MR. ASIVAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and AngajukKâk for the question. As even during our break time, I've been having regular consultation with my Department, DHSD, Director of Health Services, Sylvia Doody is part of the Working Plan Group on Covid-19 with Labrador Grenfell Health, the

Provincial Government, Health and Community Services and the Public Health Agency of Canada, Federal Government. So there's many levels of Government involved in this situation. We do not take it lightly. It's very fluid. There's changes, major changes day-to-day on recommendations. DHSD, in collaboration with communications as of recently as Friday, we promoted more communication and more information with posters. We're still encouraging people to know their symptoms, if they're symptomatic or not. Contacting the Provincial Health Line, 811-, knowing if you do have the symptoms, to self-isolate, to seek health professionals because it's not only DHSD or NG alone in this. We're taking consultation from the Medical Officer of Health with the Province, on direction. I will let you know, as you may know already, that there is one confirmed case within the Labrador Grenfell Health Region, and that was as of earlier this week, late last week. We don't have any current information to share, as right now it's still coming-, is evolving. So once we get more information, Mr. Speaker from the Province, we'll gladly do so, but we can direct your question directly to the Director of Health Services on your behalf to get a final answer. And even before the email, if you're willing, if you want, we can make a telephone call so it can be immediate. I know, Mr. Speaker that she is quite busy returning calls. There's a lot of media inquiries. She had an interview this morning at 7:15 a.m. on Labrador Morning around Covid-19 and how NG is preparing for this crisis, what we're doing. Also, it's not only DHSD, Mr. Speaker. We have other departments involved, including Finance Human Resources and

Information Technology. Mr. Speaker, as an Executive Council, we also met on Friday, so we're constantly updating, getting information, putting it out to our beneficiaries, to our communities, especially those vulnerable, and what else we can be doing as a Government and to look after our beneficiaries. So Mr. Speaker, we can look into your question directly as soon as we're done this meeting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

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

MS. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, my question is, if the Covid-19 was in our Inuit Communities, would we still be meeting here today? Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

The Speaker recognizes the Honourable Gerald Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think it's a place for me to answer it directly, because it's not strictly DHSD, so I'll relay that back to the First Minister or the President's Office if they wanna take that question because it's strictly not a DHSD policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

I recognize that. The First Minister or President Lampe, would you care to respond to AngajukKâk's question? The Speaker recognizes Honourable Johannes Lampe.

MR. PRESIDENT:

Nakummek, UKatti. The Nunatsiavut Executive Council has like the Ministers are saying, have been meeting by teleconference and debating the issues and most certainly, to make sure that we are, you know, looking at the safety and health of our Labrador Inuit and to make sure that, you know, the lives of Labrador Inuit are, you know, at high

consideration of the Executive Council. And we have struck a committee to look at essential, you know, meetings and consisting of Isabella Pain, Rexanne Crawford and Michelle Kinney. And they are the people that will determine if, you know, any meetings that are happening within Nunatsiavut, Upper Lake Melville are essential. And so, we even had to discuss the Assembly sitting, and we determined that the Assembly sitting is very essential, and so we've had to come to Hopedale and to meet today. And so, we have a committee and they, like Minister of DHSD has said, you know, we are consulting with health professionals and getting their, you know, direction on what steps we should take.

Nakummek, UKatti.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Honourable President. AngajukKâk Flowers, do you have a second and final supplementary question?

MS. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the Covid-19 would come to our communities and there is a big outbreak, will our NG offices be affected? Will everyone have to stay home? Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

And who would you be directing your question towards, AngajukKâk?

MS. FLOWERS:

I guess it would be to the President or the First Minister. I'm not quite sure who the direction goes to. Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

I will canvas the first-, I'll canvas the President initially, and if he chooses to turn it to somebody else, I'll leave that up to him. The Speaker recognizes the Honourable Johannes Lampe.

MR. PRESIDENT:

Nakummek, UKatti. Given that the event would happen, that an outbreak happened in Nunatsiavut, we would have no choice but to, you know, close down every business that the Nunatsiavut Government, you know, is responsible for. *Nakummek, UKatti.*

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, President Lampe. Are there any other oral questions this morning? The Speaker recognizes the Chairperson of the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is along similar circumstances as the last few. But I really didn't hear a commitment to have something in place for circumstances such as pandemics. I know there was probably nothing in the Canadian *Constitution* that said the Prime Minister can't meet from home and have conference calls, but he had to do what he had to do, 'cause he had to self isolate. Sometimes we have to make exceptions, and this is extenuating circumstances and I don't think we should be putting ourselves at risk or communities at risk to meet when it could have been an exemption made to have a conference call. I have a husband who is at a high risk if he had come in contact with Covid-19. So, you know, I had to think hard and long to come here and I couldn't be exempt. But luckily, it seems like we're all well. But you don't know what the circumstances could be are and they're saying that you could be 14 days symptom-free. So I'd like to see a commitment made because we don't know how long this pandemic is gonna go on, and like Charlotte said, we don't know when another one might happen. The last pandemic was in 1918 and we all know what happened then. My own grandmother

had family members who died. She was a child herself and would tell me stories as a little girl. I would like to see a commitment made that we will put something in place for circumstances such as Covid-19. Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

I appreciate your heart-felt comments, Chairperson Kemuksigak, however, if you wanna ask a question, please frame it in a form of a question, and direct it to a Minister.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

I'll-, I'm not sure if it's the President or First Minister, but one of them.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

But I didn't catch the question, Chairperson Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

To see a commitment made to put something in place for circumstances such as pandemics so that we don't put people at risk, so we can have meetings via conference call or Skype or whatever. Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Chairperson Kemuksigak. The Speaker recognizes the President of Nunatsiavut, the Honourable Johannes Lamp, unless you wanna turn it over to another Minister.

PRESIDENT LAMPE:

Nakummek, UKatti. If the First Minister will want to add anything to what I will say, right now, we have not made any future plans to any other issues arising, in terms of health for globally or for Nunatsiavut, but certainly, this issue being very important for the safety and health of our Labrador Inuit among the world, and so we will certainly look at what we would have to do the next time that anything like this would happen. And most certainly, like the First Minister said, we will have to look at the thought of, you know, the *Constitution*, regarding a face-to-face meeting such as the *Budget Act* and I know that emotions are high and that there

are fears and certainly a lot of, you know, stress among people around the world and Labrador Inuit. And then-, and so this coming from the Assembly, the NAC will certainly look at answering that question.

Nakummek, UKatti.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, President Lampe. First Minister Edmunds, did you wish to respond as well?

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. I think, you know, I can't add too much more onto what the President has already said. As I expressed earlier, our first question to Legal Counsel was, "Is there any other way that we can get this done?" The response, as I've said, is that there isn't. What distinguishes our current situation from other Assembly sittings from instances where the Prime Minister himself is working out of his home, is that as we've heard it today, we have to pass the *Budget Act*, and without passing the *Budget Act*, we don't have expenses to address this issue come April 1st and all our other programs. I think I said earlier, that, you know, there's no harm, I suppose, in having a conversation that some sort of mechanism, whether or not that's looking at legislation on our *Financial Administration Act*, or whatever else, to allow us to have alternatives for carrying forward some sort of emergency funding or something like this, I'm not sure, within that avenue. I know a lot of discussions have been focused on the *Constitution*. That doesn't have to say that, that's the only mechanism or the only area through which we can address this concern right now. So, what I can say, is that we can certainly bring this back to Legal Counsel, look at-, 'cause a key issue right

now is this budget. We don't have anything right now that-, we don't have the same mechanisms that exist in some other legislatures that permit us to have some emergency funding approved and whatever else. So, I guess what I can say is that-, again, I am concerned about identifying a mechanism, whether or not that can exist through amendments of current legislation, that's obviously, the ideal situation. The *Constitution*, again, is a massive undertaking and I know that the way I was speaking, I made those two very-, the mechanism and the *Constitution* linked but that's not necessarily the route that needs to be taken, so, that's all I have to add, Mr. Speaker. *Nakummek*.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Honourable First Minister. Chairperson Kemuksigak, do you have a supplementary question?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Are there any other oral questions? AngajukKâk Wolfrey, I'm just gonna canvas the room to give everyone an opportunity to ask their question first and then given you've already had a question, 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 Honourable Palliser, Minister of Department of Education and Economic Development. With the continued ban on harvesting of caribou, has or can the Nunatsiavut Government look at introducing caribou into our Inuit lands for harvesting purposes?

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

MS. PALLISER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you kindly for your questions as well as the advanced notice of the question. The Nunatsiavut Government, and in particular, the Departments of Education and Economic Development, in partnership with the Department of Lands and Natural Resources have done some preliminary work on idea of herding. We have partnered with the Nunatsiavut Group of Companies, and arranged for National Research Council to do an extensive literature review on the caribou herding in Canada. This information was used to inform our decisions with the Chief Provincial Wildlife Biologist. Unfortunately, our discussions with the Provincial Wildlife authorities has not led to the development of any further proposals or projects, but we will continue to make those efforts. Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, Minister Palliser. Ordinary Member Winters-Wheeler, do you have a supplementary question? Are there any other oral questions this morning? The Speaker recognizes Ordinary Member for Makkovik, Mr. John Andersen.

MR. J. ANDERSEN: My question is for First Minister. Mr. Speaker, I would like to underline the need in Nunatsiavut for an Emergency Fund. There was a fire in a home in Makkovik this winter. The family did find a place to stay. If they didn't find a place to stay, they would be in a bad situation with two small kids. Mr. Speaker, Torngat Regional Housing, to my understanding, had the needed materials on site in Makkovik to make the necessary repairs

to the house which has mostly smoke and water damage. However, the work did not get done. It would seem that funding to cover the labour was the problem. So I'm asking, Mr. Speaker, the Nunatsiavut Government put in place an emergency fund for cases like this. The funding could be added to each fiscal year. The Emergency Fund would be accessible by a community need in any of Nunatsiavut towns. This emergency fund would not cover houses or homes that are not repairable due to fire or for example, earthquake. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Ordinary Member Andersen, can you phrase your statement in the form of a question?

MR. J. ANDERSEN: Mr. Speaker, I guess my question is, would the First Minister look into finding funding for this emergency need for housing repairs to houses, homes in Nunatsiavut in any of our towns to repair housing that can be repaired, due to not a big fire or a big fall down of a house and such?

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, Ordinary Member Andersen. The Speaker recognizes The Honourable Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek, Uhalitik and Nakummek*, Ordinary Member Andersen for your question. It's an important one. What currently exists within TRHA is emergency funding. I'm unsure as to the value of that offhand. There is that program that exists, but your question is directed to NG and whether or not we can look at a program similar to that. I wanna give the Ordinary Member the commitment that our department had planned to

look at a number of housing issues within this upcoming month, in April. Initially, that meeting was going to take place in Goose Bay but in light of everything that will likely have to be a teleconference. We wanted to look at housing initiatives across our Government and this will be part of that discussion as well, whether or not we can implement something similar as what you're talking about. So I do commit to having that discussion within the next few weeks with my staff on how we can implement something similar. *So, Nakummek.*

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, Honourable Minister Edmunds. Ordinary Member Andersen, do you have a supplementary question?

MR. J. ANDERSEN: No, thank you. '

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Are there any other oral questions this morning-, this afternoon? Seeing none, The Speaker recognizes the AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Ms. Charlotte Wolfrey.

MS. WOLFREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the First Minister. I heard you talk about ICPC-, Inuit Crown Partnership Committee. And I heard the Prime Minister announce \$21 billion to deal with this Corona Virus and I wanna know, is there any lobby going on to make sure that our communities can have the medical equipment that they need to deal with this virus, not if it hits, when it hits, so that we can have people safe, because there's not one ventilator in any of the communities right now and six in Goose Bay. And if this hits we're in trouble. So is there any lobbying going on, and if so, who's doing it? And if you're with the ICPC,

can you make sure that, that push comes for Nunatsiavut communities?

Nakummek.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Wolfrey. President Lampe you seem to be moving towards the mic so The Speaker recognizes the Honourable Johannes Lampe.

PRESIDENT LAMPE:

Nakummek, Uhalitik. Thank you, AngajukKâk for Rigolet for the question and very important question again, concerning the Covid-19 issue and the Prime Minister of Canada is very serious about this issue and most certainly Canadians and Inuit across the Inuit Homeland. And so, we as Inuit in the four Inuit regions across Canada we have a spokesperson, Natan Obed who is the President of ITK and he works closely with the Prime Minister of Canada and the Federal Ministers of Canada. And so Natan has communicated to the Nunatsiavut Government on, you know, the other Inuit Regions across Canada that the issue of Covid-19 is very important and that whatever, you know, is happening in the Inuit homeland or the Inuit regions, that Canada will be prepared to support Inuit across Inuit Homeland including Labrador Inuit. And so I feel confident that when the need arises for support from Canada for whatever issue that there might be, regarding Covid-19 that we will, you know, have our spokesperson too, speak for us and most certainly support the issues that we have. And the Prime Minister, you know, speaks very highly of Canadians and Inuit or the Indigenous People of Canada. And so at the Table of the Inuit Crown Partnership Committee, we are able to speak directly to the Prime Minister and the Ministers of

Canada on what concerns that we may have. And we do have shared priorities including for such issues as TB or other health issues. And so we feel that the relationship that we have with Canada and the Prime Minister of Canada is a good one. And so we will most certainly be able to, you know, put forwards whatever needs or concerns that we have including the concern that you have of, you know, Covid-19 issues in Nunatsiavut. *Nakummek, UKatti.*

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

MS. WOLFREY: Can I make a comment or can't-, can I?

MR. RUDKOWSKI: This is a question period. If you have a question, I will entertain it.

MS. WOLFREY: No, that's all right. I'll refrain.

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: *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology. Would the Nunatsiavut Government explore the possibility of putting in an Employee Assistance Program for the Civil Service? We have a very large Civil Service and an EAP Program would be very beneficial to employees and their families. Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, Chairperson Kemuksigak. The Speaker recognizes the Honourable Tony Andersen.

MR. T. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yeah, I thought I was gonna get away from that this morning, question period. And my answer is really very short. I wish to assure the Assembly that my department has already begun preliminary, if the right word is aspiration of that subject, and I hope that's assurance for the Chair, that answers the question. And rest assured, Mr. Speaker, that we will do everything possible to ensure that our employees are well taken care of, not only health-wise, but have the financial means to survive this terrible time that we are going through. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, Minister Andersen. Chairperson Kemuksigak, do you have a supplementary question? I'll canvas the floor one more time. Do we have any more oral questions this afternoon? Seeing none, we'll move onto the next point of the *Orders of the Day*, "Written Questions". Are there any written questions today? The Speaker recognizes the Ordinary Member for Makkovik.

MR. J. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question for the Minister of Education and Economic Development...

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Just-, I apologize, Ordinary Member, but I'll let you voice your question out loud, but the question will not be responded to today.

MR. J. ANDERSEN: Okay.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: The question will be filed with the clerk.

