



Nunatsiavut kavamanga
Nunatsiavut Government

FIFTH ASSEMBLY

OF

NUNATSIAVUT

SPRING SESSION 5th Session 2nd - SITTING

kAVAMALIGIJET

KAUJITITSIUTINGA

PARLIAMENTARY REPORT

In Attendance:

Speaker and Ordinary Member for Canada, Honourable Bryan Winters

Deputy Speaker and Ordinary Member for Canada, Honourable Roland Saunders

President of Nunatsiavut, Honourable Johannes Lampe

First Minister and Ordinary Member for Rigolet Honourable Melva Williams

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

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

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

Ordinary Member for Nain Roxanne Barbour

Ordinary Member for Nain David Dicker Jr

Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen

AngajukKâk for Nain, Mr. Julius Dicker

AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Mrs .Marjorie Flowers

AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen

AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Mr. Chesley Sheppard

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

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

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

Director of Legal Services, Mr. Mark Gillette

Absent:

AngajukKâk for Postville, Ms. Diane Gear

Ordinary Member for Postville, Mr. George Gear

Legal Counsel, Ms. Annike Flomen

Legal Counsel, Mr. Kevin Maher

**The Nunatsiavut Assembly proceedings
were recorded in Inuktitut and English.
June 4, 2024
Assembly commenced at 1:10PM June 4, 2024**

MR. WINTERS: [Speaks in Inuktitut] I would like to call to order the Second Sitting of the Spring 2024 Session of the Fifth Assembly and ask Marjorie Flowers to say our opening prayer.

MS. FLOWERS: [Recites prayer]

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek, AngajukKâk.* Item Number Two is the Opening Address of the President. I will now call upon the Honourable President Lampe for his opening address. When you're ready, sir.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: *Nakummek, UKatti.*

[Speaks Inuktitut]

Mr. Speaker, the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement* marked a turning point, a promise of empowerment, cultural preservation and economic and social development for our communities. We have come a long way, Mr. Speaker. The challenges have been many, but our determination and resilience have carried us forward. Let us celebrate our achievements and honour those that have gone before us, those who contributed and sacrificed so much so that we could stand here today. While we continue to make progress on many fronts, we must remain vigilant. The *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement* is not just a historical document. It's a living

commitment that requires ongoing effort to ensure its full implementation. It is our responsibility as elected officials, Mr. Speaker, to protect our culture, our rights and our lands for future generations. As the Assembly is aware, the Nunatsiavut Government continues to express disagreement and opposition towards the NunatuKavut Community Council's claim, claims of Indigenous rights and self-government. NCC has no legitimacy or credibility as an Inuit organization, and its attempts to claim Inuit rights and status are an insult to Labrador Inuit and other true Inuit of Canada. Inuit are united by our common ancestry, history, culture and language. We have a strong sense of identity and kinship and we know who we are and where we belong. We will not stand by and allow NCC or any other non-Indigenous group to appropriate identity. I had the opportunity to present during the Historic Indigenous Identity Fraud Summit in Winnipeg on May 14, co-hosted by the Manitoba Métis Federation, the national Government of the Red River Métis and the Chiefs of Ontario. The two-day summit brought together First Nations, Inuit and Red River Métis leaders from across Canada to discuss this serious issue. Indigenous leaders as well as an expert panel of academics highlighted the scale of identity theft from individuals looking to gain personally to contemporary groups who form organizations that steal from Indigenous Peoples on a National scale. During the summit, a declaration was unanimously adopted to condemn any person or group falsely claiming an indigenous identity for financial gain, academic recognition or any other purpose; that such actions are unacceptable and

contribute to the ongoing marginalization of authentic First Nation, Inuit and Red River Métis voices and experiences. The Declaration states that First Nations, Inuit and Red River Métis will assert their rights to protect and revitalize their cultures, languages and traditions. It also calls on each level of Government, National organizations, economic institutions and industry proponents to cease any actions that accommodate individuals and groups. A resolution which I introduced, called for the denouncement of the illegitimate identity claims of NCC. That resolution passed unanimously. Two weeks ago, First People's Group released a report of Indigenous Verification at Memorial University. This independent report, Mr. Speaker offers insights and recommendations on ways to improve the university's approach to confirming Indigenous identity. The report emphasizes the need for vigorous systems based on the consultation to prevent false Indigenous claims and highlights the importance of establishing meaningful relationships with recognized Indigenous collectives. It also recommends Memorial University of Newfoundland utilize a two-pronged approach with regard to outlining recognized Indigenous collectives within a confirmed protocol including Federal recognition under Section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, and/or recognition as a legitimate Indigenous collective for their Federally recognized neighbours. This protocol will be applied to situations where individuals may benefit from claims related to Indigenous identity, such as targeted hiring, designated seats for Indigenous students, scholarships and research funds. Mr. Speaker, this report not only serves as a

testament to MUNS dedication to fostering an inclusive and culturally diverse environment, but also underscores its commitment to reconciliation with the legitimate Indigenous peoples in Newfoundland and Labrador. We encourage MUN to accept and implement the recommendations contained in this report and urge other educational institutions in the Province and across Canada to prioritize truth, reconciliation and Indigenous representation with their establishments.

On May 9, Mr. Speaker, I joined other Inuit leaders in Ottawa for a meeting of the Inuit Crown Partnership Committee. During the meeting, which was co-chaired by ITK, President Natan Obed and Prime Minister Trudeau, we discussed a collective vision for joint implementation activities for the Inuit Nunangat Policy, endorsed by ICPC leaders in 2022. We've committed to work vigorously to advance the policy which would result in transformative changes by directing how Federal departments and agencies design and deliver policies, programs and services that apply to Inuit and across Inuit Nunangat. In my address to the ICPC and in particular to the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker, I raised a number of pressing and continuing issues facing Labrador Inuit including housing, food insecurity, the high cost of living, mental health struggles and our disappointment in the absence of new funding in this year's Federal Budget for TB elimination. I also noted that false claims to Indigeneity not only challenge our territorial integrity, but also erode the trust built over years of dialogue and collaboration and that the Government of Canada must recognize that further discussions with the NCC would

legitimize baseless assertions and compromise our true and inherent rights as Inuit. Last week I attended ITK's board meeting in Ottawa where we voted to establish a new subcommittee to better incorporate the positions of Inuit living outside of Inuit Nunangat into the work of ITK. Membership of the subcommittee would reflect ITK Board membership, with each Inuit Treaty organization and permanent participant appointing a representative. We also approved a creation of a National Inuit Labour Market Committee, an Inuit-focused base for developing recommendations to the ITK Board on issues relevant to Inuit employment, labour and skills development. The Board also approved Federal funding allocations for a number of initiatives including \$285 million in funding over 10 years from the Indigenous Health Equity Fund announced in Budget 2023 to address equitable access to health care services; \$197.5 million over seven years from the Urban Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy and \$1.3 million from Employment and Social Development Canada to build Human Resources Capacity in Inuit regions to facilitate Inuit-led research and develop Inuit-specific training program to foster future generations of Inuit researchers. We received an interim report highlighting the success of the Indigenous Community Infrastructure Fund which allocated \$517.8 million to Inuit Treaty Organizations in 2021 to support immediate infrastructure needs. In April of this year, Mr. Speaker, with one year of the funding cycle remaining, 75 percent of the Inuit-specific funding has been committed to projects in Inuit communities, and the fund itself has been

administered and managed in a way that supports Inuit self-determination of major infrastructure projects. More than 120 projects across Inuit Nunangat have been funded or partially funded through this investment including street lighting, broadband internet upgrades, playgrounds, childcare centres, solar and wind energy, youth centres, arenas and multi-use facilities. We also renewed our support for efforts to affirm the rights of Inuit against the alarming and increasing threats posed by false claims to Inuit identity. In a resolution approving housing funding through the Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Strategy, Board members noted their opposition to the allocation of any of those funds to NCC and any other fraudulent individuals and organizations falsely claiming Inuit identity or status. Following our board meeting, I had the pleasure, along with some members of the NEC to attend Tapiriit where we had the opportunity to enjoy Inuit country food, hunted and harvested across the four regions of Inuit Nunangat. It was a great networking event providing opportunities to talk to Inuit from across the country, as well as a number of Senators and Federal Ministers. This is the first sitting of the Assembly since I was acclaimed as President in early April. It is indeed a great honour and a privilege to hold this position, one that comes with immense responsibility. I am grateful for the support of the Assembly as we continue to advance issues and concerns on behalf of our people. As I noted earlier, Mr. Speaker, our journey ahead will not be without challenges but we as Labrador Inuit are used to adversity. We have persevered for a millennia, and we will continue to do so. Let us

move forward with hope, resilience and unity. May the spirit of our ancestors guide us, and may we leave a legacy that future generations will be proud of. As this will be the last sitting before the Fall, I want to extend my best wishes to all Members for a safe and enjoyable summer. And before closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to send sincere condolences to the families of the late Gus Semigak who served as interpreter translator and ambassador to the Hebron Project. Gus will sorely be missed and certainly someone so nice and knowledgeable to speak to as we meet at the Assembly sittings. *Nakummek, UKatti.*

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Mr. President. We are now on to Item Three. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate you on your recent acclamation as President of Nunatsiavut. I would like everyone to note that Ordinary Member George Gear of Postville has been properly excused from this Assembly. I would also like to take this time to recognize the recent loss of Interpreter Translator Gus Semigak. Gus was a great advocate for preserving our culture and our language. He enjoyed working with those who wanted to learn and practise Inuttitut. We will miss him very much at our Assembly. And I will ask the Assembly at this time to take a minute of silence, if you'll all stand in recognition of his service.

[Moment of silence]

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. You may be seated. I would like to thank everyone listening in on our audio feed and thank them for their attention and interest in our Assembly. I would also like to welcome those in the gallery. I see Isabella Pain, Deputy Minister of the Nunatsiavut Secretariat as well as

beneficiary Lisa Blandford. *Nakummek*. Thank you, for attending. For the information of the Assembly, the pages this week are Alex Jararuse and Marcel Dicker. I would like to welcome our Interpreter Translator Katie Winters, as well as Eva Obed who is here from the Department of Language, Culture and Tourism. We would also like to welcome and thank Ches Evans, our IT staff for this Assembly. We are now on to Item Four. Item Four is "Ministers Statements." So I will open the floor. The first hand I saw is-, yes, First Minister, Melva Williams, when you're ready.

MS. WILLIAMS:

Nakummek. I'll put it on so I can track how fast I'm speaking. I'd like to ask people to bear with me because, as you know, this is construction season, so my report is quite lengthy. Membership and Enrollment. Mr. Speaker, the Registrar's Office would like to remind all beneficiaries to please update your address with our office if you move or have any change to your contact information. This is very important, especially when you must travel for medical or when ballots are sent out for any upcoming voting within Nunatsiavut Government. It would like to also remind new mothers, if you would like to apply for your child or children, to do so as soon as possible as your child is only covered under the parent membership up to 24 months. And after that it's the parents' responsibility for any medical costs. The Registrar's Office, Inuit Membership Appeal Board would like to thank Annie Evans who is the Inuit Membership Appeal Board since 2009. She had resigned as of May 2, 2024. We would like to thank her for her hard work, knowledge, time

and dedication she had put forth as a Member and appreciate all she has done throughout the years. It isn't unrecognized. She will be missed by the Department and we wish her well in her future. NG encourages interested beneficiaries to let the Membership Office know if they are interested in serving on a Membership Committee or Membership Appeal Board. As of today, there is total of 6,917 beneficiaries on the registrar. Home Repair Programs. Mr. Speaker, Nunatsiavut Construction Inc. is scheduled to complete the 2023 Affordable Warmth and Home Repair Program this month. There will be 34 homes repaired under this program. The 2024 Repair Program is scheduled to start in July 2024. There will be 75 homes included in this program.

Homeowners included in this program will receive a letter indicating when the repairs are scheduled to start, what repairs they have been approved for. The Emergency Repair Program is an ongoing program. All applications for this program should be sent to Cassie Vincent, the Housing Case Manager in Hopedale. Her number is 709-933-3360. If anyone would like to check the status of the repair application, please contact Cassie Vincent. Nunatsiavut Housing Commission. Mr. Speaker, the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission is currently in the process of hiring a new Director of Housing. I will update the Assembly Members when the position is finally filled. NG is working with MC Advisory to ensure that NHC continues to function as the hiring of the new director continues. The Nunatsiavut Housing Commission has recently allocated two homes in Nain under the Affordable Rental Program. This program is

open to all beneficiaries. The priority is given to beneficiaries living in the Inuit communities. Allocations are subject to housing becoming available. We anticipate to have four housing units, each in Nain and Hopedale available for allocation this summer for social housing. Notice will be posted in the Inuit communities when these units become available. As well, Mr. Speaker, we anticipate to have six senior's units in Nain and five senior's units in Hopedale available for allocation this year as well. Application for Housing under the Program can be acquired through Amber Vincent, the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission Clerk. Her number is 709-899-3504. Mr. Speaker, the Nunatsiavut Government has built and allocated 57 housing units since 2016. Currently there are 22 new housing units under construction to be completed in 2024. Eighteen homes to begin construction this year to be complete in 2025 for a total of 97 homes since 2016. Since 2018, NG has completed 170 major repairs in Nunatsiavut. We've spent \$14 million in land development for new construction. NG is also consulting with Inuit on alternative housing plans, which if approved would produce an additional 100 homes in Nain and Hopedale. All funding for housing projects and the NHC come from the Nunatsiavut Government Housing Fund. This includes monies from the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*, the 2016 Budget, the 2018 Budget and the 2022 Budget. Implementation Committee. Mr. Speaker, the Implementation Committee recently finalized the budget for the Torngat Joint Fisheries Board and the Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-Management Board. The focus of the 2024-2025 workplan for the boards will be

research on salmonoid, snow crab, caribou, moose, as well as stewardship and education. I would like to thank the boards for their continued work on these important issues for Labrador Inuit.

Transportation. Mr. Speaker, NG is extremely concerned with the lack of attention from the minister responsible for Transportation and Infrastructure with the Province to meet with NG officials to discuss important transportation issues without Minister Dempster. I have asked Minister Abbott to have a meeting, but he refuses to meet without the minister. There are many issues to discuss such as the boat plane which has started serving Black Tickle on May 28th. This is good for Black Tickle but does not address affordable transportation for Northern Labrador.

Infrastructure. Mr. Speaker, the Infrastructure Team of the Nunatsiavut Government has been thoroughly preparing for the upcoming 2024 construction season which has presented itself earlier than anticipated due to the arrival of spring ahead of schedule. These endeavours include the construction of residential and commercial properties as well as the enhancement of Public Municipal Infrastructure to better serve the needs of Inuit Community Governments. Nain Staff Housing six-plex is officially turned over to NG. Hopedale's Social Housing fourplex is on schedule to be completed July 2024. Nain Social Housing fourplex commissioning is in progress and will be turned over to NG by July 2024. Nain and Hopedale's Senior's units. Unforeseen logistical challenges have affected the contractor's schedule leading to a delay in the completion of units in Hopedale and Nain in 2023. We anticipate the completion of these units

in both Nain and Hopedale by the end of December 2024. Makkovik fourplex staff construction is currently in progress and is on track to be completed by August 2024. Nain Admin Building addition to be tendered to add an additional 28 offices to the Nain Administration Building, along with an archiving vault for Land Claim maps and documents. This project will also include some critical updates to the existing building to address some of the difficulties that are apparent in the building. Regional Education Office construction has started on that building. This building will be completed in summer 2025. Makkovik, Postville and Rigolet six-plexes. The design phase for these buildings will begin in June 2024 with construction targeted to start in the summer of 2025. Postville Office addition. The project team found it necessary to retract an initial bid award from a contractor due to not submitting required documents within the tendering-specified timelines. Currently it's out for tender and construction will start in summer of 2024. Rigolet DHSD. Construction commenced during the summer season of 2023 but was temporarily halted due to discrepancies between the design team and the contractor. The project team has been actively addressing these issues and the construction will continue throughout the season. The project will start back up in June 2024 for construction. Postville Daycare. A request for tender has been prepared for a design-build project delivery. The anticipated start date for construction is set for the summer of 2024. Nain Multipurpose Building. The Nunatsiavut Government encountered delays in the land transfer process with Crown Lands. As a proactive

measure, we are currently exploring alternative sites for the construction of this building. Pingutitsinik Nunatsiavut, Nunatsiavut Infrastructure Action Plan. Priorities under that Nunatsiavut Growth, Land Development Housing Strategy to be completed January 2025. The Economic Development Strategy for the construction sector. Scheduled completion is September 2024. Alternative Lands for Housing Facilities, Nain and Hopedale, feasibility study Phase One, complete. Phase Two Concept Design and Cost Estimation is underway. Waste Management Strategy and Operation Plan for all communities. This project kicked off May 2024. Torngat Mountains Base Camp Infrastructure Action Plan. A detailed plan to provide infrastructure advancements for the base camp over the next five years. The draft final report has been completed. Aggregate Resource and Quarry Strategy, completed. The strategy outlines locations for new quarry developments across all communities and provides clear policies and guidelines for quarry development in Nunatsiavut. Nunatsiavut Heritage Repository Feasibility Study is completed to determine the sizing, location and cost estimation to build a facility necessary to work towards the goal of repatriating artifacts back to Nunatsiavut. And lastly, the Nain Airport Feasibility Study. Summer 2024 marks significant progress in the development of the proposed new Nain Airport with all 12 projects either in progress or completed. The R12 Environmental Impact Assessment has commenced benefiting from strong support from the Nunatsiavut G/ Environmental Division, and collaboration with Provincial, Federal and Nunatsiavut Environmental

regulators is streamlining the EIA process for efficiency. There will be a community information session for the project on June 12th, 2024 to advise the public on the process we have made on the project. All feasibility studies are now complete, except for the four listed below: R5, Weather Studies and Report which is in Phase Two and is in progress. R10, Construction and Supply Strategy. This is also in progress. R11, Cost Estimation is in progress. And R12, Environmental Impact Assessment which is also in progress. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. I'll now call upon the Honourable Minister for the Department of Health and Social Development, to give his statement.

