



**Nunatsiavut kavamanga  
Nunatsiavut Government**

**FIFTH ASSEMBLY**

**OF**

**NUNATSIAVUT**

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**SPRING SESSION 6th Session 1st - SITTING**

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**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**

**Ordinary Member for Postville, Mr. George Gear**

**AngajukKâk for Nain, Mr. Julius Dicker**

**AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Mrs .Marjorie Flowers**

**AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen**

**AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Mr. Chesley Sheppard**

**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**

**Legal Counsel, Ms. Annike Flomen**

**Legal Counsel, Mr. Kevin Maher**

**The Nunatsiavut Assembly proceedings  
were recorded in Inuktitut and English.  
March 5, 2024  
Assembly commenced at 9:19AM March 5, 2024**

**MR. WINTERS:** *Ullâkut.* I would like to call to order the First Sitting of the Spring 2024 Session of the Fifth Nunatsiavut Assembly. I will now ask Ordinary Member Melva Williams of Rigolet to say the opening prayer.

**MS. WILLIAMS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let us pray. [Recites prayer.]

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek,* First Minister. We are now on to Item Two, "The Opening Address." I will now call upon the Honourable President Lampe for his opening address for this session.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Housing Advocate has a legislated duty under the *National Housing Strategy Act* to engage with rights holders, for our people whose human right to adequate housing has been violated, such as those who are unhoused or precariously housed. Under this mandate, Mr. Speaker, the advocate traveled to Nain and Hopedale in October 2022 to listen, observe and bear witness to the housing challenges being faced by Labrador Inuit. The recommendations in the Advocate's Report in Inuit Housing in Nunatsiavut may be staggering to many. But we are not surprised. It's nothing new to us. We have been saying for many years that we have a housing crisis. Now, Mr. Speaker, Labrador Inuit are living in a public health crisis every day and have been for a long time in

Nunatsiavut. During our meeting, Mr. Speaker, we called on the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to take the recommendations in the report seriously and to work with the Government of Canada and the Nunatsiavut Government to advance this file. While no firm commitments were given, we have agreed to explore the establishing of a working group between our respective Governments and to hold further talks on ways to address the issues and concerns outlined in the report. We also extended an invitation to Premier Furey and Minister Pike to come see firsthand for themselves, Mr. Speaker the conditions in which some of our people are living in, in some of our communities. As I noted, the Advocacy Report which also looks into housing conditions in Nunavut was released during a media conference held at the National Press Gallery in Ottawa. I was pleased to join the Housing Advocate as well as Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) President Aluki Kotierk at the media conference. Following the release of the report we met with Federal Government officials and reiterated the need to find solutions to this serious crisis. A meeting with Minister Vandal, Minister Anandasangaree, Minister Anand and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities, Peter Fragiskatos was positive with a commitment to explore the report's recommendations in detail with the Nunatsiavut Government and NTI. Engagement on the report included meetings with Senator Patterson and MP Lori Idlout. We welcome the engagement of

both the Federal Government on this issue and we look forward to continued, productive discussions.

[Speaks in Inuttitut]

Mr. Speaker, during the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami's Board of Directors meeting in Ottawa this past December, we approved a series of recommendations that will guide the next steps in the development of an Inuit Nunangat University. This work includes the determination of location and economic programming, as well the creation of an interim governance body tasked with drafting bylaws, operation policies, any legislation that will ultimately govern the institution. We also approved ITK's Strategic Plan for 2024 to 2028. The plan sets out ITK's work under seven priority areas including, strengthening Inuit self-governance, improving access to education and health services, Inuttitut revitalization, maintenance and promotion and continuing to close the Inuit Nunangat infrastructure gap. We also decided on an Inuttitut costing analysis and funding model - a method of structuring funding and distribution for our Inuttitut language programs and initiative. This work is designed to promote equity and to ensure Federal investment is reaching Inuit communities based on their needs, Mr. Speaker. In 2023 to 2024, Mr. Speaker, Inuttitut language funding from Canadian Heritage was approximately \$23 billion. The Inuttitut cost analysis informed ITK's 2024 pre-budget submission which seeks \$1 billion over 10 years for Inuttitut Reclamation, Revitalization and Maintenance. We also adopted a definition for an Inuit business located outside of Inuit Nunangat for the

purpose of Government procurement. The Federal Government has committed to ensuring at least five percent of its contracts are awarded to Indigenous businesses.

[Speaks Inuttitut]

*Nakummek, UKatti.*

[Applause]

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Mr. President. That brings us to Item Three, "The Oath of Office." I will now turn the Chair back to the President, the Honourable Johannes Lampe for the administration of these oaths. *Nakummek*.  
When you're ready, sir.

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:**

*Nakummek, UKatti.* On recommendation of the First Minister, it has been determined that there will be new appointments to the Executive Council. We will now proceed in the Committee of the Whole for the selection of Minister of Language, Culture and Tourism. First Minister, are you ready to nominate an Ordinary Member for the Portfolio of the Department of Language, Culture and Tourism?

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

Yes, Honourable President, I wish to nominate David Dicker Jr., the Ordinary Member for Nain as the Minister of Language, Culture and Tourism.

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:**

Thank you, Honourable First Minister. David Dicker Jr., do you accept the nomination?

**MR. DICKER JR:**

Yes, Honourable President Lampe, I accept.

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** I will now ask the Assembly if there is consensus on the nomination of David Dicker Jr., the Ordinary Member for Nain for the Minister of Language, Culture and Tourism?

**MR. WINTERS:** I'll ask for a show of hands, people. You have consensus, Mr. President.

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** *Nakummek, UKatti.* Thank you, to the Members of the Nunatsiavut Assembly for your consensus. And since it is your will, I wish to appoint David Dicker Jr., the Ordinary Member for Nain, as the Minister of Language, Culture and Tourism. Congratulations and I invite you to come to the podium so that I can administer the Oath of Office.

Repeat after me. I...

**MR. DICKER JR.:** I, David Dicker Jr...

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** ...swear, solemnly affirm...

**MR. DICKER JR.:** ...swear, solemnly affirm...

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** ...that I will be faithful to Nunatsiavut...

**MR. DICKER JR.:** ...that I will be faithful to Nunatsiavut...

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** ...and the Inuit of Labrador...

**MR. DICKER JR.:** ...and the Inuit of Labrador...

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** ...and the Nunatsiavut Assembly.

**MR. DICKER JR.:** ...and the Nunatsiavut Assembly.

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** I will obey...

**MR. DICKER JR.:** I will obey...

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** ...respect...

**MR. DICKER JR.:** ...respect...

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** ...and uphold the Labrador Inuit Constitution.

**MR. DICKER JR.:** ...and uphold the Labrador Inuit Constitution...

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** ...all Inuit laws...

**MR. DICKER JR.:** ...all Inuit laws...

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

**MR. DICKER JR.:** ...and the Standing Orders of the Nunatsiavut Assembly.

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** I will uphold my office...

**MR. DICKER JR.:** I will uphold my office...

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** ...as Minister with honour and dignity.

**MR. DICKER JR.:** ...as Minister, with honour and dignity.

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** I will be a true and faithful counsellor...

**MR. DICKER JR.:** I will be a true and faithful counsellor...

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** ...to the President.

**MR. DICKER JR.:** ...to the President.

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** I will not divulge directly or indirectly...

**MR. DICKER JR.:** I will not divulge directly or indirectly...

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** ...any secret matter entrusted to me.

**MR. DICKER JR.:** ...any secret matter entrusted to me.



**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** I will fulfill my responsibilities...

**MR. DICKER JR.:** I will fulfill my responsibilities...

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** ...as a leader, in accordance with all applicable standards...

**MR. DICKER JR.:** ...as a leader in accordance with all applicable standards...

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** ...and *Codes of Conduct*.

**MR. DICKER JR.:** ...and *Codes of Conduct*.

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** And I will perform the functions of my office...

**MR. DICKER JR.:** And I will perform the functions of my office...

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** ...conscientiously and to the best of my ability.

**MR. DICKER JR.:** ...conscientiously and to the best of my ability...

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

**MR. DICKER JR.:** ...so help me, God.

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** I am proud to present to you, the Assembly, the Ordinary Member for Nain, David Dicker Jr., the new Minister of Language, Culture and Tourism. Congratulations.

[Applause]

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

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** *Nakummek, UKatti*. We will now do the selection of Minister of the Department of Education and Economic Development. First Minister, are you ready to nominate an Ordinary Member for the Portfolio of the Department of Education, Economic Development?

**MS. WILLIAMS:** Yes, Honourable President. I wish to nominate Roxanne Barbour, the Ordinary Member for Nain...

**MR. WINTERS:** Excuse me, First Minister, it's appointment so it's not a nomination for the second one. I apologize. We'll take a five-minute recess.

[Recess]

**MR. WINTERS:** Apologies for the confusion. Mr. President, you may resume.

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** *Nakummek, UKatti.* We will now do the selection of Minister of Education, Economic Development. First Minister, are you ready to nominate an Ordinary Member for the Portfolio of the Department of Education, Economic Development?

**MS. WILLIAMS:** Yes, Honourable President, I wish to nominate Roxanne Barbour, the Ordinary Member for Nain as the Minister of Education and Economic Development.

**MR. WINTERS:** Mr. President?

**PRESIDENT LAMPE** *Nakummek, UKatti.* Thank you, Honourable First Minister. Roxanne Barbour, do you accept the nomination?

**MS. BARBOUR:** *Nakummek, [speaks Inuttitut],* First Minister. *[Speaks Inuttitut].* I accept.

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** Mr. Speaker, I will now ask the Assembly if there is consensus of the nomination of Roxanne Barbour, Ordinary Member for Nain for the Minister's Position of Education, Economic Development?

**MR. WINTERS:** The President is looking for consensus of he Members present. I see that we have it. Mr. President.

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:**

*Nakummek, UKatti.* Thank you, to the Members of the Nunatsiavut Assembly for your consensus. And since it is your will, I wish to appoint Roxanne Barbour, the Ordinary Member for Nain, as the Minister of Education, Economic Development. Congratulations and I invite you to come to the podium so that I can administer the Oath of Office.

*Nakummek, UKatti.*

Repeat after me.

[Administers the Oath of Office in Inuttitut.]

I present to you, the Assembly, the Ordinary Member for Nain as the appointed Minister of Education, Economic Development.

Congratulations.

[Applause]

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* And congratulations to the new Ministers. I would like to welcome everyone to this first sitting of 2024. Unfortunately, we had to cancel our January sitting due to water issues. Sorry, Mr. President, go ahead.

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:**

*Nakummek, UKatti.* We are now out of the Committee of the Whole and back into the Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* We would like to thank our maintenance team who was able to rectify the issue of the frozen pipes after a brief closure. The AngajukKâk for Postville, Ms. Diane Gear has been excused from this sitting of the Assembly. I would like to welcome those listening in on our audio feed and thank them for listening to the proceedings of our

Assembly. I would also like to say welcome to those in the gallery. I see Deputy Ministers Jenna Gilbride of Language, Culture and Tourism, Rexanne Crawford of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technologies, Mr. Mark Gillett, Director of Legal Services. And Frédéric Samuel-Dwyer from the Department of Lands and Natural Resources. For the information of the Assembly, the pages are Cole Dicker and Keisha Hunter. I would also like to welcome our interpreter, translators, Katie Winters and Gus Semigak, as well as Eva Obed who is here from the Department of Language, Culture and Tourism as a new interpreter translator. We would also like to welcome back Ches Evans as our IT staff for this Assembly. We will now move on to Item Five, "Ministers Statements." I saw that First Minister Melva Williams was the first to offer. When you're ready.

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good to be at the Assembly here in March. Unfortunately January didn't work out. Membership and Enrollment: Mr. Speaker, the Membership Committees and Appeal Boards workshop in Nain was canceled due to weather. The workshop will be rescheduled this spring. Know History was scheduled to meet with the Membership Committees and Appeal Board during the workshop to discuss the work happening on the Inuit Ancestry Database. This will need to be rescheduled as well. The Membership Office is again advertising for a new Assistant Registrar position in Nain. Am I going to fast? This position will assist the Registrar in fulfilling the duties required in the Membership Office. This position will work closely with the Registrar to ensure

membership files re kept up-to-date, work closely with Membership Committees and be available for beneficiary inquiries. The Nain Membership Committee requires a new member. NG encourages interested beneficiaries to let the Membership Office know if they are interested in serving on the Membership Committee or Membership Appeal Board. As of January 29th, 2024, there was a total of 6,921 beneficiaries on the Register. Affordable Warmth and Home Repair Program. Mr. Speaker, Nunatsiavut Construction is still completing the Affordable Warmth and Home Repair Program 2023. Nunatsiavut Housing Commission: Mr. Speaker, the position for Director of Housing for the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission is still vacant. The position will continue to be advertised. New housing projects: There are a number of new housing projects scheduled for the next couple of years. They include new builds for social and staff housing and new housing concepts to address the lack of available land in some of our communities. These new projects will be in addition to the six seniors units in Nain, four social housing units in Nain, six seniors units in Hopedale and four social housing units in Hopedale that are under construction-, which are all scheduled to be completed in the coming months. There will be consultations in Nain and Hopedale over the next few weeks to discuss two proposed new projects, alternative housing and smaller home construction. Alternative Housing-, working with a company called Biosis, NG is developing a concept that could potentially supply up to 100 new homes in Nain and Hopedale. These homes would be built on available

land that require less land development than previous land developments such as rocky outcroppings. Housing units will be built on piles. Smaller home construction is another potential housing concept that could see as many as 12 new homes built in Nain and Hopedale. These homes would be smaller than the typical home, potentially 500 to 700 square feet per unit. Working with the ICG's, these homes would be built on currently available land in the communities that is not large enough to build homes as constructed in the past. These homes, if approved, will help address issues such as homelessness and overcrowding. The homes could also be used for transitional housing.

Mr. Speaker, NG will be building a multi-plex consisting of six housing units in each of the communities of Makkovik, Postville and Rigolet. The multiplexes will be a combination of social and staff housing with criteria for allocation to be determined.

Provincial meetings: Mr. Speaker, myself, along with the Deputy Minister for the Nunatsiavut Secretariat and other officials met with Ministers of the Provincial Government in early January 2024. We met with Minister Pike, Minister responsible for the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation where we stressed the importance of maintaining and repairing existing NLHC housing units, stress the importance of having a presence in all Inuit communities, agreed to set up a committee between NG and NLHC to move these issues forward. We met with Minister Stoodley, Minister of Digital Government and Service NL with discussion on the high costs of oil and gas prices. The Minister was receptive to our conversation and heard out

concerns and will do what she can to help with the issues. We met with Minister Hogan, Minister of Justice and Public Safety. We stressed the importance of a consistent and reliable court circuit for Nunatsiavut. Minister Hogan has committed to providing information on the upcoming court circuit. We discussed the lack of policing in Postville. He will address this with the RCMP. We also talked about an increase in illegal substance use in our communities. Mr. Speaker, we also met with the Vice President of Operations for Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro. We discussed the requirement for the new DHSD building in Rigolet as well as the need for adequate hydro in all Inuit communities. NG would like to see Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro increase capacity in all communities to meet the growing infrastructure demand and to do this with more cleaner types of power generation. As well, with this meeting, NG and Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro are forming a committee to move these issues forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, First Minister. The Honourable Gerald Asivak, Minister of the Department of Health and Social Development, when you're ready, sir.

**MR. ASIVAK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Inuit Child First Initiative. There's a new appeal process. DHSD has put in an appeals mechanism to ensure clients have a process to access in cases where it is felt a decision regarding access to their Non-insured Health Benefits and, or Inuit Child First Initiative does not align with policy, procedures or program directives. Beneficiaries who wish to make an appeal can contact the Child Services Manager,

Dolores Flowers who will organize the appropriate documentation to serve to the Appeals Committee. New staff: The ICFI are pleased to welcome two new staff, Tracy Dicker of Hopedale and Tuttu Hunter of Happy Valley-Goose Bay. They began their positions on January 15th, 2024. Congratulations to you both on your new positions. We are excited to continue working together in your new capacity. Under Social Development, Hilary Fry, Indigenous Relations Manager, presented to Newfoundland and Labrador Health Services, Labrador Grenfell Health Zone, a PowerPoint presentation that she has developed about Nunatsiavut Government and Labrador Inuit. So far, she delivered to senior management in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. Next is St. Anthony and Labrador West. The long-term plan is that all frontline providers receive this education in person as part of their orientation. Mr. Speaker, Health Services: Tuberculosis: Case counts for 2023 remain stable with no new outbreaks or clusters. Community engagement sessions have been completed in all five communities throughout Nunatsiavut. Sessions were well-attended. Information to follow once the information has been compiled. Tuberculosis bulletin to be rolled out in the new year to provide an update on community engagement. The social media campaign continues in collaboration with the Communications Department. Vision: DHSD are in the process of putting out a request for proposals for vision clinics on the North Coast and Upper Lake Melville. We are developing a contract between Nunatsiavut Government and vision providers. Purchasing vision equipment for all five communities of



Nunatsiavut. Cowan's Optical Vision Clinic who currently serves the North Coast communities worked out of Vogue Optical the week of December 4th in Goose Bay. We are working on the current wait list. Ground transportation proposal put forth by Ground Transportation drivers requesting a second 11-passenger wheelchair accessible van. Non-insured Health Benefit Staff. Selma Suarak started as NIHB Interpreter Translator on November 20th, 2023. She works from the Labrador Health Centre. Welcome Selma. All the best in your new position. Patients will be very happy that you are there to help them. And lastly, Mr. Speaker, Snowmobile Safety infographic developed for Wellness Coalition and Community Staff. This resource is currently in the final stage of edits. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Minister. We'll now hear from the Honourable Tom Evans, Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technologies.

**MR. EVANS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So I'll just read a brief Day One statement for Finance. I had a statement for Education and Economic Development. Did you want to-, okay. It's not on a letter head. It's just from our directors. Can I give it to you? It's fairly-, and I'll read my brief statement. Thank you. So in my Day One statement, I'll just speak to something that I really wanted to share to get the information out. Mr. Speaker, a significant Own-source revenue for the Nunatsiavut Government is personal income taxes. All personal income taxes collected from residents living in the five Inuit communities or living on Labrador Inuit Lands are remitted to Nunatsiavut Government by the

Government of Canada, less a five percent administration fee. Currently, the Government of Canada remits a set amount of 5.775 million annually. An additional amount may be remitted based on the completion of audits by the Canada Revenue Agency. The CRA as they are commonly referred to, audit tax returns to ensure that individuals are residents of Nunatsiavut. Mr. Speaker, Newfoundland and Labrador residents are asked to declare if they reside in Nunatsiavut by answering a question on their tax return called *Residence Information for Tax Administration Agreements*. There have been errors with tax filers incorrectly answering this declaration since our effective date. Tax filers have declared that they reside in Nunatsiavut when in fact they do not, and vice versa. As a result, CRA compiles an audit annually to ensure that the declaration has been completed correctly. Our department, Mr. Speaker over the years have made efforts to educate beneficiaries on the completion of this declaration. Notices have been released in Nunatsiavut and to beneficiaries who reside outside of Nunatsiavut. Letters have been sent to tax preparers in Nunatsiavut and the Upper Lake Melville area. One-year additional notices were placed in all mail boxes in the community of Nain to target an area where 55 percent of tax returns were completed incorrectly. I am pleased to inform the Assembly that these efforts are successful. In 2021, 122 tax filers in Nunatsiavut did not complete the declaration correctly. This is a decrease from 570 tax filers in 2015. Outside of Nunatsiavut, there has been a decrease from 980 tax filers in 2015 to 598 tax filers in 2021, who indicated that they reside in

Nunatsiavut when they did not. My department, Mr. Speaker, will continue to complete outreach to tax filers and tax preparers. Letters continue to be sent to tax preparers in Nunatsiavut and Upper Lake Melville. New notices have been designed by Nunatsiavut Visual Design, NVD, and will be released via social media and posted on bulletin boards in Nunatsiavut. I respectfully ask all Members of the Nunatsiavut Assembly to share these notices and this information with your constituents and members of your communities and corporations. The efforts do make a difference. I'm also please to inform the Assembly that the Government has again received a zero- risk score under the General Assessment completed by Indigenous Service Canada. This score is used to assess capacity for delivery of programs and services. It's like a governance and financial management of the Nunatsiavut Government. The zero-risk score represents a low-risk profile and I'd like to say *Nakummek*, to all our staff who work diligently on behalf of the Government. Without their efforts we would not be in this position.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*. We will now hear from the Honourable Terry Vincent, Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, when you're ready, sir.

**MR. VINCENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to table my quarterly report to the Assembly as Minister of Lands and Natural Resources. I will provide a short update on several files in the department since my last report. Renewable Resources. Since the last Assembly meeting, Renewable Resource Division has been engaged in the following files and

endeavours: Fisheries: Mr. Speaker, the 2024 Commercial Fishery applications deadline is now over. Those interested in applying to be delegated in our Commercial Fishery had till the 28th to submit an application. The Review Committee will now begin its review of applicants. Wildlife: Mr. Speaker, the 2023-2024 moose hunting season opened on September 18th and the department had 19 licences allocated to the communities. The hunting season will close on March 7th, 2024. To date, four licences have been filled, all in Nain. The Torngat Secretariat in partnership with my department are planning a classification survey for moose in the Nain area this winter. Mr. Speaker, the polar bear harvesting season opened on February 2nd. So far four bears have been harvested, three in Nain and one in Makkovik. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to say that the results of the Fall Classification of the George River Caribou Herd are extremely positive. Both calve recruitment and adult male survival is better than we have seen in 40 years. A census will be completed this summer. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that we have secured funding for year four of the Caribou Distribution Project. We are currently in discussion with the KAF to deliver caribou some time in mid-March. Formulas for distribution will remain the same. The changes were made last year. Mr. Speaker, I once again encourage beneficiaries to remain compliant to the Provincial hunting ban on the George River Caribou Herd and to report any hunting to our department staff or to Provincial Justice Officials. Lands Division: Mr. Speaker, 40 land-use applications were submitted in 2023. We also

provided information on quarries in Labrador Inuit Lands in support of the NG Quarry Strategy Project which is being led by Nunatsiavut Affairs. Mr. Speaker, since the last Assembly, our GIS specialist has worked on several maps for land-use applications and permits and carried out maintenance tasks on the data bases on land-use. They have also prepared several other maps and spatial data including cartographic material on the Nunatsiavut and Nunavik polar map regions. They are preparing a new version of the application for Labrador Inuit Lands Form. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, the consultant for the new Nain Airport Project submitted their project description for review as part of the Environmental Assessment process. *Impact Benefit Agreement*. Mr. Speaker, the Voisey's Bay Mine and Mill and Mine Expansion continues to go well. The Mine Expansion is on track to be completed this year. Four Nunatsiavut Government beneficiaries successfully completed the Underground Common Core training in Sudbury. And Vale is currently in the process of hiring them as underground mine beginners. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Pieter Loock has transitioned from Interim General Manager to Permanent General Manager of Voisey's Bay Mine, Mill and VBME. Non-Renewable Resource Division: Since the last Assembly meeting, Non-Renewable Resource Division has been engaged in the following files pertaining to mineral exploration and quarries.

**MR. WINTERS:**

One moment, Minister. Apologies, when you're ready.

**MR. VINCENT:**

Mr. Speaker, Vale recently reviewed provincial approval for mineral exploration on their mineral licences adjacent to the mine. Vale also

submitted a work plan for mineral exploration on Labrador Inuit Lands southwest of the main block. This work plan is in the final stages of the approval process. Proposed work includes ground geophysics and prospecting. Mr. Speaker, Nunatsiavut beneficiaries prospectors Ricky Edmunds and Davidee Ningeok are planning on prospecting their claims located on LIL in the Post Hill Big Heads area near Postville. Work plans are in the final stages of the approval process. Mr. Speaker, Aurora Energy has been approved to continue drilling at their Michelin Property for a winter to fall drill program. Drilling includes two diamond drill rigs, 41 drill holes with a total of 7,850 meters. They will be based out of Michelin Camp. Other work includes a fuel drum recycling program. Mr. Speaker, Altius has been approved to conduct an airborne helicopter geophysical survey and prospect their claims near Konrad Brook and Kingurutik Lake located within Labrador Inuit Lands and Labrador Inuit Settlement Area. Finally, Mr. Speaker, last fall the Division attended Vale's annual Environmental Performance Review where Vale presented information about their 2023 operations. The environmental Performance Review sessions included a site tour, presentations, discussions, questions and answers on waste management, compliance data, progressive rehabilitation, wildlife, environmental effects monitoring, tailings and water management. Environment Division: Mr. Speaker, the Environment Division is in the first phase of environmental review for the new Nain Airport Project.

**MR. WINTERS:**

I'm going to ask you to pause, Minister. As per Standing Order 29(3), we have reached the time limit or we're nearing the time limit. So I'm going to look around the room for consensus to continue beyond the 35 minutes. Do I have consensus? I do. You may continue.

**MR. VINCENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. New Nain Airport Project, registered by the Nunatsiavut Government and the Strange Lake Mine Road and Port Project registered by Torngat Metals. Nunatsiavut Government is coordinating Environmental Assessment Processes for both of these projects with the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's Environmental Assessment Division to ensure there is not duplication in processes and to streamline the process for communities. Through this process, each jurisdiction maintains their own decision-making process so the Nunatsiavut Assembly will be able to make their own decision about each of these projects. To ensure that the impacts of these projects on Labrador Inuit are properly understood, a land-use study is being conducted for the area covering both Nain Airport Project and the Strange Lake Project. And the results will feed directly into the Environmental Reviews. Lands and Natural Resources continues to work on the Feasibility Assessment of the Torngat Area of Interest as an Inuit Protected Area under the *National Marine Conservations Act*. The Steering Committee and support staff for Torngat AOI just completed community consultations in Nunatsiavut on the revised boundary for the Torngat AOI. Feedback was constructive and positive for the revised boundary. Additionally, the NG continues to

work to address issues with the commercial fishery with DFO and are directly engaging with Makivik to ensure that overlap agreement of the area is being respected and so are their rights. Negotiations with these groups are ongoing. The Environment Division continues to work on the Climate Change file. Environment Division is planning a Climate Change workshop the week of March 18th to 22nd in Nain and has funding to bring Labrador Inuit from all Nunatsiavut communities, Upper Lake Melville and the Canadian Constituency to the workshop. The workshop will then feed into the Development of the Nunatsiavut Climate Change Strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Are there other-, yes, seeing the Honourable Roxanne Barbour, Minister of the Department of Education and Economic Development, when you're ready.