MR. J. ANDERSEN: Sure.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: And the process is that the question will be filed with the clerk. The clerk will provide copies to all Members here and it will be responded to at that time.

MR. J. ANDERSEN: Okay. I'd like to read my...

MR. RUDKOWSKI: So I'll allow the reading of it.

MR. J. ANDERSEN: Okay. First, I'd like to give you a little background to the question.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: I'll allow the reading of the question. We have many things to attend to if you wanna read your question, I'll allow you to read the question which is not typical, but I'll allow it.

MR. J. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The school board does not have a music teacher in Makkovik due to low enrollment. I've sent an email to Assistant Director of Programs in Labrador, Christina White, who works out of the school board office in Happy Valley, Goose Bay. I asked her if she could once again work with them to music teacher in our school in Makkovik. Mr. Speaker, in 2004 we went to Makkovik Trust and got funding for a music teacher with the Labrador School Board and for four years we had music in our schools. She started an adult choir. She gave music lessons to the community and she paid for some church services. The reason that it ended, Mr. Speaker, as far as I can gather is that the School Board felt that teacher's paid by outside bodies might gain seniority over core teachers. Mr. Speaker, music has been a bit part of living in Nunatsiavut. You could hear beautiful music and singing at the music festival or at church services.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Ordinary Member Andersen, I'm not hearing a question. I apologize for being short, but this is a question period. If you have a question, I'll allow you to read the question and then we'll move on to the next Item on the *Orders of the Day*.

MR. J. ANDERSEN: I was starting to lead up to the question, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: I...

MR. J. ANDERSEN: I'll take it.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: ...I thought I was clear, when I said, "I'll allow you to read the question", which in itself is not typical.

MR. J. ANDERSEN: Okay.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: But I will allow you to read your question.

MR. J. ANDERSEN: Okay. My question is this, Mr. Speaker-, would the Nunatsiavut Department and Education and Economic Development work with our community to secure ongoing funding to hire a full-time teacher for our school in Makkovik? *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, Ordinary Member. Your question will be filed with the clerk. Copies will be provided to everybody here around the table. Are there any other written questions to be received today? The Speaker receives a question from the Chairperson of the NunaKatiget Community Corporation. Are there any other written questions to be received today? And again, procedurally, typically, we would have this-, our clerk here to deal with this immediately, put a timestamp on it. Allow us some grace as she's not with us today for obvious reasons. Any other written

questions to be received today? Seeing none, we'll move on to Item Nine of the *Orders of the Day*, "Returns to Written Questions". There are no returns to written questions. Move on to Item 10 of the *Orders of the Day*, "Petitions". There are no petitions today. Move on to Item 11, "Responses to petitions". There are no responses today. On to Item 12, "Reports of Standing in Special Committees". There are no reports of standing in special committees today. Move on to Item 13, "Tabling of Documents". And at this point, I'd like to recognize the Ordinary Member for Canada, Mr. Roland Saunders.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to Table the Assembly Budget Recommendations for 2020 and 2021.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Mr. Saunders. This document we Table will be numbered as Tabled Document 01-4(7). And at this point I'd like to recognize the treasurer of the Nunatsiavut Government, the Honourable Tony Andersen.

MR. T. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As required by the *Labrador Inuit Constitution*, I am pleased to Table the Nunatsiavut Government Financial Plan for 2020, 2021. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Minister Andersen. The Tabled Document will be numbered as 02-4(7). I'd like again to recognize the Ordinary Member for Canada-, or the other Ordinary Member for Canada, Mr. Roland Saunders.

MR. SAUNDERS: *Nakummek*, again, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I would like to Table the Members Services Committee Report on Proposed Northern Allowance Benefit Increases for Elected Officials.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, Ordinary Member Saunders. The Tabled Document will be numbered as 03-4(7) and at this point I'd like to recognize the treasurer of Nunatsiavut, the Honourable Tony Andersen.

MR. T. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again-, thank you, again, Mr. Speaker, is what I meant to say, yeah. I would-, excuse me-, falling all over the place-, thank you, Honourable Speaker. I would like to Table the *Nunatsiavut Fiscal Financing Agreement*.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, Honourable Minister. The Tabled Document will be numbered as 04-4(7). Are there any other documents to be Tabled today? Seeing none, we'll move on to Item 14 of the *Orders of the Day*, "Notices of Motion". Again, I'd like to recognize the other Ordinary Member for Canada, Mr. Roland Saunders.

MR. SAUNDERS: *Nakummek*, again, Mr. Speaker. On this day, Tuesday, March 17th, 2020, I will move, seconded by the Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Ms. Marlene Winters-Wheeler, the following motion, that Tabled Document 01-4(7) the Assembly Budget Recommendations for 2020 and 2021, be referred to the Committee of the Whole for consideration with Ms. Rexanne Crawford, the Comptroller of the Nunatsiavut Government as a witness, and Mr. Speaker, I will be seeking unanimous consent by

requesting the Assembly to waive Standing Order 37(1) to deal with this motion today under Item 16, "Motions". Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, Ordinary Member Saunders. The only correction I think I would make is, you referenced the day of Tuesday, March 17th in your motion. I believe that we should strike that and make notation that the intended date was today is Wednesday March 18th, 2020, and so we'll let the record reflect

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: It's March 17th-, Tuesday, March 17th.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: And strike that.

MALE: (Inaudible.)

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Yeah, that's right.

MR. EDMUNDS: That's right?

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Yeah.

MR. EDMUNDS: The Speaker's right is to appose.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Yeah. Boy, it's one of those days in the Assembly Chamber. At this point, I'd like to Recognize I'd like to recognize the Treasurer of Nunatsiavut, the Honourable Tony Andersen.

MR. T. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, March the 18th, 2020, I will move, seconded by the First Minister, the Honourable Tyler Edmunds, that Tabled Document 02-4(7), the Financial Plan 2020, 2021 will be moved into Committee of the Whole for discussion in conjunction with Bill 2020-01, but Budget Bill 2020 and that

Ms. Rexanne Crawford, the Comptroller of the Nunatsiavut Government be called as a witness. And, Mr. Speaker, I will be seeking unanimous consent by requesting the Assembly to waive Standing Order 37(1) to deal with this today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister. And again, I'd like to call up on the Honourable Minister.

MR. T. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, March the 18th, 2020, I will move, seconded by the First Minister, the Honourable Tyler Edmunds, that Tabled Document 04-47, that *Nunatsiavut Government Fiscal Financing Agreement* be referred to the Committee of the Whole with witness as Ms. Rexanne Crawford, the Comptroller of the Nunatsiavut Government and Ms. Isabella Pain, the Deputy Minister of Nunatsiavut Affairs. And Mr. Speaker, I will again be seeking unanimous consent by requesting the Assembly to waive Standing Order 31(1) to deal with this today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister. There are no more notices of motion today, so we'll move on to Item 15 of the *Orders of the Day*, "Notices of Motion for first reading of bills". And at this point, I'd like to recognize the Minister of Finance and the Treasurer of Nunatsiavut, The Honourable Mr. Tony Andersen.

MR. T. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for recognizing me and thank you for your patience. Honourable Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, March the 18th, I will move, seconded by the First Minister, the

Honourable Tyler Edmunds, the First Reading of Bill 2020-01, *The Budget Bill, 2020*. And Mr. Speaker, I'll be seeking unanimous consent by requesting the Assembly to waive Standing Order 37(1) to deal with this today under Item 17, "First Reading of Bills". Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Minister Andersen. At this point, I'd like to recognize the First Minister, the Honourable Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, UKatti. I give notice that on Wednesday, March 18th, 2020, I will move, seconded by the Minister of Finances and Resources, Information Technology, the Honourable Tony Andersen, the First Reading of Bill 2020-02, a Bill for an Act to amend the *Housing Initiatives, Hopedale Nain Act*. And, Mr. Speaker I will be seeking unanimous consent by requesting the Assembly waives Standing Order 37(1) to deal with this today under Item 17 First Reading of Bills. *Nakummek*.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, First Minister. Just a quick procedural point. We've heard continuously, the waiving of Standing Order 27, Section 1. And this is always gonna be enacted whenever we have a one-day sitting of the Assembly. Standing Order 37, Section 1, specifies, "24 hours notice shall be given for First Reading of a Bill and of a Motion". So typically, we would give notice of reading of a bill of a motion on one day, and have the actual reading the second day. However, in a one-day session, that 24-hour grace period is not possible. So it's waiving Standing Order 37(1) simply allows us to deal with the whole kit and kaboodle, as it will, all on the same day. So that's why you hear that reference time and time again. It simply is a waiving of the 24-hour advanced notice. *Nakummek*,

Mr. Edmunds. That concludes the notices of motion for first reading of bills and we'll now move on to Item 16 on the *Orders of the Day*, namely, "Motions". And at this point, I'd like to recognize the Ordinary Member for Canada, Mr. Roland Saunders.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. I am seeking unanimous consent to proceed with my motion today by waiving Standing Order 37, so that Tabled Document 01-47, The Assembly Budget Recommendations for 2020 and 2021 be referred to Committee of the Whole for consideration with Ms. Rexanne Crawford, the Comptroller of the Nunatsiavut Assembly as a witness.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

The Ordinary Member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with his motion today. All those in favour? Are there any "Nays"? There are none. Please proceed.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. Whereas the Members Services Committee, as required by Section 81 of the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act* has tabled Consolidated Budget Recommendations for the approval of the Assembly, and whereas the Assembly should consider the recommendations to allow the Members Services Committee to finalize the consolidated estimates of the Assembly Budget for transmittal to the treasurer for inclusion in the Consolidated Financial Plan for 2020 and 2021. Now therefore, I move, seconded by the Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Ms. Marlene Winters-Wheeler, that Tabled Document 01-4(7) the Assembly Budget Recommendations for 2020 and 2021, be referred to Committee of the Whole for consideration with Ms.

Rexanne Crawford, the Comptroller of the Nunatsiavut Government as a witness.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, Ordinary Member Saunders. Your motion is in order. Mr. Saunders, would you like to speak to your motion?

MR. SAUNDERS: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Thank you, Mr. Saunders. Does anybody else wish to speak to the motion? If no other Member wishes to speak to the motion, does the Ordinary Member for Canada wish to make his final comments and conclude debates?

MR. SAUNDERS: No.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: That concludes debate. All those in favour of the Ordinary Member's motion? Are there any opposed? Seeing none, we're now in Committee of the Whole but before we invite our witnesses in, I'm just gonna call a 10-minute recess so we can set up our phone lines. We'll reconvene here at 25 past one - 25 past one, we'll reconvene back in this Committee of the Whole, and again, Ms. Crawford, I resume she's listening, give her a chance to get a-, something to drink or something. Twenty-five minutes after, we'll conclude-, we'll resume, I should say.

[Recess]

MR. RUDKOWSKI: And we're back in session. We left-, we adjourned in Committee of the Whole and we're now resuming in Committee of the Whole. And at this point, I'd like to invite Ms. Rexanne Crawford. Rexanne, can you hear us okay?

MS. CRAWFORD: Yes, I can.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Okay, so I'm asking-, I'm gonna ask Rexanne to give her report on the Assembly Budget. Again, this is not the overall budget for the Government. This is the Assembly Budget at this point.

MS. CRAWFORD: Hi, everybody. I'm hoping you can all hear me, and please, if I am speaking too low or too fast, please let me know. So the Assembly Budget was Tabled with you. It's a very short document, two pages of wording and numbers. So basically, the overall budget for the Assembly is just over \$3.3 million. And the changes to the salary are driven by a couple of things. First, all elected officials as per the new methodology for calculating salaries back in 2017 and 2018, will see an increase to the salary for elected officials by 2.2 per cent for the base salary of \$78,967. And so the salaries and benefits have been adjusted to reflect the new base rate, as well as to apply the new rates for the Labrador Allowance. The other significant change in the budget are the election costs. I've worked closely with the NEO, Nannette Blake, and she and her team, developed a very comprehensive budget for the Presidential elections, validating each cost, looking to who is hired for the cost, as well as built-in contingencies in the event we have to have a bi-election or that there is an unforeseen cost that occurs. I think that covers the major changes in the Assembly budget and I open it up for any questions.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Are there any comments from anybody in the room about the Assembly Budget? I'll just allow-, Rexanne, I'm just gonna allow people a couple of

moments just to have a quick look at the documents if they haven't had a chance to look at it recently.

MS. CRAWFORD: So, thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Are there any comments about the budget? Again, at this juncture, we're just dealing with the Budget of the Assembly itself. Does anybody wish a few more moments to look through it?

MS. WOLFREY: (Inaudible.)

MR. RUDKOWSKI: No, it sounds like it's coming from the lights. (Loud humming sound audible.) Clearly, there are people who have IT talents far in excess of my own around the table here. Are there any other-, any comments or questions on the Assembly Budget? I'll ask one final time, any questions about the Assembly Budget? If not, is the Assembly in favour of accepting the Assembly Budget for 2020, 2021 for inclusion in the overall Nunatsiavut Government Budget for 2020, 2021? All those in favour? Any opposed? No "Nays", so we've approved that Assembly Budget, Ms. Crawford, to be included in the overall Government Budget. *Nakummek.* I'd like to recognize the Honourable Minister of Finance, the Honourable Tony Andersen.

MR. T. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. CRAWFORD: Thank you.

MR. T. ANDERSEN: I'm seeking unanimous consent to proceed with my motion today by waiving Standing Order 37(1) so that Tabled Document 04-47 be referred to Committee of the Whole for consideration with witness, Ms. Rexanne

Crawford, the Controller of the Nunatsiavut Government and Ms. Isabella Pain, the Deputy Minister of Nunatsiavut Secretariat.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Just for a bit of procedural, so we're actually, out of Committee of the Whole, deal with a couple of things, revert to Committee of the Whole. It's procedural, not of any consequence. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with his motion today. All those in favour of waving Standing Order 37(1)? Any opposed? Please proceed, Minister Andersen.

MR. T. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Members. My motion is as follows. Whereas, by virtue of Section 7.3.1 of the *Labrador Inuit Constitution*, the Nunatsiavut Executive Council has the authority to negotiate certain fiscal financing and taxation arrangements, and whereas the proposed *Fiscal Financing Agreement* has been Tabled in the Assembly's document 04-47, and whereas Section 7.3.2 of the *Labrador Inuit Constitution* states that no agreement negotiated under Section 7.3.1 is of any force or effect until approved by the Nunatsiavut Assembly, and whereas the Assembly should consider the proposed *Fiscal Financing Agreement* in Committee of the Whole with witnesses, now, therefore, I move, seconded by the First Minister, the Honourable Tyler Edmunds, the Tabled Document 04-4(7) be referred to Committee of the Whole for consideration with witnesses, Ms. Rexanne Crawford, the Controller of Nunatsiavut Government and Ms. Isabella Pain, the Deputy Minister of the Nunatsiavut Secretariat. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, Minister Andersen. Your motion is in order. To the motion, Mr. Minister, would you like to speak to your motion? If no other Members-, do any other Members wish to speak to his motion? If no other Members wish to speak to the Motion, does the Minister wish to make final comments and conclude debate?