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mental Wellness and Healing and Family Services, I'll provide a brief update as I've already sent out my statement to the Assembly this morning. In April, the 27th Annual Youth Symposium happened in Hopedale. It was a successful symposium with most youth attendees from Nunatsiavut and some within the Canadian Constituency. Elders from Nunatsiavut attended the symposium for the first time so that the youth and elders could connect with each other, and for the elders to share their knowledge. Participants had opportunities for language workshops, seal skin cleaning workshops, mental health workshops and dog sledding. I attended for a few days. I had a great time interacting and learning from all participants. I wanna thank President Lampe, Minister Terry Vincent, and AngajukKâk Marjorie Flowers for attending. Also to the Youth Services Manager, Ocean Wyatt for doing a great job organizing this event and all the DHSD staff who

helped out. *Nakummek*. In April, a youth Hebron trip had also occurred successfully with the opportunity for youth to go on the land, build connections and be connected to land-based programming. Mr. Speaker, Justice. Ms. Erin Broomfield and Ms. Kim Oliver both completed their Gladue Reports-, a proud moment to have two reports undertaken and completed by staff within DHSD. For those who don't know what a Gladue Report is, it's a presentencing or bail hearing report usually prepared by Gladue caseworkers at the request of the judge, Defence Counsel or Crown Attorney. These reports contain recommendations to the Court about what an appropriate sentence might be and include information about the Aboriginal Person's background such as history regarding residential schools, child welfare removal, physical or sexual abuse, underlying developmental or health issues such as FASD, anxiety or substance use. The Sentencing Circle occurred in Hopedale in April in which our Justice Team were involved. Reports were that it went well with involvement from the community, justice partners and families involved. DHSD is seeking more community support for volunteers. Trauma and Addictions. This team had a two-day planning meeting so that we can move towards a six-week treatment model in Nunatsiavut. This model is moving towards having a coordinated approach, not only with trauma and addictions teams but other teams under Mental Wellness and Healing and other divisions such as Family Services, and community programs to be involved. The Trauma and Addictions Team had a program in Hopedale in May, in addition, the team helped to

provide support in Nain. Family Services, Mr. Speaker. Inuit Child-First Initiative. We are working diligently with Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and Indigenous Services Canada on a shared responsibility model for the ongoing delivery of the ICFI. We first began this work in 2020 and submitted a five-year proposal to Indigenous Services Canada which has been granted. However, we are currently in the last fiscal year of this proposal and we are working with our Federal counterparts to work toward a new vision and sustainable model for the ongoing delivery of the Inuit-Child-First Initiative for Nunatsiavut beneficiaries age 0 to 18. Excuse me. New staff. We are pleased to welcome two new staff to the Family Connections Program. Mr. Jonathan Tuglavina started as Family Connections Driver in Hopedale in May. Ms. Pauletta Tremblett started as Family Connections Manager in Happy Valley, Goose Bay, also in May. Welcome. Lastly, Family Services. DHSD are preparing to mobilize and information sharing agreement with the Department of Children, Seniors and Social Development to collect information and data pertaining to Inuit children, youth and families in the various areas of Adoptions, Youth Services, Children in Care, Protective Intervention and Kinship.

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. We will now hear from the Minister of Education and Economic Development, when you're ready.

MS. BARBOUR:

Nakummek, UKatti. That way, I need to hear Katie too. Okay. I'll start with Education first and then go into Economic Development. Under Education, new applications, as of the end of May, we have 85 on-time

applications, and approximately 50 late applications for the Fall '24 semester. Staff have been working hard to prepare student files for our allocation meeting that will take place later this week. New applicants should receive notification of funding within the next couple of weeks. Spring intercession and summer semesters. We are currently supporting 117 full-time students and 48 part-time students. In addition to this, we have five clients under our Self-Employment Benefit Program and six active students enrolled in ABE at the Learning Centres in Nain and Hopedale. Each year, money is allocated in our *Contribution Agreement* with NL schools to deliver a career trip to Goose Bay, specifically for Grade 9 students. Our Education Advisor, Amalia McNeil, manages the logistics for this trip and schedules visits to post-secondary institutions, as well as career exposure visits with businesses and organizations such as Serco, Lab Grenfell Health, Trades NL and many others. NG is hosting a trade show type of event as a part of this trip where divisions and affiliates of NG will have booths set up at Hotel North too. This will be closed to participants for the first two hours, then open to the public afterwards. The trip is currently taking place and the weather looks good, so hopefully there'll be no delays due to weather. Career Fair. As stated in the last update, we had to postpone the Career Fair due to lack of interest by participants. We were very disappointed that there was not more interest from youth who have expressed concern over not knowing much about options after high school. We have now rescheduled the Career Fair for October 1 to 3 and we are hoping for

more interest at that time. The Education Division is honoured to be able to support two important events, the Hebron and Nutak reunions. We will be contributing \$50,000 to each reunion to help with costs associated. As a part of our contribution, we are sending youth to participate in each reunion. We will support two youth to join the Nutak reunion and five to join the Hebron one. Interested youth had to apply to us and demonstrate how they are connected to either place and tell us why they wanted to attend. Applications have now closed, and selections will be concluded soon.

Summer Literacy Camps. We have once again contracted United for Literacy to oversee the delivery of the summer literacy camps in the five Nunatsiavut communities. We have a high number of local counsellors hired this year with numbers hovering around 20 local counsellors again. The camps will run for four weeks between July and August free of charge for children ages 5 to 12, and those heading into Kindergarten this fall.

For Economic Development, our Annual Plan for the Division focuses on business development, community development, policy, data collection and offering supports. Under Business Development, since February, the Division had three businesses added to our Inuit Business Registry. We have received 15 packages from Vale with our Division submitting 39 Inuit Business nominations and no QBE nominations. There are a total of 22 business clients, 17 in Start-up and five in Growth. Community Economic Development Fund and FFA Programs remain open. We have on CEDP application from the Rigolet Inuit Community Government under review.

We've approved \$3,500 for the MICG's Arena Assistant Position and \$32,500 for the Postville ICG Community Development Officer/Come Home Year position. We encourage community improvement initiatives, sustainable employment and local economic development projects to apply. Policy and Data Collection. The Community Economic Profile Project in partnership with the Harris Centre is near completion. We anticipate releasing the profiles in July 2024 through a social media and website campaign. Our Division is working with ITK to host in-person consultation with NG staff to inform the economic reconciliation framework that Indigenous Service Canada is developing. The NG consultation is anticipated for June, with a final framework to be completed in Fall of 2024. Self-Employments Benefit Program. As of early May, we've completed support for two clients, one in the Arts and Crafts sector and one in Accommodations. As of late May, we have three new clients enrolled in the program. All three are in the Culture sector. This represents an approximate \$50,000 investment in Business Start-Up through this program. We have additional seats available for this year and encourage Business Start-Ups to apply. Financial Support. We continue to explore multi-year funding for a Community Development Officer or CDO positions within the ICG's. The Tourism Division has confirmed support for the multi-year approach for these positions. An update will be provided in summer of 2024 on the status of these options for the '24-'25 fiscal year. In partnership with the Division of Education, Economic Development will provide \$25,000 in financial support to the

SmartICE Northern Production Centre in Nain. This will assist the office to expand into community hub services and offer additional entrepreneurship and training programs in 2024-2025. The Division has launched its Annual Financial Support Program for businesses to attend Expo Labrador in Goose Bay happening June 25 to the 27th. The application submission date closed on May 31st. We anticipate investing \$15,000 to support five Inuit businesses to attend the event. In Training, our Division has invested \$46,000 in Training. We partnered with College of the North Atlantic to offer Quick Books bookkeeping, payroll, from May 13th to 18th here in Hopedale. The training was application-based. A six-day session provided training to 14 individuals. Participant breakdown included four Inuit businesses, four non-profit representatives, one ICG, one NG staff member-, excuse me, sorry-, one Start-up, one NL school board member and one community member. From a community perspective, funding reached members within and outside of the Land Claims Area. Attendants included one from Rigolet, five from Makkovik, five from Hopedale, one from Nain, one from ULM and one from the Canadian Constituency. We have secured an artist to consult on the Youth Entrepreneurship Box Program. We expect to launch the first Youth Boxes at the NG Career Fair in Goose Bay on June 5. The boxes will be available on an application basis. Our Business Development Staff are traveling to Rigolet, Makkovik and Postville with our Small Business Tour during this month. This will include one-on-one sessions with Start-up Clients and Inuit Businesses, a high school

engagement session and a community engagement event. The tentative dates are Rigolet, June 7, Makkovik, June 17, Postville, June 18.

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. For Members of the Assembly, I know it's very warm in here and I wish that wasn't the case. But I want to remind everyone, if you're wearing a button-up shirt or a blouse, you don't need to have your fur or silipak on. I know we would rather wear it but if you're really having a hard time, a button-up shirt or blouse is fine. *Nakummek*. We will now hear an update from the Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology.

MR. EVANS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My Department of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology, we're quite involved with the different departments and the running of the Government and the continued functioning of the Government. For my Day One statement, I'll do just a brief update for finance. And tomorrow's statement will, with HR and Information Technology. Mr. Speaker, the Government of Canada enacted the *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act* 2018. Under that Act, all carbon pricing proceeds must be returned to the jurisdiction from which they were collected. Of these amounts collected, Indigenous Governments in Canada will receive one percent of total collected from 2020 to 2021, to 2023-'24. And two percent of total collected for the fiscal year, 2024-'25 and in future years. My Department is engaging with officials from Environment Canada and Climate Change on the approach to returning Federal Fuel Charge proceeds to Nunatsiavut Government.

As more information is available, it'll be communicated to the Nunatsiavut Assembly. At the last sitting, I spoke about the remittance of personal income taxes by the Government of Canada and ongoing residency audits of taxpayers. A notice was received from the Finance Canada since the last sitting, stating that the Canada Revenue Agency completed the residency audits for the 2021 taxation year. I'm pleased to inform the Assembly that the Nunatsiavut Government will be receiving an additional \$2.4 million from personal income taxes collected during the 2021 taxation year. And I'd just like to add that the Finance Division has been exceptionally busy since the New Year. It's a time of year where budgets for the upcoming year are finalized, year-end financial reports are completed and preparations for the audit are ongoing.

MR. WINTERS:

I apologize, Minister, I'll have to interrupt you briefly. We've now reached 35 minutes, so I'm looking for the approval of the Assembly to continue Ministers Statements. All in favour? Any opposed? Seeing none, you may continue, sir.

MR. EVANS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a few more lines there. I want to thank the Finance staff for all their dedication and efforts over the last month and into the next six weeks as we prepared for and now respond to the many requests from the auditors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. We'll now hear from the Honourable Minister of the Department of Language, Culture and Tourism, when you're ready, sir.

MR. DICKER JR.:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to start off today with-, I'll start off with Tourism, move into Language and Culture and Archaeology. I would like to highlight some key areas that we are working on, Mr. Speaker, in Tourism. The Division of Tourism is continuing to work on many projects within our Tourism Strategy, including updating the Visitor's Guide, Community Maps and Community Guidebooks. Staff traveled to Gwaii Haanas along with Community Tourism Partners, Parks Canada and Co-Management Board for the Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve. Community Tourism partners completed two online courses before traveling. The goal of the best practice mission was to learn about tourism opportunities and how to create packages. Staff will continue to work with participants to develop tourism experiences. The Torngat Mountains Basecamp and Research Station will be open from July 24 through September 4th, 2024. We are working with the operator, Air Borealis and the Nunatsiavut Group of Companies, Parks Canada and other departments within the Nunatsiavut Government to plan the 2024 season. The Youth Leadership Program will run from July 27 to August 3. We are in the process of hiring for our four Hebron positions and finalizing dates for the Hebron Ambassador season. We would like to send our condolences to Gus Semigak's family. Gus worked in Hebron for many years and was a wealth of knowledge. There are cruise stops scheduled for Nain and Rigolet this year. We are working with Transport Canada and will be meeting with the Inuit Community Governments and Community Tourism Partners to assist each port, becoming certified to

accept cruise ships. We are organizing the National Indigenous Peoples Day Auction again this year and will update the Assembly on how it goes. We are supporting one artist, April Allen to attend the Labrador Expo happening in Goose Bay the end of June. There are many upcoming artist events that we will be participating in and will be releasing Expressions of Interest, in the near future. I will now highlight some key areas that we are working on, Mr. Speaker in Language and Culture. The Language and Culture Division is proud to announce that we have signed a Contribution Agreement for the Indigenous Language Component with Heritage Canada for \$7.6 million to use for Language Programming Initiatives until 2028. The Language and Culture recognition awards have been provided to this year's recipients. The successful individual for Language Recognition award was given to Nicholas Flowers of Hopedale. And the Culture Recognition award was given to Maria Merkuratsuk of Nain. We congratulate these two very deserving individuals for participating-, for practicing and preserving Inuit language and culture within their communities. The Director of Culture, Brenda Jararuse, recently traveled to Iqaluit for meetings to explore Inuttitut program partnerships with Pirurvik, and the Nunavut Arctic College. Discussions were had about developing partnerships with Pirurvik on the creation of an online Inuttitut program for Nunatsiavut beneficiaries to become fluent in Inuttitut, as well as an Inuttitut Teacher Training Program. Discussions with the Nunavut Arctic College were about introducing and exploring the creation of a fast-tracked Interpreter-Translator Program and

development of Inuttitut dictionaries. Staff are very excited about these future projects. Language staff attended the Stabilizing Indigenous Language Symposium in Victoria BC from June 5 to the 7th. This event brings together language scholars, activists, educators and community members to explore innovative strategies and promising practices for language revitalization. Our Department has successfully completed the first year of the Inuaggualuit Language Nest Program since taking it over from the Department of Health and Social Development. Staff met in Nain earlier this month to discuss program expansions, revisions and goals. We are planning on traveling to visit our Language Nests in our Inuttitut Childcare centres in the future. Director of Culture, Brenda Jararuse and Deputy Minister Jenna Gilbride is meeting with the Commissioner of Indigenous Languages, Inuktitut Director Robert Watt of the Office of the Commissioner of Indigenous Languages the week of June 17th. This meeting will be to discuss Inuttitut priorities and initiatives. The Department of Language, Culture and Tourism is accepting applications from beneficiaries of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement* within Nunatsiavut and Upper Lake Melville, to attend the Inuit Connection Program at the Torngat Mountains Base Camp and Research Station for the 2024 season. This is a partnership project between the Nunatsiavut Government, Parks Canada and Makivvik Corporation. The goal is to enable Labrador and Nunavik Inuit an opportunity to reconnect with their homeland and provide opportunities to understand how to make the park a living, vibrant Inuit place that is

meaningful in the present and in the future. Staff are continuing to take lead from the Language Strategy. Year Three activities are now occurring. These include Master Apprentice Program, IlinniaKatigennik, Tupik Program, Elder's socials, Language Resources, sewing programs, et cetera. The next Language Summit will be in 2025. And lastly, Mr. Speaker, I will highlight some key areas that we are working on in Archaeology. On May 7th, the Committee for the Hebron and Nutak reunions attended the Arctic Inspiration Prize Award Ceremony in Whitehorse Yukon, where they accepted the prize amount of \$298,000 to go towards the overall cost of the Hebron and Nutak reunions which will be taking place in July of 2024. Lena Onalik as the representative for the Nunatsiavut Government is currently in Grand Falls meeting with the Provincial Repatriation Committee for the Beothuk Remains of Demasduit and Nonosabasut. Axiell EMu Museum Collections Management software has been installed on our new server. The next steps are initial staff training on the software and software customization to suit the unique needs of Nunatsiavut collections. Collections Management Software will enable us to effectively manage NG's collections of archaeological, cultural and archival materials and preserve and promote them for generations to come. Thank you, all involved. And a special thanks to the IT Division for making it happen. Nunatsiavut Government Archaeology has secured Capital Project Advisory services from the Canadian Conservation Institute. This service has assigned two experts in repositories and museums to assist with and provide advice on

the design and potential construction of our own Nunatsiavut Repository for Archaeological, Cultural and Archival Materials. The Provincial Archaeology Office Annual Review came out in April, including an entry from our office on our archaeology activities of 2023. The PAO Review includes research notes from archaeologists all over the Province and is available online for anyone to download and read. Repatriation requests are increasing, highlighting a potential need for dedicated staff for this important part of Inuit heritage management. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Minister. Before we move on to the final Ministers Statement, I do want to acknowledge the arrival of the Grade 6 Inuttitut Class. Thank you, for attending. *Nakummek*.