**MS. BARBOUR:**

*Nakummek, UKatti.* I'll do Education today and Economic Development tomorrow. Winter 2024. Their study with approximately 250 students with around 50 in part-time and 200 in full-time studies. They're currently supporting two beneficiaries under the Self-Employment Benefits Program and welcomed Megan Green to our staff as of November. She's the Student Liaison while Kayley's on Maternity Leave. Education Advisor Amalia McNeil started her school and community outreach and completed visits to Nain and Hopedale. She met with students at the school and the learning centres in each community and hosted public sessions in Nain, but no one showed up. Hopedale Session is canceled due to weather and Rigolet, Postville and Makkovik



Community Sessions have been-, was planned for February. A lot of planning went into bringing back the Annual Career Fair. Education Advisor had secured over 20 presenters from various post-secondary institutions, industry partners, business and organizations including NG, Coastguard, Vale, Lakehead University, Trades NL and many more. We had funds to bring delegates from each Nunatsiavut community as well as Upper Lake Melville to attend-, to Makkovik to attend the career fair. Call for applications from youth ages 15 to 30 as well as current ABE students went out in late November and the deadline was extended to January 5. Unfortunately, the career fair had to be postponed because they only had-, we only had one applicant. We were very disappointed that there wasn't any more interest from youth who have expressed concern over not knowing much about options after high school. Posts were shared by social media as well as sent directly to schools with instructions to pass on to Junior and Senior-High students. We have noticed that there are a number of sporting events taking place both before and after the dates the Career Fair was scheduled, and this may be why there was no interest in the event. So the plan is to reschedule the Career Fair for later in the spring and we're hoping to have more interest at that time. After several delays, we finally launched our new book [speaks Inuttitut] "Learning Through the Seasons." This book was created to feature children in Nunatsiavut taking part in learning activities and experiences in the different seasons of the year. Photos were collected from all five Nunatsiavut communities and the text was

written by Jessica Winters of Makkovik. In addition to the book, we have developed a teaching guide that includes several different learning activities and lesson plans for each season and are connected to Provincial General Curriculum Outcomes for a variety of subject areas and grade levels. This allows teachers to use our Inuit-specific book and lesson plans to meet the learning outcomes required by the Province. Books and teaching guides have been shipped from Makkovik last week and should be in our schools this week. In addition to the new book and teaching guide I just mentioned, work continues on the development of Nunatsiavut-specific culturally relevant resources for Grades Kindergarten to Grade 9 social studies curriculum. Mint Brook Hill Content Solutions is working to continue with staff on the development of a Grade 3 text-, student textbook teacher review process to start next month, and hoping to have the textbook available in the next school year with the accompanying teacher's guide. I wonder if this is supposed to be Pullua. Typo, it must be. Community-based Little Books for Grades Kindergarten to Grade 2 that will highlight each of our five Nunatsiavut communities. The Makkovik Book is in the final design stage with the Postville Book call for photos commencing soon. All five books will be given to all schools to align with the social studies curriculum and outcomes and be accompanied by a teacher's guide to align with the curriculum outcomes. Grade 7 student textbook. Work on the empowerment section is continuing with work on remaining units to come into the school next year. Everyday Life skills course. Research and

development is continuing on this course at a slower pace due to focus being spent on the K to Two Little Books and Grade 3 textbooks.

*Nakummek.*

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Minister. We will now hear from the Honourable David Dicker Jr., Minister of the Department of Language, Culture and Tourism. When you're ready, sir.

**MR. DICKER JR.:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm only going to read half of my statement today and read the other half for Day Two. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to share that we have a new Deputy Minister for the Department of Language, Culture and Tourism, Jenna Gilbride. Jenna started her new role on January 15, 2024 and we look forward to working with her in her new position. On behalf of the Nunatsiavut Government, Jenna will be traveling to observe the Arctic Winter Games 2024 in Mat-Su Valley, Alaska from March 10 to the 16, 2024. She will be traveling with Dave Winters with the Aboriginal Sport and Recreation Circle, Newfoundland to determine if Nunatsiavut should work towards future participation of Nunatsiavut Inuit in the Arctic Winter Games. I would now 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. We are connecting with organizations to help support the development of our guidebooks and hope to have the White Elephant Museum Guidebook completed in the near future. Tourism staff have been participating in Tourism Mentorship training through the Tourism

Café. The goal, Mr. Speaker is to help our Tourism Development Officers develop skills to guide and mentor Tourism partners within Nunatsiavut. We are working with Parks Canada on the best practice mission for Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve. Initial discussions are taking place and a trip is scheduled for late May. Our current contract with Air Borealis and Nunatsiavut Group of Companies will soon expire. We are working with Tom McGuire with 21 FSP to develop a Request for Proposals for an operator of the Torngat Mountains Base Camp and Research Station and the Hebron Ambassador Program. This will be another five-year contract beginning in 2025. Our staff attended the International Indigenous Tourism Conference last week in Ottawa. The Division was a finalist for an award for leading the way in business development, community-based award. Although we didn't win, we are extremely proud to have been a finalist for the award. We also supported one of our Tourism businesses, Gemma Pottle with Gemma's Rental's from Makkovik to attend. We learned a lot from the conference and are looking forward to attending in the 2025 conference in Montreal. The Nunatsiavut Christmas online auction was another success. Sales totaled \$15,923. All of these funds go directly back to the artists, Mr. Speaker. We are hosting the first Nunatsiavut Artist Gathering in Hopedale March 11, 2024. The gathering will bring together artists from across Nunatsiavut, Upper Lake Melville and Canada as well as art organizations such as Canada Council of Arts, Inuit Art Foundation, Arts Newfoundland and others. During the gathering, artists will hear about funding opportunities, trade show

opportunities, workshop on light box photography and booth set-up. This will be our first Artist Gathering and we are very excited. Mr. Speaker, I will now highlight some key areas that we are working on in Language and Culture. I am happy to share, Mr. Speaker, that we have a new Interpreter Translator that started with us. Eva Obed has started her position on January 22nd and is based out of Nain Admin Building. The Department of Language, Culture and Tourism is pleased to announce our first recipients of the newly created Inuttituk and Cultural Preservations Recognition Awards. These awards, which will be awarded annually, acknowledge people who are committed to preserving Inuttituk language and Inuit culture within Nunatsiavut. Maria Merkuratsuk of Nain was awarded the Cultural Preservations Recognition Award. And Nicholas Flowers of Hopedale was Inuttituk award. The Inuttituk and Cultural Preservations Recognition awards were open to nominations of a community role age 15 or older. Recipients will receive a monetary prize of \$1,000 and a plaque which will be presented at a later date. Congratulations to Maria and Nicholas. A kamik-making workshop happened in Nain from January 20 to 22, 2024. Participants from all communities in Nunatsiavut came together in Nain to learn how to make kamik. This workshop was instructed by Sue Webb and Maria Merkuratsuk of Nain. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Minister. We will now be taking a recess-, yes, First Minister.

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

Sorry, I'd like to-, neglected to add a piece to my statement, if you don't mind.

**MR. WINTERS:**

You may go right ahead.

**MS. WILLIAMS:** I'd like to take the opportunity to-, while we have two new Ministers, I'd like to take the opportunity to show appreciation and recognition to Minister Evans for taking on two departments. I appreciate the work and the commitment that you have to Nunatsiavut and thank you, and looking forward to working with the other Minister. Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*, short and sweet. We will be back in our seats at five minutes to the hour. Right now there are snacks available and the clipboard for determining your lunch is also out there. We intend to lunch around 1:30. So, yeah. See you in 20 minutes.

[Recess]

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*. Welcome back. We are on to Item Six, "Members Statements." Are there any Members Statements? The first person that I saw was the Honourable Roxanne Barbour of-, sorry, Ordinary Member for Nain.

**MS. BARBOUR:** *Nakummek*. [Speaks Inuttitut] *Nakummek*.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*. We will now hear from the Honourable Gerald Asivak, Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, when you're ready, sir.

**MR. ASIVAK:** Mr. Speaker, condolences to the family of the late Mr. Fred Hope of Happy Valley-Goose Bay, to the family of the late Ms. Betty Broomfield of Happy Valley-Goose Bay, to the family of the late Mr. Donald Mitsuk, formerly from Happy Valley-Goose Bay, to the family of the late Ms. Sheila Pardy of Happy Valley-Goose Bay, to the family of the late Ms. Amanda Blake of Happy Valley-Goose Bay, to the family of the late Mr. Frank Pottle of Happy

Valley-Goose Bay, to the family of the late Mr. Samuel Broomfield of Happy Valley-Goose Bay, to the family of the late Mr. Hebert White of Mud Lake, to the family of the late Ms. Mildred Montague of Happy Valley-Goose Bay. Congrats to John and June Chaisson of Happy Valley-Goose Bay, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on December 22nd, 2023. All the best for many more years. I am thankful to NunaKatiget for letting us partner my colleague Mr. Andersen and I with them for Christmas parties at Headland Apartments and assisted living program. There was great food, fun bingo, presents and a visit from Santa Claus and the Grinch at Headland. Keep up the great work putting smiles on many people NunaKatiget. Congrats and welcome to Nunatsiavut Assembly Ordinary Member David Dicker Jr. of Nain. All the best in your new career. Do your best for your constituency and all Members. *Nakummek.*

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Ordinary Member. We will now hear from the Chairperson of the Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation, Mr. Jeff Montague.

**MR. MONTAGUE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've just got a few updates from our sitting in December-, or sitting, yeah, since our last sitting from last year. In December, Sivunivut was able to purchase 170 turkey hampers for member households in Northwest River and Sheshatshiu. This was made possible mostly from a tax refund after submitting numerous years that hadn't been previously claimed. Our community freezer is well-stocked. Items, including moose that was harvested by the Department of Lands and Natural Resources. We thank the department and their staff for providing this. Along with that, we have cod in various forms as well as

partridge and some rabbit. Mr. Speaker, in January, Sivunivut received an anonymous donation of food stuffs that we have incorporated into our freezer. We thank the folks at anonymous for this very generous donation. In December, Sivunivut sponsored a seal-skin broach making workshop. The workshop spanned two evenings with six participants, and according to the instructor, Mina Campbell, it went over really well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Chairperson. We will now hear from the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen.

**MR. W. ANDERSEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a tribute to a friend, a former mayor, a former AngajukKâk and a Member of our Assembly, the late Herbert Jacque, affectionately known to everyone as Herbie. I was given the gift to speak at his funeral and a funeral that was well-attended. And the messages that came in was not from just across the province, but across Canada and outside of Canada. Mr. Speaker, one of greatest Herbie's accomplishments was looking after seniors. And as I visited people in Makkovik, they told me that he was outstanding in looking after seniors. Mr. Speaker, Herbie was witty at times and he would say stuff. My brother Tony who attended a funeral with me was very close personal friends with Herbie. And at that time Tony was acting President of the LIA. They attended a conference on Housing and after, I guess, they had seven or eight cups of tea together that night, they went back to the room telling stories and Tony said, "Herbie, it's time for me to go to bed." Herbie hauled out his red book in which he had Inuttitut words and



phrases. And he began to practise them, something he took great pride in. And Tony said to him after a while, "For God's sake, Herb, boy, go to sleep." And Herbie said to Tony, "Now, that's a funny thing. Here we are trying to promote our Inuttitut language and the Acting President of the Labrador Inuit Association is telling me to be quiet and go to sleep." Mr. Speaker, Herbie was old fashioned. We live in a world today of a new generation, different morals, different traditions and probably rightly so, because it's their time and it's their generation. But Herbie's morals were old-fashioned of the festive seasons and taking it very seriously like Christmas and Easter. And he always took the time to pass that on every opportunity he spoke. Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that every Member in this House will join me in saying, "Thank you, Herbie, for all the work you've done." And to his sister Linda and his brother Donald, thank you, for letting us-, thank you for letting or sharing Herbie with us. Take care, Herb, buddy. You'll never be forgotten. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Ordinary Member. We will now hear from the Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Mr. Roland Saunders.

**MR. SAUNDERS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Wally. It's good to see everybody here in the Assembly again and I'm hoping that you all had a Merry Christmas and you're looking forward to a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2024. *Nakummek* to the Executive Council for holding their council meeting in the Canadian Constituency in December which was not well attended but at least we had a few people there. And thanks to the Ministers and the Deputy Ministers for answering questions and partaking

with the members that we did have and letting everyone know what's going on and for answering their questions especially that they had. And there was a few dicey ones, but they were good. And Mr. Speaker, during the month of December people from Labrador gathered in St. John's for the music of the Christmas music singing the songs and stories of Christmas and Labrador in Inuttitut by a choir, The Urban Inuit Choir of Labrador lead by Deantha Edmunds along with several other special guests. The guest performers were renowned artist Deantha Edmunds, her daughter Anabelle Ramsay, and Mason Dicker. And as well, I'd like to let you know that Deantha Edmunds was appointed to the Order of Canada by the Governor General, Mary Simon in the month of December, I think it was. The choir members at the St. John's choir during that time were all Nunatsiavut beneficiaries. And it was a wonderful night of song and entertainment along with the traditional Moravian tradition of candles in an apple that was given out to everyone. And at this time I would also like to recognize another Canadian member from Nunatsiavut from Rigolet, Ms. Frances Palliser-Nicholas. She's working with Atelihai in Halifax, and their program includes everybody from across the North, not just people from Nunatsiavut, but from everywhere. Even from Alaska, they come there, and they do her programs. And they also raise some money and they gave out gift cards to all of their members. This is in Halifax. They don't get any funding from Nunatsiavut. They have to raise their own funds from everywhere across Canada. And they do very well. And another thing that I'd like to mention is that there's a group in Edmonton

called Inuit Edmontonmiut. And there's a board of mainly women, as usual, running the organization and the chairperson is Jenna Broomfield from North West River. And they also have board members Janine Cooper from North West River, Maude Campbell from Happy Valley and her sister Julie Blake, all from Happy Valley. And this year we had another winter gathering as they call it because they can't have a Christmas per se without calling it a gathering. And we had a good feast. I supplied the hall, some of the food and a few other items. And the speaker came and joined us that time. There as 95 people and 20 of us were from Labrador. So this group will be having a spring gathering which I'm going to be a part of again soon. And I will keep you updated as to what's happening with this group and other groups I get in contact with including the Friendship Centre in St. John's. So they also do a lot of programs but mainly Metis. But they do have some Inuit gatherings there as well. So I would like to thank you, each and every group that we represent across Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

I almost had to tell you, you were at time. The next person we will hear from is the Chairperson of the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak, when you're ready.

**MS. KEMUKSIGAK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank our Community Freeze coordinator Debbie Hines for keeping all things going while I was off for several months with a broken leg. I would also like to thank our casual call-in Belinda Andersen for stepping in and helping when needed. Max Winters Memorial Community Freezer: The Lands and Natural Resources

Department gave us 10 cases of char in the fall and 10 more in January. We usually go through about 10 cases per month. The char is very much appreciated by our elders in the two communities 'cause we can't catch char where we live. In late December, we received 4.5 percent of the moose allocation and NG caught our moose licence for us in Gros Morne. We are very thankful. We started distributing in January, however, as our numbers of users are high, it is almost depleted. But people are very appreciative. In November, we held a seal skin mitt-making course instructed by Irene Burden. And on January 27th, we started a beading course instructed by Vickie Call. And there's gonna be two beading courses. New Horizons for Seniors. We get funds from the program, New Horizons for Seniors, a Federal program for different projects which we apply every year. So we will be continuing to have social gatherings for seniors who do not get out to socialize often and are very isolated. They are always very appreciative, and we usually go to Assisted Living and Supportive Living. And I would like to thank Wally and Gerald for helping us from time to time. Mr. Speaker, Cure for the Caregiver and staff training. We held a two-day training session in January on how to work with people experiencing difficulties such as trauma, grief, loneliness. In February, we had Cure for the Caregiver workshop. Both training was very beneficial to our staff. The NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation board and staff were disappointed that we did not receive an increase in our operating budget from Nunatsiavut Government. However, we did receive 47,000 from the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Settlement Trust* to run

cultural programs and for traditional food for the Community Freezer. We submitted another proposal for fiscal year 2024 -'25 with New Horizons and we heard last week that we will get funded again for 2024-'25. On Thursday, members of our committee looking at serving more traditional food for long-term care, they are going to have a lunch prepared by our members at the Long-Term Care Facility of caribou soup and sanamajuks, and red berry juice and red berry tarts. Two of our board members will be making sanamajuks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Chairperson. I will remind Members of the Assembly to please use terms like the Honourable name of a person or the Honourable Member or their job title and not first names during their statements. *Nakummek*. We will now hear from the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

**MS. FLOWERS:**

*Nakummek Ukalatik*. There is much excitement in our town today as we welcome the Cain's Quest teams to our town. Volunteers, including a number of youth, were briefed last evening and anxiously await the teams today. Although we do not have any teams from Hopedale, everyone still has their team to cheer on and many sleepless nights...

**MR. WINTERS:**

AngajukKâk, I'll ask you to pause. We cannot hear the interpreter, translator. Please make sure that the right mic is on. *Nakummek*. If you don't mind starting from the you're your time will be reset.

**MS. FLOWERS:**

Okay. There is much excitement in our town today as we welcome the Cain's Quest teams to our town. Volunteers, including a number of youth,

were briefed last evening and anxiously await the teams today. Although we do not have any teams from Hopedale, everyone still has their team to cheer on, and many sleepless nights are spent following this very important event. We wish all teams Godspeed and a safe journey. Mr. Speaker, Hopedale also hosted two very beautiful events at ACMS this past weekend. They were the Big Land Robotics competition and the Pan-Labrador Choir. Congratulations to Team Nain who won this awesome event. The Pan-Labrador Choir was a very emotional event with representation from students in all Nunatsiavut schools, with the exception of Postville. Also, three youth from Shalloway Choir in St. John's. The event was hosted by CBC's Kellie Walsh of St. John's with help from community residents, Ms. Rosie Piercy, Ms. Nicole Shuglo, Mr. Reuben Flowers and Mr. Nicholas Flowers. All pieces were reflective of our rich Inuit culture and traditions. The blending of students' voices with our local back-up singers provided an evening of great entertainment. Much gratitude and thanks go to all the organizers, chaperones and volunteers for a job well-done. Due to lack of snow in places and the sudden change in temperatures, HICG has had many freeze-ups. The school was also affected, as well as the Assembly building. Thankfully, the water was restored, both to the school and Assembly building. I thank our HICG staff who have worked tirelessly to make our town a better place to live. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, AngajukKâk. We will now hear from the AngajukKâk for the community of Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen.

**MR. B. ANDERSEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I'd like to congratulate David Dicker Jr. on his election last fall, I think it was, or last winter, anyway, to the Assembly by his people representing us in Nain. So I know you will represent your people well and congratulations also on your post to the Nunatsiavut Executive Council. And also, I'd like to thank Roxanne Barbour for her willingness to stand up again and sit on the Nunatsiavut Executive. Yeah, and Roxanne Barbour for accepting her position again on the Nunatsiavut Executive Council. It's good to see us with a full executive again, having lots of opinions around the table. I too, would like to mention the Cain's Quest teams that's coming up the coast and be passing through on the inside of us later on this week, probably. And I'd like to also thank the Ground Search and Rescue teams that are on stand-by in each of the communities should they be needed. God-forbid some accidents happen, or somebody get-, would need to be brought back to their community for medical assistance or whatever. Our teams are on stand-by today and for the next couple of days until they pass through. So I'd like to thank the volunteers. Some of them is in this building-, and the Hopedale teams as well. So congratulations and best of luck to the team members. But Mr. Speaker, my statement for today is a little bit somber. Since our last sitting, Makkovik has been hit hard by tragedy. Since the 31st of December, we have lost three citizens. So I rise today to pay respects to our former AngajukKâk, Herbert Jacque who passed away on the 31st of December 2023. As we know, Herb served three terms here at the Assembly. His contributions to MICG and Nunatsiavut will be

remembered. Condolences to his family and friends. I would also like to pass on condolences to the family of the late Nathan Broomfield who passed away suddenly on the 19th of January. Nathan was a young man, a fisherman, a good hunter and trapper and loved practicing the traditional ways of living off the land. He will be missed in our community. I would also like to send out deepest condolences to the family and friends of the late Hulda Rice, nee Jararuse, who passed away suddenly on the 3rd of February 2024. Hulda, or Sista as we knew her in Makkovik was an Inuttitut teacher at the JCM school for many years. In her role there she has taught so many students at our school and beyond. Thank you, very much, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, AngajukKâk. Are there any other first Members statements? Yes, recognizing Mr. Joe Dicker, AngajukKâk for the community of Nain, when you're ready, sir.

**MR. DICKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just have short updates for the Assembly so I'll be short. The RFP's for Sewage Incineration Project will be out soon. The results that should be ready by June sitting. I'll let you know what contracts were awarded. Our construction of the chlorination separation projects, which is badly needed, is also being completed this summer. We have ongoing talks with NG regarding internal issues such as land identification for housing projects and seeing where we can develop land for future housing. This group that we're talking about is made up of Colin McBride, Dave Johnson, Rory McNeill. Their group that was formed by NG to work with the ICG's because the ICG's are taking over the responsibility of the



Province to find out what the projects are and what they can do with them. But it doesn't mean ICG's now have the power to recommend and have a say in how it's supposed to be. Before, it was always the voice of the Province. And that caused delays and delays. Everything was left behind without taking into consideration the short construction season that we have. With that, we put in an application for the Rock and Sand Quarry through the NG but NG requires yet a further study from the Department of Natural Resources on some issues around that land and other things. I hope that speaking with the Honourable Minister of Lands and Resources that this will not set us back because I hope that it will be concluded at the AGM at this sitting. But they assure me that the talks will be concluded by June and be ready for June sitting. We also put an application for an all-season vehicle along with the other ICG's through David Johnston and Rory MacNeill. It's gone in now. We're just waiting to hear back whether or not the application is going to be approved. That's all I have, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek, AngajukKâk.* Are there further-, yes, recognizing the Honourable George Gear, Ordinary Member for the Community of Postville.

**MR. GEAR:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to congratulate Ms. Gillian Edmunds who graduated from her university degree in Geography in December. And she made the Dean's roll in her degree. So just a proud father-, I'm her father. But I just wanted to get up and congratulate her to let her know how important it is to go back to school like I said before. It's hard enough when

you're young and don't have a family, to go back to school and get your education. But when you've got a family and go back again, it's even-, and with as many kids as you got, it's probably three or four times harder. And I also would like to congratulate the new Ministers on their portfolios and as they've done their Oath of Office, I know that you will look after all constituencies and represent Nunatsiavut well. Congratulations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Ordinary Member Gear. Are there further first statements around the room? The first one that I see is Ordinary Member for Nain, Mr. David Dicker Jr., when you're ready.

**MR. DICKER JR.:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On January 31st, 2024, Oath of Office sworn in as Ordinary Member for Nain at the Nunatsiavut Government Administration Office by the Honourable President Johannes Lampe with family, friends, staff and the constituents of Nain. On February 5, 2024, Torngat Metals held a public session on Strange Lake Road at the Pullatik from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., and 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. On February 19, 2024, colleague Roxanne Barbour met with Non-Insured Health Benefits Manager Abigail Webb. On February 19, 2024 attended the first official Round Table Consultation Period on Environmental Impact Assessment on the new proposed Airport for Nain, Newfoundland and Labrador held at the Atsanik Hotel from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. On February 20, 2024 met with Via Teams meeting summarizing the meeting we had on February 19, 2024 with additional questions regarding the Environmental Impact Assessment on the new proposed airport for Nain, Newfoundland and Labrador. On February

20th, 2024 assisting constituents of Nain with affordable rental housing applications with the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission. And also applications, emergency housing repairs with the Nunatsiavut Housing Government. Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami reaching home around the homelessness and engagement project consultations that were to be held in Nain, Newfoundland and Labrador on February 28th and February 29th, 2024 with the Nunatsiavut Government elected officials, groups and partners. This consultation has been canceled and set for a later date due to weather. On March 6th, 2024 Girl's Day, an Inuit tradition of young women who are acknowledged in the Community of Nain, Newfoundland and Labrador for becoming young women with community involvement, church services and enjoying their cultural significance. I just wanted to say I'm adjusting well to this new role as Ordinary Member for Nain, Newfoundland and Labrador. *Nakummek*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Ordinary Member. Are there any last first statements around the Table or are we ready for second? Okay. Moving on to second Members Statements, recognizing the AngajukKâk for Nain, Mr. Joe Dicker.

**MR. DICKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you. I forgot to mention-, Mr. Speaker, I forgot to mention congratulations go to Honourable David Dicker Jr., and to Roxanne Barbour. Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, AngajukKâk. We'll now hear from the Ordinary Member for Nain, Ms. Roxanne Barbour, when you're ready.

**MS. BARBOUR:**

*Nakummek, UKatik.* As my colleague here mentioned, Torngat Metals came to Nain to do just a general consultation and update on their new proposed routes for their access road through LISA and it doesn't pass through LIL. So the nature of some of the conversations that I had specifically with some elders there, it was very interesting because one of the biggest concerns that we heard was for caribou migration routes in terms of consultations whether they were official through Lands and Natural Resources or unofficial such as Torngat Metals coming through. And they have three other proposed routes drawn out. And it's not set in stone yet or anything like that. But the nature of the conversation was around the caribou. So each route poses a threat to caribou migration routes, whether they come through LIL eventually out to the Voisey's Bay port or if they go ahead through LISA into Voisey's Bay. A question that was asked at that time was, "If the George River Caribou Herd migration routes are being threatened anyways, either way, either route that they take, shouldn't Labrador Inuit have a say in how? Shouldn't Labrador Inuit determine the conditions for convoys or how they're driving along the road et cetera? And I'm sorry I forgot to mention that earlier but those were the nature of the conversations. So it's almost like a shift almost into the general ideology of it. But it's for a very select few because there wasn't a good turnout at-, or a turnout like we thought there would be at the session. And I thought that it was-, okay, *Nakummek.*

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* We will now hear from the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen, when you're ready, sir.