MR. T. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have no final comments but I wish to conclude debate.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: All those in favour of the Honourable Minister's motion? All those in favour? Any opposed? Your motion is carried. We're now in Committee of the Whole Ms. Crawford, is Ms. Pain able to join us as well or are you covering this solely at this point?

MS. CRAWFORD: Unfortunately, Isabella Pain is unable to attend this particular part of the session and so I will be flying solo today without her. Are we ready for myself-, or for me to begin...

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Yes, go ahead with your...

MS. CRAWFORD: ...to go through...

MR. RUDKOWSKI: ...presentation.

MS. CRAWFORD: ...key points of the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*?

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Yes, please, do.

MS. CRAWFORD: So as we are all aware, a significant portion of our finances come from the Government of Canada through the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. We entered the renewal of our second-, our second renewal of this

Agreement. What you have in front of you is what we feel, with the exception of-, there's a minor tweak or two to word, here or there, is the final document for the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. I'm not going to take us through each particular clause or the body in detail. A number of the clauses are the same, from prior renewals, and basically, what it says in the body of the agreement, it lays out the definition to be used in this agreement. There were some changes to definitions to reflect...

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Sorry, Rexanne, just-, I'm just...

MS. CRAWFORD: ...just to tighten up wording.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Sorry, Rexanne. I'm just gonna...

MS. CRAWFORD: ...to have a clean definition for the Annual Fiscal Grant, defining what a Federal funded program is.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Ms. Crawford, can you hear me?

MS. CRAWFORD: Yes.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Just. We're having this...

MS. CRAWFORD: Yes, I can.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Just-, we're having this-, just pause it for one second. We're just having a question in the Assembly.

MS. CRAWFORD: Sure.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Minister Edmunds?

MR. EDMUNDS: Just for clarity for the Members, so, what the Treasurer just spoke to and the Tabled Document that we're considering is the *Fiscal Financing*

Agreement. So it's under Tab four in your binders. It's that very long document, 37-odd pages. Is that correct, there?

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Yes, it is, yes.

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek*.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: It's the 37-page document. Should be everybody's Tab four. We're just allowing people to get to their appropriate Tab Rexanne. Just bear with us. Minister Edmunds, did you wanna add something before-, is everyone there? Ms. Crawford please go ahead.

MS. CRAWFORD: *Nakummek*. So as I said, the-, I guess I'll backtrack a little bit now that people have the document in front of them. So, the way the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* is set out, it's a Tripartite Agreement between the Nunatsiavut Government, the Government of Canada and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. So the main body of the agreement lays out what all three parties agree to and Schedule A and Schedule B, just getting to the right spot, are the relationship and the funding we have with the Government of Canada and Schedule C outlines the relationship fiscally, we have with the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. So in terms of the main body of the agreement, as I noted, the definitions, there were a couple of minor changes to the definitions from the last two agreements, and more just to tighten up some of the definitions, or rather than use something very lengthy and wordy in the body of the document, to use a short word, such as the Annual Fiscal Grant, for example. Part Two of the body of the agreement, outlines a

summary of the programs and services about that we will enter into negotiation. Part Three is "General Provisions". There were no major changes in this. One part I will highlight is that there are separate liabilities. So Schedule A and B is entirely between us and the Government of Canada, and it's very clear that the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador are not party to that part of the *Agreement*. Schedule C is the relationship that we have with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, and Government of Canada is not party to that part. The remaining part of the body of the agreements, really are the technical legal pieces that talk to appropriations, accountability, the term of the agreement which will go on till March 31st, 2024, subject to approval today and signatures being executed which would five years. It lays out how we negotiate the subsequent *Fiscal Financing Agreement*, how we can amend them, the administration of it, defaults and remedies, interpretation, et cetera. Are there any questions on the body of the agreement?

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Seeing none, Ms. Crawford, please proceed.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Sure. If I could ask everyone to turn to page 13. So as I noted before, Schedule A and B, this is the crux of our *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. Schedule C we do not receive any funding currently, under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*, with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. So Schedule C has remained exactly how it was under the last agreement, and there are no changes proposed to any of the wording in that schedule. So the focus really is on Schedule A and Schedule B.

Schedule A, adds new definitions that highlighted the new collaborative fiscal policy that was negotiated and developed collaboratively with the Government of Canada and the 23 Self-Governing Indigenous Governments across the country. So when you look at the start of Schedule A, that's what those definitions come from, and it just outlines more clearly what those processes are. Part One talks about Governance and our responsibility as Nunatsiavut Government and our responsibility of the Inuit Community Governments or Government. When we get to the Table, you will see a significant increase being proposed for Government. The current estimate under the fiscal year, first fiscal year of this agreement is \$18 million for Governance. And this is a very exciting number. It very much shows that the Government of Canada through the work of the Self-Government have really looked at what does it take and how much money does it take to govern our central Government and our Inuit Community Governments. And so we're very pleased to be able to present to you that, that number is \$18 million. There will be a separate discussion when we get to the *Budget Act*. But until the agreement has been fully signed, we haven't actually allocated out the 18 million just erring on the side of caution. But it is \$18 million, and it will be reflected-, adjusted by an adjuster that is based on volume and population for each subsequent year. Inuit Education and Programs. At this time, there's been no changes in the funding levels for Inuit Education, however, we have put forth into the Government of Canada, some requests for additional funding that we are continuing to negotiate

and discuss. Hopefully, late spring, early summer, depending on the current climate and the environment. And hopefully we'll be successful in adding some additional funds to education. There were no changes and no changes requested for Inuit Economic Development. And I guess before I move on, I'll just pause here, as it is a lot of information and see if there are any questions in terms of Governance, Education and Economic Development.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Charlotte, do you have a question for Rexanne?

MS. WOLFREY: Yeah, when are we going to see the money, Rexanne?

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Did you catch that, Rexanne?

MS. CRAWFORD: No, I didn't. Your-, I'm really, I apologize, but Edward, if you could repeat the question to me, that'd be greatly appreciated.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: No hesitation. Yeah. Charlotte's question, I think somewhat tongue in cheek, that she was asking when the cheque was gonna clear. I think that's what her-, I think that was the gist of what she was saying.

MS. CRAWFORD: Well, as soon as the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* has been signed by all three parties, and the first step is being taken today by getting approval from our Assembly to sign on behalf of the Government, they are hopeful, or I guess we're hopeful leading up to this current Global Climate we're in, that shortly after April 1st, we'd be able to start seeing these payments come through. But that being said, I would hope, and I am expecting that within the first six months of this fiscal year, we will see

the additional funding start to flow to our Government and then we'd be able to allocate it out appropriately.

MR. RUDKOWSK: Are there any other questions? Tyler, do you have a question?

MR. EDMUNDS: Not a question, just a comment to help the Assembly. I'll review this information as we're going through with the Table, for this Schedule is on page 30 of this document. So as Rexanne is talking and some of those numbers, you can find that information there.

MS. CRAWFORD: ...questions, I'll move forward into Health Services. One of the-, I guess, two important changes to the funding for Health Services are the fact that all funding, under this particular class of money is now subject to an adjuster of price and population. And the reason I want to highlight that, is that in the other two *Fiscal Financing Agreements*, there were certain buckets of funding that were not subject to adjustment. So what we call our Post 95 Community Programs, which would be those programs like Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative...

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Sorry, Rexanne...

MS. CRAWFORD: ...the FASD, et cetera, the community programming, those had not had any adjustment to them since September 1st 2005.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Rexanne, if I could just interrupt just for one second. Where in the document...

MS. CRAWFORD: Yeah.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: ...is the Item that you're referring to, "Health Services"? Just...

MS. CRAWFORD: So on page 15, part seven talks about Inuit Health Programs and Services, and also when we get to page 30 with the numbers, I'll go back and kinda highlight some of the-, what the numbers mean, but I'd like to kinda, as we're going through each part, give some reference to the information behind each category.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Sure. Okay, so go ahead, Rexanne. Sorry.

MS. CRAWFORD: So that's one of the exciting pieces about Health Careers-, or not Health Careers, sorry, Post 95 Community Programs. We do under the Health Programming, in particular with the NIHB Program. The NIHB Program, in the last renewal, was subject to a five per cent adjuster on an annual basis, and this provided adequate funding for us to run the program without a deficit. Under this new renewal, the adjuster is changed to a price and population which means that the adjuster is lower. So internally, we have done a lot of work and analysis on the NIHB Program to determine whether or not we should recommend this program for acceptance. We are recommending to continue to operate the NIHB Program under the caveat that we will closely monitor the financial system-, financial and all the data related to the program, make sure that the program does not incur a deficit. And also to ensure that when they see or feel that we're going into that place, that we ramp up our discussions with the Government of Canada. We have scheduled regular discussions with them, to discuss the NIHB Program and look at the base funding as well as any efficiencies or cost sharing or cost-, try to look for the word-, in terms of where the Federal Government has purchasing

power, in terms of pharmaceuticals, if we're able to avail of some of the agreements they have in place, that would help reduce our costs. Those are things that we are discussing, and we've set up our first meeting, again, set up for late Spring 2020 and our plan is to continue discussions with the NIHB Headquarter people on a regular, if not quarterly basis, in order to be able to make sure that we run the best program we can run for our beneficiaries without incurring significant losses for us financially. So I know that's a lot of information in terms of health. I didn't know if anyone wanted to ask any questions in terms of the Health Programing before I move on to the other sources of funding?

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Are there any questions? Charlotte? Charlotte Wolfrey has a question. Go ahead.

MS. WOLFREY:

Rexanne, can you hear me?

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

You speak. I'll relay it to her. Go ahead.

MS. WOLFREY:

Okay. I'm concerned about NIHB and we all should be concerned about NIHB. I heard you say that there is gonna be less money because of that adjustor of five per cent is not there. And I'm concerned that, that is going to lessen the amount of assistance that we can give to our people under the NIHB Program. Is that gonna be-, because already, there's so many complaints about NIHB, you know, not being available to people or not to the extent that they need. And now that there's less, is it gonna be closely monitored, I guess, is what I'm asking, because if there's gonna

be-, if we're gonna try to make it more with less money, then there's gonna be cuts somewhere. So, is that gonna be closely monitored?

MS. CRAWFORD:

At the last Fiscal Financing renewal, the Government of Canada front-loaded our money knowing that at that time the adjuster was three per cent and predicting that we would run a deficit. When they changed the adjuster to five per cent, we actually, as of the end of March 31st, 2019, have a surplus in our NIHB Program. So this surplus, as well as the current funding we're going to receive, will carry us through to what we're predicting about year four before we start to hit what would be a deficit. And we've been very clear with the Government of Canada, that at no point are we offering less services or less benefits to our beneficiaries than what they deserve or what they would be entitled to if the Government of Canada were offering the program themselves. So we have put this decision on the table very clearly to them. Quite honestly, they don't want the program back from us and they are very much willing and open to working with us to make sure we have a successful program that continues to deliver the benefits and services that our beneficiaries deserve.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Are there any other...

MS. WOLFREY:

Sounds good, Rexanne. And when you talked about alternative programs or using other programs, I know that Inuit don't take advantage of-, I think we're calling it the "Child First" program, but it was called "Jordan's Principal", so I'm not sure if we can get any money for children, for example, through that program.

MS. CRAWFORD: ...needing some funding under that program, and that's coming through a contribution agreement, not through the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Okay, thank you. Are there any other questions? I'm gonna ask that the questions be kept as concise as possible because if we have to wait for this delay, it's gonna take quite some time to get through. Patricia Kemuksigak has a question, Rexanne.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Rexanne, I heard you mention that there's an adjuster based on population. What happens if our population or our number of beneficiaries drop?

MS. CRAWFORD: ...They are using our actual population data for our adjusters, so if we do have a decrease in population, my understanding is it would have an impact on the funding and the premise is that we would have also then, less beneficiaries or population to serve. So part of the adjuster is on volume which is your inflation and the other one is on your-, or sorry, on your price which is your inflation, and the other piece on some of these categories, is your population. So the, I guess the theory behind it is if you have a decrease in your population, you do have a decrease in the number you have to serve. So a decrease related to that, would be acceptable. I will say, it is really positive that the Government of Canada is relying on our own data for population. What it does, is it further shows their respect for our data, and that they are now relying on our sources of data related to our population and that is a positive step in our relationship with the Government of Canada. In the past, they would

have just used their own statistical information, which we know is not always accurate or best reflect our communities.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Thank you, Rexanne. Are there any other questions before we move on? Seeing none, please proceed with the rest of your presentation, Rexanne.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Sure. So the next section under Part 10 of Schedule A was related to Fisheries. And again, some very positive news in terms of our Fisheries funding. We have been successful in removing the time limitation which has been on this funding for the last two renewals. And again, it is also subject to a price adjuster, so subject to inflation, which was also not in place prior. So since December 1st, 2005, we have only received \$230,000 each year for this program. And the second point to note on the Fishery Funding is that we are still negotiating increases in this funding, and should we be successful in the upcoming years, our schedule-, our annual fiscal plans under Schedule B will be adjusted or amended to reflect the new funding. But the positive message is that there is no more time limitations on this particular pot of funding and it is subject to an adjuster.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Any questions on this Section? Seeing none, please proceed, Rexanne.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Sure. The next session speaks to the Inuit Skills and Employment Training Program and Service. This was a result of the successful negotiations and discussions at the ITK level with the Inuit Regions, in order to have-, it's called the CRF, for the Consolidated Revenue Fund Portion of their program funding flows through the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. It

started in the past year with an amendment to our current agreement to the Schedule and now has been fully reflected into the renewal. Again, another reflection of the Government to Government relationship, in that we're able to move funding that was in a *Contribution Agreement* into the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. The next section covers Gaps Closing Funds. So Gaps Closing Funds is coming from the Collaborative Fiscal Policy Process and relates to looking at known gaps in our communities and how we can address-, what we need to address these gaps and to track the outcomes and the closure of the gaps. So we have had almost \$6.5 million by way of a grant funding for-, if we wrapped up the agreement up this year, 2019, 2020 and an additional \$2.9 million in the upcoming 2020, 2021 year. And so this funding was subject to an annual, our plan being submitted, which has been submitted and accepted, and so subject to conclusion of this agreement, the \$6.4 million or almost \$6.5 million will be remitted to our Government and we can begin actioning the items in the work plan which also include the construction of two new facilities to deliver programs and services in our community. Part A just speaks to our responsibilities with terms of this work plan. So I'll just pause there to see if there any questions related to the source of the funding that I've gone over today.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Patricia has a question. Go ahead, Patricia.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Is the Gap Closing Funds, a new funding category?

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Patricia's question was asking if that Gap Funding is a new funding category, Rexanne, that was her question.