[Applause]

FEMALE:

(Inaudible) 1:15:43

MR. WINTERS:

We're now on to the Honourable Minister of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources when you're ready, sir.

MR. VINCENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table my quarterly report to the Assembly as Minister of Lands and Natural Resources. I'll provide a short update on several files in the Department since my last report. Renewable Resources. Since the last Assembly meeting, the Renewable Resources Division has been engaged in the following files and endeavours: Fisheries. Mr. Speaker, all fishing destinations for 2024 have been awarded under our multi-year designate policy. The 2024 commercial fishing season has now started with the opening of the 2JS Crab Fishery on May 9th. Two NG

designated fisheries are taking part in the 2JS Crab Fishery and early reports indicate that the 2JS Crab Fishery is going very well. Wildlife: Mr. Speaker, our moose harvesting season closed on March 7, 2024. Only five of our licences were filled, all in Nain. My staff will shortly begin review of our harvesting season. Mr. Speaker, the polar bear hunting season is still currently open until June 30, or until all licences are filled, whichever comes first. To date, 10 of 12 available licences are filled. There is one licence left in Rigolet and one in Postville. Mr. Speaker, this year, my department was once again successful in obtaining caribou for our Caribou Distribution Project. Our purchase was larger than in previous years. Because of the geographic conditions of our Funding Agreement, we had to ask for an exemption in order to facilitate distribution in Upper Lake Melville Area. We are still in phases of distribution to the Nunatsiavut communities as well as Happy Valley-Goose Bay and Mud Lake. I am now confident that we have enough caribou to meet the goal of one meal per household for all beneficiaries in our communities and Upper Lake Melville. Should we have any excess caribou, it will be brought to the Nunatsiavut Executive Council for a decision on distribution. Lastly, from Wildlife, Mr. Speaker, a census will be completed this summer on the George River Caribou Herd. My staff will be taking part in this endeavour. I'll be updating the Assembly later in the year, of the results. Lands Division: Mr. Speaker, the Lands Division are currently processing land-use applications for cabins, mineral exploration for approved workplans, cruise ship visits and for quarries from the Nain Inuit Community Government.

Mr. Speaker, since the last update, the GIS specialist has focused on files for the Lands Division including draft maps for leases, certificates of tenure and applications. As part of this, they have worked on updating prior unsigned leases. They have also consulted with other departments, prepared maps for various endeavours and designed the new *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement* map for the graphics department. A new version of the application for Labrador Inuit Lands form is finalized and is in the process of official registration. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, the Division will assist with the planning for the Hebron and Nutak reunions that will be held in July. *Impact Benefit Agreement*. Mr. Speaker, mine expansion at the Voisey's Bay mine site is on track to be completed this year. The IBA coordinators participated in an Indigenous round table discussion with Vale and Innu participants in March. As a result of the open and honest discussions, Vale has committed to continuing discussions and ensuring that IBA commitments are being honoured. One IBA coordinator had traveled to Nunatsiavut communities along with Vale and LATP in April for recruitment efforts for the various employment and training opportunities. Torngat Mountains Co-Management Board met virtually on May 8th. Discussions included updates from Parks Canada on various research that will happen in the park this summer. There was also discussion on caribou research that occurred in March of 2024. The next TMMNPCMB meeting is scheduled to take place from July 27th to August 3rd in Base Camp. The Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve Co-Management Board has not had any meetings but will be taking part in a

best practice mission to Gwaii Haanas BC from May 27th to June 1st. This best practice mission will include Tourism Division staff as well as six selected NG beneficiaries who had submitted applications to take part. Parks Canada is currently working with the Nunatsiavut Government in filling a few positions to support their Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve. Non-Renewable Resources: Since the last Assembly meeting, the Non-Renewable Resources Division has been engaged in the following files pertaining to Mineral Exploration. Mr. Speaker, Nunatsiavut beneficiaries, prospectors Ricky Edmunds and Davidee Ningeok have been approved to prospecting their claims located on LIL in Post Hill, Big Heads area near Postville. Ricky Edmunds has also submitted a workplan for his East Turnaviks property. The work plan is still under review. Mr. Speaker, Dean Fraser received approval from the Nunatsiavut Government to prospect his properties in the Central Mineral Belt in the Moran Lake area inside of Postville. These properties are located on Labrador Inuit Lands. Mr. Speaker, Meridian Metals received approval from the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, to explore their Wolverine property in the Flowers River Rare Earth Complex. The Claims are located on LISA and the plan to drill 125 RC holes, total 6500 meters this summer and fall. They proposed a temporary flight camp to support the program. Mr. Speaker, Saga Metals has applied to the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to explore the Double Mer property in Upper Lake Melville Area. The claims are located on LISA and they plan to prospect, channel, backpack drill and collect sample. The application is still under review. Mr.

Speaker, Labrador Gold received approval from the Nunatsiavut Government to explore their Hopedale Property on Ugjoktok Bay. The claims are located on Labrador Inuit lands and they plan to prospect and conduct a ground EM survey this summer. They will have a temporary flight camp to support their program and fuel cache. Mr. Speaker, Altius Resources received approval from the Nunatsiavut Government to fly an airborne radiometric and EM survey over their claims. The claims are located on LIL in the West Voisey's Bay and Tasisuak Lake area. They are based out of Nain and a survey is currently under way. Mr. Speaker, Aurora Energy received approval from the Nunatsiavut Government to prospect conduct ground geophysics and channel samplings. Claims are located on Labrador Inuit Lands in the Central Mineral Belt. They will be based out of Michelin Camp this summer and fall. Mr. Speaker, the Geological Survey of Canada and the Geological Survey of Newfoundland and Labrador has started engagement sessions in Nunatsiavut on their upcoming summer research programs. Due to the bad weather condition in May, engagement team still has to visit Hopedale. The Geological Survey of Canada Team will be based out of Makkovik while the Newfoundland and Labrador Geological Survey will be based out of Hopedale. Their research programs will include geological mapping, surficial mapping, and geochemical sampling. Mr. Speaker, Non- Renewable Resources and Lands Division attended the Annual Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada conference from March 3rd to 6th in Toronto. This year there was 26,926 participants involved in businesses, investments

and networking opportunities related to the mineral exploration and mining industry. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Lands and Natural Resources would like to thank Ms. Patricia Dsouza for all her hard work and dedication as mining analyst with the Nunatsiavut Government for the last two and a half years. We wish her all the best in her future endeavours. Finally, Mr. Speaker, the Department of Lands and Natural Resources would like to thank Ernie Ford for all of his hard work and dedication as Environmental Enforcement Officer with the Nunatsiavut Government for the last 26 years. We wish him all the best in his retirement. Environment Division. Mr. Speaker, the Environment Division, in partnership with the Environment and Climate Change Canada reported back to the communities of Rigolet, North West River and Goose Bay from May 12th to the 16th on our ongoing Lake Melville research and monitoring. There were two parts to the presentation. Liz Pijogge, Northern Contaminants Researcher with the Nunatsiavut Government, and Amber Gleason, Research Technician with Environment and Climate Change Canada presented on methylmercury results from the ringed seal echo system. Generally speaking, results are slightly increasing in plankton and lower levels of the echo system but are not anywhere near guideline thresholds. It was always anticipated that levels in fish and seals would have a longer time to observe methylmercury increases, which was expected in a timeframe of three to eight years. Monitoring will continue as more years of data are needed to fully understand what is happening with methylmercury in the echo system. And the Environment Division will

regularly report back to NEC, Assembly and to communities. A second presentation was given by Rod Laing, Director of Environment, giving an overview of the history of Nunatsiavut Government involvement and interventions in the Lower Churchill Hydroelectrical Project and the current involvement of the Nunatsiavut Government with the Monitoring and Health Management Oversight Committee for the Muskrat Falls Project. Additionally, community members were supportive to see the community sessions and would like regular updates moving forward. They requested that in future there be some kind of virtual option, perhaps a video of the presentation to allow those that could not attend, to see the presentation. Furthermore, they specifically requested that NL Hydro have their consultant report back directly to the communities through in-person sessions on their monitoring program, to allow community members to ask questions and understand the results. Mr. Speaker, the Environment Division continues to support the environmental reviews for the new Nain Airport Project and the Strange Lake Mine, Road and Port Project. Environmental Review committees of the Assembly have been established and have begun meeting and making progress on Environmental Impact Statement guidelines. Nearing the end, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, progress continues on the Climate Change file. The Environment Division ran a very successful Climate Change workshop the week of March 18th to 22nd in Nain with almost 70 participants, including community members, Nunatsiavut Government staff, Provincial and Federal Governments and NGO's. The workshop created space to prioritize Labrador Inuit voices,

ensuring non-beneficiaries were active observers to understand concerns and issues with the region. The workshop will feed into the development of Nunatsiavut Climate Change Strategy as well as into the Broader Inuit Climate Leadership Initiative of the Canadian Government that is working towards funding direct, self-determined, block funding to the Nunatsiavut Government for Climate Change-related work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. We're now going to take a break and we're also going to invite down the class for a picture with the Assembly just before our break. But we'll be starting again at the top of the hour, sharp. *Nakummek.*

[Recess]

MR. WINTERS:

Item Five, "Members Statements." Are there any Members Statements? And before we get started, I just want to remind everyone that you are addressing the Speaker when you're making your statements. So that way I can let you know when you're close to time, so we're not going over. The first hand that I see is Mr. David Dicker of the-, Ordinary Member of Nain. *Nakummek.*

MR. DICKER JR.:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the past couple of months I have been working with numerous constituents on setting up My Service Canada Accounts online, obtaining Notice of Assessments for applying for Emergency Housing Applications, clarifying documents of receiving of payment. I have been assisting constituents with completing resumes and applying for jobs. The Nain Recreation Department held its Easter Games for the community of Nain. There was a great turnout, and everyone had

so much fun. I have attended the Nunatsiavut Government Growth, Land, Development and Housing Strategy, community engagement session held at the Nunatsiavut Government Administration Board Room. There were eight attendees from the community of Nain who attended this session. Nunatsiavut Growth, Land Development and Housing Strategy also attended the Jens Haven Memorial School and had sessions with Grade 7 and Grade 12 students. The Nunatsiavut Growth, Land Development and Housing Strategy had a tent set up near the craft shop and held community engagement sessions and surveys. Snacks also provided from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. I attended the Altius Resources Incorporated on Mineral Exploration activities planned within the Northern Labrador, "Norlab" project area, including Labrador Inuit Lands for 2024 by Roderick Smith. Eight attendees came to the consultation. Door prizes were rewarded. I assisted the Community Freezer on picking up and delivering the caribou meat to the Community Freezer and bagging for the Constituency of Nain for the month of April and May 2024. I was invited to the 20th anniversary Inuktitut UKálalautta event in Hopedale from May 6 to May 10, 2024 and was not able to attend due to unforeseen weather conditions. I sent my statement to the event to a representative to read out on my behalf at the opening ceremonies on May 6, 2024. I also assisted constituents with income support applications. The Nain Recreation Department held its Easter Games for the community of Nain. There was a great turnout, and everyone had a great time. I also held a winter-spring constituency meeting with colleague, Ordinary Member Roxanne Barbour and

AngajukKâk Joe Dicker of the NICG from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the Nain Administration Building. Seventeen constituency attendees attended this meeting. Over the last few months I have been assisting numerous constituencies on Emergency Housing Repair applications and Nunatsiavut Energy Efficiency Retrofit applications. I attended the class of 2024 Jens Haven Memorial High School prom. There were 14 graduates from the Jens Haven Memorial School. Congratulations to the graduates of Nain. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. The AngajukKâk for the community of Rigolet, Chesley Sheppard.

MR. C. SHEPPARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to send my condolences to the family of the late Ellen Adams. She will be greatly missed. She was very important to our community, as well as our school. She was the Inuttitut teacher as well as she helped out with a lot of extracurricular activities. The students miss her very much. And I also would like to congratulate the NLA Eagles for going out to the Edmonton Provincials and getting gold in that. And they did that on behalf of Ms. Ellen Adams which they are proud of. The Spring Cleanup is starting this year as well as our construction season. And I'd also like to congratulate our two NLA students for graduating this year, Cole Shiwak and Clear Brooke Pottle. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. The Chairperson for the Inuit Community Corporation, Sivunivut, Mr. Jeff Montague.

MR. MONTAGUE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, I'd like to send out condolences, sincere condolences to the family and friends of Cluney McNeil. Cluney was a longstanding member of the Sivunivut Board of Directors and as well the Iliget Community Partnership. He was a very skilled mechanic and he was a very kind person and spoke to the point. He'll be certainly missed in our community. A few updates since our last sitting. Sivunivut's Annual Audit has been completed and we are waiting the draft financial statement from Deloitte. We are also in the process of submitting our 2023 T2 filing. Sivunivut has been successful in securing funding from the International Grenfell Association for a project that will assist seniors during the winter months. We were also successful with funding from the Labrador Regional Wellness Coalition for activities for seniors along with some educational information for seniors in the modern age. The members of North West River and Sheshatshiu are very happy and grateful for the caribou that they received, thanks to the Nunatsiavut Government's Department of Lands and Natural Resources-, a lot of happy people and lots of smiles. It was great to hear people's plans, soup, Ringalls and such. Looking towards the summer season, Sivunivut is hosting a fish-smoking workshop in the very near future. On May 13th, Sivunivut, myself and my program coordinator Joanne Hibbs joins Ordinary Member Wally Andersen and Gerald Asivak and had an open house at the Interpretation Centre in North West River. Members provided updates. We took questions, chatted with the members and as well, we served up some caribou soup. And we had a pretty good turnout. I think it was about, maybe 16 or 17 people. Lastly,

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the graduates of Lake Melville School. I wish them all the best in their future endeavours. The class of 2024 are celebrating their graduation next weekend. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. The AngajukKâk for Hopedale, the Honourable Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS:

Nakummek, Uhalitik. I rise this afternoon to give tribute to the late Gus Semigak who passed away suddenly on May 20th, 2024. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, Gus was our Interpreter Translator with NG Government. In our last Assembly sitting Gus was still here with us simultaneously translating as some of us breeze through our statements with the speed of lightning with no thought for our translators who have to keep up with our fast pace of speech. Thank you, Gus for your unwavering commitment. When Gus was three years old he, along with his family, were forced to leave his beloved Hebron, in 1959. Once he became an adult he returned to Hebron as much as he could. Gus was a master interpreter translator and a great advocate for our Inuttitut language and culture. He was also master carpenter in historic buildings and led the restoration of the Moravian Church in Hebron. For many years, Gus along with his wife Lena spent summers at Hebron as ambassadors welcoming all who visited there. Hebron was the place that Gus loved the most and it was the place he was most content and at peace. Gus loved his large Semigak Jararuse family and they loved him back. Family functions were not right unless Gus was there teasing and conversing with all of them. Besides being involved

with language, culture and carpentry, Gus was also Kikak in the Moravian Church for years. Once he stepped back as Kikak he remained a caretaker of burials. Gus was invaluable in this area. He has since passed on the skill to his brother who will carry on this invaluable work. Thank you, Gus for all your hard work and dedication to Nunatsiavut Government and Moravian Church. On behalf of HICG I extend my deepest condolences, thoughts and prayers to Gus's children, Justine, Ida and Johannes, his 23 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren and his large Semigak Jararuse family. I quote Gus's words from a film made by Holly Andersen of Makkovik on Hebron relocation. "If I had to go back today, I would go back. I really would. I would like to see my children and grandchildren to see the place where I was born and see where my grandparents were born. Hebron's my home, always will be." Go rest high on that mountain, Gus. Your work on earth is done. I'll finish off you can go on. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk. The Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen.