**MR. W. ANDERSEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I too wanna congratulate Mr. Dicker from Nain on his election-, a fairly young person, and it's always an honour to see when young people come into any form of Government, municipal, Provincial, Federal and of course in our own Government. One of the greatest things in life is to serve people. And the same as any council, there's committees. And the same as any Government, there's ministers which, you know, are tasked to run different portfolios. But the greatest aspect of all is to serve people and to go back and talk to them. And that's the greatest thing that any politician can ever do. Congratulations also on your appointment to the Executive Council and to Ms. Barbour, congratulations on your appointment as well. It's always good to bring greetings on behalf of the 2000, plus, members in the Upper Lake Melville area. And along the lines of the AngajukKâk from Makkovik, and as outlined by my colleague, the Honourable Gerald Asivak, that we've lost a lot of members in the last short while. And as we lose members, we're losing beneficiaries. And some of these beneficiaries played a key role into building the communities, in our case, in the Upper Lake Melville area. And certainly when we lose them, that-, you know, we're losing a part of, I guess, our heritage. I wanna congratulate Mr. Montague and Ms. Kemuksigak, the two Chairs of the Community Corporations for the work that they're doing. I had the opportunity to spend a couple events with Mr. Montague. And of course myself and my colleague, Mr. Asivak to Ms. Kemuksigak for the work you do with Assisted Living and the Senior's home, that, to see the joy on their faces when you go there with a bit of

food and you play the bingo games. And myself and my colleague, Mr. Asivak, we got the easy part. All we gotta do is call the bingo games. You and your staff, you organize the food, the prizes and so on. Mr. Speaker, again, sometimes it's a challenge when you represent a large number of constituents who live outside the Claim Area because as we all know that there's certain benefits that those outside the Claim Area are not entitled to as those who live in the Claim Area. And sometimes that makes your job pretty hard to understand and in some cases pretty hard to explain to the people as to why we don't get these benefits. But I guess that's part of our *Constitution* and part of a way of life. But it's always a pleasure to serve people. And again to all of you, greetings from the beneficiaries in the Upper Lake Melville area.

**MR. WINTERS:**

I appreciate the Ordinary Member recognizing the five-minute mark. Are there any other second statements around the Table? Yes, recognizing the Honourable Melva Williams of Rigolet when you're ready.

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think this is my first. I didn't catch it in the first round, but I have a short statement today for the Community of Rigolet. As many of you know, Cain's Quest is currently going through our communities. The first team arrived there at 6:10 this morning, I think it was. So pretty exciting day in the community. And I wanted to pass along our appreciation to the volunteers who are serving on the Cain's Quest Committee in Rigolet and those who are preparing food items and those things for people as they travel through. So good luck today. I'd also like to mention that for anyone who's interested in events in our communities

that our Tikigiaksaugusik Festival is happening in March in Rigolet. That's our annual winter festival. I think it's usually around the March 22nd weekend. So welcome to anyone who want to come to our community and partake of all the events. One of the events that was gonna be held is gonna be the last one in a number of years is the Annual Frances Campbell Memorial Rifle Shoot context. I think that the family has been hosting that as a part of the festival for a number of years, but this will be their last year. So if you've got sharp shooters and you wanna have bragging rights, come to Rigolet during that weekend. There's been a number of athletes have shown our community really proud in relation to events they've been attending, whether it's the Newfoundland and Labrador Winter games, the sports meet, the Special Olympics. We've had some great showings from our students and youth that are attending those events. So kudos to you guys. You did a great job. During each Assembly, I like to try to bring-, to show appreciation to an organization or a group in our community that's doing such great work. So this time I'd like to pass along appreciation to the-, I'm talking fast. Are you okay? Yeah-, to the teachers and staff at the Northern Lights Academy for their support and learnings they've been passing along to our students in Rigolet, especially in all those sporting events, but across the board. So thank you, everybody.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Ordinary Member. We will now hear from the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers, when you're ready.

**MS. FLOWERS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to congratulate the Honourable David Dicker Jr. on being elected as Ordinary Member and on his

appointment as the Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth. And also to Honourable Roxanne Barbour for the Education Department Division. Mr. Speaker, this is what our leaders came to this Table for, to fight for us to get an education and to be leaders of tomorrow. And here we are. So it does my heart good to see them here at this Table today. I wish them the very best of luck in their executive positions. Also to our pages from Hopedale, Cole and Keisha, I'd like to acknowledge them and to wish them a good experience in their Assembly sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek, AngajukKâk.* Further second statements around the Table, Members? Yes, recognizing Ordinary Member for Postville, Mr. George Gear.

**MR. GEAR:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to echo a little bit more on our Honourable First Minister, her statement for her community member. We got a lot of athletes around in our communities, as she stated and we have two beneficiaries from Postville that's going on to the National Competition in Darts later on in June, which his Mr. Terry Ford, and Terry Gear, the father of Terry Ford and there is seven more men and nine women that's representing Labrador. And a good many of them is beneficiaries. So they got to raise money to attend this. So I was just to stand up and congratulate them and to just to let you know that they'd be looking for some sponsor money later on, I guess to try to get there and represent Labrador. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*, Ordinary Member. Further second member statements around the Table? Yes, the Ordinary Member for Nain, Mr. David Dicker, Jr., when you're ready.

**MR. DICKER JR.** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to send my condolences to the late Sue Harris and her family and friends in Nain. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*. Are there any more second Member statements? Seeing none, we will now be breaking for lunch. We'll be back at the top of the hour again. Please try and be on time. We'll be here at 2:00 p.m. *Nakummek*.

[Recess]

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*. Welcome back into the Assembly. We are on to Item Seven, "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 choose to read a return to oral questions. Asked by AngajukKâk Joe Dicker of Nain to First Minister Melva Williams on November 22nd, 2023, "I am concerned about safety because it is going to create, at the end, with the buildings being unsettled and moving. How does the Infrastructure Committee see that this isn't going to be so?" Whenever you're ready, First Minister.

**MS. WILLIAMS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Working with project managers Fougere Menchenton Architecture, Public Property has to ensure the correct building standards are employed at each project worksite to mitigate any

structural and safety issues during construction. This includes standards for site preparation and foundations.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Asked by AngajukKâk Marjorie Flowers of Hopedale to First Minister Melva Williams on November 21st 2023, "Would the Government bring in an inspector to inspect all woodstoves and wood and oil furnaces for residents in Nunatsiavut?" Whenever you're ready, First Minister.

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, for the question. The NHC is currently offering a barrier-free furnace inspection program available to any beneficiary. Inspections took place in Rigolet and Makkovik in 2023 with repairs to happen in 2024. Inspections for Nain, Hopedale and Postville will begin in 2024. We encourage all beneficiaries to apply to the NHC for this inspection program. If a beneficiary would like to have their woodstove inspected, please ask them to complete an Emergency Repair application. An inspector will then inspect the woodstove. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Asked by AngajukKâk Marjorie Flowers of Hopedale to First Minister Melva Williams on November 21st, 2023, "If there are so many projects behind schedule and in progress, does it mean that they will continue to be behind schedule when everything is so late starting up?" I will now call upon First Minister Williams to read her response.

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Different factors have contributed to projects being behind schedule including shipment of materials and units. Our infrastructure team is working diligently to ensure projects are

substantially complete as soon as possible. Nunatsiavut Affairs will be able to provide a more accurate schedule at the next sitting of the Nunatsiavut Assembly to ensure Assembly Members are up to date on completion times. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, First Minister. All other returns to oral questions are in your binder and will be entered into the November Hansard. That moves us on to Item Number Seven. Apologies, Item Number Eight, "Oral Questions." Do any Assembly Members have oral questions? Yes, the first person that I saw was the Chairperson for the Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation, Mr. Jeff Montague, when you're ready, sir.

**MR. MONTAGUE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've got a question for the First Minister. Minister, members have been asking why we don't have photo ID's. Do you think we'll ever get photo ID's for our Members and will those photo ID's be, I guess, valid for identification for your identity? Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:**

I'll ask the First Minister to respond to the first question and then you can then ask the second part of that as a supplemental should you so choose. First Minister, when you are ready.

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, Honourable Member for your question. In relation to the question, "Will we get photo ID's," what I can say at this time is that this has been-, is being considered by our Department. And as well, I can also provide some information that nationally we know that ITK is working on a project around photo ID's as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* Would the Chairperson like to ask a supplemental question related to the first?

**MR. MONTAGUE:** Is there any timeline to expect when this might come to be?

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

**MS. WILLIAMS:** Thank you, and thank you, for the follow-up question. There is no timeline available to me at this time. As I said, the work is ongoing now. Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** Would the Chairperson like to ask a final follow-up question? Shaking the head, "No." The next person I saw was the AngajukKâk for Nain, Mr. Joe Dicker. When you're ready, sir.

**MR. DICKER:** The question is to Honourable Tom Evans, Minister of Finance, Human Resource and Information Technology. The NG has appointed Deloitte under the *Labrador Inuit Constitution* to be the auditor for NG, ICG's and the Inuit Community Organizations. Deloitte has not performed for the ICG's and Community Corporations on a timely basis. The audit for 2021 is not done. The audit for '22 hasn't even started and it's now 2023 and they have to do that audit. This has caused our municipal operation grants to be forfeited causing my Community Government \$446,434 in funding. Mr. Evans, Honourable Minister, we cannot go on like this. When will we see NG demand some answers to this unacceptable situation?

**MR. WINTERS:** Minister Evans, when you're ready, sir.

**MR. EVANS:** Thank you, for the question, Honourable Member. We had some conversations about this through email or whatever. And I'm glad you asked the question again because it's important for the Assembly

Members to be aware of the challenges that ICG do face. But as I communicated to all the ICG's, like the *Labrador Constitution* states there must be one auditor for Nunatsiavut and our Department has already communicated to all the ICG's that we'll be going to a RFP proposed auditing service after the 2024 audits are done.

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

**MR. DICKER:** Yes, after the 2024 audits are done, you mentioned it still has to finish off 2021 and 2022, now 2023. How long is it going to take for the-, before we can see something concrete in results, Mr. Minister?

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

**MR. EVANS:** Yeah, okay, thank you, Honourable Member. So like the five-year contract, whatever, it'll be up or whatever and we'll go to RFP to ask the Assembly to-, or I mean, the RFP to secure calls for audits again. But in the meantime, as we had mentioned to the ICG's, Finance will have funds available to ensure that our ICG's do get their audits done in a timely manner to assist them because it's really concerning to us when we hear that a ICG might be losing their Municipal Operating Grant just because of lack of timeliness getting the audits completed. So we'll continue to work with this. But going forward, like, the RFP will come out with the requests for auditing services going forward.

**MR. WINTERS:** Does the AngajukKâk have a final question on this point?

**MR. DICKER:** Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Honourable Member, who do we-, in the Department of Finance, who do we apply to for the loss of funding that we forfeited, like, for example, Nain lost \$446,434. Can we get that back, the money that we lost? Who do we go to? Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** Minister Evans.

**MR. EVANS:** I'm sorry for any confusion. With the-, that would be, like, a separate issue, like, in terms of getting the loss of Municipal Operating Grant back. What I was referring to was accounting services with a third party to ensure that your audits are completed, like, for the auditors to proceed to get them done. So, like, I wouldn't have the information about the loss of Municipal Operating Grant. But that's something that we could continue the conversation, I guess. I wouldn't have that information for you today.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* The next question will come from the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen, when you're ready, sir.

**MR. W. ANDERSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the First Minister. I think it was in the June sitting that I asked for any news on the spring goose hunt for the beneficiaries in the Upper Lake Melville area. Does the Minister have any updates you can provide us with?

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

**MS. WILLIAMS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Ordinary Member for your question. The latest update that I have is what I have provided. I haven't had a report since. I can follow-up and take the question under notice to see if there's other information to provide. Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:**

The First Minister has taken this question as notice. Does the Ordinary Member have a supplemental question so that she can provide additional information?

**MR. W. ANDERSEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Minister, when I spoke this morning on the Upper Lake Melville area, I talked of some of the benefits that members who live outside of the Claim Area don't have. And the spring goose hunt is one of them. Minister, we are the only Aboriginal recognized group in Labrador that are not permitted for a spring goose hunt. Minister, can you tell us when your next run of negotiations on this important benefit for the members from the Upper Lake Melville area will take place with the appropriate levels of Government to try and get this solved?

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Ordinary Member. First Minister, when you're ready.

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, Ordinary Member for your question. As mentioned, I will have taken the question under notice, so that would be the piece of information that I would get back in-, when I provide you the information, where the-, those talks are too. That was the last information that the Implementation Committee had been given the reports and that they were-, we were waiting to hear back from them. So that's where that issue is.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Ordinary Member, your supplemental question will be taken as notice with the first. Is there an additional amount? And I would ask you to reduce the preamble. *Nakummek*. Are there further questions around the Table

at this time? Yes, recognizing the Chairperson for the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak, when you're ready.

**MS. KEMUKSIGAK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not exactly sure who this question would go to, but I think it might be the Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology. But correct me if I'm wrong. In respect to the job-shadow position that was gonna be put in place to work under the Clerk of the Assembly, and then take over after that, what is happening...

**MR. WINTERS:**

I will interrupt the Chairperson. That is a question for the Members Services Committee and not the Department of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology. So as there is no representative of the MSC among the Ministers, you can come up with an additional question if it pleases you at that time, but that question cannot be asked here.

**MS. KEMUKSIGAK:**

It can't be answered?

**MR. WINTERS:**

Correct. When you're ready.

**MS. KEMUKSIGAK:**

This one is to President Lampe. And this came from the public in my community. Is there more ways that communication and public notices could go out to the membership as many people say they don't hear about public meetings that's put out by the Nunatsiavut Government till it's over. Is there a way it could probably be put on OkâlaKatiget or even interviews and different options people came up with, 'cause they really would like to go, but they don't know it happened till it's over. Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Whenever you're ready, Mr. President.



**PRESIDENT LAMPE:**

*Nakummek, UKatti.* Thank you, Chair for the NunaKatiget for the question. The issue of communication has been raised for a number of years and most certainly, we are doing what we can to communicate to the beneficiaries, the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement*. But we are doing what we can, and we are communicating through, as you mentioned, the media, through newsletters and press releases. And most certainly, the Ordinary Members of the Nunatsiavut communities are holding, certainly their meetings with their constituents. And I don't know what more we can do. And I know that a lot of beneficiaries miss interviews that are happening through the media. And it will happen more again as the weather gets warmer. But that is not an excuse. We are working to find better ways of communicating issues that are relevant to Labrador Inuit and most certainly to keep up to date issues of what's happening in terms of how Government is working. And we have done press releases and most certainly are doing what we can to make sure that we communicate to the Labrador Inuit. But again, the Department of Communications is working to find better ways of communicating to the Labrador Inuit of issues that are of importance to Labrador Inuit. But I certainly will get to that Department and most certainly give an update on what more we are doing. And I should also mention that we are looking to hire a social media position to give out information or communication to the Nunatsiavut communities, including Upper Lake Melville and the Canadian Constituency. But at times it is a challenge to find those who have the-, I could say the, you know, the experience that is needed to do that work.

But as I said, I will update on further developments to the question on the issue. *Nakummek, UKatti.*

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Mr. President. I'll ask both the President and the Ministers to keep their responses concise. Do you have a supplemental question on the same topic, Chairperson?

**MS. KEMUKSIGAK:**

Yes, Mr. Speaker. I think you might've answered some of it. I wanted to ask, is there any plans to increase the capacity in the Communications Department because some things are falling through the cracks? Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Mr. President?

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:**

*Nakummek, UKatti.* Thank you, NunaKatiget Chair for the question. Yes, we have. And we now have someone helping the Director of Communications and so-, and we need more resources. And most certainly to build on the capacity to look at or look after the workload that is there. And most certainly, our Government is quite large at the Executive level and each Minister certainly needs the, you know, support that they need to communicate to the Labrador Inuit. And most certainly through the media, we need to have support to make sure that we are giving out the correct information and communicating to the public on what is happening. My apologies Mr. Speaker for giving again, a long-winded answer. *Nakummek.*

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Does the Chairperson have a second supplemental question?

**MS. KEMUKSIGAK:**

No, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* We will now hear from the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers, when you're ready.

**MS. FLOWERS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for Honourable Gerald Asivak, Minister of Health and Social Development. We've seen so many of our people, of older people have to leave because they don't have a place to stay or no one to look after them. My question is, will your Department or this Government help to bring a personal care home at least to the Nunatsiavut area-, and I mean a personal care home similar to Mary's Harbour so that we don't have to have them, like, so far away that family can't see them. Thank you.

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

**MR. ASIVAK:** Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** Stay slow for the translators, please.

**MR. ASIVAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and AngajukKâk Flowers. This question is not a new one for the Assembly or Government as it has been brought up in the past. And I'll repeat my answer. It wouldn't be wholly DHSD. It would be many departments within Government, probably, especially even spearheaded by Department of Education and Economic Development and other partners as well. But Mr. Speaker, personal care homes are private enterprise. So they would be wholly brought in by an individual or partnership but privately owned. That's how personal care homes operate. And we could have conversations with Government. We would encourage it for any businesses or owners who would want to operate.

And also, I would like to note that the Inuit Community Governments would be at this Table as well with the conversations because business owners would need land. We would need qualified personal care home workers, administrators, support staff, et cetera. So we could have conversations, Mr. Speaker. *Nakummek.*

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

**MS. FLOWERS:** Yes, I do, thank you. My second question is well, is it possible that our Government can start this process speaking with whoever we need to, to try and get a personal care home somewhere on the Coast? Thank you.

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

**MR. ASIVAK:** Thank you, AngajukKâk Flowers. I can bring this to the Executive Table, as the Executive Table is here at the Table. And we can provide an update for June to start discussions. *Nakummek,* Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:** The Minister has chosen to take this supplemental as notice. Would the AngajukKâk like to ask a second supplemental question?

**MS. FLOWERS:** No, I don't. And I thank the Minister for his answer.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* The next question will be from the Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Mr. Roland Saunders, when you're ready.

**MR. SAUNDERS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Honourable Minister Vincent. Canadian Constituency is in a odd situation. When our members come to Labrador, they have to apply for a licence. If they want to transfer that licence, they have to have the member that they want to transfer to, in the same office with them. Is there any way your department can just

have a form or a letter or even a phone call allowing those members that come to Nunatsiavut or anywhere in-, even in Lake Melville, to have their licence transferred over to a member that can do the fishing for them?

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* Minister Vincent, when you are ready.

**MR. VINCENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, Ordinary Member for the question. This is something that has been brought to our attention and is something that we would have to discuss with Legal. It's something to get a proper perspective on it if it's just-, it would have to, I think be amended. So it's something we'll have to look to into the future. Thank you.

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

**MR. SAUNDERS:** Other than, can you give me any kind of a timeline Honourable Minister as to when this-, when we would start this so we could have an idea to let our members know when they will do that?

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

**MR. VINCENT:** We'll have to take that under notice.

**MR. WINTERS:** Do you have a second supplemental, Ordinary Member.

**MR. SAUNDERS:** No, thank you. Thank you, Minister Vincent.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* Are there further first questions around the Table at this time? Seeing none, I see that AngajukKâk Joe Dicker of Nain has a second question. Whenever you're ready, sir.

**MR. DICKER:** Thank you. This question is for the First Minister Honourable Melva Williams. The *Land Claims Agreement* is-, how do you put it-,

misunderstood for what it means. My question to you is can we sit down and talk with a person who negotiated the *Land Claims Agreement*? I'm not sure who, 'cause for the most part the *Land Claims Agreement* is for the beneficiaries on the-, within LISA. And a lot of the questions coming to this Table is based around those rights that we have and over and above the people from outside the Claim Area. So to understand better, we need to know what it means Honourable Minister. Is it possible to have somebody from the negotiating team or somebody who's from the Government explain to the whole Table what the Land Claims is all about? Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:**

For clarification the AngajukKâk is asking if it would be possible to have a member of the original negotiating team sit with the Members of the Assembly? Is that correct? First Minister?

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, AngajukKâk Dicker for the question. And I know that it's a question you have raised previously in here. The answers, I don't know. I don't know if that's-, it's an appropriate process to have someone come in and do a training or an information session at the Assembly on this topic. If so, I mean, I defer to the Speaker to say if that is an option or not-, if so then it would be something I would have to explore. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

The First Minister is taking the question as notice and it is something that will be discussed with the Speaker's office. Doe the AngajukKâk have...

**MS. BARBOUR:**

Point of order.

**MR. WINTERS:** Yeah.

**MS. BARBOUR:** Mr. Speaker, the Nunatsiavut Affairs is responsible for the implementation of LILCA. So the question is around not understanding LILCA for Members of the Assembly. So wouldn't that question be deferred to the Members Services Committee? Because that's implementation of LILCA and understanding it for the Members is almost-, it's two different things.

**MR. WINTERS:** Conversation between the First Minister and Speaker's Office, we can determine if it is more appropriate as a conversation among the Member Services Committee. *Nakummek*. Thank you, for your point of order. Does the AngajukKâk have a supplemental question to the first?

**MR. DICKER:** Yes, if-, when will that conversation take place? By that I mean, when will you get together and talk about it so that I can have an idea as to when this can finally be straightened out?

**MR. WINTERS:** The AngajukKâk is asking for at timeline for the conversation between the Speaker's Office and the First Minister. First Minister, I will let you take a stab at that, or take it under notice.

**MS. WILLIAMS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And as explained originally in my response, I would have to explore whether this piece of work is required from my department or who's department it would have to happen, or if it can actually happen at the Assembly. We would still have the conversation. I have no dates in mind as we sit here, and we have this question brought forward. I would have to go back to my staff to confirm what needs to proceed. So I do not have a timeline to offer.

**MR. WINTERS:** For clarification, it would not happen in this room but it is a discussion that could happen amongst Members of the Assembly. Is there an additional question that you would like to ask of the First Minister specific to the first?

**MR. DICKER:** I'm just quite confused as to whether or not my question is going to get answered. When you do decide, I guess, on this question, will you inform us at the Assembly when we can start talking about it?

**MR. WINTERS:** AngajukKâk, as the question was taken under notice, you will receive a response within 10 days. *Nakummek.* I don't know if the First Minister would like to add anything? She says, "No." *Nakummek.* The next question-, sorry, are there other second questions? Recognizing Ordinary Member Wally Andersen of the Upper Lake Melville. *Nakummek.*

**MR. W. ANDERSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did have a second question but I'm going to save it for tomorrow. And I, in conversation with my colleague, the Minister of Health, I told him I would not be asking him any questions. But further to the question that was raised by the AngajukKâk for Hopedale about a Level One, and Level Two Homecare for the North Coast, Minister, like, could we get probably the number of positions that it would take to run a, say, a 10-room, Level One and Two or-, and also for a 20-room. The number of the administrators, the workers so we will know exactly, you know, once and for all, exactly what it takes and the number of positions to run a Level One and Level Two health care service for the people on the Coast of Labrador?

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek,* Ordinary Member. I would like to remind the Members of the Assembly to ask questions that they anticipate the Minister will have a



direct response to at this time. If the Minister would like to provide a response, you are welcome to.

**MR. ASIVAK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Ordinary Member Andersen. As you were asking the question, I thought more of the extension of AngajukKâk Flowers as well. I need to be very clear that Nunatsiavut Government would not operate a personal care home. However, we can be open for consultation or leading the way or guiding the way for private enterprise to make this happen. This is not within the mandate of DHSD or any other Government department to operate a personal care home. There's many facets to this as well including licensures, insurances, land, et cetera. So any Member of this Assembly could find out roughly or we can look in to see at that table that I discussed earlier to see how many staff would be required and what positions et cetera. But at this time I will not answer the question because it's not in the focus of DHSD. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Yes, Minister Evans? Go ahead. Turn on your microphone, sir.

**MR. EVANS:**

I'm not gonna say much but from what I hear back and forth, it seems like we're asking for a pre-feasibility study.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Minister Evans. Can you draw attention to which order...

**MR. EVANS:**

So I'm just making a Point of Order and, like, we can ask questions, or whatever. Like everyone around the Table has the concerns of our elders in the communities, right? So I'm thinking...

**MR. WINTERS:** Is there a specific Standing Order that you're calling attention to for this point?

**MR. EVANS:** So I'm thinking is anyone gonna ask for a pre-feasibility study into a long-term care in Nunatsiavut?

**MR. WINTERS:** That is not a point of order, Minister Evans.

**MR. EVANS:** Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** Thank you. We're gonna take a five-minute recess right now. Thank you.

[Recess]

**MR. WINTERS:** Thank you, for your patience. It's important for anyone listening to these proceedings to recognize the importance of clarity in our processes and of recognizing the passion that everyone around this Table has for our community and our people. The question from Ordinary Member Andersen will be removed because it is asking of a hypothetical future situation and the Minister could not have a response for that at this time. There will be further discussions guaranteed about this issue that has come up many other times. I will also caution Members asking questions to know that they are asking the right person, the question that they're directing, at all times. The Ministers are not going to answer just because they have a response. The Ministers are going to be answering if they are asked a question, as best they can. The lines of communication between this side of the Table and that side of the Table need to remain open. We need to be in discussion so that we know how we're most effectively operating this Assembly for this Government and for Nunatsiavut.

Ordinary Member Andersen, at this time, do you have a different question to ask?

**MR. W. ANDERSEN:**

No, Mr. Speaker and I'm fine with your ruling and I take comfort in that it will be discussed at a later date. Thank you.,

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Are there any other second questions around this Table at this time? Yes, recognizing Chairperson Kemuksigak of the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation when you're ready, ma'am.

**MS. KEMUKSIGAK:**

Mr. Speaker, I have this question to Minister Asivak. In your review of personal care homes, could you also look at the possibility of having assisted living homes such as the one that's set up with the Friendship Centre in Happy Valley-Goose Bay? That was negotiated with Labrador Grenfell Health and the Province, so it's not a private company running it. It's one of the models for the Province to have assisted living. It's similar to supportive living but they're not all in one great big building. They're in two. So could that be another thing when you're looking at personal care homes, to also look at assisted living homes? And myself and the Deputy Minister worked with Labrador Grenfell Health executive to set that up. Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Minister Asivak, when you're ready.