MS. CRAWFORD:

It was a new funding category under Budget 2018, I think was the year, and it was set aside specifically for those Government that were involved in-, the self-governing Indigenous Governments that were involved in the collaborative process, to look at immediate funding for closing some of the gaps while we're still working through other pieces of the policy related to social well-being, infrastructure, et cetera.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Are there any other questions for Rexanne on this particular section?
Seeing none, please proceed, Rexanne?

MS. CRAWFORD:

Okay. So the remaining part of Schedule A talks about limitations to access of other Federal programs, which is consistent with what was there before. It talks about how they'll calculate your annual grant calculation and how they'll remit those payments. Section 18 talks about integrating new policy into this *Fiscal Financing Agreement*, so as I just noted, there are still some pieces of the Collaborative Fiscal Policy being negotiated. And they relate to infrastructure, they relate to even adjusters, 'cause we have raised a lot of concerns on the adjusters to Health funding, in particular NIHB. They also relate to social well-being, language and culture, and there's a category for some self-governance on lands and resource management. So when those policies are finalized and approved, the results of those can be incorporated into the current *Fiscal Financing Agreement* without having to wait till your next renewal. So that's basically what Part 18 is reflecting. Part 19 is consistent with previous *Fiscal Financial Agreements* and speaks to "Extraordinary Circumstances". Part 20 to 24 are consistent with prior agreements and

speaking to general provisions such as if there's a general funding increase that is available to other Indigenous Groups in Newfoundland and Labrador, it would be available to us. It talks about-, we have the discretion even though the funding comes in particular categories, we do have the discretion through our budget process to allocate some of those funds to other categories. It talks about dispute implementation and our accountability which is what we have to report on to the Government of Canada. So that takes us through Schedule A. If there are no questions, I'll move right on to where the Table that reflects the numbers.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Seeing no hands, go ahead, Rexanne.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Thank you. So, Part B of our Annual Fiscal Plan and the first Table does look different than it did in the past because the Government of Canada went through the Collaborative Process of realigning some of the categories. So what you will see in the Table is Governance. So Governance is adjusted by price and it's \$18 million in Year One. Water and sewer and other capital projects, 5.2 million, and this also-, I'll be very clear, this is also one of the areas that is still under negotiation. There is a working group working on infrastructure and looking at expenditure needs, et cetera, related to capital infrastructure, which would also include maintenance and operations, and I wanted to highlight that because I know that is of utmost importance to our Inuit Community Governments. We have an amount of 2.4 for Inuit Community Government Operations. This 3.4 does not include your Governance Funding, which would be the money that you'd use for

governing, which would be your Town Clerks, your Financial Clerk and certain management, your audit fees, legal, et cetera. This is for the other category for your service provision. We've always received a small amount of money, about \$156,000 for culture. This has been since the effective date. Education Funds include Secondary and Post Secondary programing. Economic Development is consistent with prior years. There's an amount for the Torngat Regional Housing Association for Housing and new builds-, \$2.8 million. And as I noted before, we have Fisheries, which is at 234 which reflects the adjustment. We have our Health Programming at \$23.8 million. And then you'll see what they have called, "Other funding", so these are different funding categories that we are receiving under this agreement or through other amendments. So the Gap Closing fund I spoke about in terms of the 6.4 and the 2.9 million Subject to Work Plan, the Inuit Skills and Employment Training, which we've successfully been able to have put under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* rather than through the *Contribution Agreement*. We've got our Inuit Housing Fund for \$7.5 million. That was announced under Budget 2018. We have funds for NIHB enhancement, some program funding related to prenatal, traditional healers, et cetera, that would be added to our funding source. And some additional Health Programming Funds that have been brought in through I guess top-ups or additional funding under Budget 2018, and these relate to the Health Infrastructure. They relate to FASD is an additional fund and maternal health, et cetera. Funds are being built into these categories. And then starting in Year

Two, some of the additional funding that's being discussed through ITK Tables related to TB elimination and eradication and the National Inuit Suicide Prevention Strategy will be added to the FFA in the next year. Are there any questions on the Table?

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Seeing none, Rexanne.

MS. CRAWFORD: Perfect. So that really, you know, the next Tables talk about how they're gonna calculate the adjusters which look at the inflation, our population statistics and then Schedule C, as I noted before is the agreement between the Province and ourselves. There's been no change to that schedule as we have not taken down any programs to the side. And that concludes my presentation on the Renewal, I guess, Number Two, of the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Are there any other questions for Ms. Crawford? I'll ask again, any more questions for Ms. Crawford before I excuse her for the purposes of this discussion? Thank you, Rexanne.

MS. CRAWFORD: *Nakummek.*

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Okay. And I'm gonna put you on mute, if that's okay because...

MS. CRAWFORD: Yes.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: ...we're gonna be calling upon you before too long. So we're now out of Committee of the Whole, back in Assembly. We're still on Item 15 of the *Orders of the Day, "Motions"*, and at this point, I'd like to recognize the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Tony Andersen.

MR. T. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Because of the discussions in Committee of the Whole, I am seeking unanimous consent to waive Notice of Motions under Standing Order 37(1) and to proceed with the motion on the approval of the *Nunatsiavut Fiscal Financing Agreement* today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: The Minister of Finance is seeking unanimous consent to waive the notice period which is 24 hours under Standing Order-, as is required under Standing Order 37(1) and to proceed with his motion today. Are there any "Nays"? All in favour? Carried.

MR. T. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Members. Whereas by virtue of Section 7.3.1 of the *Labrador Inuit Constitution*, the Nunatsiavut Executive Council has the authority to negotiate certain fiscal financing and taxation agreements, and whereas the proposed *Fiscal Financing Agreement* has been Tabled in the Assembly as Document 04-4(7), and whereas Section 7.3.2 of the *Labrador Inuit Constitution* states, that no agreement negotiated under Section 7.3.1 is of any force or effect until approved by the Nunatsiavut Assembly. Whereas the Nunatsiavut Assembly has considered the proposed *Fiscal Financing Agreement* in Committee of the Whole, now, therefore, I move, seconded by the First Minister, the Honourable Tyler Edmunds that the Nunatsiavut Assembly approve the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* as Tabled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, Honourable Minister. Your motion is in order. To your motion, Mr. Minister, would you like to speak to the motion?

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

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Are there any other Members of the Assembly who wish to speak to the motion? If no other Member-, The Speaker recognizes the Honourable First Minister.

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker. Just for absolute clarity, as the Controller spoke to earlier, we are doing our part right now to get, basically, sign off from the Assembly that we're party to this agreement. After, I understand, as this motion is approved, then we are in effect saying that we accept the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* and the negotiated aspects of it. So, just for the information of the Assembly and some of the Members. Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Just to highlight what the First Minister said, are all Members of the Assembly clear on what we're approving? That concludes debate. All those in favour of the motion? Any opposed? And our *Fiscal Financing Agreement* is approved by this Assembly. There are no more motions today and with that we'll move on to Item 17 on the *Orders of the Day*, which is "First Reading of Bills". The first reading of the Budget Bill of 2020, 2021. And at this point, I'd like to recognize the Honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Tony Andersen.

MR. T. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I'm seeking unanimous consent to proceed with the first reading of Bill 2020-01, The Budget Bill 2020. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: The Minister of Finance is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with the first reading of Finance Bill 2020-01 today. Are there any "Nays"? Seeing none, Honourable Minister, please proceed.

MR. T. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I move, seconded by the First Minister, the Honourable Tyler Edmunds, that Bill 2020-01, the Budget Bill 2020 now be introduced and read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Honourable Minister, would you like to introduce the Bill?

MR. T. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, yes, I would, and in my introduction I will, given the time constraints and let me say that we certainly do appreciate the Members who have come today in troubled times for our communities, and I share their concerns as well. But certainly, I do, first and foremost wish to thank you all for being here today. Mr. Speaker, when the Labrador Inuit started on the road of self-government, there was a vision of Labrador Inuit taking control of our own affairs, making decisions that were relevant and culturally appropriate and successfully affecting change in many of the issues that are important to us. Mr. Speaker, I don't know that we ever did envision a workforce of over 425 people, of approximately-, which 85 per cent are beneficiaries, multiple offices in Inuit Communities and more and more programs and services developed and delivered for the Labrador Inuit, Mr. Speaker. Self-governance has made this possible. Mr. Speaker, these are, as I said earlier, and I hope this is for a short period of time, troubled times. But it is also exciting times for Labrador Inuit of the accomplishments that we have made in our agreement with Canada and Newfoundland as a self-governing

people. This year's financial plan includes growth in the civil service, additions in capital infrastructure, continued focus on improving the lives of Labrador Inuit to focus on priority areas and deliver relevant programs and services. I am confident that we have a plan here today that will build on achievements, make significant investments in investing priorities and assure that we have all the resources available to be successful. Mr. Speaker, our most valuable resource as a Government, and I think it's been said many times in many budget speeches, and I will say it again-, our most valuable resource as a Government, is our employees. Without the skills and dedication of our employees, the Government would not be able to properly address the needs of the Labrador Inuit in our communities. And I must say that the trouble that we are experiencing and going through, nowhere is that more evident than the people from Minister Asivak's Department who are as we speak, gathering more and more information to battle the Covid-19 virus that's affecting the world. The Government has again budgeted a two per cent increase in salaries for the upcoming year, as well as a two per cent increase for each of the next two fiscal years. This will allow our staff to keep pace with inflation. As well, Mr. Speaker, the budget addresses the limitations and the capacity of the current workforce and the increased workload that comes with the addition of programs, services and investments to address priority areas. Intergovernmental relations, relationships with the Inuit Community Governments with the provincial and federal governments, is key to the success of our Government. As

such, the plan to add two new positions in this area, one with the Nunatsiavut Secretariat and one with the Finance Division. Mr. Speaker, with the opening of a brand new cultural centre in Nain, there is need to have a dedicated position located at the Centre. The position will be instrumental in managing and marketing the state of the art facility and assisting with the development of programs and exhibits. The language, culture and tourism department have also requested additional positions to support the work with the Torngat Mountains National Park base camp in Hebron as well as to support the expansion and delivery of language programs. Mr. Speaker, the addition Finance and Human Resources for the Government increase the workload for my Department. As such, we have planned for one additional finance position as I noted before, a centralized purchasing system with two staff for the entire Government and an additional Human Resource Generalist. Growth in the Government also means we have requirements for additional office and programing space, Mr. Speaker. This year, Finance Plans address the aging infrastructure in the Inuit Community of Rigolet and also storage needs in Hopedale. The plan also takes the necessary steps required to address the limited capacity for office and program space in our other communities, specifically, Makkovik, Nain and Postville. Mr. Speaker, the Government has submitted proposals to the Government of Canada for additional funds to address the programing space in Hopedale and Nain. Should these funds be received, the design and site development work will begin for the-, during the 2020, 2021

fiscal year. With the growth in the number of buildings and storage units and staffing units in Nunatsiavut and the plans to replace and add new buildings, the Public Property Division has budgeted for a Director of Public Property. The position will be the lead on the vision for capital infrastructure, ensuring that new builds meet the needs of our Government and services provided to Labrador Inuit. As I noted before, Mr. Speaker, these are exciting times. In 2019 we had a hugely successful Language Summit in Nain. From this summit there were many ideas and recommendations that are being reflected on and being built into the programs for Labrador for learning Inuttitut. The additional Human Resources requested under this financial plan will assist current staff in the delivery of existing and new programs. Housing, as we know, is a challenge, Mr. Speaker, however we are confident with establishment of the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission and the dedicated funds of \$27 million, we will make significant progress on this priority. This investment, one that will be guided by the Nunatsiavut Housing Strategy and Inuit Law will directly improve the lives of people within it. Mr. Speaker, addressing energy and food insecurity are two other areas of importance to Labrador Inuit, one whereby regional plans and strategies have been developed and are being implemented. This budget has funding dedicated to action items in Nunatsiavut Energy Plan, aimed at reducing our reliance on diesel fuel and finding ways to help homeowners affordably and effectively heat their homes. As we move forward with addressing food insecurity, it is important for the

Government to have funds set aside for programming and to leverage additional funds. Mr. Speaker, self government has allowed Labrador Inuit to develop our own solutions, our own plans and strategies that make positive change and make positive sense. Continuation of programs and services, Mr. Speaker, so far I have highlighted plans for some of the priorities of the Government. In addition, the Government is continuing to offer programs and services related to mental health and well-being and healing. Suicide prevention, diabetes prevention, tuberculosis prevention and elimination, education, Inuttitut Radio Hour on the OK Society Radio Station and of course the Language Nest for the little ones, to name a few. The Government, Mr. Speaker, is also continuing work and research on protection of land and its natural resources and the economies related to those resources. In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the staff of the Government for their time and efforts, in ensuring we make decisions that reflect that core values of Labrador Inuit, that allows us to shape our future in a way that reflects our culture, all while being fiscally responsible. Without employees of the Government, Mr. Speaker, it would not be possible to present this financial plan or to achieve the goals outlined for this upcoming year. With the approval of this budget, Mr. Speaker, we will continue our vision for Nunatsiavut. Thank you, very much, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister of Finance. Your motion is in order.

Does anybody else wish to speak to the principal of the bill? If no other

Members wish to speak to the bill, does the Minister of Finance and treasurer of Nunatsiavut wish to conclude the debate?

MR. T. ANDERSEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I wish to conclude debate.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, Honourable Minister. That concludes debate on first reading. Is the Assembly in favour of approving Bill 2020-01 on first reading? All those in favour? Any opposed? Motion is carried and accordingly, Bill 2020-01, the Budget Bill 2020 has had its first reading. And at this point, I'd like to recognize the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Tony Andersen.

MR. T. ANDERSEN: Honourable Speaker, in accordance with Standing Orders 54(3), I seek unanimous consent to waive Standing Order 54(1)(d) to have the Assembly proceed to second reading of Bill 2020-01, the Budget Bill 2020, today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, Honourable Minister. In accordance with Standing Order 54(3), the Minister is seeking unanimous consent to waive Standing Order 54(1)(d) to proceed with second reading of Bill 2020-01, the Budget Bill for 2020 today. All those in favour? Opposed? There is none. Minister you have unanimous consent so the Bill can proceed to second reading at the appropriate time. At this time I'm gonna call just a quick 10-minute recess. We have to check on our charter arrangements. I suspect our aircraft is on the ground and without any of our staff to give them direction, I don't want them turning around and going back to Goose Bay without us, so we'll call-, we'll reconvene at quarter to three.

[Recess]

MR. RUDKOWSKI: We're back from recess and we'll resume Item 17 of the *Orders of the Day*, namely, "First Reading of Bills". This time we'll deal with first reading of bill 2020-02, a Bill for an Act to amend the *Housing Initiatives-, the Initiatives of Hopedale and Nain Act*. At this point I'd like to call upon the First Minister, the Honourable Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek, Uhalitik*, Mr. Speaker. I'm seeking unanimous consent to proceed with the first reading of Bill 2020-02, a Bill for an Act to amend the *Housing Initiatives (Hopedale and Nain) Act*. *Nakummek*.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: The First Minister is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with the first reading of Bill 2020-02 today. Are there any opposed to this? Seeing none, please proceed, Honourable First Minister.