MR. W. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the House today to say a sincere and heart-felt thank you to the Executive Council. I want to thank Minister Vincent who in the question period this fall took under the advisement of trying to provide a meal of caribou to all the beneficiaries in the Upper Lake Melville area. It was then taken to the Executive Council and it got approved. We did a delivery to a certain age group and I can tell this House, most-, there was other people who are here who witnessed it where people broke down and cried when they were handed a piece of caribou.

They were overwhelmed. We did delivery and we did a drive through. Minister Asivak helped with the delivery and with the drive through wherever he could and there was times he was called away to his Ministerial duties. Deputy Minister Jim Goudie was there to make sure that all the rules and regulations was abided by. The Deputy Minister of Education, Tim McNeil helped out and was a big part in helping us get all the caribou out. I guess I got a little dig. The only problem we had was we all know that Tim sometimes likes to talk. And sometimes the lineup sorta got held up but we had to try and drag him away to carry on. To Patricia Kemuksigak from the Community Freezer and her staff, to Torngat Fisheries for storing the caribou. Mr. Speaker, sometimes they say a picture is worth a thousand words and I can tell you that to see people take the piece of caribou and some of our lovely seniors who said, "I thought I would leave this world without having the opportunity to have a meal of caribou again." So on behalf of the beneficiaries in the Upper Lake Melville area who sometimes we feel that we're not entitled to some of the benefits that the members get in the Land Claims Area and sometimes maybe rightly so, but to the Executive Council and to Minister Vincent, God Bless you, from the people and beneficiaries in the Upper Lake Melville Area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member. We will now hear form the AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again, we have seen an early spring. This is becoming a concerning trend in the last 20 years. We have seen the ice go

out of Makkovik Bay in mid-May this year, the earliest time in living memory. With that happening, the Province should be more vigilant to these trends and consider our shipping season opening time. There is no problem for the ferry to sail to Nunatsiavut today. Also, Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the 3rd of June 2024, the fire department members from Makkovik responded to the scene of Frank's Grocery Store at 0900 hours. There was heat and soot throughout the store. There appears to have been a fire that occurred earlier that morning and had extinguished itself. That said, there is significant damage to the building inside and to the store stock that was remaining. I did speak with the other remaining store owner in Makkovik and she advises that she will do what she can for the time being to supply the community with its grocery needs. We now need the ferry more urgently to bring them fresh food and supplies at the most cost-effective means, and that's by ship. I'd also like to pass along on behalf of Makkovik Inuit Community Government and the citizens of Makkovik, our deepest condolences to the community of Hopedale recently lost several members and especially Mr. Gus Semigak from our Interpretation crew. Like they've said, I guess, there's no words that can express my feelings, but Gus was so much of an influence on us all, for me coming-, I know Gus before coming here, before 2018. But even more so now that those-, I think it's-, I don't think we know what we lost. So I'll stop there, Mr. Speaker and will have more to say tomorrow.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. The Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Gerald Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Congratulations to Aiden Wheeler of Happy Valley-Goose Bay who placed second place out of 15 participants at the YMCA Enterprise Olympics in St. John's last week. He was awarded \$1000. All the best for future endeavours, Aiden. Congrats to the 40th Annual Lab Cup athletes, coaches, sponsors, organizing committee and spectators. Lab Cup award winners Trevor Edmunds of Happy Valley-Goose Bay, MVP of his team the Rink Rats, Tim Groves of Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Top Defender of the tournament, Juliette Whalen, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Most Sportsman-like of the tournament. Congrats to our own Minister Tom Evans who was awarded Fan Favourite for his division and Most Sportsman-like of the tournament. Condolences to the family of the late Ronnie Hopkins of Mud Lake. Prayers to you all during this sad time. Condolences to our dear friend Gus Semigak, a long-time Assembly translator. Your friendly smile and caring heart will be missed. Ordinary Member Andersen, along with Chairperson Montague of Sivunivut held an open house in North West River on Saturday, May 11th. We had caribou soup, buns, tea, coffee and dessert. We provided updates, answered questions, and all the guests were thankful for the information. We will plan to attend some of the events over the summer with Member Andersen or myself attending the National Indigenous Day celebrations on June 21st. Ordinary Member Andersen and Chairperson Kemuksigak and I will hold an open house in Happy Valley-Goose Bay on Monday, June 10th. We'll serve the same delicious food and same outline. We look forward to this. Grace Goudie graduated from Pearson College this May, and intends

to pursue Indigenous Studies at Dartmouth College, an Ivy League college in New Hampshire. This summer Grace will be a counsellor at an all girls' summer camp in Quebec. In addition to her studies, she has also become a published poet and plans one day to return to Labrador for work. Lastly, all graduates in Upper Lake Melville, best of luck and happy adventures. And to Assembly Members, have a fun, enjoyable summer. *Nakummek*.

MR. WINTERS:

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

MR. SAUNDERS:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen. The Speaker and I held a constituency meeting in St. John's last month at the First Light Building. We supplied a meal of fish and brewis and scrunchions, coffee, tea, dessert, the regular. Plus we added conversation to the topic, which worked. The meeting went fairly well-, just a few complaints, the normal ones. And there's lots of questions, mainly about membership, dental, transportation and vision care and a few other items that I'm not gonna even bring up. We'll just leave it at that. The big topic was the distribution of caribou to all members within the Land Claims Area and Upper Lake Melville, but none for anyone living outside those areas. The members are feeling left out again and asked several pointed questions. And I gave the answer that NG will not send frozen food to communities outside the Land Claims and Upper Lake Melville Area. On another left-out topic again, it was brought to our attention by several members about the Department of Culture, Language and Tourism inviting beneficiaries from Lands Claims Area and the Upper Lake Melville Area to apply for the Inuit Connection Program, but absolutely no invite for any member from Canada. I also held

a constituency meeting in St. Anthony Area this trip and we had a really good turnout. And once again, the questions were similar to the ones from St. John's-, the question of transportation for NG members that has to go to St. Anthony was brought up again and I had a great reply from Mr. Asivak, and I passed that on. Caribou, which was another topic that was brought up and I told them about that NG will not send frozen food out of the Land Claims Area. I was asked some questions about the membership applications and why it was so long, because we have a lot of seniors and they get this 16-page document and they have trouble. Plus they move. They don't change their address. Many problems with that. And also they were asked about who is on the committees? Which committees does what and who is on the Appeals Committee and how often do those members change? I really couldn't give them an answer, other than what the First Minister supplied me with, and I thank you for that, Ms. First Minister. On a sad note, anyone that knew Don Saunders over the years, he was the last living son of Gilbert Saunders and Eliza Broomfield from Big Bay. And all their children were born in Davis Inlet, and there's none left from that family. Don was a true Labrador man-, loved being on the land, hunting, picking berries, growing food in his own garden, smoking fish. He retired in Burton New Brunswick with his late wife Una, and his only living child, Edward. Don was a stalwart of the Moravian Church in Happy Valley. When he was a young man, he helped, along with other Moravians as they built that little church on Haven Street. He served as Chapel Servant and if there was any work that had to be done, repairs and expansions, he was

there. He will be sadly missed, but fondly remembered. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. We will now hear from the Chairperson of the NunaKatiget Community Corporation, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak, when you're ready.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. For the month of May, the Community Freezer was really busy at the beginning of the month because we had seal meat. We had 240 pounds of seal meat, and on May 13th it was all gone. People are still calling and trying to get seal meat. The two Nunatsiavut beneficiaries who have a licence to catch and sell seal are gonna try to go out and get some more, hopefully this weekend. NunaKatiget was very grateful for the char that we received from Lands and Natural Resources for the Freezer. We received 10 cases in May and 10 cases in June. Char is always a big hit as we cannot catch char in our area. Mr. Speaker, as mentioned before, we helped give out caribou with the Nunatsiavut staff and dropped off to elders 65 and over. And as Wally had mentioned and others, people were so, very grateful. And I wanna thank the NEC and Lands and Natural Resources for including us. I have requested 200 salmon kegs again this summer. Lands and Natural Resources are going to let me know if it is possible once they have a meeting with DFO. We are now with another accounting firm to do our bookkeeping. They are also going to teach me to do bookkeeping and oversee accounts, run reports until I'm fulling trained. This should save us money in the long run. We held an Elder's Social for Easter and we had 40 plus elders in attendance. And I wanna thank Wally for helping. He called bingo and helped distribute food.

People really loved it. And we are planning an elder's social gathering with Sivunivut in late June. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Chairperson. I'll remind Members to use either full titles or full names of people in this room when making reference to them. We will now hear from the AngajukKâk for Postville, Ms. Diane Gear, when you're ready.

MS. GEAR:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take this time to congratulate the students of B.L Morrison School on their high school graduation. Wishing them all the best in your future careers. And I'd also like to take this time to wish all the students in Nunatsiavut and Happy Valley-Goose Bay a safe and happy summer. Mr. Speaker, PICG is busy getting ready for the summer season. With the weeks of May 27th to June 14th being designated as clean-up weeks. PICG is encouraging all residents to do property clean-up and will take any old vehicle wrecks including skidoo bodies, free of charge for the next few weeks. We are asking that they have garbage put by the side of the road for pickup. Mr. Speaker, we're still waiting on getting our audits completed. Our audits is not completed right back to 2018. The auditor is supposed to be coming in, in probably late June, early July. So we're hoping that we'll get a couple years done. Mr. Speaker, PICG is also looking forward to getting some work done this summer on the culverts and ditching around the community. These culverts are in bad need of replacement. So we are hoping all goes as planned and we get the work done this summer. Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to thank NG for supplying our community with moose and caribou once

again. It was so much appreciated. Some of the residents even said, "Oh, the caribou tastes like the George River Caribou Herd. It must be the real caribou." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk. Are there any other first Members statements? Yes, recognizing the Ordinary Member for Nain, Ms. Roxanne Barbour.

MS. BARBOUR:

Nakummek. I had a statement done up, but I forgot to print it. So please bear with me. I wanted to talk about some mental health things that are going on in Nain. I think it's a conversation that we need to continue to have because since our last sitting, there's been two suicides in Nain. And it doesn't stop. We need to figure out ways where we can continue to have those conversations and meet the unique needs of Nainimiut and Labrador Inuit in general, because currently, right now, the only way for people to go to a treatment program is to go out of town. And I'm so happy to see that there's some work being done in trauma and addictions to do a six-week treatment model within Nunatsiavut because we need to always figure out ways with creativity to address the uniqueness, the unique needs of Nunatsiavimiut so that they can stay home and get help home. And they can create new connections with individuals that are experiencing the same things, where they can have new relationships instead of going back into the same patterns all the time. I know it's not a one-layered solution but it's about time that we finally see something coming to Nunatsiavut. So thank you to DHSD for being very proactive on that. I heard one time from somebody I respect in my community, that they say, "We always gotta go south, always gotta go south-, south for

education, south for training, south for treatment, south for health care. Why can't we stay in Nunatsiavut?" And I wanted to highlight that because south is not better. This is our home and we have to be creative and foster creativity and uniqueness to be able to do that, so that Inuit can stay home. Inuit can stay home for education. Inuit can stay home for training. Inuit can stay home for treatment. That's the goal isn't it-, so that Inuit can stay home and not go south? Outside of that, you know, I'd like to congratulate the JHMS grads this year. I had the pleasure to attend, and I had goosebumps. It was just so good. And I was just-, it was so heartwarming and just so good. You know, Nunatsiavut's future is bright. With all our future leaders, all our future tradespeople, and is good to see. It's good to be a part of that. I'd also like to extend my condolences to Hopedalimiut and the family of Gus Semigak. He is so special to me. And it just goes to prove my point when I say, "Time is precious. We're on the clock." For our culture, for preservation we are on the clock because Gus's wealth of knowledge died with him and hasn't been preserved properly. So we're on the clock. *Nakummek.*

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Are there any other first Member statements around the table? Seeing none, are there second Member statements? Recognizing the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS:

Nakummek, Uhalitik. Hopedale has gone through much pain and sorry in the past couple months. The last person being Gus who I gave a tribute to. On behalf of HICG, I extend my deepest condolences, thoughts and prayers to the families of Doris Onalik who is the mother of our Clerk Assistant

Tabea Onalik. To Doris's husband Amos, her other daughters Augusta and Beata, sons Jonas, William, Luca and Markus, we are sorry for your loss. Doris was a beautiful woman who loved her family dearly. Hard-working, and always a wave and smile for everyone. A very active Kikak in the Moravian Church who always kept us on our toes if something was out of order. Also sincere condolences, thoughts and prayers to the large family of Chesley Piercy. Ches was a descendent of Hebron relocation, the same as Doris and Gus. Best dad, brother and uncle and best caretaker to his beloved dog Buster. A die-hard Montreal fan who would defend his team to the end. Ches was a smart, talented man, a friend, and a helper to all, making all his family feel special. His words, "I love you most," will be etched in their hearts forever. May God hold you all in his powerful arms.

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Recognizing the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen.

MR. W. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I wanna pay tribute to Gus Semigak as well. I first got to know Gus in the probably mid-70's when I began a career with the Labrador Government Stores. And every time I would do inventory at Hopedale, we would always make a point of trying to hire Gus. And I think as the AngajukKâk from Makkovik said, do we really know what we lost? I wanna pay tribute this afternoon too to one of our employees who is Assistant to the Clerk, Tabea Onalik who lost her mother. And in conversation with her earlier today she told me how difficult that this Assembly was, but she felt that she had to do it. Mr. Speaker, I wanna pay

tribute to my sister Annie Evans who I think now is into full retirement. And she had a career from working for Lab Airways to DHSD and a whole lot of other stuff. Mr. Speaker, many times I spoke of our seniors. And as I travel around in Goose Bay I see more and more seniors from the North Coast who have to go to Goose Bay because they can't get the care that they need on the North Coast. And we see a lot of our seniors in Happy Valley-Goose Bay who are forced to go elsewhere because there's no facilities to look after them. You know, it reminds me of a movie about a ranger who was lost. I think the movie was called, "Who Will Search for Danny?" We talk of all those people who fought in World War, "Lest We Forget." But yet our seniors, like, we're losing them. And unfortunately, they come back, and they come back to our communities on the North Coast in a casket because facilities are not there. This morning at the airport in Goose Bay and yesterday morning when we were delayed, some of our colleagues we saw a senior from Happy Valley-Goose Bay who had to go to Mary's Harbour. And she came back into Goose Bay for medical treatment. And again, with the family, she only family knows, by her side that she was getting ready to board the plane again. Mr. Speaker, our seniors founded our communities during the most difficult times. And, you know, they never asked for anything for themselves. But they asked that there would be a better way and a better way of life for their children and their children's children. And boy, I can tell you, doesn't that ever speak volumes of people who are wanting to help someone and to create a better way of life. And Mr. Speaker, every chance I get, I will bring it up.

And I hope that there's something that our Government can do to bring some of these beneficiaries home, where they can be with their family and children. It's difficult. Just imagine, unless you can find a way from the Coast, how can they ever go and visit their mother and father or their grandmother or their grandfather? Financially, it's almost impossible. So I hope that we can find some ways to look after those who ask for very little, only for a brighter future for our children, for their children. And after all, in their twilight years, Mr. Speaker, I honestly and truly believe that they should have the right to be with their family. And most important of all, into their community that they call, "Home." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Are there any further second Members statements around the Table? Seeing none, we are on to Item Six, "Returns to Oral Questions." In your binder, you will find the returns to oral questions under Tab Two. Under Standing Order 32(12)," Ministers and the President may read a return to oral questions." All questions and all responses are in your binder. We're on to Item Seven, "Oral Questions." As a reminder, each Member can ask two oral questions and two supplemental questions per day. Do we have any oral questions today? Yes, recognizing the AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, very much, Mr. Speaker. My first question is for the Minister of Finance and Information Technology, Mr. Thomas Evans. Will the Minister of Finance be open to changing the formula for the variable amounts allocated to the ICG's to better reflect the actual operating costs

such that smaller ICG's can bring our wages in line with the wages of the Nain ICG. With the amount of housing starts here, or money here, I mean in Makkovik compared to Nain and Hopedale, we will never catch up with the competitive wage-wise in the near future with the present formula. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*, Assembly. Minister Evans.