**MR. ASIVAK:**

Thank you, Chairperson Kemuksigak and Mr. Speaker. As I noted in a previous question asked around this, I don't think it would be appropriate for DHSD to answer this question. I think it should be spearheaded or lead

by the Secretariat or Affairs as this would be brought to the Executive Council for an answer and discussion. *Nakummek.*

**MR. WINTERS:**

As the question has been asked of a Minister without the ability to answer it at this time, I would recommend to the Chairperson that you get in touch with members of the NEC in a different context. Are there any other second questions at this time? Yes, recognizing Marjorie Flowers, the AngajukKâk for Hopedale. When you're ready.

**MS. FLOWERS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question again is for Honourable Gerald Asivak, Minister of Health and Social Development. Can you tell me why, when traveling on the hospital plane that there is a priority and dental and eye patients can get bumped off the flight? Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Whenever you're ready, Minister Asivak.

**MR. ASIVAK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and AngajukKâk Flowers. This policy is a Labrador Grenfell Health Policy who administers policies for healthcare services within Nunatsiavut and prioritizing the need and urgency of patient care. I don't have the full details of this policy as it is not Department of Health and Social Development-created. So the answer, I'll take under notice, even though it's not directly related to DHSD to come back with a more provisional answer or an extension on this, as it is a Government NL policy. *Nakummek.*

**MR. WINTERS:**

Does the AngajukKâk have a supplemental question?

**MS. FLOWERS:**

Is there anyone that can answer the question then in-, or do-, would I have to go to Labrador Grenfell Health? Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** Minister Asivak?

**MR. ASIVAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and AngajukKâk Flowers. Yes, that could be an option. You can pursue Labrador Grenfell Health through Regional Transportation or even the head nurse at each clinic should have this policy on hand. However, you can still reach out to DHSD if you have troubles with them and we'll gladly support or assist. *Nakummek.*

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

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

**MR. WINTERS:** Are there further second questions around the Table? Seeing none, we'll now move on to, "Written Questions." Written questions are an opportunity for Assembly Members to submit questions that require a more detailed or complicated answer and cannot reasonably be assumed to be in the general knowledge of the President or Ministers. Are there any written questions today? Seeing none, we are on to, "Returns to Written Questions." Under Standing Order 34(4), Ministers and the President may read a return to oral question. In your binder, you will find the returns to oral questions-, apologies-, the Returns to Written Questions under Tab Three. The return to written questions will also be entered into the November Hansard when they were originally submitted. Item 11 is, "Petitions." Are there any petitions today? Seeing none, we'll move on to Item 12. There are no, "Responses to Petitions," today. That brings us to Item 13, "Reports of Standing in Special Committees," and there are no standing or special committee reports today. So we will move

on to Item 14. This is the "Tabling of Documents." At this time I would like to recognize Ordinary Member Roland Saunders of the Canadian Constituency.

**MR. SAUNDERS:** *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I am pleased to table the following document, "Nunatsiavut Assembly Budget 2024-2025."

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*, Ordinary Member Saunders. The document presented is tabled and numbered as follows: 01-5(6). I would like to recognize Minister Terry Vincent. Apologies, one moment. Apologies, Minister Vincent, I didn't mean to catch you off guard. When you're ready.

**MR. VINCENT:** My apologies, Mr. Speaker and thank you. Honourable Speaker, I am pleased to table the following documents: Terms of Reference Standing Committee of the Assembly on Detailed Environmental Reviews With Respect to the Strange Lake Rare Earth Mining Project, and Terms of Reference Standing Committee of the Assembly on Detailed Environmental Reviews with Respect to the New Nain Airport Project. Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*, Minister Vincent. The documents presented are tabled and numbered as follows: 02-5(6) and 03-5(6) respectively. We will now move on to, "Notices of Motions." At this time I will again recognize, Ordinary Member Roland Saunders.

**MR. SAUNDERS:** *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give notice that on Tuesday, March 5th 2024, I will move, seconded by Mr. Jeff Montague, Sivunivut Inui Community Corporation Chairperson as follows:

Whereas the Member Services Committee has tabled its Consolidated Budget Recommendations for the approval of the Assembly as required by Section 81 of the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act*, and whereas the Assembly should consider the recommendations to allow the Member Services Committee to finalize consolidated estimates of the Assembly Budget for transmittal to the treasurer for inclusion in the Consolidated Financial Plan for 2024-2025, now, therefore, I move, seconded by Mr. Jeff Montague, Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation Chairperson, that Tabled Document 095(1) the Assembly Budget Recommendation for 2024, 2025 be referred to Committee of the Whole for consideration with Ms. Rexanne Crawford the Comptroller of the Nunatsiavut Government as a witness. And Mr. Speaker, I am seeking unanimous consent of the Assembly to waive Standing Order 37(1) to deal with this matter today.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* The Member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with this motion today. All those in favour by show of hands? Are there any, "Nays?" There are none. Ordinary Member Saunders, you have consent to bring your motion today at the appropriate time. Now I would like to recognize the AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen.

**MR. B. ANDERSEN:**

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give notice that on Tuesday, March 5th, 2024, I will move, seconded by the Ordinary Member for Makkovik, Mr. Tom Evans, whereas the Makkovik Inuit Community Government desires to establish Austere Firing Range, and whereas the intended site for the Austere Firing Range is within the boundaries of the Inuit Community of Makkovik on Labrador Inuit Lands Parcel 21-C, and whereas the Makkovik

Inuit Community Government has applied to the Nunatsiavut Government Department of Lands and Natural Resources for a Private Interest for Land Use, whereas Section 2.11(b) of the *Labrador Inuit Lands Act*, the Labrador Inuit Lands that is located within the boundaries of the Inuit community, and whereas the intended use of the land is not for commercial or industrial purposes, and whereas the Makkovik Inuit Community Government will comply with any and all terms and conditions that the Department of Lands and Natural Resources may impose on the use of the intended area, now, therefore, I move, seconded by the Honourable Tom Evans, the Ordinary Member for Makkovik, that the Nunatsiavut Assembly approve the issuance of a Private Interest in the Labrador Inuit Lands Parcel 21-C to the Makkovik Inuit Community Government for the purpose of an Austere Firing Range subject to any and all terms and conditions that may be imposed by the Department of Lands and Natural Resources. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

I apologize, AngajukKâk, I think you may have misspoken. You said that you give notice that on Tuesday March 5th, 2024. I believe you mean Wednesday, March 6th. Is that accurate? We will be dealing with this motion tomorrow?

**MR. B. ANDERSEN:**

Yes, that's right.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.*

**MR. B. ANDERSEN:**

Yes, that is correct, Mr. Speaker. Sorry, about that.



**MR. WINTERS:**

I misspeak more than anyone else here. No apologies necessary. I would like to recognize Minister of Lands and Natural Resources again, Mr. Terry Vincent, when you're ready, sir.

**MR. VINCENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday March 6, 2024, I will move, seconded by the Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Gerald Asivak, whereas Torngat Metals has registered its Strange Lake Rare Earth Mining Project with the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, for the purposes of environmental review under the *Nunatsiavut Environmental Protection Act*, and whereas the initiative is subject to a detailed review under the act, and whereas Section 4.12.13 of the Act states that the Nunatsiavut Assembly may refer the initiative to a committee of the Nunatsiavut Assembly for its views and recommendations having regard to Section 4.10 of the Act, and whereas in 2012, the Nunatsiavut Assembly adopted the detailed review rules which set out, among other things, that the Nunatsiavut Assembly Environmental Review Committee be established to conduct detailed reviews of initiatives. And whereas Section 2.3 of the Rules sets out that with respect to a particular initiative, the Nunatsiavut Assembly must determine a number of people who will make up the committee, whether a person, other than a Member of the Assembly will be appointed to committee and the terms of reference of the committee. Now, therefore, I move, seconded by the Honourable Gerald Asivak Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, that 1) the Nunatsiavut Assembly convene in the Committee of the Whole with witnesses, to determine the following: a)

The total number of members of the committee, b) whether the committee should include a member that is not a Member of Nunatsiavut Assembly, and c) approval of the Terms of Reference for the Committee; 2) Should the Assembly decide the committee will consist of more than one member that the Rules and Procedures Committee recommend a composition of the committee as required under Standing Orders 65(5) and 68, and the requirements of the Act. And Mr. Speaker, I am seeking unanimous consent of the Assembly to waive Standing Order 37(1) to deal with this matter today.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Minister Vincent. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with this motion today. By show of hands, do we have consent? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, you have consent. I would again like to recognize Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Mr. Terry Vincent.

**MR. VINCENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, I will move, seconded by the Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Gerald Asivak. Whereas the Infrastructure Division of the Department of Nunatsiavut Affairs has registered its new Nain Airport Project with the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, for the purposes of environmental review, under the *Nunatsiavut Environmental Protection Act*, and whereas the initiative is subject to a detailed review under the Act, and whereas Section 4.12.13 of the Act states that the Nunatsiavut Assembly may refer the initiative to a committee of the Nunatsiavut Assembly for its views and recommendations, having regard to Section 4.10 of the Act, and whereas in 2012 the Nunatsiavut Assembly adopted

the Detailed Review Rules which set out, among other things, that a Nunatsiavut Assembly Environmental Review Committee be established to conduct detailed reviews of initiatives. And whereas Section 2.3 of the Rules sets out that with respect to a particular initiative, Nunatsiavut Assembly must determine the number of people who will make up the committee, 2) whether a person other than a Member of the Assembly will be appointed to the committee, and 3) the Terms of Reference of the committee. Now, therefore, I move seconded by the Honourable Gerald Asivak, Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, that Nunatsiavut Assembly convene in the Committee of the Whole with witnesses to determine the following: a) the total number of members of the committee, b) whether the committee should include a member that is not a Member of Nunatsiavut Assembly, and c) approval of the Terms of Reference for the committee, and 2) Should the Assembly decide that the committee will consist of more than one member, that the Rules and Procedures Committee recommend the composition of the committee as required under Standing Order 65(5) and 68 in the Requirements of the Act. And Mr. Speaker, I am seeking unanimous consent of the Assembly to waive Standing Order 37(1) to deal with this matter today. Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* The Member initially said Wednesday March 6 is when this would be dealt with but if we are seeking unanimous consent to waive Standing Order 37(1), then it will actually be dealt with on Tuesday March 5th. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with this motion today. All those in favour? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none,

Minister Vincent you have consent to bring your motion today at the appropriate time. I would again like to recognize, Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Mr. Roland Saunders.

**MR. SAUNDERS:**

*Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give notice that on Tuesday March 5, 2024, I move, seconded by Mr. Jeff Montague, Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation Chairperson as follows: Whereas under current Nunatsiavut Electoral Law, electors residing in the Canadian Constituency cast ballots in elections for Ordinary Members and for President by mail. And whereas over time, various Members of the Assembly have heard concerns from other beneficiaries that the process of mailing in ballots is flawed due to reliance on timely postal delivery. And whereas the Nunatsiavut Electoral Officer has also raised concerns as to whether the current voting process for the Canadian Constituency is the most secure means of voting, as well as the most efficient way for electors in the Canadian Constituency to exercise their right to cast votes in elections, and whereas the Assembly can appoint a special committee to consider any matter referred to it by the Assembly. And whereas the Fourth Nunatsiavut Assembly appointed a special committee on voting alternatives for the Canadian Constituency which did not make recommendations for electoral reform at that time. Now, therefore, I move, seconded by Mr. Jeff Montague Chairperson of the Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation that the Nunatsiavut Assembly hereby establish a Special Committee on voting alternatives for the Canadian Constituency. And further, that the following persons be appointed to the Special

Committee, Ms. Marlene Winters-Wheeler, Clerk of the Nunatsiavut Assembly, Mr. Jeff Montague, Chairperson of the Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation, Mr. Roland Saunders, Ordinary Member for Canada, Mr. Bryan Winters, Ordinary Member for Canada, Ms. Marjorie Flowers, AngajukKâk for Hopedale.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Ordinary Member Saunders, I believe you meant to address this on Wednesday, March 6th. You were not seeking unanimous consent to deal with it today. *Nakummek*. There are no more notices of motions today. So we'll move on to Item 16. At this time I will recognize the Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology, the Honourable Tom Evans. Sorry, AngajukKâk what was that?

**MR. DICKER:**

We have one more Terms of Reference on the Special Committee to go to the motion.

**MR. WINTERS:**

AngajukKâk, the was the Voting Reform Committee notice of motion. *Nakummek*, apologies for any confusion. Minister Evans?

**MR. EVANS:**

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, March the 6th, 2024, I will move, seconded by the First Minister, the first reading of Bill 2024-01, the *Civil Service Act, 2024*.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Did you mean the *Civil Service Amendments Act 2024*?

**MR. EVANS:**

Yes, apologies, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Honourable Minister. We will now move on to Item 17. Item 17 is, "Motions." I will again recognize the Ordinary Member for Canada, Mr. Roland Saunders, when you're ready, sir.

**MR. SAUNDERS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whereas the Member Services Committee has tabled its Consolidated Budget Recommendations for approval of the Assembly as required by Section 81 of the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act*, and whereas the Assembly should consider the recommendations to allow the Member Services Committee to finalize consolidated estimates of the Assembly Budget for transmittal to the treasurer for inclusion in the Consolidated Financial Plan for 2024-2025. And now, therefore, I move, seconded by Mr. Jeffery Montague, Chairperson of the Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation that Tabled Document 01-5(6), The Assembly Budget Recommendations for 2024-2025 be referred to Committee of the Whole for consideration with Ms. Rexanne Crawford the comptroller of the Nunatsiavut Government, as a witness.

**MR. WINTERS:**

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

**MR. SAUNDERS:**

No, Mr. Speaker, I do not.

**MR. WINTERS:**

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

**MR. SAUNDERS:**

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to close debate.

**MR. WINTERS:**

That concludes debate. All those in favour of the motion by show of hands? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, the motion carries. The Assembly Budget Recommendations for 2024-2025 will now be considered

in Committee of the Whole with the witness. We will give the witness five minutes to come in. We'll take a brief recess in that time. Please hurry back.

[Recess]

**MR. WINTERS:**

We'll take until four o'clock. The snacks are in there. So, please go have your snack. Take 15-minutes break and let everyone else know that's already skuttled out. *Nakummek*.

[Recess]

**MS. CRAWFORD:**

And it says, "Budge 2024." If it's double-sided it would be two pages. If it's not, it's four.

**MR. WINTERS:**

How many people do not have the *Budget Act* under Tab Five? The Budget. Katie, we're not back in Session yet. You don't-, thank you, though. All Members of the Assembly now have the Budget in their hands, right? The Assembly Budget? Okay, excellent. Mr. Saunders. Would you like to make remarks on the proposed motion?

**MR. SAUNDERS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I would like to turn it over to Ms. Crawford.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Rexanne Crawford, Deputy Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technologies, when you would like to begin, you may.

**MS. CRAWFORD:**

Suggest to start, the Members Services Committee is responsible for the preparation of the Annual Budget which details the estimated costs and expenses for the Nunatsiavut Assembly for the upcoming year. As per

Section 81 of the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act*, the MSC must table their Annual Budget Recommendations for approval by the Nunatsiavut Assembly. As we go into the Proposed Budget, Table One shows a summary of the proposed budget for the 2024-2025 year. The overall budget is \$4,151,500. And it's broken down into seven different categories. For purposes of this presentation I'll go through the significant changes between last year to this year, and detail them out. So, "Salaries and Benefits," have increased by \$148,000. So in 2017, 2018, the Nunatsiavut Assembly approved a new method for calculating the salaries and the increases on those base salaries. The salaries will be increased annually using this Consumer Price Index for the preceding calendar year. So for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the salary for an elected official was increased by 4.186 percent from what it was in 2023-'24, to a base salary of \$91,683. Travel has increased by \$3,000, a very insignificant amount but based-, it's all based on quotes that we've received from Air Borealis for the charters to the Assembly, hotel rates, et cetera. There's no change for the costs of the Nunatsiavut Assembly Committees. And as a reminder, there are three Standing Committees of the Nunatsiavut Assembly, the Members Services Committee, Rules and Procedures Committee and the Alcohol and Drug Committee. There's also an allocation for special committees and, or *Code of Conduct* Committees that may need to be struck during the year. Professional fees are budgeted at 150,000, an increase of \$80,000 from the previous year. There are additional funds being budgeted for professional development for the Members of the



Nunatsiavut Assembly. In prior years this budget was \$20,000. However, the estimate for training has increased for the 2024- '25 year.

**MR. WINTERS:** Mr. Dicker, please turn on your mic.

**MR. DICKER:** Are we in Committee of the Whole. You're Chairperson now?

**MR. WINTERS:** That's correct, yeah.

**MR. DICKER:** Okay. Mr. Chair, Rexanne, what's involved in professional fees?

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

**MS. CRAWFORD:** So under, "Professional fees," it has two categories. One is your General Professional Fees in the event you need to seek legal advice or other advice to deal with matters of the Assembly. The other component of Professional Fees are the amounts being allocated for professional development and to increase the training that would be available or planned for the Assembly Members. I'm gonna just ask the Chair/Speaker if he can kind of elaborate a bit more on the professional development.  
*Nakummek.*

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* Mr. Dicker, there is a significant amount of training that is generally undertaken by new members of legislatures. All of the legislatures across this country and similar parliamentary governance training given to all commonwealth nations who follow the Westminster Tradition as we do in this room. So we have sought out and found additional training in the form of a modulated university program to teach Parliamentary Governance as well as financial acumen and what the procedures of this Room, how these should operate and how we can make

them operate more effectively. This is something that the Members Services Committee has discussed extensively in the preparation of this Budget. We will, however, be seeking out additional possible sources for this training beyond a university course. But just to give you an idea, the amount of training that is generally undertaken by legislators is usually significant and it will help us avoid the kind of snafus that we dealt with earlier today in terms of how we're intended to interact with one another in this room, and just make us all better at our jobs. Do you have any further questions, Mr. Dicker? *Nakummek.*

**MR. DICKER:**

No, thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Ms. Crawford.

**MS. CRAWFORD:**

Election costs have increased by \$97,000 and this is typical. We are in a year for a Presidential election. So every second year, you will see election costs high and then the years in between the presidential and the general elections, it comes down. The Nunatsiavut Electoral Officer has prepared the budget for the presidential election and also has set aside funds in the event there are by-elections called during the fiscal year. And based on my review of, you know, previous expenses, we feel-, we're very comfortable with the amount that's being budgeted for the election. Operating costs have increased by \$160,000. The biggest increase is that the audio-visual equipment, the system here at the Nunatsiavut Assembly is old, obsolete and needs to be replaced. And the estimated cost for-, to bring us up to standard and bring us to where we want to be in this equipment is \$150,000. And that price has been done in consultation with

the Director of Information and Technology, Robert Ford. There have been other minor increases, mostly we're looking at some small increases for supplies and really insignificant things to really tie to one piece. So those are-, so I've gone through all the seven different categories of the Budget and explained the \$488,000 change between the 2023 and 2024 budget. *Nakummek.*

**MR. WINTERS:**

Are there any questions at this time? Are there any more comments? Oh, sorry, yes, Mr. Dicker.

**MR. DICKER:**

Sorry, operating costs, the increase of \$160,000. So you mentioned Robert Ford, is that cost going towards the-, our ability to secure internet, lot faster internet in our system setting up the WiFi through the towers that we have? Is that part of that cost?

**MR. WINTERS:**

Ms. Crawford?

**MS. CRAWFORD:**

If your question's in terms of the Labrador North Wireless Broadband Project, that's not part of the cost. The \$150,000 really is for the design and the equipment that would be required to put in a system here with microphones, being able to livestream this Assembly so people can see us in person as well as, as I just saw, Ordinary Member from Nain, David Dicker pick up, like, the headsets we have and our translation equipment to bring us up to standard so that we could do all those things. *Nakummek.*

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Ms. Crawford. Are there further questions? If not, I will thank the witness and we will move back into the Assembly. I'll give you one moment. Thank you. We are now back in the Assembly. Given that the

Budget Recommendations for 2024-2025 have been considered in the Committee of the Whole, is the Assembly in favour of approving the Assembly Budget Recommendations for 2024-2025? All those in favour, please say, "Aye."

**ASSEMBLY:**

Aye.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, the motion passes. We are still on Item 17, "Motions." And it's the Torngat Metal Review Committee Motion. I would like to recognize the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Mr. Terry Vincent.

**MR. VINCENT:**

*Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday March 6, 2024, I will move, seconded by the Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Gerald Asivak. Whereas Torngat Metals has registered its Strange Lake Rare Earth Mining-, sorry, too fast-, project with the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, for the purposes of environmental review, under the *Nunatsiavut Environmental Protection Act*, and whereas the initiative is subject to a detailed review under the Act, and whereas Section 4.12.13 of the Act states that the Nunatsiavut Assembly may refer to the initiative to a committee of Nunatsiavut Assembly for its views and recommendations having regard to Section 4.10 of the Act, and whereas in 2012, the Nunatsiavut Assembly adopted the Detailed Review Rules which is set out among other things that a Nunatsiavut Assembly Environmental Review Committee be established to conduct detailed reviews of initiatives, and whereas Section 2.3 of the rules set out that with respect to a particular initiative, that Nunatsiavut must determine, 1) the number of people who

will make up the committee, 2) whether a person other than a Member of the Assembly will be appointed to the committee, and 3) the terms of reference of the committee. Now, therefore, I move, seconded by the Honourable Gerald Asivak Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, that 3) the Nunatsiavut Assembly convene in the Committee of the Whole with witnesses to determine the following: a) total number of members of the committee, b) whether the committee should include a member that is not a Member of Nunatsiavut Assembly, and c) approval of the terms of reference of the committee, and 4) Should the Assembly decide that the committee will consist of more than one member that the Rules and Procedures Committee recommend the composition of the committee as required under Standing Order 65(5) and 68 in the Requirements of the Act. Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. Would the Minister like to speak to the motion?

**MR. VINCENT:**

No, I would not.

**MR. WINTERS:**

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

**MR. VINCENT:**

I wish to close debate.

**MR. WINTERS:**

That concludes debate. The motion is to move into the Committee of the Whole. All those in favour? All those against? Seeing none, we are now

in the Committee of the Whole and I invite witnesses into the Chamber.  
We'll take five minutes.

[Recess]

**MR. WINTERS:**

...Committee of the Whole. I would like to welcome Mr. Jim Goudie, Deputy Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Mr. Frédéric Samuel Dwyer Environmental Assessment Manager, as well as the Director of Legal Services, Mr. Mark Gillette to our Chamber. Would either of the witnesses like to make remarks as to this proposed motion? Heads are shaking, "No." The Committee of the Whole, do you have questions for these witnesses about the proposed motion? Yes, First Minister-, sorry, Ms. Williams.

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

Thank you, Chair. I'm just trying to wrap my mind around this process. It's still new for me. I'm just wondering why are we at a point where we're considering investing monies and energies into an environmental process when a decision hasn't been made by Labrador Inuit whether or not this project should even proceed?

**MR. WINTERS:**

Deputy Minister Goudie?

**MR. GOUDIE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chair. The motion we've put forward to you today is a part of the *Nunatsiavut Government Environmental Protection Act*. The Act dictates, for lack of a better term, what the department must do and what Nunatsiavut must do as we move through an EA process. So this process is actually outlined in the Act. Torngat Metals has registered and we're

going through-, the department is going through the Environmental Assessment process with them. This is another step in the process.

**MR. WINTERS:** Yes, Ms. Williams?

**MS. WILLIAMS:** I'm not sure if I phrased my question correctly. I guess what I'm wondering should this be-, this activity, this piece of work happen after a decision has been made by Labrador Inuit whether or not such a project should proceed?

**MR. WINTERS:** Yes? You may go ahead, Mr. Samuel-Dwyer.

**MR. SAMUEL-DWYER:** So the way the *Nunatsiavut Environmental Protection Act* was adopted, the decision only happens after the review is conducted. So this is a process that's determined by the NEPA, the regulation and the Standing Orders from the Assembly. So those are decisions that have been made by the Assembly over how a project would be reviewed. And in terms of monies, any expenses incurred by the Nunatsiavut Government in reviewing an initiative is billed to the proponent. So, yeah.

**MR. WINTERS:** Yes, Mr. Gillette.

**MR. GILLETTE:** If I could just add to that-, yes, just to reiterate, I guess the process or the point of what's going on now is just part of the Environment Review process. The Environmental Review process is something that Labrador Inuit need to consider when they make the decision. You know, what are the environmental impacts of this particular development, right? So it's work that happens before the decision is made.

**MR. WINTERS:** Yes, Ms. Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:**

Can I add to that too? Like we heard stuff like that in the NA when we were going-, when Frédéric and the Impact Assessment Agency came, people were under the assumption that, oh, the project's going ahead or whatever. Nunatsiavut is deciding that they're gonna go ahead with the access road." Things like that. Like there was kind of some confusion. But like Fred had made very clearly that NEPA outlines the process in terms of which any proponent must go through in order for the Assembly to make a clear and concise decision moving forward. Does that make sense? Yeah, that's what-, so it's like, yeah.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Are there further questions? Yes, Ms. Flowers.

**MS. FLOWERS:**

I'm a little unclear as well what's happening. So what are we doing here today? Is it the three or the things on the bottom here? Are we approving the motion that's put forward?

**MR. WINTERS:**

This is to discuss the motion that's put forward. Would the witnesses like to add?