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek*, Honourable Speaker and Members. I move, seconded by the Nunatsiavut Treasurer, the Honourable Tony Andersen, that Bill 2020-02, a Bill for an Act to amend the *Housing Initiatives (Hopedale and Nain) Act*, now be introduced and read for the first time. *Nakummek*.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Honourable First Minister, would you like to introduce the bill?

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce the bill. What we are proposing today and we'll get to this after the second reading of the Budget Bill, is an amendment of the *Housing Initiatives for Hopedale and Nain Act*. As the Assembly is aware, we've had to put forward a piece of legislation in the past two enable us to do construction in Nain and Hopedale for the prototype and multiplexes. As we have been getting

additional funding from the Federal Government, the next question is how are we going to continue to move forward in this direction of building multiplexes and putting-, helping out families who have children in their care, in our partnership with DHSD. The solution that we have here today is just amendment of the legislation that's passed before. Basically, all it will do is open up this construction of multiplexes to different communities throughout Nunatsiavut. I wanna be clear that this legislation doesn't mean that every single construction has to be the same that exists in Nain and Hopedale. It could be smaller scale with the legislation that we're proposing. That's all I wanted to say around that today, Mr. Speaker. Without this authorization, the amended legislation, then we wouldn't be able to move forward with any new construction and one other part-, and important part of this is gonna be the reporting to the Assembly. The First Minister will have to report any new constructions that take place, and of course, construction will happen where our priorities are, for sure. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Honourable First Minister. Your motion is in order. Are there any other Members who wish to speak to the motion-, I should say, speak to the principal of the bill? Seeing none, does the First Minister wish to conclude debate?

MR. EDMUNDS:

I have no other comments, Mr. Speaker, and I'd like to conclude debate. *Nakummek*.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, First Minister. And that concludes debate on first reading. Is the Assembly in favour of approving Bill 2020-02, a Bill for an Act to

amend the *Housing Initiatives for Hopedale and Nain* on first reading? All those in favour? Any opposed? Motion is carried, and accordingly, Bill 2020-02 has had first reading. At this point, I'd like to recognize the First Minister again, the Honourable Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Mr. Speaker, in accordance with Standing Order 54(3), I seek unanimous consent to waive Standing Order 54(1)(d) to have the Assembly proceed to second reading of Bill 2020-02, a Bill for an Act to amend the *Housing Initiatives Act* today. *Nakummek, UKatti.*

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, First Minister. The Minister is seeking unanimous consent to waive Standing order 54(1)(d) to proceed with the second reading of Bill 2020-02 a Bill for an Act to amend the *Housing Initiatives, Hopedale and Nain Act*. All those in favour? Any opposed? Minister you have unanimous consent, so the bill can proceed to "Second reading", under Item number 18 of the *Orders of the Day*. Speaking of Item 18 on the *Orders of the Day*, that's now we find ourselves. We're on Item 18 of the *Orders of the Day*, the "Second reading of bills". And we'll start with second reading of the Budget Bill 2020-01. At this point, I'd like to recognize the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Tony Andersen for the Second Reading of Bills.

MR. T. ANDERSEN:

Honourable Speaker, I'd like to make a motion in accordance with Standing Order 42 to allow for consideration of the Budget Bill in Committee of the Whole. Therefore, I move, seconded by the First Minister, the Honourable Tyler Edmunds that Bill 2020-01 be referred to

Committee of the Whole for consideration with Controller Rexanne Crawford as a witness. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister. Your motion is in order. To the motion, all those in favour of the Minister's motion? Any opposed? The motion is carried and we're now in Committee of the Whole and if you would just bare with me one second, we're gonna invite Ms. Crawford to join us. So if you'd like to proceed.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Yes, I will, sorry. Thank you. Um, does everyone have the document called, "Financial Plan 2020, 2021" in front of them?

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Just allow is one second for everyone to get there, Rexanne.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Sorry, are we-, we're in Committee of the Whole, right?

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Yes.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just-, I'm sure you intend to go through the process for second reading. I'm not sure if you wanted to maybe do that while everyone's getting organized or...

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Yeah, I'll-, as Minister Edmunds alluded to, I will spend just two seconds just giving a background. So as Members are aware, the procedure for second reading debate will be a page-by-page and clause-by-clause review of the budget. The Financial Plan is important for our discussions today and requires approval from this Assembly. It will be considered first today, during our Committee of the Whole discussions and I will ask for the Assembly's agreement of each page of the Financial Plan. After agreement on the Financial Plan, we will move to the Annex of the Bill,

the *Budget Act*, which is Annex A, then onto the clauses of the Budget Bill. After commentary from the controller and questions from the Assembly, I will ask for agreement from the Assembly on the page number. So please turn your page to page two of the Financial Plan which is the Preface and Rexanne if you're ready to go, I'll invite you to start us there.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Thank you. So we'll start with the sources of the revenue. And just to outline and let you know, the way the Financial Plan is written, follows the Annex of the *Budget Act*. And so we start off with Sources of Revenue. And as we just discussed about a half an hour ago, the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* does set out certain programs and services that the Government has to provide, but we do have the authority to determine the allocations of the funds between these programs and services. So Section Two of Annex A denotes notional to date and that-, the reason we're budgeting notional funding even though we haven't fully executed the FFA is that should we need-, should this all get executed, we need to have it budgeted in order for it to be spent, so we have been very cautious and budgeted the notional amounts that we presented this morning, and once the agreements are executed, we'll work through the allocations of the funding, particularly in terms of the Governance. The other item to note under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* is that we do have the ability to carry forward funding. And so any funds that are not expended in a year, we internally restrict and then bring into the next year's *Budget Act* to plan for projects that do require larger amounts. So

in Section Two of Annex A, there are currently \$39.7 million internally restricted funds related to FFA and the bulk of it relates to the Housing Commission, so the establishment of the Housing Commissions and Programs and Services that will be delivered or units built under that particular Housing Program. And that's 19.7 million. There's 8.5 million being carried forward for Educational Programs and Services, 2.9 for Economic Development and 8.6 for Governance. The \$8.6 million for Governance was funds received late March 2019, too late to budget in last years agreement and it was an amendment to the FFA as a one-time payment. So we've allocated and budgeted these funding for Governance activities, as well as to increase the Governance fund going to the Inuit Community Government for auditing, accounting, legal services and Information Technology. Other sources of revenue for the NG include personal income tax revenue which is projected to be \$5 million for the 2020-2021 year. This was increased from the prior year remittance of 4.2 and that is due to the stable level of funds we have received over previous years. And so the Government of Canada has increased our annual remittance rather than waiting for the audit to be completed and doing a bump-up then. GST is based on an estimate from the Government of Canada. It is \$1.7 million for the upcoming year. Interest and investment income is based on interest earned in Nunatsiavut Government's bank account and the investment with Optimum Assets Management. As well, under the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Implementation Trust* we received 50 per cent of investment

income earned from a previous calendar year, which in this year is \$2.6 million. We do budget a small amount for the collection of access fees for fisherman, at 300,000. And it is also important for us to note that we did not receive any mining or mineral rights, royalties under part 7.5. And due to the funding we have available, we did not have to appropriate any of the funds we have internally restricted, related to past mining royalties that we have received. So I'll take a pause here on revenue and open up the floor for questions.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Patricia has a question. Go ahead, Patricia. And again, just state your question and I'll repeat it to Rexanne for the sake of expediency.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

In reference to the interests and investment income, 50 per cent of investment income earned through a calendar year, what would happen if there was a drop in the stock market 'cause it seems like there's a drop in the stock market happening now since Covid-19?

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Patricia's question Rexanne, was in relation to interest and investment revenue. Her question revolves around, given the fact that the stock market has seen a significant depreciation, and correct me if I'm wrong if I paraphrase incorrectly, Patricia, but Patricia's question was, "Can we expect that number to decrease on a go-forward basis, at least for this year, based upon what we see in the stock market"?

MS. CRAWFORD:

...year but as everyone's aware from following the news and Covid-19, there has been a significant impact on our stock market due to two reasons. One being Covid-19 and the second being oil or gas price war

that's going on between Saudi Arabia and Russia. So the expectation is that we will see a deprivation in our stocks. I'm not sure on the actual investment income we received, but I would imagine that would be so. The trustees are closely watching the funds and our investment managers, the fund managers have been sending us regular updates on this. I know this doesn't relate to the *Budget Act*, but I will say, in terms of the trust, because the money is being held for long term, if there's a bump in the road but it's one that we will, you know, we've made a lot of decisions, and so we're expecting the depreciation not to be as significant as it would've been in 2008 because we have diversified the portfolio quite significantly as we reported to you at the Assembly, alternatives which are not as impacted by the stock market.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Are there any other questions? Joe Dicker has a question. Go ahead, Joe.

MR. DICKER:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. The last part of your reading there on page three, we did not receive any mining or mineral rights royalties under 7.5 of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement*. When is NG gonna start receiving royalties?

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Rexanne, I don't believe you caught that but Joe was asking about page three, "Sources of Revenue" and at the very bottom of page three, it states that "The NG did not receive any mining or mineral rights royalties", and his question was, "When can we expect to start receiving some royalty payments in that area"?

MS. CRAWFORD:

...see any for the foreseeable future for two reasons. One was the impact of Long Harbour, construction which as all of you are aware, we are just waiting for the judge to render his decision on our position with relation to the construction of the Long Harbour facilities. But secondly, with the expansion of the mine at Voisey's Bay which is within the area, the Voisey's Bay Area, that will also impact mining royalties and will decrease the mining royalties available. So until the judge renders his decision, at this point, what I can say is that there will be no more mining royalties.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Are there any other questions? Seeing none, please proceed, Rexanne?

MS. CRAWFORD:

So I'll ask you to turn to page four, "Projected Budget and a Five-year Plan". So under the projected budget, there are a couple of additional items to note in that schedule. So for the *Labrador Inuit Constitution*, we are required to maintain a contingency fund and the requirement-, the reasons that the fund could be used are outlined in Section 8.5.5, and in the current year we budgeted \$628,500 for the contingency, bringing the accumulated reserve to 5.5 million. The Inuit Community Corporation's Budgets were submitted this fall to the Executive Council and were approved. The budgets were \$154,000 for their operations. And another point to highlight is that August 2019, the Government of Canada did approve a new policy called "Canada's Collaborative Self Government Fiscal Policy". Under this policy, all the own source revenue offset that we used to have to pay back to the Government of Canada are suspended until the expenditure needs assessment and related new fiscal funding methodologies are finalized. So what this would've been today if

we were still having to pay OSR would've been almost up to \$2 million in payments we would be making back to the Government of Canada. So this is a very positive position that the Government of Canada has taken with all self-governing Indigenous Governments.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Any questions?

MS. CRAWFORD: The other piece is a five-year plan. The Five-Year-Plan is a projection of kinda where we see the Government going in the next couple of years and the budget from 2020 onward has shown increases and mostly due to capital projects that are being planned to address inadequate or upgrading office and storage space. Are there any questions on page four?

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Patricia has a question. Go ahead Patricia.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: I was just looking at the budgets for the Inuit Community Corporations and I wonder if there's any possibility that we could have costs of living increases like it is in other areas? It's not gonna be very much, but something.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Patricia was wondering if the budgets for the Community Corporations could be adjusted by an annual cost of living adjuster?

MS. CRAWFORD: What I can say on the Inuit Community Corporations Budgets is that the budgets that were submitted in the fall were approved and so I would ask you if you can either submit a letter to the Treasurer with any additional requests and or build in such changes in your upcoming submission.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Are there any other additional questions? Rexanne, before I let you proceed, I should be calling for our page-by-page agreement of the Financial Plan, so I'll do that quickly on the pages we've already...

MS. CRAWFORD: On the Financial Plan or is that on the *Budget Act*?

MR. RUDKOWSKI: On the *Budget Act*, sorry, yes. Go ahead.

MS. CRAWFORD: Thank you. On the next page, for some reason it's missing its page number, but page five, we get into the discussion on the Departmental Budgets and I know, given the current climate that's out there related to the Covid-19 Pandemic, it's a little bit hard to now say that these are exciting times, but when you have the opportunity like I do, as Controller, to put together the Financial Plan, talk to each of the Departments about what the next fiscal year will look like and what kind of plans they have to develop, to implement in their particular department, it is exciting, and it is a small piece of positive news given where we are today. So, as the Minister spoke to in his opening statement, employees are the key to our success and without them the Government would not be able to offer the programs and services to our beneficiaries to effectively lobby and advocate all of our-, with our different Government partners, in order to avail of additional funding and programming so that we can continue to improve the lives of Labrador Inuit. So in this budget, we've budgeted for a two per cent increase for employees salaries, starting April 1st, 2020 and two per cent in each of the additional subsequent two years. And that is in addition to the changes to the Labrador Allowance that were sent out in a memo to all the employees and elected officials are aware

of as well. So as I get into the Departmental Review, the Nunatsiavut Secretariat is continuing to budget for ITK, Inuit Circumpolar Council activities, as well as for our participation in the Inuit Crown Partnership Committee. And this committee has been hugely successful in helping us advocate and lobby for additional funding to deal with issues that are important to Inuit across all Inuit Nunangat. There have been additional funds budgeted to address data management needs as well as establish a library of Labrador Inuit Association and Nunatsiavut Government reports and resources. They continue to work on Energy Security as well as budgeted for a new position to support the functional area of intergovernmental relations, specifically would help support relationships between the NG and the ICG's as well as with our Federal and Provincial partners. There are a budget for an additional piece of equipment at Nunatsiavut Visual Design that would help expand their products that they could deliver. And there's no significant changes to the budget for Communications. I'll just take a pause in case there any questions on the Secretariat.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Any questions for Ms. Crawford? Charlotte Wolfrey has a question. Go ahead.

MS. WOLFREY:

To the section where it starts off, where it says, "Energy Security", then it talks about a new position is budgeted to support the functional area of Intergovernmental Relations, specifically supporting Inuit Community Governments. What kind of support can we expect from that person? Like would that person, for example, help us to, you know, if we wanna

do-, apply for Capital Works projects, would they help us with the proposals or?

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Charlotte's question was in relation to the new position being proposed for Intergovernmental Relations, and her question was, "What kind of supports can the ICG's expect from that new individual, new department?"