MR. EVANS: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, AngajukKâk Mr. Andersen. The answer would be, yes, we're open. I'll just add that the Joint Management Committee is responsible for providing advice to the treasurer and the Executive Council on the equitable division among the Inuit Community Governments of revenue received under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* and this can be added to the agenda.

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

MR. B. ANDERSEN: No, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, very much, Mr. Minister.

MR. WINTERS: Are there any other first questions around the Table? Recognizing the AngajukKâk for Nain, Mr. Joe Dicker.

MR. DICKER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question is to Honourable Gerald Asivak, Minister of Health and Social Development. Why do our beneficiaries still get bumped off Mission Plane when they have appointments with the dentist who expect them to show up for these appointments?

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk. Whenever you're ready, Minister Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and AngajukKâk Dicker. This is very similar to the oral question I was asked in March sitting, and the response is in the binder as noted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. DICKER: Yes, I know that the response says that, you know, it's in the *Land Claims Agreement*, but the action towards that is still these people get bumped off. The *Land Claims Agreement* is for the people on the Coast. Why is the fact that our people on the Coast still are feeling left out? They're-, they haven't got the opportunity to get off their chair and go to a dentist in Goose Bay or go see an optometrist in Goose Bay or on the Coast.

MR. WINTERS: Can you rephrase the question, AngajukKâk? It just wasn't very clear.

MR. DICKER: The *Land Claims Agreement* is meant for the people on the Coast, to help them live up to par with health and health issues, okay? I said-, when I asked that question I said the word, "Still" was included in there. I wanted to know why we're still under that-, treated like we're Ordinary Members beneficiaries outside the claim area where we can avail of these services. We can't. There's-, we have to go on a Mission Plane.

MR. WINTERS: AngajukKâk, we need a clear question of what you're asking of the Minister.

MR. DICKER: I don't know. I'm as clear as I can get. *Land Claims Agreements* say...

MR. WINTERS: We do not need any pre-amble. We understand the pre-amble.

MR. DICKER: Yes.

MR. WINTERS: Just the question, sir.

MR. DICKER: Why do beneficiaries who are supposed to be taken care of in the Land Claims Area still feel that they are not in the Claim Area and they're getting bumped like they're not from the area? And that's it.

MR. WINTERS: Minister Asivak?

MR. ASIVAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and AngajukKâk Dicker. DHSD and Non-insured Health Benefits have been making significant improvements in healthcare within Nunatsiavut. I will be providing an update on Health Services tomorrow, including optometry, noting that there'll be an optometrist clinic set up in each community. Also we have regular dental visits and hygienist visits to Nunatsiavut. If a patient is considered emergent, I would have to follow the protocol, and approval would come through the clinic through Non-insured Health Benefits. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS: Just for additional clarification, AngajukKâk, the Minister can't be expected to answer a question about how other people feel about something. Do you, at this time, have a second supplemental question you would like to ask?

MR. DICKER: Yes, I wrote a letter to the Ministers to give them opportune time to give a detailed answer. That was last week. Thank you, for letting me know that the dental services and that will be coming to Nain and other communities. But they've already been doing that. The question is, there are-, take myself for example-, there are times when I wanted to see a dentist but they said that they just can't-, got no time for me. Will those

people be warned of the build up of those emergencies in the first place, and let them try and work around that?

MR. WINTERS: AngajukKâk, I'm going to ask you again to just clearly state your question for the Minister.

MR. DICKER: I'm sorry, if I'm not being clear, Mr. Speaker. I asked the Minister to-, how do I put it-, to say that will the extra dental and extra optometrist being set up in Nain and other communities solve that problem?

MR. WINTERS: Minister Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The process for seeing a dental professional or a hygienist or the optometrist is for any member to call the community office, add your name to the list. For emergent, you can reach out to Non-Insured Health Benefits. I did provide contact information even this week as I know some people are having issues and you can call or email directly, personally, yourself. We have many staff on the ground, and we've been operating this for a number of years, Mr. Speaker.

Nakummek.

MR. WINTERS: Are there further questions around the Table? Recognizing the Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen.

MR. W. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the First Minister who is holds the portfolio of, Infrastructure. Minister, I've asked the question before, but visiting many residents from coastal Labrador who have no other choice but to live in the Upper Lake Melville Area, their siblings have asked me to ask the question again. Does our Government have any plans or any

discussions of putting a facility on the North Coast where, in particular, out seniors don't have to leave home?

MS. BARBOUR: Point of Order, Speaker. In the Standing...

MR. WINTERS: Stand up, please.

MS. BARBOUR: Oh, sorry. In the Standing Orders you can't ask a same question during question period.

MR. WINTERS: Different question period. I'll allow it.

MS. BARBOUR: Okay.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*. Minister?

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Ordinary Member for the question. I can tell the Ordinary Member and the Assembly that that Nunatsiavut Affairs takes direction from the Nunatsiavut Executive Council in relation to what projects or builds that we are to proceed with. We are prepared to have conversations with any departments or anyone, in relation to the development. But that would not be-, we would have to have the direction provided to us. And we are willing to proceed if necessary. Thank you.

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

MR. W. ANDERSEN: No, not at this time.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*. Yes, recognizing the Chairperson of the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health and Social Development, the Honourable Gerald Asivak. There has been a change in the NIHB policy in Happy Valley, Goose Bay for rides, as rides to the Emergency Room has changed. With the change, if someone needs to go to Emergency, they have to get a taxi. Or if they have no money, they have to walk. Many beneficiary elders have medical problems which prevent them from walking. Thus many people cannot get to Emergency to be seen by a doctor. Then the illness they may be having, can turn into something bigger. Could it be looked at to see if the policy can be changed back to the way it was before? *Nakummek*.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Chairperson. Whenever you're ready, Minister.

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Chairperson Kemuksigak. The policy has not changed. The medical transportation van, it is for Nunatsiavut patients. We provide a service to individuals in Happy Valley, Goose Bay that do not have other means of transportation to medical appointments if they book 24 hours in advance. We cannot incur additional costs for the service. So these runs have to be woven into the scheduled runs for patients. The van drivers were being generous and providing rides, but this was creating issues, as it was getting too busy, which would mean a casual driver to cover all the runs. It also meant that we were getting calls after hours for rides home, which meant issuing taxi vouchers, which again, goes against the policy of not incurring extra cost. If someone has a true emergency, they should call an ambulance. If they need to see a doctor, they can call ground transport any time during the day during office hours to book a

ride for the following day, anytime after 6:00 a.m. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS: Does the Chairperson have a supplemental question?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: No, and thank you, for the response.

MR. WINTERS: Are there any other first questions around the table? Yes, recognizing the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for Honourable Terry Vincent, Minister of Natural Resources. I'm not sure if I'm even allowed to ask the question 'cause I haven't heard anything spoken in this Assembly so far. My question is now that the quota is taken from many of the fish harvesters, my question is will NG do anything to help those harvesters with employment? Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: Minister Terry Vincent, whenever you're ready.

MR. VINCENT: I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker. I...

MR. WINTERS: Please stand, sir.

MR. VINCENT: ...didn't get all the question. Could you repeat it, please?

MR. WINTERS: AngajukKâk, can you repeat your question?

MR. VINCENT: Yes, my question is, now that the quota has been taken from many of the fish harvesters, my question to you is, will NG help those harvesters find employment so they can feed their families? Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: Minister Vincent, whenever you're ready.

MR. VINCENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, AngajukKâk Flowers. Our Department is not responsible for finding employment for our beneficiaries. That falls upon themselves. As per the quota, it was allocated to a beneficiary with multi-year designation as our policy goes-, is-, I'm not sure how to word it, is a direction that our policy would like to follow. Thank you.

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

MS. FLOWERS: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that this-, you're not responsible for providing employment, but I think that we should try and help those that are affected, as there are many family's businesses that are affected by this. So can your Department, or someone in this Government please reach out or help those people? Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: Minister Vincent.

MR. VINCENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, AngajukKâk Flowers. I really don't know what to say to that supplemental. It's still the same thing as far as I'm concerned. We can-, I will take it under advisement and get you an answer at another time. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: The Minister has taken the question under notice. Considering this, does the AngajukKâk have an additional, supplemental question to add?

MS. FLOWERS: No, I don't. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Minister Vincent for your answer and to take it under advisement. Thank you.

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

MR. MONTAGUE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the First Minister. It was my understanding that the communal salmon fishery is going to expire some time within a year if I'm not mistaken. Have there been any negotiations on renewing that agreement with the Provincial Government, that is? Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: First Minister, whenever you're ready.

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, Chairperson for your question. I do not have the answer. I will take the question under notice. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: The First Minister has taken the question under notice. Does the Chairperson have a supplemental question to ask?

MR. MONTAGUE: Yes, I do, Mr. Speaker. Once we find out that answer, Minister, could we perhaps get a news release to inform the people of Upper Lake Melville, so that they have an understanding and so they know where things are going? Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: First Minister.

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, again. So what I've-, I've taken the question under notice, so I have 10 days to provide a written response to you. You'll get a written response. I don't know if there is a-, there will be a resolution to the question to make a news release within 10 days. So-, but I will provide the response within 10 days as required.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Does the Chairperson have anything else to ask on this matter?

MR. MONTAGUE: No, I don't, Mr. Speaker. Thank you and than you, Minister. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Are there further first questions around the Table? Seeing none, at this time I'll ask the Deputy Speaker to take my Chair and I will be asking the question.

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

MR. WINTERS: Yes, my question is for the Honourable Tom Evans, Minister of Finance, HR and Information Technologies. In November of 2022, you informed the Assembly in your Ministers Statement that a review of the Government's Recruitment and Retention had been undertaken with the assistance of an external HR firm. I'm wondering if this has since been completed. Would you be able to provide the Assembly with a progress update or an expected date of completion?

MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you, Ordinary Member.

MR. WINTERS: There's no question mark after. I'm wondering if this has been completed.
Nakummek.

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

MR. EVANS: Yes, thank you, for the question, there, Ordinary Member Bryan Winters. And you're correct. That was in my Ministers Statement and it-, the work is still ongoing, but what I can commit to is that we'll provide quarterly updates to that Recruitment and Retention Plan and I'm committing that we will also provide it to the NEC because the NEC is looking for updates on that Recruitment Retention-, It's quite important. There's work ongoing, but there's a lot of-, there's a lot involved with-, there's, like, a

spreadsheet and there's-, so we-, instead of providing monthly updates or whatever, we're committed to providing quarterly updates.

MR. SAUNDERS:

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

MR. WINTERS:

Yes, I do. And I apologize. That was two questions. My first supplemental question will be, is there an expected date of completion?

MR. SAUNDERS:

Thank you, Mr. Winters. Minister Evans?

MR. EVANS:

As much as we would like and hope to have a date that we could actually give you, what we'd have to give is that commitment to provide an update to the overall plan, the Recruitment Retention Plan. I could pick a date out of the air but there's a lot involved with-, it's like-, you know, instead of giving you, like, a date, I'll commit to providing an update to show the progress, and hopefully the completion of the strategy.

MR. SAUNDERS:

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

MR. WINTERS:

I do. My question is, if the Minister is stating that we have an external consultancy without a completion date of their work, that we're paying for with public Inuit money?

MR. SAUNDERS:

Thank you, Mr. Winters. Minister Evans?

MR. EVANS:

I'm sorry if there's some confusion about the consulting. It's the-, the work is ongoing within departments. Like it was identified key focus areas, recruitment and retention and the departments at tasked, like there's task(ph) numbers and contact members within the department to do the

follow-up and work and provide information. So it's not like, an outside consulting that we're-, an issue with that outside consulting. Of course we've anticipated an end date, you know? This is work that's involving all the departments, not just the Human Resource Department. So I apologize if I give the impression that it was being done by a consultant.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Thank you, Minister Evans.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. My seat is even warmer. Are there further questions around the Table at this time? Yes, this would be your second question. Are there any other first questions at this time? Seeing none, Mr. Joe Dicker, AngajukKâk for the Community of Nain.

MR. DICKER:

Thank you, *Uhalitik.* My question is to the First Minister, Honourable Melva Williams. In your statement on enrollment, you said that the baby or the young one has enrollment for two years-, it's covered. I understood that the child is on its own until they apply for membership as adults which is 19 years old. So there's 17 years in between. Who takes care of that person?

MR. WINTERS:

First Minister, was that clear? Would the AngajukKâk like to rephrase that question?

MR. DICKER:

Yeah, in your opening statements she's stating that membership enrollment for a newborn is good for two years, 24 months, okay? And she never said nothing after it. She said that the enrollment is more or less on its own now until their 19, I presume. Is that true?

MR. WINTERS:

First Minister.

MS. WILLIAMS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, AngajukKâk Dicker for the question. I'm sorry if my information wasn't clear. What I was attempting to relay is that in order for a newborn to have benefits, after 24 months, whether it be Non-Insured Health Benefits or whatnot, they are-, they can be covered under the parents' membership. But after 24 months, when they reach 24 months, one day, and they need something from the medical, for instance, and they haven't gotten their membership confirmed, then they, the parents have to pay for that-, those benefits themselves. I hope that clears the information for you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, First Minister. Does the AngajukKâk have a supplemental question?

MR. DICKER:

No, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, for your clarification too, Minister Williams.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Recognizing the Chairperson for the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak, when you're ready.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. This question is to the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources. And I've got some of it from reading materials that we were given. In 2023, 97,584.19 was paid to Nunatsiavut for access fees for the shrimp that was landed in Charlottetown. These funds are meant to help build the fishery in Nunatsiavut. Now I wanna know why is 42 percent of the shrimp now going to St. Anthony? And will there be any access fees paid to Nunatsiavut Government from the company in St. Anthony?

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS: I will ask the Chairperson to rephrase that so you are only asking one question.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Will there be any access fees paid to the Nunatsiavut Government from the company in St. Anthony, like it has been for Charlottetown?

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Minister Vincent, whenever you're ready.

MR. VINCENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, Chairperson Kemuksigak. No, there will not be any access fees paid as we do not have an agreement with the LCI.

MR. WINTERS: I'll ask the Minister to repeat himself just because the Chairperson wasn't able to hear you.

MR. VINCENT: No, there will not be any access fees as we do not have an agreement with LCI where they land their shrimp in St. Anthony. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: Much appreciated, Minister. Chairperson, do you have a supplemental question?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: So in other words, when I was reading this document about the access fees that's paid to Nunatsiavut to help build the fishery in Nunatsiavut, that means there's gonna be less money coming in for the shrimp fishery. Is that correct?

MR. WINTERS: Minister Vincent, whenever you're ready.

MR. VINCENT: Not less money coming in for the shrimp fishery, no. Less access fees, I guess, paid, yes.

MR. WINTERS: Does the Chairperson have a second supplementary question?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: I just need clarification. So what I was talking about was the access fee which is money that's given to the Nunatsiavut Government. So if there is no access fees being collected for 42 percent of the shrimp, that means there's less money coming into Nunatsiavut for building the fishery fund. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: There is no question in what you've just said, Chairperson.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Is that correct?

MR. WINTERS: Whenever you're ready, Minister Vincent.

MR. VINCENT: Yes.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* I'll now recognize the AngajukKâk for the Community of Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen.

MR. B. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My second question for today is for the Minister of Finance and Information Technology, Mr. Thomas Evans. It's regarding the land use for Bell Canada for our towers for the high-speed internet and cell service. Can you give me an update on the Bell Cell Wireless Broadband Power land-use issue within the affected ICGs? Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: Minister, whenever you're ready.

MR. EVANS: Yes, thank you, for that question, AngajukKâk Andersen. We've been back and forth with emails on this issue. And it's, it's a issue that the other ICG's have been approaching with the leasing or towers in the communities. And as I might've explained before, but I can update that the director of the Government Affairs at Bell Canada is just aware of the issue with the leases and she's has-, she's been copied on the emails. And so she had

sent the-, our Deputy Minister Rexanne Crawford a follow-up email on Friday and she's-, the-, what she explained is she's still gathering information and will be in contact soon. So hopefully we'll get this sorted out.

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

MR. B. ANDERSEN: No, Mr. Speaker, good.

MR. WINTERS: Are there any other questions around the Table? Yes, recognizing the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen.