**MR. GILLETTE:**

Okay. So the purpose of today's motion is so the-, okay, where do we start? The-, so under the *Nunatsiavut Environmental Protection Act*, this is a type of project that requires what's called a Detailed Environmental Review, okay? And so the Act says that the Detailed Environmental Review has to be carried out by somebody. It can either be carried out by the Minister or it can be referred to a committee of the Assembly to do it, okay? So that's the Act. In 2012, the Assembly adopted a set of Standing Orders which basically state that how such a committee would work if a



new committee is appointed, okay? So the rules and all the groundwork for those are already in place. And so now it's up to the Assembly to decide at this juncture to which group of people it's going to be mandated to conduct this detailed review. It can be-, so it's going to be a committee. The committee could be-, you have two options-, the committee could be a committee of one person which is the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources. So that's an option. The other option is for a committee of Assembly Members with an appointment of a small, like, one or more small number of staff people to help on that committee. The committee would otherwise have, you know, resources and support from the Nunatsiavut Government and its Civil Service as well in doing that review. But-, so the first thing that the Assembly has to decide and the purpose of this motion is to determine how many people are going to be on the committee? Is it going to be just a committee of one or is it gonna be a committee of more than one member? If the committee decides-, if the Assembly decides it's going to be a committee of more than one, then the next step is the Rules and Procedures Committee after the Assembly will adjourn, will go and determine who they will recommend to be the makeup of that committee because under the Standing Orders of the Assembly, the Rules and Procedures Committee is the committee that decides, or it's called the Striking Committee which means they're the committee that proposes the membership of various sub-committees of the Assembly, okay-, which would come back for approval. That's the first thing. And then second thing is I think the terms of reference, proposed

terms of reference that have been prepared by the department have been circulated to the Members, so you also have to approve those terms of reference. And I think-, is that it? I think-, or was there a third thing. I don't have the motion in front of me at the moment. That's-, so that's essentially what the Assembly would be doing at this juncture.

**MR. WINTERS:**

For the information of the committee, I will re-read the motion as Mr. Gillette was paraphrasing it. The Nunatsiavut Assembly convenes-, sorry, the motion is that the Nunatsiavut Assembly convene the Committee of the Whole with witnesses, as we have, to determine the following: The total number of members of the committee, whether the committee should include a member that is not a Member of the Nunatsiavut Assembly, and approval of the terms and references of the committee. Next, should the Assembly decide that the committee will consist of more than one member, that the Rules and Procedures Committee recommend the composition of the committee as required under Standing Order 65(5) and 68 in the Requirements of the Act." So, really, the discussion is will we have a single-member committee or will the Rules and Procedures Committee-, yes, Ms. Barbour?

**MS. BARBOUR:**

Sorry to cut you off. After hearing that, I don't think it should be made up of one person. This is a very significant project with significant environmental impact. So...

**MR. WINTERS:**

Yes, Mr. Goudie?

**MR. GOUDIE:** It's just a note to the Committee of the Whole, Mr. Speaker is that, you know, we have an *Environmental Protection Act*, and those Acts kind of give us some guidelines in terms of if the Assembly chooses to have a committee made up of more than one, it should not be an excess of four members, and at least one of those members should be a representative of the closest local community which would be Nain.

**MR. WINTERS:** Are there any other questions or considerations at this time? Yes, Ms. Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:** Can it be mandated to include a well-seasoned harvester who uses the land through the proposed access road?

**MR. WINTERS:** Mr. Goudie?

**MR. GOUDIE:** The committee members-, there is an option in the motion on whether a member of the committee should be someone from outside of the Assembly. We would hope that the majority of the members would be Members of the Nunatsiavut Assembly but there is an option for the Assembly to choose someone that is outside of Assembly Members. I think for the Department of Lands and Natural Resources we would be more comfortable-, and I appreciate your comment-, with someone who can process the information on a technical level.

**MR. WINTERS:** So for the information of the Assembly, we referred to Standing Order 65(5) which determines the composition of struck committees-, that the membership of the committees is representative of the various interests and functions within the Membership of the Assembly, which speaks

somewhat to what you're saying, Ms. Barbour, that there is a balance of men and women on the committees and that the membership of standing in special committees may include persons who are not Members of the Assembly so long as such members comprise no more than 25 percent of the total membership. So if we had a four-person committee, then one person who is not an Assembly Member who is an experienced harvester could be put forward as a suggestion.

**MS. BARBOUR:**

So if it's the Assembly's will today, can we mandate somebody or, like, make recommendations for names? 'Cause I have somebody in mind right now but I don't know if they'd be willing to or whatever, but I think, like, the reason that I say that is because in the Community Consultations and all, listening to everybody's concerns as Ordinary Member, and like I mentioned in my Members Statement in November, there's a general lack of trust between the general public and the levels of Government, whether it's regional, provincial or federal. So I think, like in the best interest of Labrador Inuit, it's important to include somebody who's very seasoned, experienced, has traditional knowledge, to be included on this committee. So I would like to somehow have that mandated.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Recommendations from this room, the entire Rules and Procedures Committee is composed of people sitting in this room. So recommendations are being heard by the Rules and Procedures Committee. Should the Assembly choose that by consensus, that, that is the way that we will go, that the Rules and Procedures Committee will take

on this task with that recommendation. Mr. Wally Andersen, I saw your hand, sir.

**MR. W. ANDERSEN:**

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I fully agree with Ms. Barbour that it should be more than a one-member committee. As a matter of fact, I would like to see a five-member committee. And I also fully agree with her that we should get someone that's well versed and knowledgeable of a project like this to sit on the committee as well.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Are there any other further considerations at this time? Yes, Mr. George Gear.

**MR. GEAR:**

Yeah, I agree too, that should it should be four and one of them should be somebody from the closest community like Nain would be the closest community. And the other three could be made up from the Assembly.

**MR. WINTERS:**

For clarification, Mr. Gear, you agreed with your colleague who said it should be five and you said that it should be four.

**MR. GEAR:**

Yeah, I say it should be four.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Are there further-, sorry, yes, the witnesses would all like to speak right now. Mr. Goudie.

**MR. GOUDIE:**

Just a point of clarification, Mr. Minister, which may help some of the debate that's currently ongoing. It's four members plus the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources.

**MR. WINTERS:**

So we're still talking about a five-member committee. Just one of them would be the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources. Mr. Samuel-Dwyer.

**MR. DWYER-SAMUEL:** It's actually Dwyer-Samuel but that's ok.

**MR. WINTERS:** And I had corrected someone else earlier. Apologies, sir.

**MR. DWYER-SAMUEL:** Just in regards to the comment by Ms. Barbour, so if there's more than one member, which would be the Minister, one of them needs to be either an Ordinary Member or AngajukKâk from the community closest to the initiative. So one of the member from Nain would have to be a Member of the Assembly. It doesn't mean that a member outside can't be coming too but at least one of the Assembly Member from the Assembly from Nain would have to be on the committee. Sorry that was Mr. Gear's.

**MR. WINTERS:** Mr. Gillette, when you're ready.

**MR. GILLETTE:** And just to clarify. So the committee is going to be undertaking an environmental review. And part of the environmental review process is gonna be doing community consultations. So if there's any concern about, you know, hearing the voices from peoples in the communities, the committee is going to be mandated-, that's part of their mandate is to do those things. So I just wanted to add that as well.

**MR. WINTERS:** Ms. Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:** Yeah, just a response to that is that one of the concerns we heard throughout the community consultations was that, you know, there's not-, there are some very good hunters who use that area, commonly, every year, year-round that prefer not to go into public settings. So one of the concerns that we heard was, how do we reach out to these people and get to them for their information? So that's why I said we should have

somebody who's a well-seasoned hunter because it represents those people, right? And it represents everything that the NG is about, who we are as Inuit because hunting, fishing, language, culture-, everything. So I think, like, in stating, like, that's just my response to Mr. Gillette's...

**MR. WINTERS:**

So for absolute clarification, if, like, this committee is being struck in order to conduct consultations. A consultation can take any shape or form needed by the population that is being consulted. This means direct sourcing. This means reaching out to people specifically. This means going for tea in your communities. It doesn't mean a townhall meeting necessarily. It's whatever will work for this community. So with that in mind, I would like to know-, we've heard a couple of different suggestions in terms of how many people should make up this committee, what sort of people should additionally make up this committee and who would be the members of the committee? At this time, is there a strong recommendation to send this to the Rules and Procedures Committee to strike this group? Are there any other additional comments or concerns or suggestions from anyone else at the Table before we take this to the Rules and Procedures Committee, because we sound pretty consistent? Mr. Barry Andersen.

**MR. B. ANDERSEN:**

Yeah, thank you, very much, Mr. Chairman. And I perfectly agree. I think that we as the Committee of the Whole Assembly Members, elected officials, should take the advice of the witnesses here and follow the Standing Orders and the procedures set out in the *Environmental Protection Act*. If not, we leave ourselves open, I think, to further maybe

actions down the road. So I would follow along with the recommendations of the witnesses and Ms. Barbour and have the four-member committee plus the Minister. Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* Would anyone else like to speak to this point? Yes, Ms. Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:** Can I invite myself to be on the committee?

**MR. WINTERS:** You just did. Are there any further comments around the Table or are we ready at this point to take a vote to move to the Rules and Procedures Committee for this issue? Seeing-, oh, yes, Ms. Flowers.

**MS. FLOWERS:** So if we're gonna vote, does it mean that the-, one of the fourth will be a seasoned harvester now?

**MR. WINTERS:** That is the recommendation. Mr. Gillette?

**MR. GILLETTE:** And if I could, Mr. Chair just to make a recommendation about how to proceed here. So there's three points to the motion. So I think you'd asked for-, asked a question on each of those three pieces because they-,the-, so the first question is, "Will it be a committee of four," I'm hearing? Perhaps if someone wants to-, plus the Minister, yeah. And then-, so that's be the first question. The second question, which would be, "Should the committee, uh, include a member that's not a Member of the Assembly? And then the third question would be, "Does the Committee of the Whole adopt the terms of reference as presented?"

**MR. WINTERS:** Are there further questions or are we ready to-, oh, yes, Ms. Williams.



**MS. WILLIAMS:** I'm hearing things around the room and people seem supportive of a committee, but I think that I would also like to have more advice from the department or the Minister in relation to this department to confirm that this is how that they see it proceeding, and that it would be most beneficial to proceed in this manner, is to have this committee and have committee members that may not be Members of the Assembly.

**MR. WINTERS:** Do the witnesses have specific recommendations in any direction on this committee structure?

**MR. GOUDIE:** From a departmental perspective, Mr. Speaker and Ms. Williams, I think that we had preferred that the Assembly would create a larger group than just the Minister himself, which I think is good. The department strongly urges, because this will be a-, there will be public hearings. This committee will be responsible for going out and consulting with our people. You need to have someone who can answer technical questions. I said that in my-, I believe, my opening statement that we would strongly urge the Committee of the Whole to-, and the Assembly to consider having an individual outside of the Assembly who has technical expertise on the *Nunatsiavut Environmental Protection Act*.

**MR. WINTERS:** Ms. Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:** Are there any, like, can I recommend Fred? He's good.

**MR. WINTERS:** Go ahead.

**MR. GOUDIE:** Mr. Speaker, my recommendation to the committee would be Frédéric Dwyer-Samuel is without a doubt the most technically astute individual

that currently resides in Nunatsiavut or anywhere in the world in terms of the *Nunatsiavut Environmental Protection Act*.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Are there further questions? Yes, Ms. Williams.

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

So from my understanding, then, if Frédéric can do that, then we can potentially have the committee that would include somebody who is a seasoned hunter or provider from the region as well as he would be able to answer any questions if community members have technical questions that need clarification?

**MR. WINTERS:**

The complication that we're running into is that the one-plus-four structure that we're limited to within the Standing Orders would mean that we would have one person-, it has to be under 25 percent of the committee makeup-, one person who is not a Member of the Assembly. So although Mr. Dwyer-Samuel is an expert in this field, it would be reliant on the committee to ensure that a seasoned hunter can be consulted adequately. But we would not have membership on the committee. There would be no longer any space. Yes, Mr. Goudie.

**MR. GOUDIE:**

The Act gives us provisions to use our Environmental Division staff for support. So there is a possibility that-, second is probably the wrong word but Mr. Dwyer-Samuel could travel with and consult the committee in order to alleviate the demand of the 25 percent. I'm not quite clear on whether he would be explicitly able to talk at a public hearing in that regard. I would have to discuss with Legal, but there is a-, we could definitely offer his services as support to the committee.

**MR. WINTERS:** Yes? Go ahead.

**MR. DWYER-SAMUEL:** Just to be a little bit more precise on that point, the Chair of the committee which is the Lands and Natural Resources Minister can appoint three types of position from the Nunatsiavut Civil Service to assist the committee. A secretary, that can be from any part of the Civil Service. Chief Administrative Officers for the committee, that comes from the Environment Division. And one or more other members of the Environment Division to access Secretariat. So these are positions that are adapted to support the committee but that don't count as committee members and for the most part have to come from the Environment Division to begin with.

**MR. WINTERS:** Ms. Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:** So do we need to include technical staff then on the committee?

**MR. WINTERS:** Mr. Goudie?

**MR. GOUDIE:** No, in terms of the technical aspects of the committee. In terms of having an individual who can answer technical questions as a part of the committee, yes. This is unclear to me whether you would-, the committee would hold a public hearing and then you would have Mr. Dwyer-Samuel as a technical member be the one that would say, do a presentation or not, if he's only a member of support for the committee. Again, I would want to clarify with Legal after the fact if there's any restriction in that way.

**MR. WINTERS:** While the Director of Legal Services leafs through his pages, I will take this time to acknowledge that Standing Act 5(3) requires consent of the

Assembly to move beyond 5:00 p.m. Do I have the consent of the Assembly? Are there any, "Nays?" *Nakummek*. Mr. Goudie.

**MR. GOUDIE:** After my brief recess with Legal Counsel, Mr. Chair, we don't believe that, that would be an issue and Mr. Dwyer-Samuel could be just a technical representative from the Environment Division and Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

**MR. WINTERS:** That qualifier just doesn't sound necessary. I've heard two things. I've heard a committee of four including the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources and I've heard a committee of five including the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources. We'll vote on each to determine-, yes, Mr. Andersen.

**MR. W. ANDERSEN:** Mr. Speaker, I'm fine. I thought it was just four including the Minister but it's four members plus the Minister. I'm fine with that.

**MR. WINTERS:** Seeing heads nodding, does that make the most sense around the Table? Okay. In that case, the total number of members of the committee will be five, including the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources. Can I have a show of hands? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, we have consensus. Mr. Gillette, you have your hand on the trigger, there.

**MR. GILLETTE:** Yeah, well, two things. And now I have to remember what the first thing was.

**MR. WINTERS:** Start with the second.

**MR. GILLETTE:** No, just, so the composition of the committee will be left with the Rules and Procedures Committee to do. But I just want to-, we discussed this

before, just advise the Members that it's anticipated that this is going to be a significant time commitment on the part of any members who are on this committee. So if you're approached or nominated, recommended to be on this committee, recognize that over the next what, maybe year, is it? Over the next year it's a significant time investment on your part outside of the Assembly. This is extra work. This involves travel; this involves community consultations; this involves gathering information and preparing a formal report, okay? So this is not just having some meetings and sitting there having a cup of tea with people every now and again. Like, this gonna be a lot of work. So just be aware of that when you agree to be on the committee.

**MR. WINTERS:**

We have agreement on the total number of members of the committee. The next question I whether the committee should include a member that is not a Member of the Nunatsiavut Assembly. Seeing nodding heads. Do we have consensus? Yeah, go ahead.

**MS. BARBOUR:**

The member who is not-, the person-, the member of the committee who is not a Member of the Assembly, has to be somebody who is a well-seasoned hunter who can receive technical information and make...

**MR. WINTERS:**

Your recommendation has been heard. Mr. Gillette?

**MR. GILLETTE:**

Not in any disagreeing with that, I'm just saying, like, tomorrow when the Rules and Procedures Committee comes back with the composition, they're gonna have to have names. So I'm not sure how quickly they would be able to identify such an individual. But-, so-, or that could be left with

the committee to appoint one at a certain point. So I'm just saying that tomorrow there would technically be names presented.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* Yes, Mr. Dicker Jr.

**MR. DICKER JR.:** Yes, just to add to the Assembly convening in Committee of the Whole, as Mark mentioned, I think we should add in, like he stated, to amend adding a section in with regards to one year, how long the review is gonna take place for one year. This committee member that's chosen to be in that duration for one year.

**MR. WINTERS:** Mr. Gillette?

**MR. GILLETTE:** Yeah, no, the process is already laid out in the various documents, the Terms of Reference and the Regulations and whatnot. I don't think it's necessary to have it in this particular motion if that was being suggested. But that was more or less just for information of the Members that, you know, if you're going to-, thinking about being on this committee or being recommended to be on the committee, just understand what-, understand the commitment you're gonna be making. That's what it basically was.

**MR. WINTERS:** And a time limit isn't absolutely necessary. A Special Committee will operate until its work is done. Yes, Mr. Goudie.

**MR. GOUDIE:** Mr. Speaker, just to be clear, I know we threw out some, you know, timelines there. The a) process-, the end can't be determined. So it could be longer-, it could be shorter than a year.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* Mr. Dicker?

**MR. DICKER JR.:** Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** Yes, Mr. Dwyer-Samuel.

**MR. DWYER-SAMUEL:** Yeah, just to further on Mr. Goudie's comment, there's also additional uncertainty in terms of timeline for that process. As it's outlined in the Terms of Reference and the Draft Terms of Reference, the Government Division under counsel from the NEC has been collaborating with the Federal Government and the Province to try and cooperate in lining up timeline and reduce duplication for community members. So this can further affect how-, or ability to forecast how long it's gonna take. And there's also the possibility for the committee to decide to go towards more formal harmonization procedures which are provided for under the *Land Claim Agreement* which could completely change the way the review is done, including things like joint review panels or-, so, there's a lot of uncertainty.

**MR. WINTERS:** Are there further questions? So again, the question around the room is whether we should include a member that is not a Member of the Assembly. It sounds resoundingly like, "Yes." But we do need consensus. With a show of hands? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, the next question for consideration is the Terms of Reference for the committee. It should be Tab Five. Has everyone had a chance to have a look at that? It's a one-pager called the, "Minister's Recommendation of the Adequacy of the Registration,"-, my apologies, one moment. Now you have something I don't have. The Terms of Reference for the Standing Committee-, one moment. How many people do not have a copy of-, I'm seeing a lot of hands. One moment. We're down staff this week. We're gonna take a 10-

minute recess while we print more copies of this document. Apologies, everyone.

[Recess]

**MR. WINTERS:** ...in a timely fashion. The Terms of Reference for the Standing Committee of the Assembly on Detailed Environmental Reviews with respect to the Strange Lake Rare Earth Mining Project, is now in front of you. It is six pages. We will not be doing a line-by-line review. I'm going to ask that you take 10 minutes and read through it and identify questions as they come up. But please dig in. Let's get through it and if you do have issues with anything, let us know and we'll cover it and then we will vote on the Terms of Reference. Say again?

**MS. BARBOUR:** Mr. Chair.

**MR. WINTERS:** Yes, Ms. Barbour?

**MS. BARBOUR:** It says in here the administrative supports, "Civil Service will provide administrative, technical and procedural support as required by the committee." So we just concluded that, like, we would include somebody who's not a Member of the Assembly on the committee. Can we revisit that to include two people since we don't technically need a technical person on the committee?

**MR. WINTERS:** We've already discussed that. So the technical support that will be provided as Mr. Goudie had stated, would be coming from Mr. Dwyer-Samuel who would not be required to sit on the committee. So these...



**MS. BARBOUR:** Sorry, I didn't phrase my question properly. Like we've already agreed for one person. Can we make recommendation for two seasoned harvesters, or?

**MR. WINTERS:** We cannot because the composition of any committee cannot have non-Members of the Assembly over 25 percent. Yes, Mr. Dwyer-Samuel?

**MR. DWYER-SAMUEL:** So as for a lot of the elements of the Terms of Reference, like, that clause is a reference to the part in the Standing Order that we discussed where the Chair can appoint. So they're the same clause.

**MR. WINTERS:** As this has been sent out to anyone-, to everyone, apologies, via email, we can move along if everyone is comfortable with the Terms of Reference but if you do have questions from either what you've read previously, what's been discussed or what you're seeing in front of you now, please feel free to raise them. The last thing that I want as Chair is to make anyone feel as though they've been rushed through this very important process. Yes, Mr. Dicker?

**MR. DICKER:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. When we met in Nain with the proponents if it's what you call them, they still not had access to Vale Port or Edward's Cove. It says in here that-, as if it is that fact under the Terms of Reference, they had not negotiated a agreement with-, as-, for the Port. They had not even talked to Vale about it yet. So...

**MR. WINTERS:** Mr. Goudie?

**MR. GOUDIE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, AngajukKâk Dicker. The description is outlined in the Terms of Reference is a description outlined by Torngat

Metals to the Nunatsiavut Government. So they've referenced the Port. But you're absolutely right. There is no agreement with Vale, the Nunatsiavut Government or even I believe, you'd have to have an agreement with the Innu Nation in terms of using the Port. There is no agreement with Torngat Metals and Vale in that regard. But in terms of the project description, if it-, there is an agreement, this Review Committee would keep that in the scope of the process going through the Environmental Assessment.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Yes, Mr. Dwyer-Samuel.

**MR. DWYER-SAMUEL:**

I can also mention-, so as Ms. Barbour brought up during the-, was it a question period or-, anyway, earlier in the Assembly-, there's more than one plan that Torngat Metal brought forward after we drafted this project description. So a proponent can change a project as a review is going through. So, yes, that description was written when there was only one option. Now there is two other options that are on the Table too-, three. Yeah. But in the-, we didn't update that description since.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Are there further questions or comments at this time? Yes, Ms. Barbour?

**MS. BARBOUR:**

I feel comfortable with the Terms of Reference.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Yes, Ms. Williams?

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

I'm sorry. I don't wanna take things off track but in relation to this-, and there's a description, but there's other options. So is there another, gonna be required assessments or anything like that done because there's gonna be different options considered?

**MR. WINTERS:** Mr. Dwyer-Samuel?

**MR. DWYER-SAMUEL:** A proponent can change the project at different stage throughout review. As this is still the first phases of review, changes in the project don't necessarily mean it has to restart the committee depending on the change. If the proponent was to change a project too much, too late in the process, the committee could decide to restart. But in that case, the two other option that the proponent has brought forward don't touch LIL. So they wouldn't-, if the proponent was to put aside option A, which is the option that touches Labrador Inuit Land, the project would not be subject to environmental review under the *Nunatsiavut Environmental Protection Act*. Yeah, so, it would not require a different review. It would just not require review from the Nunatsiavut Government at all.

**MR. WINTERS:** Yes, Ms. Williams?

**MS. WILLIAMS:** So if one of those options is selected by the proponent and has not touched LIL, is LISA involved? And if it is, what opportunity or what considerations or how strong can our voice be in that whole process about the project proceeding?

**MR. WINTERS:** Mr. Goudie?

**MR. GOUDIE:** In terms of initiating our own Environmental Assessment Process, I'll go back to Fred's comments which he just said to you we wouldn't actually do that. But it would still be adjacent to or within the *Labrador Inuit Settlement Area*. We would still have a significant say in whether-, how we view the project and how we would present that to the Province and the

Federal Government. So we wouldn't be locked out of the process. It'd just be we wouldn't go through our own process. So we would feed into the Provincial and, or Federal processes at that time. It's just we wouldn't go through our own. So they would still have to do environmental assessments on the Provincial and Federal level as they're doing now with this process as we go through our own *Environmental Protection Act*.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Ms. Williams.

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

So if a decision was made that-, through this process that we wouldn't approve it to proceed, and they went through LISA, potentially, the Province or the Federal Government can proceed without our approval?

**MR. WINTERS:**

Mr. Goudie.

**MR. GOUDIE:**

Yes, potentially, there would be, if they went through option B or C, the Province could-, I wouldn't wanna say, ignore, but make their own opinion that this is a legitimate project and it should go ahead. There is that potential if we-, they didn't go through option A, or if the Assembly made a decision that this wasn't a viable project for Nunatsiavut in the future after we go through the A process and they say they wanna go through option B or C, there is that potential. I think whatever we highlight in this process, those same arguments will probably be relevant arguments to option B or option C and I think the Province will probably take whatever position that Nunatsiavut comes to very highly because they would need-, if they were to go ahead with and approve, they would need to show why the reasons we said, "No," are not relevant.

**MR. WINTERS:**

So I feel as though this project is going to be a major topic of discussion for a very long time and those are very important relevant questions. I do think that's it's outside of the scope of the discussion around striking the committee and the Terms of Reference. Again, very valid discussion, but in terms of these Terms of Reference for the committee that we're striking, I think that we need to kinda focus in on what we're specifically looking at right now. Yes, Ms. Williams.

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

I actually, beg to differ a little bit because the terms of reference are-, element number seven is, "Public Engagement." So I mean, the terms of reference are public engagement. We represent public here, so I think that the terms of reference, I think that should be a consideration. And I think that information may well affect how we feel that we should proceed because this is a big project. It makes a big impact on our lands and we need to understand all the elements of-, all of the work that's gonna proceed on it.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Are there any-, yes, Mr. Joe Dicker.

**MR. DICKER:**

I agree with the Minister on what he said. We were told that if they went to option A, there's no way-, if we said, "No," there's no way that they would be able to do it. But the other two options gives them that window. If you go to Nain or if you were in Nain (inaudible) 4:55:48, and possibly be ignored. How can that be? It's our land? The-, I don't trust the Provincial Government, okay? They've broken the Land Claims Agreement more than once and we've gone to court and we're still in court with them. They owe us money, royalties and all that. What's to stop them 'cause that mine

belongs to the Province? Right now they're mining only the Quebec side of it. But what's on the other side that the road is made and they-, and we approve it, it's gonna be already there. They got a 15-year lifespan, 30-year lifespan. But that can pass by quickly. That will pass by quickly. They have to understand, you know, the arguments that Nain gave out at the hearing, are so strong against that road being developed 'cause of obvious reasons, not only for the caribou but for the livelihood that the majority of the hunters in Nain go through there, fishing, berry gathering, wooding and they're gonna (inaudible) 4:58:18 things in there, in terms of one-way traffic. It's a disaster waiting to happen. They don't know the weather conditions up there in the wintertime, nothing. I want to, want the Terms of Reference, yes, but what's good to be on the Terms of Reference if they change their mind before they decide and it's on LISA. Then it's the Province's problem. Heck with the NG. If you say that NG is strong in a way that the Province would listen, I think that money talks. Well, that's my personal opinion.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Mr. Dicker. Mr. Goudie?