MS. CRAWFORD:

We're still formulating exactly job descriptions and all the specific duties but when we sat back and looked at Government operations, one of the things we did note that we really wanted to increase our ability to support our Inuit Community Government counterparts, was having a position that could be dedicated to helping with whatever, you know, what the support is we can provide in terms of advocating or lobbying for additional funding, if there are questions related to operations or infrastructure and again providing better communications and links between that and our Federal, Provincial counterparts. So at this point, I can't sit here and give you a full job description and, you know, obviously, as we move forward and formulating out how the position will look. Any insight or guidance that the AngajukKâk can provide to us would be greatly appreciated. Feel free to send it to myself and the Deputy Minister of the Nunatsiavut Secretariat, Isabella Pain and we'll be able to make sure that this position is as effective as it can be in supporting intergovernmental relations with all our three partners of Government.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Are there any other questions on the Nunatsiavut Secretariat for Ms. Crawford? Seeing none, go ahead, Rexanne.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Okay. Thank you. The Nunatsiavut Affairs is responsible for housing and it continues to be one of utmost priority for the Government. So the Department is continuing to offer the Affordable Warmth Nunatsiavut Program in its fifth year. They've partnered with the Secretariat for energy programs, and with the approval of the *Nunatsiavut Housing Act*, a number of steps will be taken to establish the Housing Commission over the next year. And once this is established and the strategy approved, the Internally Restricted Funds allocated to housing will then be used to implement the goals and objectives and deliver programs and services so dearly needed for our beneficiaries. The budget for the Registrars Office is also increased in the upcoming year. The Office is undertaking a project related to Inuit Ancestry with the ultimate goal of building a database for Ancestry. The plan is gonna hold, on top of their annual workshop, a very specific workshop related to this category, this discussion. Public Property, as you all probably can see, in each of our communities, we continue to add and we continue to grow and plan for growth of our Government which means we have to grow our buildings. And as we add each building, there's an increase in the maintenance we have to do on the particular facilities. So the Department reviews their staffing complement. The decision was to appropriate or to budget for a Director of Public Property, one that would be responsible for the strategic direction of the Division, being involved in major capital projects, helping Departments with getting proposals or plans related to Capital infrastructure, as well as then, as you get down into the day-to-

day operations and maintenance, we would have our manager for maintenance, and moving from a realigning some of the staffing related maintenance, so the ultimate goal of making sure that our facilities are properly maintained and also meet the needs of our employees and our Government Program Services. I'll take a pause to see if there's any questions related to Public Property-, or not Public Property, I'm sorry. I apologize-, Nunatsiavut Affairs.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Joe Dicker has a question. Go ahead, Joe.

MR. DICKER:

Thank you, Rexanne, with regards to Director of Public Property, could you tell me the difference between that position and the Property Manager, because we do have a Property Manager that's employed by Nunatsiavut Government.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Joe's question was, he wants for you to define the difference between the Director of Public Property and the Property Manager. Is that correct, Joe? He wanted you to define the difference between those two roles.

MS. CRAWFORD:

...sure the work orders are delivered to each of the appropriate maintenance personnel or hiring, engaging particular contractors to deal with the day-to-day needs of our contractors. The Director of Public Property looks more at a higher level than that, in looking at direction of the Division, looks at the Capital Project for under construction take a significant amount of time and planning, and also once they're under construction, in managing those projects, as well as we often-, as we're

moving forward and looking at both of the Government, look at, "What do we need"? And providing that advice and doing that particular research on, "How do we meet the needs and demands that we have in each particular community, related to Nunatsiavut Government"?

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Are there any other questions? Go ahead Rexanne, proceed. No other questions, so go ahead.

MS. CRAWFORD:

The Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology, the Department that myself and Minister Andersen are responsible for-, as the Minister noted in his speech, every time we add growth to the Government, whether it be from more financial resources, more people, there are more demands put into Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology. There's additional people to pay. There's more-, as more programs are added, we have more payables, more purchase orders, et cetera, so as a result of all this, we have budgeted for an additional budget slash Financial Analyst who would be requested to assist with the management of financial components of Capital Work projects that are done either with the NG and the ICG's, also to assist with the overall monitoring of funds related to budgets under contribution agreements or within divisional areas. The Division will also be instrumental in assisting with preparations of proposals, cashflow forecasts, et cetera. One of the things as we had discussions over the last year in Finance and looking at the demands on our staff as well as the needs of the Government. It constantly was coming back to us about purchasing and looking for an ability to centralize our purchasing, have

one person or a team, two people responsible for looking at purchasing and shipping and receiving functions. And kind of moving some of these duties out of the hands of our Program people who are delivering programs and again, outta the people who do the day-to-day processing of statements. So the NG is budgeted for a purchasing functional area under Finance and it is our belief that there would be overall savings, as we would centralize all the purchasing program materials, office supplies, cleaning supplies, home support supplies, et cetera, and a lot of the things we can get better shipping costs or free shipping costs to Goose Bay, and then we would take advantage of our rate on Air Borealis or the marine shipment to get it shipped to our communities at the appropriate times. Again, with the growth of Government and the additional funds being received, and additional personnel being added, there is a desperate need to add to our Human Resource Division. Currently we have two staff servicing over 425 staff, so we are budgeting for the addition of another position that would focus on Recruitment, Occupational Health and Safety, and other areas. We have also budgeted for secretary, receptionist position to be based out of the Makkovik Administration office, as that office has grown, and a receptionist at that building. Again, with the growth of staff and programs, we do need to increase our budgeted amount for subscription as these are based on the number of users. There's also requirement to replace aging IT equipment at expected cost of \$103,000. So that takes us through the plan for

Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology and if there are any questions, I'll pause here.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Marjorie has a question. Go ahead, Marjorie.

MS. FLOWERS: Thank you. There was talks about getting-, having IT support from NG for the ICG's. Will this still be going ahead in this budget?

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Marjorie's question was in regards to IT support for ICG's and she was wondering if that would be included in this budget, IT support for ICG's?

MS. CRAWFORD: I believe that each of the ICG's are working with our Director if IT individually on what the requirements are for your needs related to IT and there are costs associated with increasing the licences but those will be built into your operational budgets for the ICG.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Are there any other questions? No other questions, Rexanne. Go ahead.

MS. CRAWFORD: Thank you. Lands and Natural Resources. So I'm not gonna go through all the details, but I will summarize. There's no significant changes planned for the Lands Division and Non-renewable resources. It's continuing to conduct inspections with potential and requirements and concerns on Labrador Inuit land as well as their normal planned activities that they do on a yearly basis. Program expenses have increased for Renewable Resources Division and this is directly related to the Fishery Fund. So as you are all aware, or if not, for some of you who are new to the Table, all the access fees that we receive from fishers are put into our restricted account and these are budgeted each year as a revenue and as a program expenditure, so that we can avail of opportunities in the

fisheries as they arrive. As we all know, anyone who's been involved in the Fisheries that the opportunity to purchase a licence, et cetera don't allow you to wait until the next Assembly to come and get formal approval. So as such, what we've done is budgeted the entire amount as a revenue and as a program expenditure so that the Division and the Government can avail of opportunities as they arrive. The Division is also moving forward with the formal plan for use of the funds and the fishery fund so other areas have use of the fishery fund. And they're also participating in research projects related to the Torngat Mountains Caribou and an Annual Fisheries workshop. There's an allocation for the purchase of a new vehicle due to an aging vehicle we have in one of our communities. For the Environment Division, have moved to a new location as we've outgrown the offices in the main building. They are using-, the rental costs are coming from their internally restricted fund. Their current plans for the upcoming year include continuation of eight projects under the Northern Contaminants Program. Continuation of the Lake Melville Baseline Study, working on the sustainable communities initiative which include implementing waste management strategies and looking at an environmental management plan for the Torngat Mountains Base Camp and Research Centre. They've got funds appropriated to assist with research costs for the Torngat Mountain National Park and there are various projects related to a Imappivut continuing on. I'll take a pause if there's any questions.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Any questions? Seeing none, go ahead, Rexanne.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Thank you. The bulk of the funding for Health and Social Development does come from the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. As we noted earlier, there's over \$24 million under that category for Health Programming. We do budget for some funds under the Health and Social Development Budget under the *Budget Act*. The bulk of these relate to Food Security, a huge priority for Nunatsiavut. And there are more and more programs being developed and implemented in our communities and a lot drawing from feedback from our communities as they move forward in developing these strategies. There are no significant changes in the plans for programs and services for Youth, Culture and the Status of Women. Education and Economic Development, again has no significant changes, other than in this year, we do have a full-time Director of Education and there is an increase from a 25 per cent funded position under the *Budget Act* of an Education Counsellor to a full-time funded Education Counsellor under this Budget. They are continuing on with the Wage Subsidy Program, the Community Economic Development Program, and programs related to Inuit Businesses under Economic Development. I'll take a pause in case there are any questions under these two program areas.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Charlotte Wolfrey has a question. Go ahead, Charlotte.

MS. WOLFREY:

Yeah, for food security, are they going to be creating any new positions, because Rigolet and Hopedale are just losing their positions that they had for food security because Food First, Newfoundland and Labrador lost their funding from OYAK, I guess it is, and they-, the funding that Food

First got left-, the got enough for five positions and all them positions are in St. John's, so I think what they're going-, I don't know if there's gonna be any lobbying or what, but I think what they're doing is trying to get us to, you know, to fund Food Security. But we lost the position in Rigolet and Hopedale, so I'm wondering, is there any positions budgeted to maybe make up for that, or can there be?

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Charlotte was drawing attention to the recent loss of Food Security positions in Rigolet and Hopedale and her query was, was there any plans for NG to re-staff those positions?

MS. CRAWFORD:

It hasn't been put into this budget but that's not being said it might not be considered under Program Funding that we have for external sources. If I can, I take that question and I'll have to get back to you after consultation with our staff in Food Security.

MS. WOLFREY:

Thank you Rexanne. Might be a good way to get it if we hold up the budget too long.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

For the record, Charlotte Wolfrey was threatening to hold up the budget for-, till she get what she wanted. *(Laughs.)* Are there any other questions? No other questions. Proceed, Rexanne.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Sorry.

MS. CRAWFORD:

...upgrading sites and in our Government as we look at language. The Language Summit was held in the fall of 2019 and there are many ideas and recommendations, how to revitalize and strengthen the language in Nunatsiavut. So the Department has requested one additional position

that would be directly delivering programs in Nunatsiavut as well as an Inuttitut Instructor for programs. There is-, the plan and it's been ahead of next year's budget but the plan is to start piloting some positions in other communities and building growth until we have language workers in all of our communities delivering Inuttitut programs. And one of the reasons we start small is that we have to test these programs out and work out the kinks and then gradually add more structures over time to each of the communities. And so it is a really, a lot of excitement in the department and a lot of excitement in the Government as we look at Inuttitut and the programs that are being developed and being tested out for delivery, as well as the programs that are already in place related to language, such as the Inuttitut Radio Hour and the OK Society, the Language Staff, the Interpreter Translator Annual workshops, et cetera. With the opening of the Illusuak Cultural Centre, it is imperative that the centre be managed and marketed to its fullest extent. As such, we budgeted for a position based out of the cultural centre that's sole focus would be on looking at the management, the operations and the program, looking at marketing of that building, helping with marketing materials, as well as assisting with the exhibits and the development of the traveling exhibits. The plans for the Tourism Division continue to focus on the Implementation Plan, the community sessions and the development of the Experience Development Network. Funds are appropriated for market readiness, experience packages in Nunatsiavut and a commitment to an Operations and Youth Leadership Program for

the Torngat Mountains National Park. Hebron, as we all know, is an important part of Labrador Inuit history and as such, the Tourism Division has planned for the continuation of the Hebron Ambassador Program and the Hebron Restoration Project. And to fully support the works under these areas, the Department has budgeted for a position to focus on this implementation and further movement of these two initiatives. We continue to budget funds for the activities of the Torngat Recreation Commission of \$75,000 for recreation in the communities. Are there any questions on this division-, this department?

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Any questions? LCT, Joe Dicker has a question. Go ahead, Joe.

MR. DICKER:

Thank you. Rexanne, has there been any consideration to start putting money, I suppose, or looking at money to look at a historical-, I'm not sure how to put this-, we haven't hunted caribou for a number of years now. The culture itself, of the caribou hunt is getting lost. Young people don't know anymore how to Atuk their caribou and the life skills that come with it going on the land and learning how to hunt the caribou. Is there any funds available for that kind of historical preservation, I guess, of something like that so that, you know, if and when the caribou do come back, that they are actual videos or history of how these were done? That's my question, I guess. Has it been considered to be-, to put money away for that kind of project?

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Rexanne, I'm gonna try to paraphrase Joe, here. I think it's more appropriate to the Department Head.

MR. DICKER: Such a question should be asked perhaps of the Minister of Language, Culture and...

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Yeah, and-, but when we're dealing with the Budget Bill, I would suggest that this is not an appropriate time to ask that question, unless you wanna give it a brief...

MR. LYALL: Yeah, very brief, yeah.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: ...response-, I'm gonna-, sorry, just a quick side note here, Rexanne. Just bear with us?

MR. LYALL: Yeah, very briefly, AngajukKâk, it hadn't been considered but that doesn't mean it can't be considered. It's something that we could look forward to when we're doing some future programming.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Thank you. Rexanne, back to you. Are there any other questions on this Department before we push along? Seeing none, go ahead, Rexanne.

MS. CRAWFORD: Thank you. I'll just go through the next few pages before I take a pause. So as a Government, we make a very much concerted effort to keep the administration costs at a minimum level. These costs include telephone, heat and light, insurance, (inaudible), bank charges and mortgage payments on our last unit which we paid off this year, of the staffing unit that was put into place back pre-Nunatsiavut Government days. There is a decrease in the prior budget as the insurance is now being budgeted under the Public Property Division under the categories there. And there is an inflation and cost related to telephone and heat and light. As we move to the next page, page 11, we've already discussed and approved

the Nunatsiavut Assembly Budget and this takes the same wording that was in that document and puts it in here. And the Implementation Plan, that is the *Tripartite Agreement* between the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, Government of Canada, and our Government in terms of implementation certain provisions under the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement*. So we've been negotiating the renewal of the Implementation Plan for a number of years and we're pleased to say we're in the final stages of this negotiation. We are at the stage where we're looking at what is the method of executing our agreements on the budget area. So this budget and this Table in our *Budget Act*, reflects the proposed commitments of the Nunatsiavut Government. Again, this is subject to final agreement on the renewal with all three parties. We do have agreement on the financial terms but we haven't executed any documents. And the numbers for the Implementation Plan have increased and thankfully we've been able to negotiate increases in the research funding which is very important for the mandate under the co-management boards in terms of the recommendations they are making on their-, under their mandate, under LILCA. Are there any questions on the administration, Nunatsiavut Assembly Budget or the Implementation Plan Budget?

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Any questions on these last three items that Rexanne went through? Charlotte Wolfrey has a question. Go ahead, Charlotte.

MS. WOLFREY:

I don't know if it's related to the budget, but it's related...

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Well, if it's not related to the budget, can we please keep it related to the budget.