MR. W. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My speaker [*sic*] is for the Minister of Lands and Resources. And the question may have already been asked, but the salmon fishery in which the beneficiaries in the Upper Lake Melville area are entitled to. Is-, I do believe it runs out after this year, though I did have a conversation with some of your senior officials who said that it would be renegotiated. So Minister, the importance of what it means to the beneficiaries, would you take that under advisement and certainly have a conversation and follow up with your staff for a definite answer?

MR. WINTERS: I'll ask the Ordinary Member to ask the question rather than asking the Minister to take a question under advisement. Is there a specific question you would like to phrase that the Minister can take under notice?

MR. W. ANDERSEN: Okay. It's straightforward. Minister, can you-, I asked you the question, can you get information for us as to when the licence expires?

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

MR. VINCENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Ordinary Member Andersen. Yes, we will take it under advisement, and we will get you that answers. Thank you.

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

MR. W. ANDERSEN: Yes, I do and Minister, we would like to have the response as soon as possible because if the answer is negative to the beneficiaries, the beneficiaries are asking for ample time to respond to the decision that in this case will be made by DFO.

MR. WINTERS: There's no question in your response, Ordinary Member. Do you have a supplemental question, or no? Are there any other questions around the Table at this time? Seeing none that brings us to the end of Item Seven, "Oral Questions." And we will be taking a 15-minute break. In that time, we will be ordering supper because we'll be taking supper here. *Nakummek.*

[Recess]

MR. WINTERS: I am seeking unanimous consent to waive Standing Order 5(1) to move our business beyond 5:00 p.m. on this weekday. All in favour? None opposed. The motion carries. *Nakummek.*

MR. WINTERS: We are now onto Item Eight, "Written Questions." Are there any written questions? Recognizing the Chairperson of the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak. Please pass it up to the Clerk. *Nakummek.* The question is in order. Are there any more written questions at this time. Seeing none, we move on to Item Nine, "Return to

Written Questions." Under Standing Order 34 (4), Ministers and the President may read a return to written questions. In your binder you will find the returns to written questions under Tab Three. The return to written questions will also be entered into the June Hansard-, March-, apologies, the March Hansard. Item Number 10 is, "Petitions." Are there any petitions at this time? Seeing none, we are on to Item 11, "Responses to Petitions." The response to the petition submitted at the March Assembly Sitting is under Tab Seven. I'll now call upon Minister Tom Evans of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technologies to read his response.

MR. EVANS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The response-, the Department of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology will commit to review this policy in conjunction with the appropriate departments.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Minister. Item 12 is, "Reports of Standing in Special Committees." And there are no standing or special committee reports today so we'll move on to Item 13. This is the, "Tabling of Documents." I would like to now recognize the Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Mr. Roland Saunders.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I am pleased to table the following three documents, 2023 Nain By-election Report Number One, 2023 Nain By-Election Report Number Two, and 2023 Nain By-election Report Number Three.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*, Ordinary Member Saunders. The document presented is tabled and numbered as follows: 01-5(7), 02-5(7) and 03-5(7), respectively. I would now like to recognize Minister Terry Vincent, when you're ready, sir.

MR. VINCENT: Honourable Speaker, I am pleased to table the following document, "Report on the Rate and Amount of Access Fees Collected in the 2023 Commercial Fishery," thank you.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*, Minister Vincent. The documents presented are tabled and numbered as follows: 04-5(7). I would like to now recognize Minister Tom Evans of the Department of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technologies.

MR. EVANS: Honourable Speaker, I am pleased to table the following two documents: The Financial Statements of the Labrador *Inuit Capital Strategy Trust 2022* and Report to the Nunatsiavut Legislative Assembly Section 111 of the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act*.

MR. WINTERS: Minister, your mic.

MR. EVANS: Sorry.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*, Minister Evans. The documents presented are tabled and numbered as follows: 05-5(7) and 06-5(7) respectively. We will now move on to, "Notices of Motion." We have no notices of motions today. Item 15 is, "Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills." At this time I will recognize the First Minister, the Honourable Melva Williams, when you're ready.

MS. WILLIAMS:

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday June 5th, 2024, I will move, seconded by Minister Gerald Asivak, the First Reading of Bill 2024-03 "An Act to Amend the Beneficiaries Enrollment Act (2024). And Mr. Speaker, I am seeking the unanimous consent of the Assembly to waive Standing Order 37(1) to proceed to the first reading of the bill today.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. The First Minister is asking for unanimous consent to proceed with first reading today. Do we have unanimous consent? All the, "Yays?" Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, you have your consent. We'll now move on to Item 16. Item 16 is, "Motions," and there are no motions today. Item 17 is, "The First Reading of Bills." I would now like to recognize First Minister, Melva Williams when you're ready.

MS. WILLIAMS:

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I move, seconded by Minister Asivak, that Bill 2024-03, "*Beneficiaries Enrollment Amendment Act 2024*," now be introduced and read for the first time.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Would you like to introduce the Bill? Give us one moment. First Minister, would you like to introduce the Bill?

MS. WILLIAMS:

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. This Bill is in relation to the Membership Committees and to increase the numbers from four to five, that all Membership Committees have five members in each of the four regions or four Membership Committees. And that's the intent of the Bill. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* The motion is in order. Does anyone wish to speak to the principal of the Bill? Yes, if it's to the principal of the Bill.

MR. SAUNDERS: First Minister, would this also include the Appeals Committee or just the four committees?

MR. WINTERS: That really isn't a question to the principal of the Bill. Does any other Member wish to speak to the principal of the Bill? If no other Members wish to speak, does the Minister wish to conclude the debate?

MS. WILLIAMS: I wish to conclude debate.

MR. WINTERS: Thank you, Minister. That concludes debate on first reading. Is the Assembly of approving Bill 2024-03 on First Reading? All those in favour? Any opposed? Seeing none, the motion is carried, and accordingly, Bill 2024-03, "*The Beneficiaries Enrollment Amendment Act 2024*," has had first reading. I would like to now again, recognize First Minister Melva Williams.

MS. WILLIAMS: Honourable Speaker, in accordance with Standing Order 54(3) I seek unanimous consent to waive Standing Order 54(1)(d) to have the Assembly proceed to second reading of Bill 2024-03, "*The Beneficiaries Enrollment Amendment Act 2024*," today.

MR. WINTERS: Thank you. In accordance with Standing Order 43(3), the First Minister is seeking unanimous consent to waive Standing Order 54(1)(d) to proceed with second reading of Bill 2024-03, "*Beneficiaries Enrollment Amendment Act 2024*," today. All those in favour? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, Minister, you do have your unanimous consent. So the Bill can proceed to

second reading today. This brings us to Item 18, "Second Reading of Bills."

I would like to recognize the First Minister, Melva Williams, for the second reading of bills.

MS. WILLIAMS:

Honourable Speaker, in accordance with the motion passed previously by the Assembly, I now ask we move to the Committee of the Whole to consider Bill 2024-03, "*The Beneficiaries Enrollment Amendment Act, 2024*," and that the Bill be read for a second time.

MR. WINTERS:

We are now moving into-, sorry, I seek consent to move into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill. All those in favour? *Nakummek*. The motion is carried. We will now wait one moment while the witness moves to the room. Mr. Mark Gillette, Director of Legal Services has now joined us in the Committee of the Whole. Would you like to make some comments, Mr. Gillette?

MR. GILLETTE:

Thank you. Happy to be back before the Committee of the Whole today. I think the Bill is fairly self-explanatory. As noted in the explanatory note to the Bill, there are four regional Membership Committees. Nain and North of Nain, Hopedale, Postville and Makkovik and Rigolet Lake Melville. Currently, the number of committee members that are on each of those committees are that Nain and North of Nain and Rigolet, Lake Melville have five members each, and the Hopedale and Makkovik Postville Committees have four members each. The sole purpose of this Bill is to increase the number of committee members on the two smaller committees, the Hopedale Committee and the Postville and Makkovik committee to five members. So all those committees would have the same

number of members and the purpose of that is just because a couple of the smaller committees have been having some issues getting forum and things like that if they have members who have been ill or have to be out of the area for a period of time. So, um, it was a request being made to increase the number on those committees by one member each, so they'll all have the same number. And just to-, because I was listening-, this does not apply to the Appeal Board. The Appeal Board already consists of five members.

MR. WINTERS:

Are there any questions before we move into the Bill itself and the clause-by-clause, page-by-page review? Does anyone have any questions for our witness at this time? Seeing none, we will now move to the Bill itself and we will begin by voting on the substantive sections first, starting with Section Two. And then when the substantive sections are finished, we will go back to consider the preamble and title of the bill. Can everyone please move to Page Two, Clause Two. Amendments to Section 17 of the *Beneficiaries Enrollment Act* 2(1), Paragraph 17(1)(b) of the *Beneficiaries Enrollment Act* is amended by replacing the number 4 with the number 5. Are there any questions at this time? Seeing none, are we agreed? Are there any opposed? Seeing none, we are agreed. On Page Two, Clause One, Short Title, Short Title is-, sorry, apologies, I missed the next clause. Under, "Coming into Force," Clause Three-, yes, sorry, First Minister, go ahead.

MS. WILLIAMS:

I think that you-, oh, I don't need to stand. It's Committee of the Whole. On Section 2(2) you didn't review that section as well.

MR. WINTERS: Thank you. Yes, I did miss that. Under 2(2) Paragraph 17(1)(c) of the Beneficiaries Enrollment Act is amended by replacing the number 4 with the number 5. Are there questions at this time? Seeing none, are we agreed? Sorry, AngajukKâk Flowers?

MS. FLOWERS: Did you say, "b" or "c"? 'Cause it's "b". I thought I heard you say, "c".

MR. WINTERS: C-, (1) is in relation to (b), (2) is in relation to (c).

MS. FLOWERS: Okay, sorry.

MR. WINTERS: Are there any further questions? Seeing none, are we agreed? Any opposed? Seeing none, we are agreed. Below this, still on Page Two, Clause Three, under, "Coming into Force." " This Act comes into force on a day to be fixed by order of the President." Are there any questions on this clause? Seeing no questions, are we agreed? Sorry, yes, recognizing AngajukKâk Joe Dicker of Nain, when you're ready, sir.

MR. DICKER: Comes into force on the day to be fixed by order of the President. Does President can fix it any time or a specific time?

MR. WINTERS: Witness?

MR. GILLETTE: Yes, so this is the same kind of statement we've had in the last number of bills. So basically, the law will be in effect. But when it comes into force which-, the law will be passed by the Assembly, but when it actually comes into force will be a day that the President chooses for it to come into force. And we do that because at this point there'll have to be a process to find these additional members to have them appointed to the committees. So

the President can make sure that, that process is either started or completed by the time the amendment comes into force.

MR. WINTERS: Mr. Dicker, does that clarify your question?

MR. DICKER: Yes, it do, thank you.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Are there further questions around the Table?

MR. GILLETTE: Sorry, Mr. Chair. I'm just noticing myself, that on the Inuttitut version the section, is showing up at (1) on my copy. I don't know if your copies are-, yeah, so, that's-, I've fixed that already on the official version. But the one in your binder might be-, the Inuttitut version might say (1) for where it should say Section Three. I don't think an amendment is required for that 'cause I've already fixed it prior.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Everyone should note that there is a typo on the Inuttitut version and under Clause Three it's listed as One. It's been corrected. Does not need to be addressed at this time. Are there any further questions under, "Coming into Force," Clause Three? Seeing none, are we agreed? Are there any opposed? Seeing none we will move onto Page Two, Clause One, "Short Title." The short title is, "This Act May be Cited as the Beneficiaries Enrollment (Amendment) Act 2024. Are there any questions on this clause? Seeing none, are we agreed? Any opposed? None opposed. Thank you. Does the Minister wish to conclude the debate at this time? Apologies, we will now have a look at the long title. The long title of this Act is, "*A Bill for an Act to Amend the Beneficiaries Enrollment Act 2024.*" Are there any questions on this? Seeing none, are we agreed

with this long title? Any opposed? Seeing none, we are agreed. First Minister, now would you like to conclude the debate?

MR. WINTERS: I wish to conclude debate.

MR. WINTERS: Thank you. That concludes both the debate and the Committee of the Whole. I would like to thank the witness. Mr. Gillette, you may leave. We are now back in the Assembly. All those in favour of second reading of Bill 2024-03, "*Beneficiaries Enrollment (Amendment) Act 2024*." All those in favour? Any opposed? Seeing none, the motion is carried. Accordingly, *Bill 2024-03, Beneficiaries Enrollment (Amendment) Act 2024* has had second reading. I would like to thank the Minister. We will now move on to Item 19, "The Assent to Bills." Honourable President, the Assembly has given second reading to Bill 2024-03 *Beneficiaries Enrollment (Amendment) Act 2024* and wish to present it for assent.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: *Nakummek, UKatti.* Honourable Speaker and Members, as President of Nunatsiavut, I wish to assent to Bill 2024-03, "*Beneficiaries Enrollment (Amendment) Act 2024*" and hereby sign it into law. *Nakummek, UKatti.*

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek,* Members of the Assembly. That brings us to Item 20, "Adjournment." The Assembly is now adjourned until 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning, Wednesday, June 5th. *Nakummek, everyone.*

[Adjourned]

3:23:45 (5:25:53 p.m.) Track ' June 4, 2024' ends.

Day 2 June 5, 2024

MR. WINTERS:

Ullâkut. Welcome, everyone to Day Two of our June sitting. Also, welcome to everyone listening on our audio feed. I would like to recognize Mark Gillette, Director of Legal Services and Isabella Pain, Deputy Minister of the Secretariat in our gallery today. We are moving on to Item Two. Item Two is, "Ministers Statements." Are there any Ministers statements? Recognizing the Minister of the Department of Health and Social Development, when you're ready, sir.

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'll provide an update on Health Services. DHSD have been working really hard meeting with Labrador-Grenfell Zone, Newfoundland and Labrador Health Services and Air Borealis to improve our Skedevac service. Contrary to all social media frenzy last week, we finally have some good news. Starting Monday past, on June 3rd, there will be five-day-a-week scheduled service, an improvement from three days a week.

[Applause]

Weather, or other external factors may alter the schedule, but for the most part, the schedule will stand, and folks will know in advance the schedule. So no more waiting until the night before. We also have an agreement now for Air Borealis to copy us on all emails regarding weather holds so you can better manage patients. If the weather is 50:50, patients will still have to go to the airport, but the days when there's little chance of flying, they can stay at their accommodations. If patients are on weather hold, we will know and provide food vouchers in a timely manner versus relying on someone to call us from the airport.

We are hoping to have further information about improved seating and amenities for patients waiting. So stay tuned. We are happy we can bring this important news to the Assembly. Public Health. Tuberculosis, Mr. Speaker, since January 1st 2024 there have been four confirmed cases of TB. We do not announce location of these diagnoses for confidentiality of patients and communities. Diagnostic Imaging Committee: Labrador Grenfell Health Zone has not assumed lead role of this committee, as we near the implementation phase of piloting the chest x-ray equipment as a pilot. This will be done in Hopedale in August 2024. This will be done in Hopedale in August 2024. Mr. Speaker, the vision clinics are being set up in all five communities as I noted yesterday. Each community will have their own vision clinic. Dr. McIntosh has been contracted with Non-Insured Health Benefits and will visit every community starting with Rigolet May 25th right up into Nain, early December, with Nain and Hopedale being serviced twice right up until December. Also, to highlight, we have purchase of new vision equipment budgeted for 2024-2025 to serve Upper Lake Melville beneficiaries. Plans currently held up with infrastructure in Happy Valley, Goose Bay for renovating the Corte Real office to include the space. So we are waiting on infrastructure to support and help us with this eventual move. Mr. Speaker, the hygienist will also be visiting our communities starting with Postville in June and ending in Makkovik in July. The dates can be obtained from your community offices. Also, the same for the community dental visits in Nain and Hopedale in June and July. Lastly,

Mr. Speaker, audiology. And a request for proposals was developed for audiology services for the five coastal clinics. This RFP closed on April 5th with zero applicants. This was reposted and also distributed throughout the Canadian Academy of Audiology. This new RFP closed on May 16th, 2024. We will review proposals with the Legal Team and eventually purchase travel equipment for the successful audiologist. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Minister. We will now recognize the Minister for the Department of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology.