**MR. GOUDIE:**

Mr. Speaker, I'm somewhat remiss to put my next comments out there publicly but I think it's important for the Assembly to understand where we're too in terms of Torngat Metals and the proposed project and those options. If you look at the map, the mine is not in Quebec-, the mine is not in Nunatsiavut. It's not in Newfoundland and Labrador. It's in Quebec. The Province will get no royalties from whatever mine Torngat Metals on the Quebec side gets. They'll get no royalties from the trucking to

whatever port they decide. They'll get no secondary royalties from processing because the way the project is scoped right now, it's all gonna be done in Sept-Isles. They get almost essentially nothing. The only way the Province benefits here is if the Nunatsiavut Government in some way gets a royalty tax from Torngat Metals. And I won't go into finance, and there's nobody from Finance here-, or any other *Impacts and Benefit Agreement* we might sign with Torngat metals if the Assembly decides that the EAF process is okay and we're good to move ahead. Torngat Metals realizes this. So I think the probability that if option A is not an option, that the Province will go ahead and approve option B, going without-, into LISA outside of the LIL is almost slim to none. I think AngajukKâk Dicker is right, money talks. And in this case there's no money unless it comes through us. I think the Province is looking quite heavily at how Nunatsiavut views this and what decision we will come to in the near future when we go through this process in terms of our Exempt Mineral Lands. And the bigger mineral deposit which is in Nunatsiavut Lands where we have a considerable amount of sway and where we would have a considerable amount of income coming to that. But that's not what we're discussing today. And I don't think the Province would entertain going to option B or option C. I can't say that with a hundred percent certainty, but I'd be my life on it.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Mr. Goudie. Yes, Mr. Dicker.

**MR. DICKER:**

But the issue of building that road, like I said, it's only for 30 years. All that ore is underneath there is money coming in, guaranteed. The road is

already gonna be built if they approve it. The fort is there if they approve it. It's too attractive for the Provincial Government not to say, "No." That's my point.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Yes, Ms. Williams.

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

Thank you for the information around the Province's so, We know that these metals are-, they wanna mine them. They're a really good deposit and they wanna get away from China and those company-, the countries that are producing them. So they're gonna want to-, we know Federally they're gonna want to move this mine ahead if they can. So I don't understand that whole process, but can the Federal Government make a decision that regardless of how potentially the Province and Nunatsiavut felt, that it could proceed?

**MR. WINTERS:**

Mr. Goudie?

**MR. GOUDIE:**

If in some way, there was a proposal to have the mine mined in Quebec, trained down to Schefferville which is still in Quebec, and then somehow avoid using the railway through Newfoundland and Labrador to get to Sept-Isle for processing, that is a possibility. I don't see any way how that would be technically plausible in terms of-, it's not this deposit that's really the gold mine. It's our deposit. So any government or company-, Torngat Metals is aware of what's on the other side of this mine. They've already had initial discussions, that, "You know, we'd really like to look at the other side," where we've just flat out told them, "No," because it's exempt mineral lands. No government would ever-, if we come out and say, "No,"



when we go through this process-, if that's the decision of the Assembly, would ever wanna jeopardize the possibility of looking at that other deposit in the future. And arguably, when the land-use plan is done and the Minister opens up the exempt mineral lands, we will probably be in a similar process in this Assembly, talking about similar issues, but now you have to consider whether it's worth 25 percent of \$10 billion instead of just an *Impacts Benefit Agreement*. That's a discussion for a different day. But I think it highly improbable that any government would do anything to jeopardize the secondary deposit, which is in Nunatsiavut, Labrador Inuit Lands.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Mr. Goudie. Ms. Kemuksigak?

**MS. KEMUKSIGAK:**

I'm not sure if I should ask this question or not but some-, people are talking about other options, but we don't know what they are or not all of us know what they are. I don't know if that's something you wanna divulge or not?

**MR. WINTERS:**

Mr. Goudie-, or Mr. Dwyer-Samuel?

**MR. DWYER-SAMUEL:**

So the options that they have right now on the table, there's (a), (b), and (c). Option (a) is the option that goes pretty much straight from the deposit through LISA, through Labrador Inuit Land and then in Vale, in Vale LISA and to their port. Option (b) is an option that they looked at that would go straight south and then join with the roads around the Smallwood Reservoir. But they've pretty much discarded that option as too costly. Option (c) is the option that instead of going straight up and

touching LIL would go down and avoid Ikadlivik but stay on LISA and then land in the bottom of Voisey's Bay proper. And then they would have to install a floating dock and barge material up to a ship that would be further out. So these are the options that the proponent has on the table regarding the project.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Mr. Evans?

**MR. EVANS:**

Yes, thank you. Not to get off the subject or anything but we just had the email, myself and Barry, AngajukKâk, Ordinary Member-, we just had the email that they are coming to the communities, information sessions, 'cause I don't like not knowing, like, even though I respect Ordinary Member Barbour telling, I want them to tell us straight. Anyway, the information's coming, so hopefully it's just-, this is something not related to the information sessions, but I just wanted to say that.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Ms. Barbour?

**MS. BARBOUR:**

Yeah, and to add to that, the road-, I remember when I was talking to one of the elders at the public consultation, they remember when Voisey's Bay Mine was just starting and the company at that time wanted to have the port at the bottom of Voisey's Bay but the people in Nain said, "No, this bay is too abundant." And it is. It really is. You can get everything in that bay, everything. And so they went, the bay north at Anaktalak Bay. to Edward's Cove.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Are there further questions or comments around the Table? At this time, do we feel comfortable voting to approve the Terms of Reference, or are we requiring further discussion? Mr. Barry Andersen?

**MR. B. ANDERSEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I feel comfortable with the parameters set out in the Standing Orders, proceeding with this matter.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Are there any other comments around the Table? One moment. Apologies, too many pages, not enough staples. I'm looking for consensus regarding approval of the Terms of References for this committee. By show of hands, do we have consensus? And are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none. Having passed all of these elements, the Rules and Procedures Committee will meet this evening to recommend the composition of the committee based on the recommendations given around the Table this evening and as required by the Standing Orders 65(5) and 68 and the requirements of the Act. Would either of you-, would any of the witnesses like to make a final comment? Shaking heads, suggests, "No." I will thank you for your time. You may leave the Chambers. We are now back in the Assembly. Is the Assembly in favour of this motion? Motion passes. We will now take a recess for supper and we will return for the final item that requires discussion for the evening. Let's get to the hotel as quickly as possible, everyone, for dinner. *Nakummek.*

[Recess]

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Welcome back. We are still on Item 16, "Motions." I will once again recognize the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Mr. Terry Vincent, when you're ready, sir.

**MR. VINCENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, whereas the Infrastructure Division in the Department of Nunatsiavut Affairs, has registered its new Nain Airport Project with the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources for the purposes of environmental review under the *Nunatsiavut Environmental Protection Act*, and whereas the initiative is subject to a detailed review under the Act, and whereas Section 4.12.13 of the Act states that the Nunatsiavut Assembly may refer the initiative to a committee of the Nunatsiavut Assembly for its views and recommendations having regard to Section 4.10 of the Act, and whereas, in 2012, the Nunatsiavut Assembly adopted the Detailed Review Rules which set out, among other things, that a Nunatsiavut Assembly Environmental Review Committee be established to conduct detailed reviews of initiatives, and whereas Section 2.3 of the rules sets out that with respect to a particular initiative, the Nunatsiavut Assembly must determine 1) the number of people who will make up the committee, 2) whether a person other than a Member of the Assembly will be appointed to the committee and 3), the Terms of Reference of the committee. Now, therefore, I move, seconded by the Honourable Gerald Asivak, Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, that 1) The Nunatsiavut Assembly convene in the Committee of the Whole with witnesses to determine the following: a) The total number of members of the committee, b) Whether the committee should include a member that is

not a Member of the Nunatsiavut Assembly and c) Approval of the Terms of Reference for the committee and 2) should the Assembly decide that the committee will consist of more than one member, that the Rules and Procedures Committee recommend the composition of the committee as required under Standing Order 65(5) and 68 in the requirements of the Act. Thank you.

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

**MR. VINCENT:** No, I would not.

**MR. WINTERS:** Does anyone else wish to speak to the motion? Seeing no one, if no other Members wish to speak, does the Member wish to make final comments and close debate?

**MR. VINCENT:** I wish to close debate.

**MR. WINTERS:** That concludes debate. The motion is to move into the Committee of the Whole. I'm looking for consensus. Those in favour? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, we're now in the Committee of the Whole and I invite the witnesses into the Chamber. We'll take a couple of minutes while they come in.

[Recess]

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* Welcome back to the Chamber witnesses. Would either of you like to make any remarks in regards to the item? Oh, yes, Mr. Jim Goudie, Deputy Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, when you're ready.

**MR. GOUDIE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, it's only to say that this is remarkably similar in terms of the actual motions to the piece we went through earlier before our break for supper.

**MR. WINTERS:** Would either of the other witnesses like to make a comment? Shaking heads. Okay. Are there questions around the Table regarding what is in front of you and its similarity to the last conversation? I hope everyone's had a chance to look at this as mentioned. Ms. Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:** It's not necessarily a question but just reiterating the comments from when we was in the last Committee of the Whole-, same concerns. I know this project is potentially significantly smaller than the Strange Lake project, but it is still land that's used by local Inuit, especially people who doesn't have modes of transportation. You know, they always walk in those areas, go partridge hunting in those areas. There's a piece of the work that's passing Kauk Brook, the bridge. And I think that's one of the main concerns. There wasn't really-, there wasn't anybody that showed up to the first consultation round. But, you know, it-, I think it's still to be seen as just important, especially that road to the airport. So I would recommend having a committee of four plus the Minister, just to be sure that we're still able to consider Inuit who use those areas and the families who still have cabins in those areas as well as to be able to include the traditional knowledge to have, you know, a hunter, harvester who uses that area.

**MR. WINTERS:** So what I'm hearing again is the-, if there is going to be a non-Assembly member as part of this committee-, and again, due to the Standing Orders

there can only be one in order to stay under the 25 percent threshold, the recommendation is that it would be a hunter, harvester, as with the previous motion. *Nakummek*. Are there further questions or comments, considerations? Yes, Mr. Joe Dicker.

**MR. DICKER:** I'm just wondering, for the-, speaking of the issues, would that committee that's gonna look at the Torngat Metals issue, can that committee be one in the same-, the committee that's gonna look at the Nain Airport?

**MR. WINTERS:** Witnesses? Mr. Gillette.

**MR. GILLETTE:** Well, they will be two separate committees and they'll be doing two separate pieces of work. Could it be the same people? It could be. My colleagues would be able to better answer this, but I think that might be an awful lot of work for people to sit on both of them. Not to say there couldn't be some overlap, maybe, though, I don't know. But it's two very big pieces of work. They are two separate committees. It's not-, you can't appoint one committee to do both of them. Put it that way.

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

**MS. FLOWERS:** Just more a comment. They look to be very similar because you're trying to do the same thing except there's two different projects. So I think we discussed a lot previous around the Terms of Reference and things like that. But it's still-, even though it's two different projects, it's still basically, the same format.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*. Any others, other comments, questions? Yes, Mr. Barry Andersen.

**MR. B. ANDERSEN:**

Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to this other committee, I-, like if we do it with four, would that be stretching the elected officials pretty thin or would it be useful to have a smaller elected official's committee and-, with the same support staff from the Lands and Divisions is gonna be involved in this no matter what. I'm not sure-, it's just my thoughts that maybe we're stretching ourselves a bit thin for two major projects.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Witnesses? Suggestions?

**MR. GOUDIE:**

I wouldn't call it a suggestion per se, Mr. Chair, but I do think that in this case, in terms of the public hearing consultation phase, that would be predominantly or almost entirely the community of Nain. So the travel aspect would be significantly limited, and you may want to have Assembly Members and, or people from outside the Assembly sit that are actually from the community in terms of limiting the impact of travel and logistics, et cetera.

**MR. WINTERS:**

So what I'm hearing is that anyone who may have not been considered for the last committee because of the amount of travel, might be more appropriate for this if they're nearby or located in Nain? Yes, Ms. Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:**

Can the committee be smaller than the other committee? I think, like-, I'm trying to wrap my head around the rules and procedures of, like, 25 percent-, only 25 percent of the committee can be non-Members of the Assembly. So like, if there was a member, three members-, three



committee members plus the Minister, that would be able to qualify for 25 percent, right? Hey, is that?

**MR. WINTERS:**

Provided there are at least four members involved, one can be staff. So it can be three members and staff or not staff, for that matter because it is 25 percent. We can't go over that. So if there's gonna be someone on the committee who isn't a Member of the Assembly, then it has to be four people. Mr. Wally Andersen, did you have a question?

**MR. W. ANDERSEN:**

Not a question-, more as a comment. I was gonna raise it a little earlier that, you know, this basically affects just the community of Nain. And as the Deputy Minister said, that, you know, this could be a latent committee made up, compiled of people from just Nain itself since it affects just that community.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Are there further questions or-, yes, Ms. Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:**

In light of that and considering that, can the Terms of Reference be amended somehow to somehow incorporate, like-, I mean, it's going to be public consultations with the public. But I think, like, a specific hunter perspective is important. So I'm wondering if, like, it can be adjusted somehow to include them?

**MR. WINTERS:**

Mr. Dwyer-Samuel would like to speak.

**MR. DWYER-SAMUEL:**

Well, for the moment, there's no clause in there that directs the committee to do specific measures in consultation. There could be, but I would again (inaudible) 5:26:40 that there is a currently a land-use (inaudible) on the way for both the Strange Lake and the Nain Airport reviews, that

specifically targets people that use that area in general, that incorporates both projects. And there is also-, as part of the types of consultation that are required for detailed review, there's an event called the Round Table where specific Inuit-, Inuit with specific knowledge relevant to the review of the initiative, are compensated by the committee to review the documents. And then gather and give their opinions on the project to the committee. So that's something-, there can be more specific measures put in the Terms of Reference, but this is what is already in place.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Ms. Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:**

So in your technical and professional opinion, do you think the committee requires hunter-, somebody outside of the Assembly? Like do you think that-, what am I trying to say? Sorry, I'm tired. Do you think that it should include somebody who's outside of the Assembly that's a hunter?

**MR. WINTERS:**

Mr. Dwyer-Samuel?

**MR. DWYER-SAMUEL:**

I mean, that is a very good question. Ultimately it depends on the way the committee decides to consider the advice it's given. Like, a committee could very well take into account correctly the advice of all hunters. A committee-, a different committee might not. The Assembly here will decide that committee. So if the Assembly is of the opinion that the people that they charge to do that review as members of the committee, will take into account those views correctly, then that could be done. But, I mean, the members of the committee, if they're not outside of the Assembly are in the room right now. So this is a question for yourselves, whether the

committee-, the people that could be appointed are confident that they could represent those views correctly from the consultations that they have to do, or if they feel that they need to have somebody hunting from the community on the committee itself. I can't really answer that question.

**MR. WINTERS:**

So ultimately, the-, everything about this suggests that the majority of the committee should be from Nain. There needs to be Nain representation, very obviously. And 75 percent-, if we go with four people, 75 percent of the committee will be in this room. So that directive to ensure that, that demographic of people in Nain, that, that background of people be considered can be considered by the people here. Are there further questions or considerations at this time? Yes, Mr. Joe Dicker.

**MR. DICKER:**

I think I agree it should be Nainimiut making decisions around the airport. But there are good people out there from Nain that are going to the meeting that can-, knows exactly what they're talking about, like, from the trout, the char, the animals-, that person's out there. It's just a matter of appointing that person and I feel that we should give that person a chance from the Assembly to volunteer his services, you know? Not volunteer his services but choose to become a part of the committee. Someone would love to be on that committee-, not necessarily someone we're thinking of right now, you know, around this Table. As that's not the big area that you look at for hunting and hunting background and the area of animals. Everybody in Nain is either for wooding or (inaudible) or gathering. (5:31:34) I think the biggest issue is that bridge that's going to cross Kauk

Brook and I think that's where the concerns are. So I would say one from here, a person, not a hunter gatherer but a person who has knowledge of the area from-, be on there. Other than that, it's quite simple. It's for Nain. Let the Nain people decide what to do with their community, 'cause that's gonna be a lot of flack if somebody from outside of Nain got on the committee and they weren't aware, and we appointed that person. It means he or she-, you have to come to the hearings about the airport to get the feel of the (inaudible) 5:32:53 they're not against it. It's just a matter of how the roads are gonna be and which way it's gonna build and what protection they're having on the environment. That's the biggest concern. And knowing that environmental laws in Canada is quite strong, or very strong-, one of the strongest in the world. I'm sure that building a road up there is not going to spell the end of a certain species 'cause it's not-, they've already located all the archaeological areas. They've located all the areas of permafrost that they want to avoid. And they-, oh, yeah, I said over here-, the avalanche area in Blow Hole, you know? Once that construction gets underway, people are gonna see other opportunities that arise from that construction of the road-, quarries, for example, access to wooding, access-, easier access to your hunting ground. I don't see this as an area of contention. Just understanding what it's all about 'cause we need the airport and they want the airport.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Mr. Joe Dicker. So what I'm hearing is that it sounds as though we're agreed from everything I've heard, that Nainimiut should make up the majority of-, if not all of the committee. It does sound like a four-

person committee is what has been banded around the most. Is that accurate? Does four people make the most sense from what people are considering? I'm seeing nodding heads. Yes, Ms. Barbour?

**MS. BARBOUR:**

Yeah, I think just to add to that too is like just in community consultations, and again, it goes back to the lack of general trust within the general public between levels of government. Like I think it's important to consider that just because we don't get the backlash of, like, "Oh, they're just doing this and they're," you know? And I think it's important that they do feel, you know, heard and seen in terms of their concerns. So I just wanted to add to that-, add that, I mean. Sorry.

**MR. WINTERS:**

So-, yes, Mr. David Dicker Jr.

**MR. DICKER JR.:**

Yes, I second Roxanne, my colleague Roxanne on that as well. I'd just like to make a statement like to-, maybe for the department to come out, the DM to come to Nain and give a speech to our constituents and see if there's an interest for the committee.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Ms. Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:**

Is there any room in the rules and procedures to-, it would still be a committee of the Assembly but like can it-, is it absolute that it can only be 25 percent of people, this-, okay.

**MR. WINTERS:**

That is a Standing Order, a non-negotiable Standing Order of the Assembly. However, in saying that, the committee is again the group that would be tasked with completing the consultations. So this is not for people who would inform all of the decisions being made. It's the four people that will

be responsible for explaining this, studying this, consulting with the communities, et cetera. So if a four-person committee is what we're talking about, that would include the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources as the Chair. That would include Nainimiut beyond that. And, yes, Ms. Barbour?

**MS. BARBOUR:** Just to be clear, it would be a four-person committee including the Minister or plus the Minister?

**MR. WINTERS:** That's entirely up to this discussion.

**MS. BARBOUR:** I think it can be like including the Minister because that still allows room for the 25 percent of non-Members, right?

**MR. WINTERS:** One hundred percent.

**MS. BARBOUR:** Yeah.

**MR. WINTERS:** Mr. Goudie, did you have a point to add? So again, I'm hearing four people, majority Nainimiut. Are we content with this discussion to move towards passing consensus on these items to make this a committee and by the sounds of it we're going to strike a committee sending it to the Rules and Procedures to put that together? So in terms of the items we have to decide on, the total number of members of the committee-, are we saying four members including the Minister? *Nakummek*. Looking for consensus, show of hands. Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none. Whether the committee should include a member that is not a Member of the Nunatsiavut Assembly? This sounds like a, "Yay," as well. Show of hands for consensus. Yes, Ms. Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:** In the last Committee of the Whole we had to identify somebody almost for-, to include, identify somebody right away, sorry-, to include somebody who's not a Member of the Assembly on the committee, can that be determined at a later date?

**MR. WINTERS:** That is something that we would prefer to identify now.

**MS. BARBOUR:** Yeah, but, like, what I'm asking is, like, you know, the committee is going to be made up of mostly Nainimiut anyways, including the Minister, so, like, can we be allowed some time to appoint somebody to the committee and then bring it back-, like, provide the update to the Assembly afterwards or what?

**MR. WINTERS:** Mr. Gillette?

**MR. GILLETTE:** There's no-, there's currently no provision for that. So when the Rules and Procedures Committee meets, they have to name somebody. So that's where you are.

**MR. WINTERS:** So in order for this to be determined now, we would have to have a name or names to be discussed this evening by the Rules and Procedures Committee in order to strike this committee tomorrow. Would the Nainimiut at the Table like to take a few minutes to discuss? We could take a five to 10-minute recess if that would be valuable?

**MS. BARBOUR:** Yes, please, I'll make some calls.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* We'll be back at 10 after the hour.

[Recess]

**MR. WINTERS:**

So we are in agreement that the total number of members of the committee will be four? I'll now ask for consensus that the committee should include a member that is not a Member of the Nunatsiavut Assembly. Show of hands? *Nakummek*. I will now ask to approve the Terms of Reference for the Committee. Has everyone had ample time to look through the Terms of Reference, and do you have any questions? Yes, Mr. Dwyer-Samuel.

**MR. DWYER-SAMUEL:**

There is one very minor difference. So for the Strange Lake Rare Earth Mining Project, the Federal Government asked the question of whether a joint review panel could be considered. So the Terms of Reference mentioned that the committee might consider the question. And then it would have to come back to Assembly. This is not on the Table for this one so it doesn't mention it. It's the only-, well, beside the project description. So...

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Merci. Are there any further questions or comments at this time? Are we prepared to give consensus regarding the Terms of Reference? Seeing nods of head, I will now ask for a show of hands. Seeing all raised, there are no, "Nays." And number two, should the Assembly decide that the committee will consist of more than one Member, then the Rules and Procedures Committee will meet to recommend the composition of the committee as required under Standing Order 65(5) and 68 and the requirements of the Act. Thank you, all. The motion is in order. Would the Minister like to speak to the motion? Apologies. I'm going backwards at this point. *Nakummek*. Are there any questions or



comments for the witnesses or of the witnesses? Seeing none, you may be excused, gentlemen. Thank you, for your time. We are now back in the Assembly. Is the Assembly in favour of the motion? Looking for a show of hands. We have consensus. We are now on to Item 18, "First Reading of Bills," and there are no first reading of bills today. Item 19 is, "Second Reading of Bills," and there are no bills for second reading today. Item 20 is, "Assent to Bills," and there are no bills for assent today. Item 21 is, "Adjournment." The Assembly is now adjourned until 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning, Wednesday, March 6th and I thank you all for your patience, longevity, endurance and commitment. *Nakummek.*

**5:44:20 (8:15:56p.m.)**

**Adjourned.**

**Day two March 6, 2024**

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Ullâkut.* I would like to call to order the second day of the Sitting of the Fifth Assembly. Item One is the, "Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery." Right now. I see Mr. Frédéric Dwyer-Samuel of the Environmental Assessment Management. Item Two is, "Minister Statements." I will now open the floor to Ministers Statements. I see the First Minister, Ms. Melva Williams, when you're ready.

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, NG is actively engaged in formulating new scopes for multiple upcoming building projects with the objective of sustaining the development of new infrastructure in our communities. This effort is aimed at addressing the evident

infrastructure deficit within our communities. The active Capital Projects include Nain Staff Housing six-plex. Commissioning inspection completed and building is now being turned over to the NG. Hopedale fourplex for social housing. Construction nearing completion on schedule to be completed in July 2024. Nain fourplex four social housing. Construction to be completed in March 2024. Nain and Hopedale Seniors Units. NG projects the completion of these units in both Nain and Hopedale by the end of August 2024. Makkovik fourplex staff housing, social housing. Construction is currently in progress and is in track to be completed by August 2024. Regional Education Office. Substantial delays have been experienced. Construction will continue starting June 2024. Makkovik, Postville and Rigolet six-plexes. As reported yesterday, NG will be building six-plexes in each of these communities starting in 2024.

Postville Office Addition. The project will undergo a re-tendering process with the aim of commencing construction in the summer of 2024. Rigolet DHSD. The project team has this project resuming construction in the summer of 2024. 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. Long-term Infrastructure Planning. Mr. Speaker, Nunatsiavut Affairs continues to advance Pingutitsinik Nunatsiavut, Create Nunatsiavut Infrastructure Action Plan. Pingutitsinik Nunatsiavut is a plan to create a long-term infrastructure strategy which focuses on developing a long-term vision for infrastructure. One key strategy for this plan is the Growth, Land

Development and Housing Strategy. The objective of this strategy is to create sustainable and culturally sensitive development plans to meet the aspirations of all five Nunatsiavut Inuit communities in a coordinated manner. The Nunatsiavut Government is responsible to establish a Housing Strategy to address the growing needs within our communities. This project will identify short, medium and long-term projects and initiatives to addressing housing and infrastructure in Nunatsiavut, including concept plans for growth areas in each community. Supporting Inuit Community Government Infrastructure Development. Mr. Speaker, the Nunatsiavut Government has adopted a comprehensive action plan to tackle the infrastructure deficit within our communities. NG believes that a collaborative effort with the Inuit Community Governments is essential to addressing the infrastructure gaps in Nunatsiavut. In light of the Province's stepping back from its role in supporting project management for the ICG infrastructure projects, NG Infrastructure have been working diligently to fill the void and provide the supports needed by Inuit communities. Rory McNeil has been hired as Infrastructure Project Coordinator to lead this project assisted by consulting experts in project and construction management. Illusuak Cultural Centre restoration. The Illusuak Cultural Centre remains on track for its schedule reopening in spring, early summer, 2024. The Nunatsiavut Government's insurance company has enlisted a contractor to undertake the restoration of the building. Nain Airport Feasibility Study. Summer 2023 marked significant process in the development of the proposed new Nain

Airport with all 12 projects either in progress or completed. And as a reminder to the Assembly, I'll run through those. R1, "Weather Station and Collect Data Phase One," is complete. R2, "Topographic Survey," is complete. R3, "Environmental Review, Desktop Assessment," is complete. R4, "Surficial Geology, Geomorphology, Permafrost and Hydrogeological Investigations," in progress. R5, "Weather Studies and Report Phase Two," in progress. R6, "Hydrological Study," in progress. R7, "Electrical Power Supply Alternatives," in progress. R8, "Preliminary Engineering Services," in progress. R9, "Preliminary Architectural Design Services," in progress. R10, "Construction and Supply Strategy," in progress. R11, "Cost Estimation," in progress, and R12, "Environmental Impact Assessment," in progress. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* We will now hear from the Honourable Roxanne Barbour, Minister for the Department of Education and Economic Development. When you're ready, Minister.