MS. WOLFREY: Oh, but it's relating to savings. I wonder if we could buddy up with NG-, the ICG's could buddy-up with NG to get our insurance under the same person or something like that, 'cause Rigolet pays \$60,000 a year for insurance. And I don't know if there'd be any savings if you guys pay a lot, we pay a lot. Everyone else pays a lot.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: I'll make note of it to Rexanne. Just a comment from Charlotte regarding insurance costs. Her question was, would it be possible to buddy-up as it were-, her-, the insurance costs of the ICG's with NG as a whole, in an effort to reduce insurance costs, of course?

MS. CRAWFORD: ...so then if there's ways to try to help reduce costs, that's always a (inaudible). Again, as-, where the Chair noted, it is not related directly to the budget, but I will definitely make note of it (inaudible).

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Are there any other questions from the floor on these three items?
Hearing none, proceed, Rexanne.

MS. CRAWFORD: Thank you. On page 12, it talks about Capital Infrastructure. And the Minister spoke about this with his Budget Speech. So while it is very exciting when we have growth in the Government and growth in our Programs and Services delivery, there are impacts on our facilities, in terms of office space. We also do have aging facilities in some of our communities. So in the 2021 fiscal year, the Government has planned for the design and commencement of construction on a new community

office in Rigolet. As we all know, that building is exceptionally old and needs to be redesigned and to meet our current needs. We're also going to see the design and commencement of construction of an adequate storage space in Hopedale, that meets the needs of all the Government operations in that community. The Government is also going to take the time to address the growing demand for office space in Makkovik, and has budgeted funds to look at what the needs are and how we can address these needs, which includes the buying or land procurement development if we need to proceed with a new building in Makkovik. The future plans for capital infrastructure also include assessing the office requirements, and current office spaces in Postville in Nain, but this could be in Year Two of Capital Infrastructure in our next year's plan. We try to be realistic in what we can actually accomplish and, you know, if there is time and capacity, and we-, our projects move quicker than we expected, we will move some of these plans accordingly, but right now in the upcoming fiscal year, would be to address the office space in Rigolet, the storage space in Hopedale and to begin the planning and designing of space in Makkovik. That would be used into Year Two where you would commence with the construction in Makkovik and begin the planning of what we need to do to address needs in Postville and Nain. And then in Year Three you would see the construction of those-, whatever the outcomes of that plans are in Nain and Postville. We have been successful, as we've talked about in-, under the FFA review to look at gap-, to receive Gap Closing funds. And these will be used to construct

buildings in Nain and Hopedale for the delivery of programs and services. Again, that's subject to us receiving the funds and executing the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. We do have a small amount of funds budgeted to look at Staff Housing as we try to recruit and retain employees within the Government. So that is the Capital Infrastructure Plan. I'll take a pause for questions.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Any questions in regards to the Capital Infrastructure? Patricia Kemuksigak has a question. Go ahead, Patricia.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: I was just wondering, for Makkovik additional office space, did you ever think of the possibility of building up on the new office space they built? I don't know. Just wondered.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Patricia's question is, was it ever considered to build upward, i.e, a taller building rather than, I guess a broader building, as a cost-saving measure in Makkovik? Sorry, build-up-, I'm trying to paraphrase accurately. Her question was, would it be possible-, was it considered to build on top of the existing structure in Makkovik?

MS. CRAWFORD: ...that would be in Makkovik. That is part of the plan for this year, to look at all options that would be available for addressing the needs in Makkovik.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Are there any other questions relating to Capital Infrastructure? Seeing none, go ahead, Rexanne.

MS. CRAWFORD: The last page of the Financial Plan before we get into the Annex to the Budget, talks about the Inuit Community Government operations. So

terms of Inuit Community Government operations, as we noted a few years ago, we implemented a new methodology whereby we allocate a certain amount of funds for governance activities, as well as funding for the provision of services to the community . The Provision of Services is allocated out based on a formula using the number of commercial and private buildings in your communities, and then using per cents it's just allocated out, so each of the Inuit Community Government provide me that data on an annual basis so we can do the calculations. And I thank all of them for their prompt response to my request. We have received additional funds for Governance, and so we've budgeted an additional \$100,000 per community to bump up the governance activity for them, related to accounting, auditing, legal, and upgrading on the Information Technology hardware for each ICG. And that concludes really, the Financial Plan because the Appendix is the Annex A, to the *Budget Act*.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Are there any other questions regarding the Equitable Division of FFA for ICG's? Any questions? No questions from our AngajukKâk. Oh, sorry, I spoke to soon. Joe Dicker.

MR. DICKER;

With this on the last section, say, Nunatsiavut Government has completed a review of the methodology of how you fund the Community Governments and has implemented a new methodology. The size of the community and how many private and commercial dwellings in each community-, is that-, has that been implemented now? Like right now we got additional \$100,000 for each community, but, you know, Nain is

three times the size of some of the other communities and I don't know if that's using that methodology or not.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

AngajukKâk Dicker's, Joe Dicker's question, Rexanne was about the Operational-, was surrounding the methodology for allocating the operational funds and his question was, is that new methodology in place currently?

MS. CRAWFORD:

Yes, it's been in place for the last three years, maybe even four, but I do believe it has been at least three years we've been using this methodology.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Charlotte Wolfrey has a question. Go ahead Charlotte.

MS. WOLFREY:

Is that 100,000 every year gonna always be there? I mean, or is that a one-time deal?

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Her question was surrounding the additional \$100,000 per community. She was wondering whether or not that was an annual difference or a one-time shot?

MS. CRAWFORD:

As I noted when we reviewed the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*, there is-, the new Governance funding is significantly increased. And at this time, because the agreement was still in negotiation stages and we are only reaching the end of the negotiations and approval of the agreement. We haven't finalized out exactly how much is going for each ICG, so I'm going to surmise that since we have an increase in our Governance, that there will be increased Governance funding going to each of the ICG's. I just

am cognizant that at this point, we haven't done the work to determine how much will be going to each ICG or for activities at the NG level.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Thank you, Rexanne. Are there any additional questions on this one topic? Seeing none, Rexanne, we'll let you proceed.

MS. CRAWFORD:

The next step would be to review the *Budget Act*. And I'm not-, I guess I'm gonna ask for advice on how to proceed. Would you like to do the clause-by-clause review of the *Budget Act*, Edward, and have me available to answer...

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

I think that would-, if you're fine with that, I think we're okay. Sorry talking over you. What I'm gonna propose I do, is go through the Annex page-by-page just quickly again, just to solicit any questions, and then we'll go to the *Budget Act*. If it's okay with you, I'll ask you to hover in the background and act as a resource person should we have any questions, if that's okay with you, Rexanne.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Yes, please. Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Okay. So that's what I'll do. So I'll proceed with page seven. So we're looking at Annex A which is page-, Annex A, page seven. Again, Rexanne spoke to this initially, but I wanna review it and we're gonna go through page by page and get everyone's okay and understanding and solicit questions one final time before we go to the clause-by-clause. We're looking at Annex A, Consolidated Plan of the Nunatsiavut Government and costs as previously outlined. Are there any questions arising from page seven? I'm just gonna allow a couple minutes for digestion. So

Rexanne just a quick-, I'm usually very hesitant to ask questions, but I'll ask one quickly, so the total budget of the NG this year is 144 million. Is that correct?

MS. CRAWFORD: That is correct. We're looking at 33.7 from own source revenues and 100-, and under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* which includes the Internally Restricted Funds.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Are there any questions in regards to Annex-, to page seven of Annex A? Charlotte Wolfrey.

MS. WOLFREY: I wonder how we're ever gonna sustain ourselves if we keep spending that much money in a year. That's a lot of money.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Charlotte's question was, I suspect a little rhetorical, but she was asking how we could expect to sustain ourselves if we're spending \$144 million per year?

MS. CRAWFORD: Do as we always do and be fiscally responsible, (inaudible) but it is very much-, let's say it's undergoing the renewal of the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* as we just saw in a separate Committee of the Whole, you know, there are some exciting things that we're gonna be able to do and move forward on because we're gonna be more adequately funded.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Any other questions from page seven? Everybody in agreement on page seven? Signify with your hands, those that are here. Page seven unanimously agreed. We'll turn our attention to page eight, "Projected Revenue and Expenditure". This is just a simple accounting piece. Any questions from this page, page eight? All those in agreement? On to

page nine of the Annex, "Nunatsiavut Government Projected Sources of Revenue". Again, I'll allow a couple of moments for digestion. Question from Marlene Winters-Wheeler. Go ahead, Marlene.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Hi. Just a quick question under the page nine, the "Personal Income Tax", the projected sources of revenue is \$5 million. Is that, I guess, an increase or decrease, in that it's like-, I guess it's kind of like a round number?

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Mm-hmm.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: So I'm just kinda curious as to if-, is that, you know, norm?

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Marlene's question was around the personal income tax revenue number on page nine, Rexanne, and she noted quite astutely, that it's a round number, which is highly unlikely, so she's wondering, is that a rounded figure, and does that represent an increase or decrease from previous years?

MS. CRAWFORD: So you'll note that the whole *Budget Act* uses round numbers which is normal practice in terms of developing budgets. You're not so bound to dollar figures. In terms of 5 million, it actually is a round number. We are getting a remittance of \$5 million this year from the Government of Canada and what they do is after they audit a particular year, they'll give us what the actual amount is and bump up our-, do a one-time payment. It usually happens in March, at the end of March. It has, as I mentioned earlier, when I reviewed the Financial Plan, represent the \$800,000 increase from the remittance in the prior year, which shows that we have

positive economic growth as this relates to Nunatsiavut and the 95 per cent of personal income taxes that we collect from our beneficiaries.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Are there any other questions regarding page nine, the Government projected sources of revenue? Are there questions? Seeing none, all those in agreement with page nine? Any "Nays"? Page nine is approved. On to page 10. Under page 10, it's titled, "Nunatsiavut Government projected budget". And I'll allow a couple moments for digestion. On page 10, Charlotte, page 10, which is the third page in of the Annex. You got it there? It's okay. Are there any questions from the floor regarding page 10 in the Annex? One more time, any questions regarding page 10? All those in agreement, page 10? Any objections? Any "Nays"? Seeing none, page 10 is agreed upon. On to page 11. Page 11, titled, "Nunatsiavut Government Projected Budget, Five-Year Plan for the year ended March 31st". So page 10 is just an extrapolation of the next five years of-, page 11, I'm sorry, is just an extrapolation of the next five years of page 10. Is that correct, Rexanne?

MS. CRAWFORD:

Yes. It just reflects, really, the changes in the infrastructure, so how the plans build up as we move forward with infrastructure projects and just incrementally increases due to inflation.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Are there any questions in regards to page 11? Any questions? Question from Marlene. Marlene, go ahead.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Okay. Hi, just kind of looking very quickly at the numbers, I see every year between 2019 and 2023 has a slight increase except for the Inuit

Community Corporations. Is that just-, I guess my question is, why hasn't that number increase as well? Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Marlene's question was, all numbers appear to be inflation-adjusted and with a slight escalator every year for inflation, yet the ICG number is flat. At what-, ICC, sorry. The Chair-people are hawk-eyes around here, I tell you.

MS. CRAWFORD:

...that would be in place. It's just a projection.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Sorry?

MS. CRAWFORD:

So as you can note, there hasn't been increases in a couple of years and we just projected that it would remain the same. No other reason for it than looking at historical evidence. The Constitution lays out how the budgets for the Inuit Community Corporations are to be approved. So really, it's just a projection.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Okay. Thank you. Are there any other questions regarding page 11 of the Annex? Seeing none, all this in favour, all those approve page 11? Any opposed? Page 11 is approved by the Assembly. On to page 12. Page 12 is titled, "Nunatsiavut Government total department for April 2020 to March 31st 2021". Again, I'll allow a few moments for digestion. Any questions relating to page 12 of the Annex? Joe Dicker has a question regarding page 12. Go ahead, Joe.

MR. DICKER:

The bottom line, Rexanne, Total Expenditures from each department-, the total side of it, the expenditures is 25,147,500 and total budget from

NG is 19,044,500. There's a loss of there about \$6 million. Could you explain that please?

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Hi, Rexanne. Joe's question was in regards to the totals on the bottom right, specifically, Total Expenditure versus Total Budget from NG. He called attention to the total expenditure being 25 million while the total budget was 19 million and pointed to the fact that there was a \$6 million shortfall there and he was looking for clarification on that shortfall.

MS. CRAWFORD:

...the new line item of \$6.1 million and it shows the revenues that would come from each of the departments. And the significant source of that revenue again, was-, relates the Lands and Natural Resources...

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Mm-hmm.

MS. CRAWFORD:

...bulk of which comes from the Internally Restricted Funds related to Fishery and the Environment Division.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Did you catch that, Joe? So Rexanne was just pointing out that there's revenues within the departments themselves, and that line item on revenue accounts for the difference.

MR. DICKER:

Okay. Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Are there any other questions on page 12? All those in favour of page 12? Any opposed? Page 12 has been approved. On to page 13. Page 13 is just-, Patricia is-, I'm telling you, those ICC people are sharp. Patricia pointed out that we already reviewed page 13 when we looked at the-, when we approved the Assembly Budget, however, for the sake of completeness I will canvas the floor for questions. Any questions

regarding page 13? All those in favour of page 13? Any opposed? Page 13 is adopted. On to page 14. Page 14 is titled, "Nunatsiavut Government Implementation Plan for the years ended 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023. Are there any questions in regards to page 14? Charlotte Wolfrey has a question. Go ahead, Charlotte.

MS. WOLFREY:

I'm confused because I always thought the Implementation Plan was when we were gonna take the implement our *Land Claims Agreement* and bring the stuff back to the communities. Now I'm looking at four things in our Implementation Plan so what's that? I'm confused.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Okay. Rexanne, Charlotte Wolfrey's question was revolving around the Implementation Plan and what these numbers represent. She pointed out that her impression, and I have some sympathy for this, her impression was that the Implementation Plan would've been done by this point in time, so I guess she's-, her question revolves around, could you explain a little bit where these numbers arise from?

MS. CRAWFORD:

For the Implementation Plan, we did have a 10-year Implementation Plan that you would have to undergo and renew at the end of those 10 years. So that would've been 2015. Due to various reasons, and most out of our control, it has taken this long to get to a *Financial Agreement* between the three parties. We're at the final stage of this negotiation and the numbers that are budgeted and projected reflect the negotiated positions that we have at this point. And so you'll see that there is a significant increase in the funds for the Torngat Joint Fisheries Board and Torngat Wildlife and co-management Board. These would also be subject

to adjusters in year 2023 and onward for the next 10 years of that agreement.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Charlotte doesn't look any more clear. Go ahead Charlotte. Did you wanna...