MR. EVANS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll just provide a brief update on the Human Resource Department. Mr. Speaker, recruitment for the Nunatsiavut Government is a high priority for the Human Resource Division and has a direct impact on operations of the Government. And just for clarification, yesterday, Mr. Speaker, you asked a question on an engagement undertaken with an external HR firm in November 2022. This firm was engaged to do a jurisdictional review of recruitment strategies by other governments, including Indigenous Self Governments. It was completed on February 2023. It provided information to my department and was not a recruitment and retention strategy. I am pleased to inform that the Human Resource section of the NG website was launched in May 2024. It has links to other information about Nunatsiavut, more graphics and is user-friendly for navigation. Mr. Speaker, a new job template was also developed and being used on any platforms. Performance metrics on social media and the website are being monitored. As an example, in

February there were 1,937 views of the career page on the Nunatsiavut Government website. The HR Division attended a job fair that was hosted in Happy Valley -Goose Bay at the College of the North Atlantic. Mr. Speaker, two HR employees were scheduled to attend the career fair in Hopedale during the Youth Symposium, but due to weather they were unable to make it in person. The HR Manager hosted a virtual session with the participants to discuss resume writing and interview skills. The Education Division is facilitating a career trip for Grade 9 students from all Nunatsiavut communities to travel to Happy Valley-Goose Bay. On Wednesday, the Human Resource Division is hosting a Nunatsiavut Government Career Fair for these students to meet with NG employees and discuss careers with the NG. Finally, employees were invited to complete an employee engagement survey in May. This engagement survey provided staff with the opportunity to provide feedback on their experience as an employee. Mr. Speaker, an external consultant is analyzing the results and will provide a final report. And I'd just like to add that the Human Resource Division issued a total of 150 job advertisements from April 1st 2023, to March 31st 2024. Now this figure does not include the re-advertisement of current job competitions. So the actual job ads released is much higher. There were 88 staff hired during this period. *Nakummek.*

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Minister. Are there any other Minister statements at this time? Seeing none, we'll move on to Item Three, "Members Statements." Are there any Members statements at this time?

Recognizing the AngajukKâk for Nain, Mr. Joe Dicker, when you're ready, sir.

MR. DICKER:

Thank you, *Uhalitik*, and I heard the report yesterday and now it's (inaudible) 10:28 today. Mr. Speaker, the CEO position in Nain is still open. The position has been advertised but no responses yet. On the wooding program that we undertook this winter, with the help of NG, this started late but was very successful and helpful for the work it is supposed to do. We had two skidoos, two qamutiks and all the equipment needed for next year now. So far we plan on putting an application in for next year. The money we didn't spend, we're supposed to give back to NG but after talking with our counsel and our manager, Town Manager, we're gonna propose that we take that money and purchase wood in the fall to offset-, 'cause it's hard to get wood in the fall, and get ready for the new year. That way we could spend all the money allocated to us by NG. I'd like to thank NG for that, especially, Roxanne who helped organize the whole (inaudible)12:20. The Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Honourable Terry Vincent has given us permission to extend our sand quarry lease to ensure that we have sand for the upcoming season. We weren't sure how it was going but there's enough sand there yet to carry us over through the next year. The application for the rock quarry and the new sand quarry is put over until the next sitting of the Assembly in September. Everything should be ready by then. The legal implications and the all the wording of that lease has to be translated and qualified. So that will come in

September. Our audits are going to be caught up this year. We're thankful for that. Deloitte has committed that they're gonna do it this year. Our staff is working with them to get this done. Deloitte apologized for the lateness saying that it was sitting on the desk for one year without nobody handling the file. So they apologized that (inaudible) 14:05 in their staff. And that's not gonna happen anymore (inaudible) 14:15. Mr. Speaker, finally, spring cleanup is here and started last week and we asked the residents of Nain to help with this project and help to keep the community clean. That's all I have for now. I'm sure with our projects starting up, we'll have a lengthier report next time around. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk. We will now recognize the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS:

Nakummek, Uhalitik. My Members statement showed how much pain and sorrow Hopedale has gone through in the past couple of months. I rise this morning to say, amid all the grief and sorrow, we have hope and much to be thankful for. And here are the reasons: Mr. Speaker, Hopealeimiut clapped and cheered on team Inutsiavut as they were awarded the \$1 million-Arctic Inspiration prize at a ceremony held in Yukon, Whitehorse, in May. I'm proud to say that the team are youth-led and hail from Hopedale. Congratulations to Nicholas Flowers, Veronica Flowers, Vanessa Flowers, Kim Pilgrim.

[Applause]

Inutsiavik, meaning, "A place to live well," in Inuttitut is an Inuit-led initiative dedicated to language and culture revitalization. This program will increase proficiency in Inuit culture, skills and Inuttitut in a safe, welcoming environment. Inutsiavik's goal is to establish a not-for-profit cultural centre in Hopedale to host a range of programming committed to strengthening skills, confidence and pride in Inuit identity. Inutsiavik aims to nurture traditions, promote intergenerational healing and enhance overall health and well-being within Nunatsiavut. Students from schools in Nain, Hopedale, Postville, Makkovik and Rigolet participated in the 20th Inuttitut Ukkalalautta in May. What a wonderful event to showcase the skills of our students speaking their Inuttitut language with pride and admiration. Our future is bright, Mr. Speaker, which are led by these very bright and eager students. The highlight of ACMS is the High School Graduation. What a beautiful event this was . This year we congratulate eight bright students: Cole Marcel Dicker who is one of our pages today, Hailey Flowers, Kelly Flowers, Devon Kautjasiak , Grace Winters, Cindy Jararuse, Albert Tuglavina and Logan Sillet. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours, Mr. Speaker. I want to extend a big thank you, to everyone who worked behind the scenes and helped to make all these events possible. Many people who go unnoticed of praise and thank yous, are involved with all these events. Of course, in order to move forward and to do things, you need support. So there's been a lot of support throughout our communities. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk. We will not recognize the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen.

MR. W. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to thank my colleague, the Honourable Gerald Asivak, Minister of Health and Social Development for his statement he made this morning regarding the Skedevac service. Certainly, it's good news. And in the past we've seen people who went through an operation who when the weather was really bad there was no chance of the flights getting out, that some of these people had to stay at the airport from seven o'clock in the morning until the flight was canceled in the evening. And Minister, for you and the Executive Council who worked on that, certainly, that's good news for all of our beneficiaries. And lastly, Mr. Speaker, I just wanna wish everyone a safe summer. Take the time to spend with your family, your friends, your children and your grandchildren. As we witnessed in Hopedale, we don't know what tomorrow brings. So I would ask you all to take the time to enjoy your summer with your family, to the Executive Council in all your travels I wish you safe travels. And most important of all, Mr. Speaker, I will say this, if you have an elder who lives down the street from you, take the time to drop by and say hello. Some of these are living on their own. And the majority time is, they're not looking for something, but the most important thing that you can give them is to drop by and have a chat with them. Again, Mr. Speaker, I wish all of you a safe and enjoyable summer. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member. We will now recognize the AngajukKâk for the community of Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise this morning to recognize two young men from Nunatsiavut who made the cut to attend the Volleyball Canada Cup. Jacob Dyson from Makkovik is one of them. The other is Ian Dicker of Nain. These two young athletes are the only one from Labrador. The rest are from the island. Jacob a tryout in January for the Newfoundland and Labrador team for the Canada Cup that's taking place in July 2024 in Calgary, Alberta. He made the cut for the first round of 40 athletes aged 16, 17 and 18 years old. This cup was down to 26 athletes. He was asked to go back to St. John's for the next round of tryouts where they went from 26 to 14. Jacob made the cut and was given a position on the team to travel to the tournament. Since he has been chosen to be a part of this team, other opportunities have opened up for him. He has been reached out to by the NCSA, the National College Scouting Association, which is stationed out of Chicago Illinois, USA. He is going to be registered into their scouting system in the hopes of being scouted by universities and colleges and by coaches from the United States and Canada to play volleyball for them. The Canada Cup will bring together Canada's next generation of high-performance athletes to compete for their home province or territory in a national championship. Athletes selected for their respective Provincial Team programs will descend into Tsuut'ina to compete July 24th to 28th 2024. The Canada Cup is a critical piece of talent development process in Canada for over 300 athletes

covering 4-year age span in high performance pathway. We wish Jacob well in his quest for excellence. He will be a role model for the young people for sure in our community. And congratulations to Ian Dicker as well in his quest. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk. We will now hear from the AngajukKâk for the community of Rigolet, Mr. Chesley Sheppard.

MR. SHEPPARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to give an update on our community. We started our spring clean-up there last week and unfortunately, we had to hold off until later this summer to pick up our bigger items such as old car wrecks, skidoo wrecks, due to shortage of equipment. And we had to hold off on doing our work order for claims or orders due to shortage of equipment. The good news, we got two pieces of heavy equipment coming in on the first ferry and we cannot wait. And we are getting a new subdivision, so it'll be starting this summer as are ditches and storm water drains are being done later on this summer. Our rink should be done early this summer. We are still waiting on equipment. It's been a long wait. Our youth have been waiting for a long time to use this facility as it's been down for a nice while. But due to the remoteness of our community, it is hard to get equipment in. But I am glad to say that we should be done early this summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk. Are there any further Members statements? Yes, recognizing Melva Williams, the Ordinary Member for Rigolet, when you're ready.

MS. WILLIAMS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was good to hear others speak of the Arctic Inspiration Prize Winners . I was fortunate to attend along with President Lampe, the ceremonies. There was another category that we saw winners in, in the Youth category. The project was called L.O.V.E. Inuktut. And they were winners as well. So I wanted to pass along our congratulations to those. It was excellent to be there as there was a youth from my community, Ocean Shiwak. So it was good to be there and support her during the presentation of the award. So good work by all in the Arctic Inspiration this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Are there further first Members statements? Yes, recognizing Ordinary Member for the community of Nain, Roxanne Barbour.

MS. BARBOUR:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. I just kinda wanted to add onto AngajukKâk Andersen's statement. You know, this is an amazing opportunity for both these young men, these Nunatsiavut youth. And I remember saying before, you know, sometimes all they need-, the only barrier that these youth have for these types of opportunities is getting out of our communities and the cost of getting out of our communities. You know, as a volleyball player myself in my teenage years I would've never imagined to see my peers or other Inuit youth have these types of opportunities. I've got goose bumps even, you know? It's just amazing and it just goes to show the new heights we are reaching all of the time, in terms-, in all aspects. And I just wanted to highlight that and the wooding initiative under the NICG is from the *Settlement Trust*, not the

NG. So I just wanted to correct that, to ensure that it's the *Labrador Inuit Settlement Trust* that gets the appropriate recognition. I'd also like to wish everybody a safe summer. I hope you have fun, catch lots of fish, get lots of eggs. *Nakummek*.

MR. WINTERS:

Thank you, Ordinary Member. Are there any more Members Statements around the Table at this time? Seeing no more first Members statements around the Table, I recognize the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll make it short. I just wanted to congratulate President Lampe on being our President for another four years. It's good to see you back in that seat and thank you, for all the work you've done so far. I just wanted to report also that we're still short-staffed again at our Nanuk Centre in our recreation department. We are absent of a recreation assistant and a CYN worker. Really important, Mr. Speaker to take note that these are mostly because of the salary scales and we just don't-, can't compete with other agencies and businesses who have a higher scale for those kinds of positions. And there will be ongoing Capital Works projects this summer. We're adding a bay to the garage with-, the work will start in the next couple weeks. Also we'll start work upgrading our water mane and adding on a new intake building. So there'll be lots of work and very busy summer for us. And I just want to thank the Infrastructure Nunatsiavut. It's really good to see working with our communities and getting our inputs and there's so much funding that

we can access for different projects and I'm very grateful for that. And I wish everyone a wonderful summer. Cherish your families. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk. Are there any more second statements around the Table? Recognizing the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Gerald Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to highlight Lianna Rice of Happy Valley, Goose Bay, who was part of the winning AIP group of L.O.V.E. Inuktitut. When I sent her a congratulatory message she was very appreciative of the response and acknowledgement from NG. And she was so good, she acknowledged her teammates as well. So she is a team player. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge AngajukKâk Flowers for sending positivity and, you know, showing that we, as Inuit people are very resilient. And as leaders around the Table, we are all going through struggles at times, heavy workloads, stressors, et cetera. So to hear that this morning, it was much needed. *Nakummek*.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member. Are there further second statements around the Table? Yes, recognizing, Patricia Kemuksigak the Chairperson of the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. I would like to acknowledge and remember Bertha Holeiter who passed away since the last sitting. She worked tirelessly to help teach and advocate for the Inuttitut language and it was always very important to her. She used to do opening prayers for us at our AGMs for many, many years. She is missed in the community. I

would also like to thank the *Labrador Inuit Settlement Trust* who gave us \$47,000 for various projects with our two communities. And I wanna wish everybody a safe and wonderful summer.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Chairperson. Recognizing the AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd just further like to add to my statement this morning regarding the two young men that's traveling and competing. A lot of this travel is on the road. The cost for travel to Calgary is quite expensive. The families are taking care of a lot of it. They're fundraising. And hats off to their families and to the community for supporting them in their endeavours. I too would like to wish everybody a safe and happy summer. I know it's gonna be busy. And I'll have a further update in September on the projects and things that MICG is working on throughout our summer construction season. And I'd like to also congratulate President Lampe on his acclamation to the Assembly, to the President's role. Best of luck everyone for the summer months. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Recognizing the AngajukKâk for the community of Nain, Mr. Joe Dicker.

MR. DICKER:

Nakummek, Uhalitik. I'd like to thank NG. I'm not sure if (inaudible) 34:54, JMC for retaining David Johnson and Rene Cooley to help the communities with their current problems that they have. Since they came in place-, they came into play with us, we've moved ahead, very

much so. And I'd like to thank-, what's his name? Geez-, McNeil, Rory McNeil for taking the chance and being a shadow person, I guess, to Mr. Johnson who's-, he's gonna take over once he leaves. And Rory is very recognizable to us and we look forward to working with him. As for I mentioned Roxanne this morning, Minister of Education and Economic Development. Roxanne, I mentioned her this morning because she was key in getting this wooding program a go ahead. I forgot to mention *Labrador Trust*. So thank you, for that. And like the others, I wish everybody a happy and safe summer season. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk. Recognizing the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen.

MR. W. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every year there's a team of dart players that goes to the Nationals. And for the first time ever that a team from Labrador itself, will travel to the Nationals. And Mr. Speaker, there are many of the dart players who are beneficiaries of Nunatsiavut that make up the team. As a matter of fact, I do believe that there's several from the North Coast, including the AngajukKâk from Postville, I do believe that your son and your grandson has made the team. So Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure if the tournament has already taken place but it's supposed to be some time in June. But again the accomplishment for many of our beneficiaries to make the team and to travel to a National tournament speaks volumes on how we can take our place in any sport and any way of life that, you know, to compete. And again, I wanna congratulate them and wish them all the best. And again, Members of Nunatsiavut

beneficiaries make up the majority of the team to travel to the National. And Mr. Speaker, quite an accomplishment. And again, I wish them all the best. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member. Are there any further Members statements around the Table? Seeing none, we are now onto Item Four, "Returns to Oral Questions." There are no-, yes, recognizing First Minister, Melva Williams.

MS. WILLIAMS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to return to the question asked by Chairperson Montague yesterday in relation to the salmon in Upper Lake Melville. I think the Ordinary Member from Upper Lake Melville also asked the same question to Minister Vincent. We've had an opportunity to collaborate between our departments and Minister Vincent can provide a response. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Apologies. Are there any other returns? Seeing none, we will continue to Item Five. Item Five is, "Oral Questions." Yes, recognizing Minister Vincent. We're still on Item Four, apologies. Minister Vincent of Lands and Natural Resources has a return, when you're ready, sir.

MR. VINCENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In relation to the question asked in the salmon fishery in Upper Lake Melville, NG has made its position very clear to DFO. And DFO has been very receptive. NG does not anticipate any issues in getting the agreement renewed. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* We are now on to Item Five, "Oral Questions." Are there any oral questions at this time? Recognizing the AngajukKâk for Postville, Ms. Diane Gear, when you're ready.

MS. GEAR: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Honourable First Minister. When will the Housing Repair applications be posted again? Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: First Minister, whenever you're ready.

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, AngajukKâk for your question. So the Housing Repair application call comes out from the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission. I do believe that, that call came out in February. So I think that the call for the upcoming-, the next season comes out the year in advance. So I'm assuming that, that call has closed for now and will come out again. But I can confirm and get the actual dates for you. And so I will take it under notice.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* The First Minister has taken the question under notice. Does the AngajukKâk have a supplemental question? Yes, when you're ready.

MS. GEAR: Where would these applications be picked up at? Because last time there wasn't any postings in Postville. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* First Minister?

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you for the follow-up question. It should have been posted in Postville and I apologize that it wasn't. And I will confirm and ensure that it does be posted and sent to Postville in future sessions-, or future calls.