**MS. BARBOUR:**

*Nakummek, Uhattik.* Yesterday, I did an update on Education and today will do Economic Development. The Annual Plan for the Division focuses on business development, community development, policy, data collection and offering supports. Since January, the Division had two businesses added, and our Inuit Business Registry continues to have 253 listed. We have received six packages from Vale with our Division submitting 20 Inuit Business nominations and two QBE nominations. There are a total of 23 clients, 18 in Business Startup and five in Business Growth. Our Community Economic Development Fund, and FFA

Programs remain open. We have one CEDP and one FFA application under review. We have released \$64,000 to the RICG for a community development officer position and the MICG for an arena assistant position. We encourage community improvement initiatives, sustainable employment and local economic development projects to apply prior to March 31st. Policy and Data Collection. We continue to move forward on Labour Database development. We've partnered with LATP to review best practices and determine collaboration options. We've provided financial revisions on the five-community economic profile project with the Harris Centre. The next step is to develop the Regional Economic Profile. These documents will serve as an information, lobbying and policy development tool. The six profiles will be launched in March through a social media and website campaign. We continue to support two clients, one in the Arts and Crafts sector and one in the Accommodation sector. Startups are encouraged to apply for the program. We are reviewing options for multi-year funding for a community development officer or CDO positions within the Inuit Community Governments. We're exploring support from other NG departments and federal funding agencies. An update will be provided in March, as the status of these options for the 2024, 2025 fiscal year. So I guess I'll go back and hopefully have an update by email soon. We will offer a bookkeeping program to Inuit businesses here in Hopedale in May 13th to the 17th. The course has been expanded to include payroll and tax preparation. Applications for Inuit businesses to attend this training

session should be launched by today. Based on seat availability, the session will be open to local community groups and Inuit Community Governments, corporations to attend. We're preparing a craft-focused Nunatsiavut Youth Entrepreneurship Box Program. Inspired by the program offered by CBDC, the Box will provide small-scale projects to make and sell. Our goal is to encourage early entrepreneurship interest in school-age children. We will put out an expression of interest for an artist to assist in identifying the contents needed in the first Arts Box which will be launched at the Youth Symposium, April 22 to 26 here in Hopedale. Our Business Development staff completed the Hopedale and Upper Lake Melville Small Business Tour stops in late January, early February. This included one-on-one session with startup clients and Inuit businesses, a high school engagement session and a community engagement event. It had great attendance. We had over 30 people at each event. Our second leg of the tour, including Nain, Makkovik, Postville and Rigolet will launch in late March, and all details of the locations and times will be promoted on our website and social media.

*Nakummek.*

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* I will ask all Members of the Assembly as possible to refrain from using abbreviations just for clarity for people listening, as you can. We will now hear from the Honourable Gerald Asivak, Minister of the Department of Health and Social Development. *Nakummek.*

**MR. ASIVAK:**

*Nakummek,* Mr. Speaker. Qanuippitaa? National Inuit Health Survey data collection. Collection in all five communities throughout Nunatsiavut

clued up on Friday November 24th, 2023. A total of 574 surveys were completed which is 97.8 percent of our goal. Further data to follow once time permits, for analysis. DHSD held an in-person monitoring, evaluation and learning session with a consultant with Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami has hired to support regions with the evaluation portion of data collection. The community liaison officers, field workers, Qanuippitaa? National Inuit Health Survey team and communications manager were present for the two-day in-person evaluation session. Nunatsiavut Government epidemiologist presented some preliminary data collected from this appointment and data log. Community liaison officers and field workers, we present with a small token of appreciation to mark this momentous accomplishment for Nunatsiavut Government. The next phase is the data analysis and dissemination phase. This phase will also require dedicated support from the Communications Department. Janice Goudie, Communications Assistant, has been meeting with the team internally since September 2023 to prepare for upcoming communication priorities. There were anti-racism events held in Happy Valley-Goose Bay January 23rd and 24th, 2024. Approximately 100 participants, a combination of community, Nunatsiavut Government staff, and professionals from non-Indigenous systems including health care, education, justice and child welfare were present. There was a hired professional facilitator from Memorial University, Dr. Delores Mullings, Vice-Provost on anti-racism and diversity. There was a panel of speakers, NG staff and community members. A final report to be

developed and shared, including recommendations for non-Indigenous providers to bring awareness, guide policy and improve practices re: anti-Indigenous racism in Colonial systems and workplaces. Mr. Speaker, I'll briefly touch on mental wellness and healing. Grief response for the community of Makkovik. As Makkovik experienced a suicide loss, the Mental Wellness and Healing Division came together to offer grief response at the request of the community and family affected by the loss. Lito Libres, Emiliann Gear and Grant Gear provided support to the community. Lito had used Eye Movement Desensitization and Preprocessing Therapy. He had 34 sessions while in Makkovik. Emiliann Gear provided support to staff and Grant Gear provided play therapy, grief support to children and youth while in Makkovik. Lito and Grant plan on returning to Makkovik for follow-up support. Under Mental Health and Addictions, communities have finished up their, "Bell, Let's Talk," for the year. Pink Shirt Day was a huge success. The Hope Walk is coming up for some communities for this spring. Others have chosen to do this during the fall. Staff had shared their concerns with the changes made to the land-based programming in relation to Occupational Health and Safety requirements. Under the Justice Division, Mr. Speaker, staff were in Hopedale recently and they had a session on sentencing circles. This was a joint project between NG Justice as well as PLIN, Public Legal Information Newfoundland and Labrador. Retired Judge James Igloliorte had plans to attend, however, he had to attend virtually due to weather. NG is helping to work on a Gladue report. NEC has approved a new role



under Justice, to be posted as a Re-integration and Support Case Manager. This will help former offenders re-integrate back into the communities. And lastly, Mr. Speaker, under Youth Services, staff took part in the Mental Health First Aid Inuit course last month. We are planning for the Youth Symposium underway and the tentative dates are April 22nd to the 26th, in Hopedale. The Community Shed Program in Hopedale is used often. There are plans to team up to do programming with the school. And lastly, the Youth Centre is doing well. *Nakummek.*

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Minister Asivak. We will now hear from the Honourable Tom Evans, the Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology, when you're ready, sir.

**MR. EVANS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll just do a brief Day Two statement. Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to share that two positions have been recruited in the Human Resource Division. Kayla Ash recently joined the Nunatsiavut Government as the HR Generalist. And Shannon Mitchell will be joining our team in July as HR Specialist. Having a full complement of HR staff will greatly assist the Division. It'll ensure that strategic items such as recruitment, retention, performance management, policy development and occupational health and safety are able to be fully addressed. Mr. Speaker, at the November sitting, I informed the Assembly that there were changes coming to the presentation of job advertisements and the platforms they reach. These changes have been implemented, Mr. Speaker, since January 1st and there have been 31 job completions [*sic*] released, all in the new format. Occupational Health and Safety is a

critical focus area for the Human Resources Division and for the NG Government as a whole. Mr. Speaker, my department is working on a 12 to 18-month plan to implement a comprehensive Safety Program for the Nunatsiavut Government. This plan will ensure that the Nunatsiavut Government meets current Occupational Health and Safety legislative requirements while ensuring that a safe environment is provided for employees and Labrador Inuit who avail of programs and services from the Government. Health and safety considerations have to be a core value in all that the Nunatsiavut Government does. Mandatory training was offered to each community on the Workplace Harassment and Violence Prevention. Additional services will be offered throughout the 2024 year for new hires and employees who are unavailable to attend these sessions offered in 2023. Mr. Speaker, site visits to all Nunatsiavut Government properties are being completed by our Director of Human Resources and Occupational Health and Safety Consultant. To date, the properties in Nain, Hopedale, Makkovik and Happy Valley, Goose Bay have been assessed, Mr. Speaker. Sorry. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, plans to travel to Postville and Rigolet have been canceled twice due to bad or inclement weather. A trip to Nain and Hopedale to offer Occupational Health and Safety supervisor training in person was supposed to be completed in February. But due to weather, again, the trip was canceled, and the training was offered virtually. Mr. Speaker, a temporary Safety Administrator role has been created and is providing support to our Director of Human Resources in all safety- related

activities. The Labrador North Wireless Project is still on schedule. A lot of time has been spent on detailed engineering and design as well as ordering equipment. Plans are to start some construction as early as next month, April 2024. The Information Technology Division is diligently working to keep the network up and running while utilizing some of the best and safest practices. And I'll just mention that Ches Evans, our Information Technology Support has returned to work from an extended leave. The Nunatsiavut Government also has Dallas Michelin completing his work term with us. The Information Technology Division is now operating with a full complement of staff. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Minister Evans. We will now hear from the Honourable David Dicker Jr., the Minister of Language, Culture and Tourism. When you're ready, sir.

**MR. DICKER JR.:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Continuing on from Day One, from yesterday, I will now highlight some key areas as we are working on in Language and Culture. Noah Nochasak and Andrea Procter are continuing their work on the Creation of Kayak book. This resource will include historical and current content of the Labrador Kayak, interviews with Nunatsiavut Inuit, details and about how to build a kayak. The book is expected to be completed by March 31, 2025. Staff are continuing to take the lead from the Language Strategy. Year Three activities are now occurring. These include the Master Apprentice Program, IlinniaKatigennik Tupik Program, elder's socials, language resources, sewing programs, et cetera. The next Language Summit will be in 2025. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I will highlight

some key areas that we are working on in Archaeology. At the beginning of the year, the Archaeology Team purchased collections management software. A collections management system is an important part of our effective collections management practice. The purpose-built collections management system will enable us to enter and manage catalogues of archaeological, cultural and archival materials, track items entering and exiting our collections through accessions and deaccessions or loans, organize conservation and maintenance records-, it will also allow us to easily access any other information or media pertinent to the items in the collections in one central digital location. A brief file scan indicates that the collections contain several thousand digital archival records such as photograph, videos, interviews, newsletters, Moravian documents, et cetera that have yet to be catalogued and described, and are therefore easily accessible. The Nunatsiavut Government also has title to hundreds and thousands of archival objects, artifacts, animal bone, soil samples, site photos, et cetera, currently held by external researchers. There is also a rapidly growing number of Inuit cultural materials such as examples of sealskin clothing and carvings acquired through donations from private collectors. Collections management system with the internet portals allow collections and information to be made publicly accessible, according to the parameters set by the administrator, therefore enabling Nunatsiavimiut to access Nunatsiavut Government collections from where they are. Mr. Speaker, the Nunatsiavut Government Archaeology and Heritage had an RFP advertised in

georeferenced aerial photographs that had been taken over Nunatsiavut spanning from the 1940's to present. Climate change is the single largest threat to archaeological sites in the North. The Nunatsiavut Government Archaeology and Heritage Unit is mandated to work for the protection, preservation and promotion of Nunatsiavut Heritage resources including archaeological sites. To date, climate models have not been adequate in predicting the climate change impacts at the micro-local level of archaeological sites. Once georeferenced, the aerial photos will be used in ground truth and climate models and to understand the real pass rates of change at known archeological sites. A contract has been tentatively awarded. The Nunatsiavut Government Archaeology Team worked closely with the Rooms to select participants for their 3D Scanning workshop that took place at the end of November. It was received very well by participants. The Rooms had funding to offer another workshop in February where two beneficiaries attended. This is a great opportunity to familiarize and train more people how to use 3D scanner. Corey Hutchings attended this session and even brought the Nunatsiavut Government Archaeology scanner. So our two beneficiaries were able to get familiar with using our equipment as well. Lena Onalik has been selected as the Nunatsiavut representative for the Final Resting Place Committee to determine the final resting place of two Beothuk skulls that were repatriated to The Rooms in 2020. The committee, made up of one representative from each Indigenous group in the Province and the CEO of The Rooms, Anne Chafe, had their first meeting in February. The

committee operates on consensus and will provide recommendation to the Premier of where and how the Beothuk skulls will be buried. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Do any other Ministers wish to give a statement at this time? Very well, we'll move on to Item Three, "Members Statements." Are there any members statements? We will hear from the Ordinary Member for the community of Nain, Ms. Roxanne Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:**

*Nakummek, UKatti.* A lot's been going on in Nain since our last sitting. Christmas services, Old Christmas celebration, Moravian Church Day, the Young Men's Day celebrations and now this month the Young Women's Day celebrations. And we have yet to celebrate Easter and Holy week. Our community continues to rely on support from the Nain Moravian Church whether it's within these services and celebrations or baptisms, weddings, school blessings and, or funeral services. I feel it's important that we figure out ways where we can be supportive of the churches in our communities either through sponsorships or partnerships. There's a rich history and relationship within our church and Labrador Inuit. Learning ways to support the church and the preservation of their historical documents is preservation of Labrador Inuit history and heritage. Learning ways to support the church is learning ways to advance tourism within Nunatsiavut. It is history, heritage, culture and language that is being supported when the churches within our communities are supported. Although I previously stated there's a distinction between Moravian history and Inuit history-, and there is-,

somewhere along the way they became intertwined and make up who we are as Labrador Inuit today. Differentiating Labrador Inuit history and Moravian history came from unforgiving and hurt feelings rooted in trauma. I thought, how can we accept this? How dare I be proud to be Moravian and proud to be Inuk? When the Moravian Church supported this location and the residential school system, I thought these systems did this-, the Governments and church hurt my people for decades. And they did. For a long time I didn't want to accept that this happened to my grandparents, my family and my community members. I did not want to forgive the church and the governments even though I never really actually experienced that, I still felt that hurt within my childhood. Like many Inuit around me, we're affected too. I had to live through the after effects of this location and residential school. Not only the survivors were affected, but their families. That's why I asked, "Where's our apology? Where is the second, third, fourth and fifth generation survivor's apology?" it still hurts to see the rippling affects, Inuit struggling with addictions and being a parent, involvement in the Justice system, struggling with understanding who they are, mental health, their roots and where they come from. Most of these issues boils down to just that, intergenerational trauma. How do we create intergenerational cycles of healing? My answer is by teaching forgiveness and love in all aspects of who we are as Labrador Inuit-, love for language, love for culture, love for history, love for leading a life in pride and dignity, forgiveness in all that was done to us, all that was done wrong to us as a

people-, to move forward and to really understand strength and resilience. This has been my conclusion anyway. I hope that one day the many Inuit who have felt and feel the same way I once did come to find forgiveness in their hearts, 'cause after all, forgiveness and love conquers all. I've previously asked the Minister of Health when I was an Ordinary Member, what are the language and cultural approaches to healing within Nunatsiavut? And I wasn't satisfied with the answer because the programs and services being provided does not address the need, nor does it provide stability in terms of advancing the collective well-being of Labrador Inuit. The Aboriginal Healing Foundation identifies three approaches to healing, Alternative, Western and Traditional. And a mix of two or more of these concept are considered a blended approach. There's a lot the Mental Wellness and Healing Division can learn from the 2003 Third Interim Evaluation Report of Aboriginal Healing Foundation Program activity. Our people don't need to sit down in an office to discuss their issues with Inuit. Although helpful, it is not entirely adequate. Labrador Inuit need reconnection to language, culture, the land where they feel safe, loved and respected. I do not disagree that a clinical approach must be taken at certain times, however, the continuous need for a traditional alternative or a blended concept of healing continues to prevail. Parents are still struggling with mental health and addictions and has been sent away for treatment with no real aftercare plan for decades. The wait lists are unacceptably long. I'm out of time? I'll finish in my second statement.



**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Ordinary Member. The next Members Statement will come from the AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Mr. Chesley Sheppard.

**MR. SHEPPARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, I'd like to congratulate all the athletes that went to the Newfoundland and Labrador Winter Games. Team Labrador and Team Indigenous, they did wonderful out there, did us proud. A little update on our community. Unfortunately, our rink is still waiting on electrical. We never had our rink flooded this year which the kids are pretty upset. But hopefully we'll get it done before the summer. We have a new groomer come this summer, this fall and unfortunately, we had never had enough snow to use it yet which is kinda sad. But on a good note, we got our spring festival coming up at the end of March-, March 22nd and 23rd, our Tikigiaksaugusik Festival. And then we still-, in partnership with that, we have the Ron Pottle Memorial Dog Team race which is on the 22nd and the Heritage Dog Team Race which is on the 23rd. But we're still-, the communities are still not sure if that's gonna go ahead because of the lack of snow. And this year is the last year for Francis Memorial Rifle Shoot. It's the 20th year which the town will miss. And the-, we have games also going on at the Hall on the Cove. And lastly, I'd like to wish our Women's Dart League good luck in the Northern Division at the end of the month. Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, AngajukKâk. We'll now hear from Barry Andersen the AngajukKâk for Makkovik, when you're ready, sir.

**MR. B. ANDERSEN:**

Thank you, very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise on this occasion to state that the Makkovik Inuit Community Government has finally hired a new CAO,

Ms. Jermaine Manning. She has returned to her hometown of Makkovik to take on this new role. The Makkovik Inuit Community Government is still short a Superintendent of Public Works. This is a vital position in our community. MICG, the Makkovik Inuit Community Government has had inquiries about this position but due to the uncompetitive wages with other projects in our region like Voisey's Bay, et cetera, we have not been able to fill this position at this time. MICG is working with the Nunatsiavut Government to address this issue. On another note, the Jens Haven Memorial School hosted the Winter Sports Meet this year in Makkovik. Unfortunately, the weather wasn't the best from the 18th to the 23rd of February but the students from all up and down the coast from Nain to Rigolet persevered. They went out in the weather blowing a gale-, did their Labrathon and lit the fires and did all that thing really well. The athletes had fun and made lasting memories for sure, like, as most of them do, for the newer ones starting out. And many thanks to the residents that billeted athletes and coaches and congratulations to the Makkovik team for a great first-placed performance overall. On another note, the MICG or the Makkovik Inuit Community Government will not be marking the Trans Labrador Trail System this year and into the future. Labrador Affairs Secretariat will be doing this work in the Makkovik Operation Area. To date, none of the trails are marked around Makkovik. Mr. Speaker, it is good to see some movement on the Wireless High-Speed Internet Cell Service Project as the Finance Minister alluded to in his remarks this morning. The MICG, or the Makkovik Inuit Community

Government has been in contact with Bell Canada and (inaudible) 44:23 are doing the work. The land application has been acquired from the proponent for the tower position within the town boundaries of Makkovik. We look forward to the day when we get the high-speed internet service and cell phone service in our community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek, AngajukKâk.* We'll now hear from Marjorie Flowers, the AngajukKâk for the community of Hopedale.

**MS. FLOWERS:**

*Nakummek, Uhalitik.* I rise today to bring forward an issue which saddens and frustrates our communities. It is an issue which I believe the Nunatsiavut Government needs to support. That, Mr. Speaker is the lack of facilities in our communities for our most cherished population, our seniors. Due to this lack of facility such as a personal care home, we have seen many of our most cherished population leave our communities-, communities, Mr. Speaker that our seniors have helped build only to return in caskets to be buried in our graveyards. This is not good enough, Mr. Speaker. We have to try and do more to help get the personal care home somewhere in our Nunatsiavut region. It does not have to be a Level Three personal care home, but more a Level One and Two. This way our loved ones could stay in our communities longer and family would be closer to visit. I understand that this Government is not responsible for personal care homes. However, Mr. Speaker, I am sure with much support from different Nunatsiavut Government departments and other departments, there may be local businesses who could build

and operate this facility. Let us come together, Mr. Speaker to make this happen. Let us keep our loved ones in our communities as long as we can, to love, share stories and help preserve our rich culture, language and traditions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, AngajukKâk. We'll now hear from Mr. Wally Andersen, Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville.

**MR. W. ANDERSEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't plan on doing a Members Statement today but many of our people have faced a difficult future through residential schools and from the churches. And today, when I heard the Honourable Minister of Education Roxanne Barbour speak, certainly, it was brought me home to a lot of memories that I know of people who've gone through a difficult time. And Minister Barbour, the love and the passion and pride that you use to speak on behalf of these people, although they may feel that everything is gone in the past, it gives them hope that there's people who want to help them and people who's thinking about them. And for that, Minister, from the bottom of my heart, I say, thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Ordinary Member. Are there further first Members Statements around the Table? Yes, recognizing the Ordinary Member for Postville, Mr. George Gear, when you're ready.

**MR. GEAR:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to let you know that the groomed trail in Postville is marked from Postville to the groomed trail up the bay and from Postville to Little Neck out the bay and the reason why it's marked-

there were people travelling in every community going all over the place that's not used to the area and we have some open water there, like, rattles and things like that and we've been-, when I say, "We," as the Ground Search and Rescue was getting some calls could be dangerous and we might-, thought we might have to go look for somebody. So Mr. Glenn Sheppard is the Team Coordinator for Postville. He took it upon himself and another member to do the marking themselves. So I'd just like to stand here and thank them for doing that. And it could save one of our people's lives that's traveling in the community. So I just wanted to let you know that and thank them. Thank you

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Mr. Gear. Are there any more first statements around the Table? Yes, Mr. Tom Evans, Ordinary Member for Makkovik, when you're ready.

**MR. EVANS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't normally do a Members Statement. My friend and colleague, AngajukKâk Andersen does a really more than I'm capable of a job of-, I just wanted to mention, I congratulated the Minister from Nain Ms. Roxanne Barbour and Dave-, sorry the Minister. I personally congratulate you. But I'd just like to acknowledge that it's so good to-, like I'm not saying I'm old but it's good to see the young people come and take the torch, right? But also too, I just wanted to mention my friend and colleague from Nain, Joe Dicker, I appreciate all the help-, sometimes, like phone calls. I appreciate that. But I also want to mention because he's going in for election, our President, Johannes Lampe. Sometimes my emotions get the better of me especially when

we're fighting for our people and his calm demeanour always brings me back when he-, and I thank you for that, Mr. President. And also just to close, I just want to acknowledge we had athletes participate in the Newfoundland and Labrador Winter Games. There was athletes from Makkovik, Team Indigenous. There was my granddaughter and her friend from Nain and also we had other athletes that participated in that. It was quite the heart-warming to watch them on the live feeds and hopefully going forward we'll have the high-speed internet in the communities with the cell service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Ordinary Member. Are there any other first statements around the Table? Seeing none, I will turn to the Ordinary Member for Nain, Ms. Roxanne Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:**

*Nakummek*. I'll just continue my statement. So I ended off with, parents are still struggling with mental health and addictions and has been sent away for treatment with no real aftercare plan for decades. The waitlists are unacceptably long further preventing reunification with their children and increasing the risk of relapse and harm. Inuit do not need to be sent away and they should not, to get healthy. There are resources and staff within our communities and there are avenues laid out for Inuit-owned healing programs, specifically, 17.13.1 and 17.15 of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement*-, 2005 was 19 years ago. Suicide continues to be a major factor within our communities. Out of my 29 years of life on this earth, suicide has been a part of my life for 25 of them, as recent as October. I know for a fact there are so many Inuit in my community who

can say the same. Everyone I know and speak with on the topic of suicide are under the general ideology that it happens so often, every year. Inuit even say it's normal. Don't you find it absurd that Labrador Inuit consider suicide normal? Sorry. I didn't think I was gonna cry. It boggles my mind that we are very aware that the main goal of residential school system was to attempt to remove the Inuk out of Inuit but we have yet to understand that it takes relearning, reclamation and revitalization of being Inuk-, and Inuttitut, to heal those of us who were unfortunate to live with the intergenerational trauma and addictions. We are still lacking in programs and services to address this issue. When will we see a healing and wellness centre within Nunatsiavut? When will we understand that reconnection to the land, instilling loving pride into who we are as a people and our traditional concepts of healing is the path to creating cycles of intergenerational healing? When will we understand that we need to heal what was meant to be lost in the residential school system? *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

As we are on record, public record, I will give the Ordinary Member the opportunity to withdraw the non-Parliamentary language expressed during that statement and apologize for it.

**MS. BARBOUR:**

Thank you for identifying that. I'm very bad for doing it in inappropriate spaces. So I'd like to withdraw that and thank you, for that opportunity. My apologies to those here and those listening.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Ordinary Member. Are there any other second statements around the Table? Recognizing Marjorie Flowers, AngajukKâk for the community of Hopedale.

**MS. FLOWERS:**

*Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy to announce that all positions with Hopedale Inuit Community Government with the exception of the Community Youth Network Worker have been filled. Hopefully this will decrease my workload at the office and new programming can begin at our Nanuk Centre. The Water Distribution Building boilers have been commissioned, however, there's still issue with the circulating pumps which can't be turned on due to a drop in water pressure in the subdivision. It appears that maybe a valve turned off which affects this area. Digging for the valve at this time of year is very risky due to water freeze-up. Therefore, the water and sewer personnel will only dig if this is an emergency which at this point, it is not. This will commence as soon as the frost leaves the ground. Hopedale Inuit Community Government is very thankful to NG for the moose meat and caribou again this year. It's a staple which our people have come to rely on. We are very thankful for the donations of funds from Nunatsiavut Group of Companies, which we used to purchase wood for our most vulnerable residents as well as some staples for our foodbank. There is an increase in residents using foodbank this year and funds are very limited for this program. I am pleased to see the Infrastructure Committee in place. Very good communication with this team and the Inuit Community Governments. There is so much work to be done in our communities and to know we all



work together for the good of our towns is very inspiring. Mr. Speaker, so many of our loved ones have passed since our last sitting. I express my deepest condolences to the families of Herb Jacque, Nathan Broomfield and Hulda Rice in Makkovik-, also to Sue Martin in Nain. I also would like to congratulate the youth that traveled out for the Winter Games NL, and to the sports meet teams. A wonderful time was had. In closing, I thank our President Lampe for his hard work and dedication over the last two terms as President of Nunatsiavut Government. I wish him the best of luck in the upcoming election. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, are there further second-, yes, recognizing the Ordinary Member for Nain, Mr. David Dicker Jr.