MS. WOLFREY:

So I thought that we negotiated an Implementation Plan to implement the *Land Claim*, yes? And I thought that was like 150 something million dollars. And I thought that Implementation Plan was gonna bring back, oh, let's just say, Lands and Resources all that office, back to the communities or DHSD or, you know, that's what I thought an Implementation Plan was. But I'm seeing like \$399,000. I'm not seeing that 151 million or whatever what was negotiated. Do you understand what I'm saying? I might have it confused.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Again, you'll have to pardon me Rexanne, I'm gonna try to paraphrase Charlotte accurately. So her point of contention or question, I should say, is that under the original *Land Claims Agreement*, there was an Implementation Budget of \$150 million or something to that effect and she's at a loss to explain how that \$150 million in the original agreement has morphed into \$350,000 here and I guess what those numbers actually represent. Does that-, is that a fair characterization of what you asked, Charlotte?

MR. WOLFREY:

I'll ask her on another level (inaudible).

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Just one second. So Charlotte said she'll take it off-line with you. Is that okay with you, Charlotte? I mean, I can't offer any clarity to it myself.

MS. CRAWFORD:

I can do a quick explanation just for clarity's sake. Chapter 23 under the *Land Claims Agreement*, all the funds that came in through that particular chapter, are in the *Implementation Trust*, outside the amount that would be used of the Investment Income, but the transfer payments are all in the *Implementation Trust*. What this represents is the funding that spills under the Implementation Plan which is a 900-page document that was agreed to by the three parties, of which you will note hear, the bulk of the budget relates to implementing and-, not implementing, but relates to the co-management boards and their duties under chapter 12 and chapter 13 of LILCA

MS. WOLFREY:

Tikiseven I just wanted to know where the 150 million was. It's in a Trust Fund. Okay. I was mixed up. *Nakummek*.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Are there any other questions in regards to page 14? All those in favour of page 14? Any opposed? Page 14 has been agreed upon by the Assembly. On to page 15, titled, "Nunatsiavut Government Capital Infrastructure for the years ended 2021, 2022, 2023, '24 and '25". Any questions in regards to page 15? Seeing none, all those in favour of page 15? Opposed? Page 15 has been approved by the Assembly. On to page 16. *Nunatsiavut Government Fiscal Financing Agreement Projected*. And I'll allow for a couple of minutes of digestion. Are there any questions in regards to page 16? Any-, again, I'll canvas the floor. Any questions in regards to page 16? All those in favour? Any opposed? Page 16 has been agreed upon by the Assembly. Final page of the Annex. Page 17,

Nunatsiavut Government Fiscal Financing Agreement. Any questions arising from page 17? Again, pardon me? AngajukKâk Dicker?

MR. DICKER:

With regards to the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*, we still haven't had our *Joint Management Agreement*, and I believe that there might be some more monies coming. Is that money reflected in this budget?

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Rexanne, Joe Dicker asked a question. If *Joint Management Agreement* funds, or anticipated funds were included in the figures that we see presented in front of us on page 17?

MS. CRAWFORD:

They do not. If you look under-, on page 15, there is an amount of 4.9 million called, "Community Government Capital Work", and that's the money for capital infrastructure in your community. This is just for the operations of your Government.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Are there any other questions arising from page 17? Marjorie Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS:

Thank you. I'm just curious, Postville has a 2.3 per cent increase and it's the smallest community. I'm just wondering, did I miss something there?

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Marjorie was asking, how Postville got a 2.3 per cent increase when in fact, it represents the smallest community of the five?

MS. CRAWFORD:

...to the formula that was used for the allocation between commercial and private buildings. And in some of the cases, some-, that's-, it's the way the formula formulates out. And I don't mind sharing the formula. I can send it after this call has ended or the Assembly has ended, to show people the calculations and how we determined the percentages.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: You're getting nods from our AngajukKâk community here, so I suspect that they would appreciate getting-, if you could email them that formula, Rexanne.

MS. CRAWFORD: Yes, no problem.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: The heads were all nodding at the same time over there.

MS. CRAWFORD: *(Laughs.)* Wonderful.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Are there any other questions arising from page 17? All those in favour of page 17? Any opposed? Page 17 has been approved by the Assembly. So now we're into the body of the *Bill*. And again, Rexanne, I'm gonna ask that you stay on board in case there's any questions that arise, if that's okay with you?

MS. CRAWFORD: Yes, absolutely, thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: So we're gonna start with page two. So again, the document we're examining, and again, it's *The Nunatsiavut Assembly Bill*, number 2020-01, an Act to implement the Consolidated Financial Plan of the Nunatsiavut Government fiscal year beginning April 1st, ending March 31st, 2021. So we're required to go clause-by-clause and I'll do that now. We're gonna start on page two of the *Budget Act* which is Clause One. All those in favour of Clause One? Any opposed? Clause One is passed. On to Clause Two. It's reasonably straight forward. All those in favour of Clause Two. Any opposed? On to Clause Three. All those in favour of Clause Three? Any "Nays"? Clause Three is approved. On to Clause Four. I'll allow a short time for reading through Clause Four. All those in

favour of Clause Four? Any opposed? Clause Four is approved. Clause Five. Clause Five looks pretty procedural. All those in favour of Clause Five? Any opposed? On to Clause Six. Clause Five is approved. Clause Six. All those in favour of Clause Six? Any opposed? I'll just remind everybody, if at any point someone has a question on any particular clause, I may not call for questions, but please just bring it to my attention and we'll certainly pause the Clause by Clause to bring in Ms. Crawford's expertise. On to Clause Seven. All those in favour of Clause Seven? Any opposed? Clause Seven is passed. Clause Eight. Clause Eight encompasses a couple of pages, so I'll allow just a couple of moments. Question from Patricia Kemuksigak, vis a vis Clause Eight. Go ahead, Patricia.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Sorry. In the beginning of Clause Eight, "The following amounts for the fiscal year beginning", is it supposed to be April 1st 2020?

MR. RUDKOWSKI: I think that's an excellent catch. Clause Eight, Rexanne? It says for the fiscal year...

MS. CRAWFORD: Yes.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: ...beginning April 1st 2019. Should that be 2020?

MS. CRAWFORD: Yes. Thank you, very much, Patricia, for catching that.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: As I, as I alluded to earlier, it's the ICC's who are hawk-eyes in this Chamber. So I'm gonna ask for approval of the amended Clause Eight. So Clause Eight-, I'm gonna read Clause Eight in its amended form. Subject to Part Nine of the *Financial Administration Act*, the following

persons may, in accordance with the Budget, requisition from and out of the Nunatsiavut Fund, up to the following amounts for the fiscal year beginning on April 1st, 2020, for the following purposes-, so Clause Eight, for the purposes of this vote will read, as I just described. All those in favour of Clause Eight as amended? Any opposed? Clause Eight is approved. Clause Nine. All those in favour of Clause Nine? Marjorie, sorry, do you have a question?

MS. FLOWERS: I was just (inaudible) 2021. Is that right?

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Which-, yes.

MS. FLOWERS: Okay.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Yeah, because that's the...

MS. FLOWERS: Oh, yeah, okay.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: ...yeah, that's the end of the fiscal year for...

MS. FLOWERS: Yes, yes.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: ...this consideration is April 1st 2020 to March 31st 2021.

MS. FLOWERS: Okay, yeah.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Now I lost where to.

MR. DICKER: Clause Nine.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Thank you. All those in favour of Clause Nine? Any opposed? Clause Nine approved. Clause 10. All those in favour of Clause 10? Any opposed? Clause 10 is approved. Clause 11. Any-, all those in favour of

Clause 11? Any opposed? Clause 12, please. It appears-, does everyone have the same situation that I do?

MS. WOLFREY: (Inaudible.)

MR. RUDKOWSKI: No, that's-, we have a binder issue. We're losing to clause by clause. What I'm gonna do-, I'm just gonna call a-, Rexanne, we're gonna call a short recess because we may have to make-, we may have to heat up the photocopier for a minute. If anybody has a complete copy-, yes, Charlotte...

MS. WOLFREY: Turn off your machine. Turn off your machine. This is-, this is a repeat of what's already there. Look, page 11, we just went through-, 31- 0 - 9 - 0. This is a repeat.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: So 12 is the - 12 is the last clause in the Bill, Rexanne?

MS. CRAWFORD: Yes, it is. (Inaudible.)

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Okay. So my-, no, my mistake.

MS. CRAWFORD: ...is attached to it.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: My mistake. So...

MS. CRAWFORD: We've already approved the Annex.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Right. Okay. That's where-, I got confused. I thought there was more than 12 clauses in the legislation. Okay.

MS. CRAWFORD: No, that's it. There's 12 clauses.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: All those in favour of Clause 12? All approved? Any "Nays"? Charlotte, do you have a question or were you just being overly exuberant with your

approval of Clause 12? She's-, or for the record, Rexanne, Charlotte is very happy with the approval of Clause 12. That concludes the clause-by-clause and page-by-page and review of the bill. Does the Minister wish to conclude the debate?

MR. T. ANDERSEN:

Absolutely, Mr. Speaker. I wish to conclude debate.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

It must be close to the end of the day because the energy level is starting to bubble over in here. Thank you. That concludes debate. All those in favour of second reading of Bill 2020-01, the Budget Bill for 2020-, all those in favour? Any opposed? Motion is carried. Accordingly, Bill 2020-01, The Budget Bill 2020 has had second reading. I'd like to thank the Minister, and of course, Rexanne, you've been tirelessly patient this afternoon, and I really appreciate you taking the time to join us.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Nakummek Atsunai.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Thank you. Thank you. And we're now back in regular Assembly. And we'll conclude the Second reading of bills. Hm? The second reading of bills, namely, Bill 2020-02, a bill for an Act to amend the *Housing Initiatives, (Hopedale and Nain) Act*. And at this point, I'd like to recognize the First Minister, the Honourable Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable Speaker. I'd like to make a motion in accordance with Standing Order 42 to allow for consideration of Bill 2020-02, A bill for an Act to amend the *Housing Initiatives (Hopedale and Nain) Act*, in Committee of the Whole, so therefore, I move, seconded by the Nunatsiavut Treasurer, the Honourable Tony Andersen, that Bill

2020-02 be referred to Committee of the Whole for consideration.

Nakummek.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister. Your motion is in order. All those in favour of the Minister's motion? Any opposed? Motion is carried. I'd like to recognize the First Minister. We're now in Committee of the Whole. I'd like to recognize the First Minister, the Honourable, (audio cuts out) the second reading of bills. So we're not in Committee of the Whole as of yet-, quite yet.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable Speaker. So we're-, sorry, Mr. Chair-, we're in Committee of the Whole? So the actual amendment is at the end of your binders there, in Tab Seven I think, I've already gone through. Probably-, my explanation is probably longer than the actual amendment earlier, when we talked-, when we went through the first reading of this bill. Again, it's a small amendment to the existing legislation that was passed in 2017 that allowed us to make the prototype and the multiplexes in Nain and Hopedale. Again, with this amendment, we hope that will be passed today, supported by the Assembly, it'll just allow us to continue on with this initiative in the rest of the Nunatsiavut Communities. So I'm not sure, Mr. Speaker, how you wanted to go through this, if you just wanted to go right to Clause One of the Bill or...

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

I think that would be sufficient for the purposes of today.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: So I'll go through a clause-by-clause reading of the bill and ask for people's approval as we go through.

MR. EDMUNDS: And I don't know if we need even the support of the explanatory note or not. I think it's just clauses. Is that correct?

MR. RUDKOWSKI: I think that's sufficient. I think we've spoken to it sufficiently today, that people have an understanding of what we're dealing-, what we're discussing today. So is everyone on the appropriate page in their binder? So we're-, specifically, we're looking at, "An Act to amend the *Housing Initiatives, (Hopedale and Nain) Act*, and we'll now proceed to a clause-by-clause. I'll allow people to read the clause-by-clause quickly, and then I'll ask for people's approval. All those in favour of Clause One? Any opposed? Any questions or? Passed. Clause Two. It's simply the renaming of the Act. Is that correct, First Minister?

MR. EDMUNDS: That's correct.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: All those in favour of Clause Two? Any opposed? We're now looking at Clause Three. All those in favour of Clause Three? Any opposed? Passed. And again, as I said before, if anybody has any question with any clauses, we'll certainly allow time for questions. I won't canvas for questions, but if someone has any questions, please bring those to my attention and we can certainly direct them in the appropriate direction. Clause Four-, we're now examining Clause Four. Any questions on Clause Four? All those in favour? Any opposed? On to Clause Five. All those in favour of Clause Five? Any opposed? Clause five is approved by the

Assembly. Clause Six is a little more lengthy, so I'll allow some time for digestion. All those in favour of Clause Six? Any opposed? Clause Six is approved by the Assembly. That concludes the page-by-page and clause-by-clause review of the Bill. Does the Minister wish to conclude debate?

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Mr. Chair. I don't have any more comments. Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

That concludes debate. All those in favour of second reading of Bill 2020-02? All those in favour of the second reading? Any opposed? Motion is carried. Bill is carried. Accordingly, Bill 2020-02, a bill for an Act to amend the *Housing Initiatives (Hopedale and Nain)* has had second reading. I'd like to thank the Minister, and now we are back in Assembly and move in to Item 19 of the *Orders of the Day*. Item 19 specifically is, "Assent to Bills". Honourable President, the Assembly has given second reading to Bill 2020-01, *The Budget Bill for 2020*, and also to Bill 2020-02, A bill for an Act to amend the *Housing Initiatives (Hopedale and Nain) Act*, and we wish to present them for Assent.

MR. PRESIDENT:

Nakummek, UKatti. Yes, I do. I wish to make assent to the bills as you provided. Thank you. But I will need the stamp.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

We usually have the Clerk of the Assembly and her skilled hands do this type of stuff.

[Background voices]

[Audio pauses]

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Thank you everybody. On to Item-, so we chopped a fair bit of wood here today. You know, the circumstances were odd and obviously, a lot of

extenuating circumstances, but we made it and we're here. And we passed the things that we needed to pass, and we said what we needed to say. I think it was worthwhile. (Inaudible) hearing everyone's comments about the Covid-19 situation as they continue to unfold. It's challenging and-, challenging times and history-making times and how we respond to this is gonna say a lot about us as leaders in our communities. Anyway, thank you all for coming. As always, I think it's been a productive Assembly. Thank you to all the departments who put all the work in, especially Minister Andersen's Department who put all the work into getting the Budget together. I know that's a substantial piece of work. I've never been involved in it but I can only imagine the man-hours it takes to put that together. So thank you to all. And I just wanna echo the comments that have been made here today, President Lampe, I don't know what your plans are and I'm not asking you what your plans are, but irrespective of which direction your path takes and irrespective of what you decide to do in the upcoming election, from me personally, I wish you nothing but the best. You have been inspirational to many of us here, myself included, and I think it's only appropriate that this Assembly once again, expresses its sincere gratitude to you for your service to the beneficiaries of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement*.

[Applause]

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

And with that, I'm gonna adjourn this sitting of the Assembly thank you all, wishing you all the best in your communities as we continue to figure out ways to deal with this unfolding situation. Thank you all. Thank you

to Chas Evans for coming in and we did it, and we accomplished it and safe journeys home to everybody in their communities. Thank you.