MR. WINTERS: Does the AngajukKâk have a second supplemental question? *Nakummek*.
Recognizing AngajukKâk Joe Dicker of the community of Nain.

MR. DICKER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to Melva, the First Minister of NG. Last year we went through the feasibility study for the roads. Is there any update on that?

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

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, AngajukKâk for your question. Yes, we did go through a pre-feasibility study for the road last year. I know from having conversation with the consultant that the report has been completed and presented to the Provincial Government. I have been attempting to get a meeting with the Minister of Transportation with the Government to see what the status of the-, or when they're gonna release the report. I've been having difficulties in getting a meeting with Minister, as I mentioned yesterday in my report, as the Minister insists that Minister Dempster attend any meeting. I will not be attending a meeting with Minister Dempster in the room. So I'm still waiting to confirm from the Minister on what the status of that report is.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*, First Minister. The AngajukKâk is shaking his head. He does not have a supplemental question. Recognizing the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen.

MR. W. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Minister Vincent I thank you for your response where you mentioned that the-, you do not anticipate any problems with

DFO. Thank you, for that. But I'll ask one question again, Minister, the importance of what it means to the people in the Upper Lake Melville area. My question to you will be this-, will you and your Government stay on top of this on behalf of the beneficiaries in the Upper Lake Melville area until we get a firm commitment that-, from DFO?

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*, Ordinary Member. When you're ready, Minister Vincent.

MR. VINCENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you Ordinary Member Andersen. Yes, I can commit to saying that we will keep on top of this. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: Ordinary Member shaking his head no to a supplemental question. Are there any other oral questions around the Table? Recognizing the Chairperson of the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Department of Health and Social Development, the Honourable Gerald Asivak. When Nunatsiavut beneficiaries travel outside Labrador for doctor's appointments, if they use their own vehicle, they will get paid and get reimbursed-, sorry, they will get reimbursed for their mileage when they come back. NIHB only covers 26 cents per kilometre which is not enough to cover the cost. Some people do not like to fly, so they would rather drive. Could it be looked at to raise the cost per kilometre as the cost of gas has risen so much? And also, is there a possibility the person who's driving could get a portion up front to help offset the cost?

MR. WINTERS: Chairperson, you can save the second part for your supplemental.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Oh, sorry.

MR. WINTERS: Whenever you're ready, Minister Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Chairperson Kemuksigak. As I noted before in the Assembly, we have budgeted process within DHSD specific to Non-Insured Health Benefits. If we provide an increase in one service area, we'd have to take away from another area, which can be very critical. A lot of our funding is, uh, long-term funding from Indigenous Services Canada. Unless we're given information or awarded an increase in any funding proponents, we cannot immediately increase the mileage from 26 cents right now. However, I can request that our department along with the Department of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology do an analysis on this, reviewing how often mileage claims are submitted and the distance. As many of our beneficiaries, medical patients prefer to use the airline as it is much more faster than traveling. However, I do understand some patients will have to travel if they are outside of LISA or Upper Lake Melville. So I will commit to doing a review analysis but, however, the end of the question would be that if we take from one, we'll take from the other. And I will follow up with the Director of Health Services requesting an increase in mileage.

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Chairperson, would you like to ask the second part of your question? When you're ready.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to address my second question to the Minister of Health and Social Development. Is it possible...

MR. WINTERS: Chairperson, is this a supplemental to the same?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Yes, sorry.

MR. WINTERS: Okay, when you're ready.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Is it possible to have a portion of the money for mileage upfront before the person leaves for travel?

MR. WINTERS: Whenever you're ready, Minister Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Chairperson Kemuksigak. Yes, a travel advance should be able to be approved with sufficient medical appointments as logistics within Non-Insured Health Benefits will know a patient's travel. *Nakummek*.

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

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: No, thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, for Minister Asivak.

MR. WINTERS: Are there further questions around the Table at this time? Recognizing the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Honourable Terry Vincent, Minister of Lands and Natural Resources. Now that there is a boat purchased for shrimp and my question is we heard yesterday that they're landing in St. Anthony. Is there a way that this Government can

maybe revisit a feasibility study on getting the shrimp plants closer or a holding unit closer so that the shrimp can come into our lands instead of having it taken to the island? Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek, AngajukKâk.* Whenever you're ready, Minister Vincent.

MR. VINCENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, AngajukKâk Flowers. In the past there have been pre-feasibility studies done to try to see if it is feasible, viable for a plant for the processing our shrimp. But to date there's-, it would cost too much to do necessary work in Makkovik or Nain. So as of now there is no possible chance of us processing it here in Nunatsiavut. Thank you.

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

MS. FLOWERS: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question then is can this be revisited again? There's a great amount of shrimp going out, and I'm sure there's a way that if we all work together that this can happen. Thank you.

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

MR. VINCENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, AngajukKâk Flowers. I believe this is already in the process. Our Department has been looking into it for the last couple months. Thank you.

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

MS. FLOWERS: Yes, I do. So am I hearing you say that it was, "No," first, it can't be possible but yet it's being looked at? Is that what I hear you say?

MR. WINTERS: Minister Vincent?

MR. VINCENT: Yes, that is correct.

MR. WINTERS: Minister Barbour, you have something to add?

MS. BARBOUR: Yes, *Nakummek*. What Minister Vincent is talking about here is there was a study done in the past. I think it was 2006. But that's what it is. It was a study done a long time ago. And we were concerned of the same thing as well, that our shrimp is not coming back to Nunatsiavut. So within Economic Development and consultation with my deputy, you know, we did commit to that we would look at that again too. In the previous report it stated that it wasn't economical for a shrimp landing facility within Nunatsiavut. Hopefully now with this-, with the results of the new study it might be different. But again, it's being studied, and it's being looked at. So hopefully our shrimp and our fish can come back to Nunatsiavut.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*. As this question crossed multiple departments, I appreciate the Minister's willingness to speak on the Economic Development side of the question. Are there further questions around the Table at this time? Recognizing the AngajukKâk for the community of Postville, Ms. Diane Gear.

MS. GEAR: My question is to the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development. We're wondering if you can lobby on our behalf to get a second nurse in Postville. We only have one nurse. She's on call 24/7. Oft times she needs help but due to having no policing in the community,

she has to rely on locals. And she don't get a break. So we're wondering if you can lobby on our behalf for a second nurse. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: Whenever you're ready, Minister Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and AngajukKâk Gear. Thank you, for bringing this medical concern to the Assembly and to the attention of myself. I will commit to following up on your request as soon as possible with the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Development along with the Director of Health Services and expect a reply back very soon.

Nakummek.

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

MS. GEAR: ...thank you.

MR. WINTERS: Recognizing the Chairperson of the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: *Nakummek,* Mr. Speaker. This question is to the Minister of Education, Economic Development, the Honourable Roxanne Barbour. Yesterday you spoke on the Family Literacy Camps. Is there a possibility that it could be extended to Happy Valley-Goose Bay or to provide information on how to set one up if we had other funds? Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: Whenever you're ready, Minister.

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

MR. WINTERS: The Minister has taken the question under notice and will respond to you within seven days. Is there a supplemental question?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: No, Mr. Speaker, and thank you Minister Barbour for your answer.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Recognizing the AngajukKâk for the community of Rigolet, Mr. Chesley Sheppard.

MR. SHEPPARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for Minister Vincent, Lands and Natural Resources. The question is would the shrimp plant, wondering if Rigolet is in the study of the possibility of having a shrimp plant? Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: Minister Vincent?

MR. VINCENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, AngajukKâk Sheppard. There is a number of communities, and I believe Rigolet is considered, yes. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek,* Minister. Does the AngajukKâk have a supplemental question? Shaking his head, no. Are there further questions around the Table at this time? Recognizing the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen, when you're ready.

MR. W. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the questions of a shrimp plant. I can recall quite clearly when we put the crab plant into Makkovik, and we got the Provincial Government to do a survey of the shrimp around the area of Hopedale with a beam trawl. And the survey showed that it was more than adequate to...

MR. WINTERS: Ordinary Member, we have a Point of Order. First Minister, what is your Point of Order?

MS. WILLIAMS: I'm wondering who the Member is directing the question to? Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: You and I, both. Ordinary Member, could you please be clear on who you are directing the question to and get to the question? Thank you.

MR. W. ANDERSEN: Thank you. It was to the Minister of Lands and Resources, Mr. Vincent. And again, Minister would you look back through the previous studies that was done, to-, when you're looking for answers and the possibility of putting a shrimp plant on the North Coast. My question is would you look at the studies that was done and carried out in the late '90's?

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*, Ordinary Member and thank you, for providing a clear question at the end of that. Whenever you're ready, Minister Vincent.

MR. VINCENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, Ordinary Member Andersen. Absolutely, it has been looked at between both departments as Roxanne stated-, sorry, Minister Barbour stated earlier. So it will be taken under consideration from what was done with the feasibility studies in the past. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*, Minister. Does the Ordinary Member have a supplement? Seeing head shaking no, are there further questions around the Table at this time? Seeing none, we'll move on to Item Six, "Written Questions." And at this time, I would like to clarify that yesterday there was a written question submitted by Chairperson Patricia Kemuksigak of The NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation. I didn't make any statements on the question at that time. The question is directed at Minister Asivak regarding vehicle services to the hospital that will be submitted to Minister Asivak and he will reply within 10 days. There has already been

another written question submitted today from Ordinary Member Bryan Winters to the First Minister regarding Membership Policies. That will be provided to the Minister. Are there any further written questions around the Table at this time? Seeing none, we are on to Item Seven, "Returns to Written Questions." We have not been provided any returns to written questions at this time. Item Eight is, "Petitions." I call on Chairperson Patricia Kemuksigak of the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation. Whenever you're ready, Chairperson. Please read the statement of your petition.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. I, Patricia Kemuksigak, Chairperson of NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, Incorporated, which to submit the petition and I fully endorse the petition. It has 111 signatures. Petition to Nunatsiavut Government, "Whereas Inuit Harvesters rely heavily on in-shore fisheries, specifically Northern Shrimp, but other species as well, for their livelihoods, and see them as cultural and spiritual connections to the sea and the true purpose of communal licences, the primary goal of the Nunatsiavut Government's Commercial Fisheries Designation Policy is to maximize employment for beneficiaries resident within the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area and communal licence are one of the most viable options for employment. A quota designate has been awarded 2.5 million pounds of Northern Shrimp in 2024 for harvesting by a factory freezer trawler. Seven in-shore designates, their families and at least two dozen crew members who rely directly on the shrimp fishery will lose their jobs as a result of the cancelation of their

quota allocations. Questions of conflict of interest has been raised because the quota designate with the factory freezer trawler is a former Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, and the current Minister is his brother-in-law. DFO's 2023 Northern Shrimp Integrated Fisheries Management Plan stipulated that quota will be specifically reserved for adjacent in-shore Inuit harvesters, the under 65-foot boat fleet. We, the beneficiaries of the *Labrador Inuit Settlement Agreement*, call on NG to reinstate Northern Shrimp allocations to the seven in-shore designates and to offer an independent investigation into the allocation process.

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Chairperson. Your petition is in order. Please hand it over to the Clerk. *Nakummek*. We're on to Item Nine, "Responses to Petitions." There are no responses today. We'll move on to Item 10, "Reports of Standing in Special Committees." There are no reports of standing in special committees today, so we'll move on to Item 11, "The Tabling of Documents." There are no documents to be tabled today. We will move on to Item 12. At this time I will recognize the Ordinary Member for Canada, Mr. Roland Saunders for a, "Notice of Motion."

MR. SAUNDERS:

Nakummek, thank you, Minister Barbour. Nunatsiavut Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, June 6th 2024 I will move as follows, "Whereas the Ordinary Member for Canada, Honourable Bryan Winters has expressed a desire to resign from the Standing Committee of Alcohol and Drugs, and whereas the Rules and Procedures Committee as a Standing Committee under the Standing Orders has met to recommend a

replacement member to the Standing Committee of Alcohol and Drugs, now therefore, I move seconded by Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak, Chairperson of NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation that Mr. Wally Wilson Eric Andersen, Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville be appointed to the Standing Committee of Alcohol and Drugs. And Mr. Speaker, I am seeking unanimous consent of the Assembly to waive Standing Order 37(1) to deal with this today.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Ordinary Member. I will make a note because there was an error spoken. "And whereas the Rules and Procedures Committee as the Striking Committee under the Standing Orders," not the, "Standing Committee." Besides that your motion is in order. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with this motion today. All those in favour? Any opposed? Seeing none, Member Saunders, you have consent to bring your motion today at the appropriate time. There are no more notices of motion today so we will move on to Item 13, "Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills." There are no notices of motions for first reading of bills today. At this time I will take a five-minute break in case anybody needs to grab a drink or use the bathroom or anything else.
Nakummek.

[Recess]

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Welcome back. Ordinary Member Saunders of the Canadian Constituency has introduced his motion and the motion is in order. Ordinary Member, would you like to make remarks and speak to the motion?

MR. SAUNDERS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, as follows, "Whereas the Ordinary Member for Canada, Honourable Bryan Winters has expressed a desire to resign from the Standing Committee of Alcohol and Drugs, and whereas the Rules and Procedures Committee as the Striking Committee under the Standing Orders has met to recommend a replacement Member to the Standing Committee of Alcohol and Drugs, now, therefore, I move seconded by Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak, Chairperson of the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, that Mr. Wally Andersen, Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville be appointed to the Standing Committee of Alcohol and Drugs. *Nakummek*, Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Member. The motion is in order. Would you like to speak to the motion?

MR. SAUNDERS:

Yes, Mr. Speaker. I would. Mr. Winters has identified that living in British Columbia, four time zones away, that far from Labrador and its unique realities with substance issues as well as time difference which causes great difficulty with scheduling meetings with any of the other committee members makes him less than an ideal candidate for this committee. He has indicated that the very last thing he would want would be to impede the committee's incredible, important work and feels that another Member would be better fitted the situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Would anyone else like to speak to the motion? Yes, recognizing Roxanne Barbour.

MS. BARBOUR: Can we-, do I need to stand up? Sorry. Can we recommend anybody else, or no?

MR. WINTERS: There were recommendations made to both the Rules and Procedures Committee from both the Rules and Procedures Committee as well as the Committee on Alcohol and Drugs. And the Rules and Procedures Committee met last evening and came to the decision to appoint Mr. Wally Andersen. Are there any further comments around the Table regarding this motion? Seeing no other Members wishing to speak, Mr. Saunders, do you wish to make final comments and close debate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have no other final comments. I wish to close debate.

MR. WINTERS: That concludes debate. Yes, recognizing First Minister Melva Williams.

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I'm not sure if the question is appropriate but this question brings to mind when you make a motion that the Ordinary Member cannot perform on this committee because of the time zone difference and-, because there's four time zones and a lot of travel. Does that mean that the Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency who lives in British Columbia would not be available for other work required or requested from the Assembly?

MR. WINTERS: The Ordinary Member is executing the chairing of multiple committees at this time and this is a committee that does not require the Speaker to chair it. So as a result, this is a space that doesn't need to be filled by the Speaker, and someone else could be better suited. That's the rationale.

Is that satisfactory or would you like to-, okay, *Nakummek*. All those in favour of the motion? Are there any opposed? Seeing none, the motion is carried. One opposed? Would you like to speak again?

MS. BARBOUR:

Yes. I think, you know, within Nunatsiavut we see a lot of issues with drugs and alcohol and I recognize that there are some Inuit in Upper Lake Melville as well. But I would like to see a Member within Nunatsiavut a part of the Committee.

MR. WINTERS:

That's understood. However, the Assembly has voted in favour, so the motion is carried. We are on to Item 15, "The First Reading of Bills." There are no bills for first reading today. That brings us to Item 16, "Second Reading of Bills." There are no bills for second reading today. So we'll move on to Item 16-, sorry, 17. Item 17 is the, "Assent to Bills," and there are no bills for assent today, which brings us to Item 18, "Adjournment." The Assembly is now adjourned until September. I'd like to thank pages Alex Jararuse, and Cole Marcel Dicker. I'd like to thank the drivers, Rodney Gear and Jim Tuttau. I would also like to recognize Tabea Onalik, Assistant to the Clerk and Dawn Winters, Community Liaison Officer, for their hard work leading up to this Assembly. I would like to thank our Interpreter Translator, Katie Winters as well as Eva Obed who is hear from the Department of Language, Culture and Tourism. We are happy to support Eva on her continued training. Given that it is June, I'd also like to wish everyone a happy Pride month as well as an exciting and safe National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21st and good luck and safe travels. Enjoy your summers, everyone. *Nakummek*.

[Adjournment]