**MR. DICKER JR.:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to give a big thank you to my colleagues from the NEC as being selected to-, being appointed as the First Minister of Language Culture and Tourism, the Honourable Gerald Asivak, Honourable First Minister Melva Williams, Honourable President Johannes Lampe, Honourable Minister for Finance, Information Technology, Tom Evans, Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Terry Vincent and my first appointed Minister of Education and Economic Development Roxanne Andersen and I wish to give all the best to Honourable President Johannes Lampe in re-election. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*. Are there further second statements around the Table at this time? Seeing none, we will take a 15-minute break. There is-, the

snacks are supposed to be in the Court right now. *Nakummek*. We'll see you back here-, let's make it quarter to the hour. *Nakummek*.

[Recess]

**MR. WINTERS:** We are now on to, Item Four, "Returns to Oral Questions." Are there any returns to oral questions today? Seeing none, we're on Item Five, "Oral Questions." Do any Members have oral questions? Yes, recognizing the AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen.

**MR. B. ANDERSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And my question is for the Minister of Health and Social Development, Mr. Gerald Asivak. With the news media coverage of late regarding measles, Mr. Speaker, would the Department of Health have any plans in place should that deadly disease show up in our communities? Thank you.

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

**MR. ASIVAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and AngajukKâk Andersen. Immunizations are your best protection against vaccine preventable diseases. The measles vaccine is part of the Provincial Immunization program for children and the rates for immunization are really high in Nunatsiavut at just over 97.5 percent which is among the highest in the province and country. Parents and adults need to remain vigilant and work with Public Health to ensure that childhood and adult vaccines are kept up to date to prevent outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases in Nunatsiavut. *Nakummek*.

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

**MR. B. ANDERSEN:** No, Mr. Speaker and thank you, very much, Mr. Minister.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* The next question is from the AngajukKâk for the community of Nain, Mr. Joe Dicker.

**MR. DICKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question is for the Minister of Health and Social Development, the Honourable Gerald Asivak. In your report this morning, you mentioned, "Sentencing circles." I would like to know how that worked out and if you are planning on expanding that further to the other communities?

**MR. WINTERS:**

I will ask the AngajukKâk to ask that second part of the question as a supplemental when the time allows-, when you're ready, Minister Asivak.

**MR. ASIVAK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and AngajukKâk Dicker. Thanks for bringing this up. This is a very new to DHSD and NG, sentencing circle. So this was a first informative session. So we do plan on expanding this important program within Government. So we brought in external partners within Justice, within Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, within our growing Justice Division within NG as well. As I noted earlier, as well, there are more expansion coming and we're looking forward to continuous updates within the Assembly and our communities on this more traditional practice that we're going back to some of our roots. This-, more updates to follow as we progress-, probably, hopefully more updates on this as we continue with all our communities within Nunatsiavut for information sessions. So I hope to bring an update in June on how we're doing with this. *Nakummek.*

**MR. WINTERS:**

AngajukKâk Dicker?

**MR. DICKER:** I was gonna ask for-, if he was going to-, but he answered. Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*. Other 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 Honourable First Minister, Melva Williams. In reference to the Inuit Ancestry Database, I couldn't catch yesterday who got the contract when it went out on the RFP. And would you be able to provide that again, please?

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

**MS. WILLIAMS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, Chairperson for the question. The company that's been hired to do the Ancestry Database is called, "Know History," K-N-O-W History. And they're still finalizing Nain, as of yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MS. KEMUKSIGAK:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. Do you have an estimate when the work will be completed on the Inuit Ancestry Genealogy Project?

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

**MS. WILLIAMS:** Thank you. No, I do not. As mentioned previously a number of times, they're gonna be doing each community separately. So we're in Nain and doing North of Nain. Then we'll follow on the other communities including Upper Lake Melville. Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* Does the Chairperson have a final supplementary question on this topic?

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

**MR. WINTERS:** We will now hear from the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers, when you're ready.

**MS. FLOWERS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And my question is for Honourable First Minister Melva Williams. I'm not sure if this is who the question goes to but it's in regards to the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission. When the Commission was being formed, we were told that maybe there would be help for home-owners, first-time home-owners who were having trouble trying to get the funds for a mortgage, that maybe the Housing Commission could help out with that. Do you know anything about that or is-, or are aware if that is? Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** First Minister?

**MS. WILLIAMS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, AngajukKâk Flowers for the question. I am aware that, that is one of the programs that the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission is planning to develop. From my knowledge, that program hasn't been developed currently, but it is something that they will work on and develop. Thank you.

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

**MS. FLOWERS:** No, I don't. Thank you, for your answer, Honourable Minister.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* Further questions around the Table? Seeing none, I will ask the Deputy Speaker to take the Chair and ask a question myself.

**MR. SAUNDERS:**

Thank you, Ordinary Member, Honourable Mr. Winters, do you have a question?

**MR. WINTERS:**

I do. My question is for the Honourable Tom Evans, Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technologies. In July of '23, Advanced Data Systems had a breach and as of September, it was made known to our constituents. And I've recently heard from one of our constituents that didn't receive a letter letting her know that her personal information had been breached until February 15th. That is seven months since the original breach. I'm wondering what could've caused such a delay in notification of such important information? *Nakummek.*

**MR. SAUNDERS:**

Thank you, Mr. Winters. Honourable Minister Evans, do you have a reply?

**MR. EVANS:**

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker for the question. I'm glad you brought that up. We however, had received written correspondence from the individual to my department but also to other Ministers as well. And so what we've done is we engaged Legal, 'cause we wanted to keep the messaging consistent to what we had originally sent out. And with some investigation into the registered mail, it appears that the tracking numbers that Canada Post used, they used one for numerous letters. And so the tracking that NG could normally access wasn't available. And so that was one of the things. In addition to that, the individual-, like there was numerous attempts to contact the individuals that were affected or whatever, but the individual, it appears, did not update her contact information. And so I think after we discovered that when she did contact the office and updated her information and got the registered

letter, that we have a detailed response to her because it-, like she had sent us a letter and we wanted to respond to assure her that her concerns were being addressed and taken care of. And so the letter hasn't-, actually, I think the letter is in the process of going to her and it will get to her updated contacted information. So, thank you.

**MR. SAUNDERS:** Thank you, Minister Evans. Mr. Winters do you have a supplemental question?

**MR. WINTERS:** I do not. I would only ask that in the future in such situations that you avail of Ordinary Members.

**MR. SAUNDERS:** Thank you, Honourable Mr. Winters. You may have the Chair. Thank you.

**MR. EVANS:** Point of order, can I respond?

**MR. WINTERS:** Sorry, Minister?

**MR. EVANS:** Yes, I just wanted to respond to your last comment there. And thank you for mentioning that. It's sometimes, it's good to remind us that, you know, we have avenues that we could look at besides just trying to contact individuals, especially if there is circumstances where the contact information might not be updated. So thank you, for that.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*, Minister. Are there any other questions around the Table at this time? We will take a five-minute break.

[Recess]

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* We are now on to Item Six, "Written Questions." Are there written questions around the Table at this time? Recognizing one, Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Mr. Roland Saunders. The question is recognized as being in order. Are there any further written questions at this time? Yes, recognizing AngajukKâk Marjorie Flowers of Hopedale. The page will bring the question. The question is in order, *Nakummek.* Are there any further questions at this time? Seeing none, we're on Item Seven, "Returns to Written Questions." Are there any returns to written questions at this time? Seeing none, Item Eight is, "Petitions." Are there any petitions today? Yes, recognizing the Chairperson of the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak.

**MS. KEMUKSIGAK:**

*Nakummek,* Mr. Speaker. I would like to present a petition to the Nunatsiavut Assembly concerning Nunatsiavut Government's rates of pay staff for land-based outings policy amended June 3rd, 2019. Whereas the rates of pay outlined in .9 of the policy does not adequately reflect the costs of labour, traditional knowledge, expertise, experience of 1) guide 2) bear guard 3) boat driver, snowmobile driver, 4) camp maintenance lead and 5) elder, culture language lead. And whereas the rates of pay outlined in .9 of the policy does not adequately reflect the cost of labour, traditional knowledge, expertise, experience for traveling significant distances, subsequently, a significant distance is not defined in the policy. And whereas the law of general application require guides, bear guards, camp maintenance lead and elder, culture, language lead, obtain safety



training for land-based outings, and whereas it is not common practice for governments to identify rental rates for modes of transportation, and whereas .3 and .9 of the policy must differentiate an elder, culture lead and language lead, subsequently Appendix A of the Policy must define each role of an elder, culture lead and language need, and whereas the laws of general application require the Nunatsiavut Government to hire boat drivers who possess a small vessel operating proficiency certificate and specific insurance policy, and whereas .3 and .9 of the policy must differentiate a boat driver and a snowmobile driver, subsequently, Appendix A of the policy must define a boat driver and a snowmobile driver; and whereas .10 of the policy must be amended to include all applicable rates given an individual is designated for more than one role of responsibility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

The only piece of information missing, Chairperson Kemuksigak is the number of signatures you've collected.

**MS. KEMUKSIGAK:**

Pardon me, Mr. Speaker, there are four signatures.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* We will take a 10-minute break to consider your petition.

*Nakummek.*

[Recess]

**MR. WINTERS:**

All elements of the petition provided are in order. You will receive a response within 60 days. *Nakummek.* Are there any further petitions? Seeing none, we're on Item Nine, "Responses to Petitions." There are no responses to petitions today. Item 10 is, "Reports of Standing in Special

Committees." There are no standing or special committee reports today. We're on Item 11, "The Tabling of Documents." I would like to recognize the Treasurer of the Nunatsiavut Government the Honourable Tom Evans. When you're ready, Minister.

**MR. EVANS:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. As required by the *Labrador Inuit Constitution*, I am pleased to Table the Nunatsiavut Government Financial Plan 2024 -2025.

**MR. WINTERS:** Thank you, Minister Evans. The Tabled document will be numbered as 04-5(6). I would like to recognize the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Mr. Terry Vincent.

**MR. VINCENT:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I wish to table two documents. Minister's Recommendation of the Adequacy of the Registration by the Proponent of the Strange Lake Rare Earth Mining Project, and the Minister's Recommendation on the Adequacy of the Registration by the Proponent of the New Nain Airport Project. Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* Thank you, Minister Vincent. The Tabled Documents will be numbered as 05-5(6) and 06-5(6) respectively. There are no more documents to be tabled today so we will move on to the next item, Item 12, "Notices of Motion." I would like to once again, recognize the Nunatsiavut Treasurer, the Honourable Tom Evans.

**MR. EVANS:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, March 7th, 2024, I will move, seconded by the First Minister, the Honourable Melva Williams that Tabled Document 04-5(6) the Financial Plan 2024-

2025 be moved into the Committee of the Whole for discussion in conjunction with Bill 2024-02, *"The Budget Act 2024."* And that Ms. Rexanne Crawford, the Comptroller of the Nunatsiavut Government be called as a witness. And Mr. Speaker, I'm seeing unanimous consent of the Assembly to waive Standing Order 37(1) to deal with this today.

**MR. WINTERS:**

At this time the Member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with his motion today. All those in favour? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, you have consent. Speaker-, apologies-, I would like to recognize the Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Mr. Roland Saunders.

**MR. SAUNDERS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, March 7th, 2024, I will move, seconded by David Dicker Jr., the Minister of Culture Language and Tourism, that the Nunatsiavut Assembly convene in the Committee of the Whole to consider the individuals recommended by the Speaker to be appointed as Moderator of the 2024 Inuttitut Presidential Debate. And that after that consideration an individual be appointed as a Moderator for the Inuttitut Presidential Debate. And Mr. Speaker, I am seeking unanimous consent of the Assembly to waive Standing Order 37(1) to deal with this today.

**MR. WINTERS:**

The Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with this motion today. Does he have unanimous consent? Seeing no, "Nays," we will deal with this today. I would like to once again recognize the Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Mr. Roland Saunders.

**MR. SAUNDERS:**

*Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, March 7th, 2024, I will move, seconded by Mr. Jeff Montague, Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation Chairperson, that the Assembly confirm the following appointments to the Detailed Review Committee with respect to the Strange Lake Rare Earth Minerals Project. Mr. Terry Vincent, Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Ms. Roxanne Barbour, Ordinary Member for Nain, Ms. Marjorie Flowers, AngajukKâk of Hopedale, Mr. George Gear, bud, Ordinary Member for Postville, Mr. Joey Agnatok, non-member appointee and Mr. Speaker I am seeking unanimous consent of the Assembly to waive Standing Order 37(1) to deal with this today.

**MR. WINTERS:**

The Member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with his motion today. All those in favour? Seeing that all hands were raised, you have consent to bring your motion today at the appropriate time. I would like to once again recognize the Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Mr. Roland Saunders.

**MR. SAUNDERS:**

Thank you, again, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday March 7, 2024, I will move, seconded by Mr. Jeff Montague Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation Chairperson that the Assembly confirm the following appointment to the Detailed Review Committee with respect to the New Nain Airport Project; Mr. Terry Vincent Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Mr. David Dicker, Ordinary Member for Nain, and Mr. Joe Dicker, AngajukKâk of Nain, Mr. Dwayne Metcalf, non-member appointee. And Mr. Speaker, I am seeking unanimous consent of the Assembly to waive Standing Order 37(1) to deal with this today.

**MR. WINTERS:**

The Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with this motion today. Does he have unanimous consent? As there are no, "Nays," Member, you have consent to deal with this at the appropriate time. That brings us to Item 13, "Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills. I will once again recognize the Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology, the Honourable Tom Evans.

**MR. EVANS:**

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, March 7, 2024, I will move seconded by the First Minister, the First Reading of Bill 2024-02, *"The Budget Act 2024."* And Mr. Speaker, I'm seeking the unanimous consent of the Assembly to waive Standing Order 37(1) to proceed to First Reading of the Bill today.

**MR. WINTERS:**

The Minister is asking for unanimous consent to proceed with First Reading today. All those in favour? Minister you have consent from the Assembly to proceed with First Reading at the appropriate time. *Nakummek*, Honourable Minister. Item 14 is, "Motions." I recognize the Nunatsiavut Treasurer, the Honourable Tom Evans.

**MR. EVANS:**

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I move, seconded by the First Minister, the Honourable Melva Williams that Tabled Document 04-5(6), the Financial Plan 2024-2025 be moved into the Committee of the Whole for discussion in conjunction with Bill 2024-02, *"The Budget Act 2024."* And that Ms. Rexanne Crawford, the Comptroller of the Nunatsiavut Government be called as a witness.

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

**MR. EVANS:** I'm sorry, no.

**MR. WINTERS:** Does anyone else wish to speak to the motion? Yes, recognizing Ordinary Member Roxanne Barbour of Nain.

**MS. BARBOUR:** Can we wait to go into the Committee of the Whole until after lunch? I think it-, like...

**MR. WINTERS:** We'll be continuing with the Orders of the Day as they present themselves. It is a long day.

**MS. BARBOUR:** I don't wanna feel rushed going through the *Budget Act* though.

**MR. WINTERS:** All Members should already be familiar with what's being presented as the *Budget Act* today.

**MS. BARBOUR:** Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*. Does the Minister-, sorry, does anyone else wish to speak to the motion? Seeing none, does the Minister wish to make final comments and close debate?

**MR. EVANS:** Thank you. I wish to close debate.

**MR. WINTERS:** That concludes debate. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed to the motion? Seeing none, Financial Plan 2024-2025 will be moved into the Committee of the Whole for discussion in conjunction with Bill 2024-02, "*The Budget Act 2024*," at the appropriate time.

Moving on, we are still on Item 17, "Motions." I would now like to recognize the AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen.

**MS. WILLIAMS:** Point of Order.

**MR. WINTERS:** Yes.

**MS. WILLIAMS:** We are still on Item 14. We are not on Item 17, correct?

**MR. WINTERS:** Apologies, that was a miss-numbering. When you're ready, AngajukKâk Barry Andersen.

**MR. B. ANDERSEN:** Just bear with me. I'll find my document here.

**MR. WINTERS:** Say it again, AngajukKâk?

**MR. B. ANDERSEN:** I've just gotta get my document, my motion, here.

**MR. WINTERS:** Take your time, sir.

**MR. B. ANDERSEN:** Sorry for the delay, Mr. Speaker. Whereas the Makkovik Inuit Community Government desires to establish an Austere Firing Range, and whereas the intended site for the Austere Firing Range is within the boundaries of the Inuit Community of Makkovik on Labrador Inuit Lands, Parcel 21-C and whereas the Makkovik Inuit Community Government has applied to the Nunatsiavut Government's Department of Lands and Natural Resources for a Private Interest for Land Use, and whereas under Section 2.11(b) of the *Labrador Inuit Lands Act*, the Nunatsiavut Assembly must approve the issuing of private interest in Labrador Inuit Lands that is located within the boundaries of an Inuit Community, and whereas the intended use for the land is not for commercial or industrial purposes,

and whereas the Makkovik Inuit Community Government will comply with any and all terms and conditions that the Department of Lands and Natural Resources may impose on the use of the intended area, now, therefore, I move, seconded by the Honourable Tom Evans, the Ordinary Member for Makkovik and the Nunatsiavut Assembly approved the issuance of private interest in the Labrador Inuit Lands Parcel 21(c) for the Makkovik Inuit Community Government for the purpose of an Austere Firing Range subject to any and all terms and conditions that may be imposed by the Department of Lands and Natural Resources. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek, AngajukKâk.* The motion is in order. Would you wish to speak to the motion?

**MR. B. ANDERSEN:**

Yes, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Assembly for hearing this motion for the issuance of private interest. The Makkovik Inuit Community Government on behalf of the residents, applied for the issuance of-, for this Austere Range to provide a safe place for the residents to zero their rifles and check the pattern of their shotguns. The Austere Range will also serve to ensure the Makkovik Canadian Ranger Patrol continue to qualify for the use of their rifles on an annual basis. With this issuance being granted to Makkovik Inuit Community Government, also, we'll be able to maintain the range and establish some range rules for safe use-, such things as range closures, should any of the work be taking place in the area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



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

**MR. B. ANDERSEN:** No, I wish to close debate.

**MR. WINTERS:** That concludes debate. All those in favour of the motion? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, the motion is carried. I would again like to recognize the Ordinary Member for Canada, Mr. Roland Saunders.

**MR. SAUNDERS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would move, seconded by Mr. Jeff Montague, Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation Chairperson as follows: Whereas, under current Nunatsiavut Electoral Law, electors residing in the Canadian Constituency can cast ballots in elections for Ordinary Member and for President by mail. And whereas over time various Members of the Assembly have heard concerns from other beneficiaries that the process of mail-in voting is flawed due to the reliance on timely postal delivery, and whereas the Nunatsiavut Electoral Officer has also raised concerns as to whether current voting process in the Canadian Constituency is the most secure of voting as well as the most effective way for electors in the Canadian Constituency to exercise their right to cast votes in elections, and whereas the Assembly can appoint a special committee to consider any matters referred to by the Assembly, and whereas the Fourth Nunatsiavut Assembly appointed a Special Committee on voting alternatives for the Canadian Constituency, which did not make recommendations for electoral reform at that time, now, therefore, I move, seconded by Mr. Jeff Montague, Chairperson for the

Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation, that the Nunatsiavut Assembly hereby establish a Special Committee on voting alternatives for the Canadian Constituency. And furthermore, the following persons be appointed to this Special Committee: Ms. Marlene Winters-Wheeler, Clerk of the Nunatsiavut Assembly, Mr. Jeffery Montague, Chairperson of the Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation, Mr. Roland Saunders, Ordinary Member for Canada, Mr. Bryan Winters, Ordinary Member for Canada and Ms. Marjorie Flowers, AngajukKâk for Hopedale.

**MR. WINTERS:**

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

**MR. SAUNDERS:**

Not at this time, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Would anyone else like to speak to this motion? If no other Member wishes to speak, does the Member wish to make final comments and close debate?

**MR. SAUNDERS:**

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

**MR. WINTERS:**

That concludes debate. All those in favour of the motion? All those against? Seeing none, the motion is carried. I would like to recognize the Ordinary Member for Canada, Mr. Roland Saunders.

**MR. SAUNDERS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by David Dicker Jr., Minister of Culture Language and Tourism that the Nunatsiavut Assembly convene in the Committee of the Whole to consider the individuals recommended by the Speaker in order for the Assembly to appoint moderator for the 2024 Inuttitut Presidential Debate, and that after consideration, an

individual be appointed as a moderator for the Inuttitut Presidential Debate.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Member. Yes, First Minister, you have a question.

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure if I'm clear on the process. I'm looking at the motion that's in Tab Four, number 8-5(1). And there's a second page and it continues and it says, "Motion and furthermore." And I don't think the Member has read this piece of the motion. I don't know, is it supposed to be read out? Is it in my binder by mistake? I'm not sure. And President Lampe has the same page on his. So can we get some clarification, please?

**MR. WINTERS:**

We will take a five-minute break to ensure that all materials are the same in each binder. *Nakummek*.

[Recess]

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*. Welcome back. I have to first apologize for the number of breaks that we've had to take for straightening things out. For clarification, we are down staff in terms of who prepares our documents and who prepares our binders. So please bear with us as we try and make up the vacancy. The administrative nature of this operation is significant. And when we lose even one person, it can cause these kinds of issues. So I appreciate your patience. We will now be moving back to a previous motion on the Voting Alternatives Committee as it was identified that part of the motion was not read aloud. So I will ask Member Saunders to once again repeat the Members being appointed to

the special committee and then explain the rest of the motion. We've already gone through the first part of it. So if you can start at the Members being appointed and then continue on, that would be appreciated.

**MR. SAUNDERS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And furthermore that the following persons be appointed to the Special Committee, Ms. Marlene Winters-Wheeler, Clerk of the Nunatsiavut Assembly, Mr. Jeffrey Montague, Chairperson of the Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation, Mr. Roland Saunders, Ordinary Member for Canada, Mr. Bryan Winters, Ordinary Member for Canada, Ms. Marjorie Flowers, AngajukKâk for Hopedale-, and furthermore that the Terms of Reference of the Special Committee shall be a) to meet with the Nunatsiavut Electoral Officer to discuss the existing voting procedures used for elections involving the Canadian Constituency, and to identify any shortcomings or issues affecting those voter participation and transmission of votes-, to consider in particular, if any system of electronic voting exists, that would better serve constituents in the Canadian Constituency, as an affective method of exercising the democratic right to participate in elections, to retain if the committee feels necessary, the professional services of persons knowledgeable in voting systems to conduct technical research and to provide recommendations to the committee, that the committee may conduct consultations with Labrador Inuit Residents in the Canadian Constituency, with respect to the process of voting in Nunatsiavut election in that constituency and to provide a report to the Assembly on

the work of the committee together with any recommendations the committee may make during the fall session of 2024. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:** Thank you, Member. The motion is now in order. Would the Member like to speak to the motion?

**MR. SAUNDERS:** No, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:** Does anyone else wish to speak to the motion? Yes, Ms. Melva Williams, when you're ready.

**MS. WILLIAMS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted a point of clarification just to ensure-, and for my understanding, the Minister-, the Ordinary Member is moving that he become a member as well as another-, the seconder is also be a member of this committee. Is that motion in order?

**MR. WINTERS:** This motion is being provided as a recommendation of the Rules and Procedures Committee of which these are members.

**MS. WILLIAMS:** So is that a, "Yes?"

**MR. WINTERS:** Yes...

**MS. WILLIAMS:** Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** ...specifically because the motion is being made on behalf of a group of people who have agreed to this appointment. Does any other Member wish to speak? Yes, Ms. Roxanne Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:** I'm just wondering about...

**MR. WINTERS:** Please stand.

**MS. BARBOUR:**

Oh, sorry. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In c) it says, "If the committee feels necessary, the professional services of persons knowledgeable in voting systems to conduct technical research and to provide recommendations to the committee." I know that we already went over the Assembly budget. I'm just wondering if there's funds budgeted for professional services under Special Committees. Like does that require a different line or what, Budget line, I mean?

**MR. WINTERS:**

The Assembly Budget contains specific lines of funding for all struck Standing in Special Committees, which you have. You have the Assembly Budget. It's in there. Yes, Ms. Barbour?

**MS. BARBOUR:**

And I'm just wondering about procurement services. So like, you know, we have Inuit Law. Like does this contradict with that or what, under, "Procurement Services," under, the *Procurement Act*, sorry for obtaining services? Like...

**MR. WINTERS:**

Any services procured will follow the *Procurement Act* to the letter.

**MS. BARBOUR:**

I recognize and respect that, but call for nominations for the Presidential Election is this month, right? March. So...

**MR. WINTERS:**

The work of this committee will not be completed in time for the Presidential Elections-, this year's Presidential Elections. Are there any further questions around the Table? If not, does the Member wish to close the debate?

**MR. SAUNDERS:**

Yes, Mr. Speaker, I wish to close debate.

**MR. WINTERS:** That concludes debate. All those in favour of the motion? All those against? Seeing none, the motion is now carried. I will again recognize the Ordinary Member for Canada, Mr. Roland Saunders, when you're ready, sir.

**MR. SAUNDERS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by David Dicker Jr., Ordinary Member for Nain, Minister of Culture Language and Tourism that the Nunatsiavut Assembly convene in the Committee of the Whole to consider the individuals recommended by the Speaker in order for the Assembly to appoint a moderator for the 2024 Inuttitut Presidential Debate and that after consideration an individual be appointed as a moderator for the Inuttitut Presidential Debate.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* The motion is in order and for the information of Members, the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act* requires that the Assembly appoint a moderator for the Inuttitut Presidential Debate. This was supposed to happen during our January sitting but with the cancelation of that sitting, we need to complete this now. The Act requires that the Speaker present names to the Assembly from which the Assembly will select a moderator. At this time, the motion is to move into the Committee of the Whole. Would the Member like to speak to the motion?

**MR. SAUNDERS:** No, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:** Does anyone else wish to speak to the motion? Seeing no one, does the Member wish to close debate?

**MR. SAUNDERS:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I wish to close debate.

**MR. WINTERS:**

That concludes debate. All those in favour of the motion? The motion has carried. And for absolute clarification, for those in the room and those listening on the radio, because Katie Winters is one of the people being considered for this position, and Katie Winters is also our Interpreter-Translator today, she will be leaving the Assembly room and Gus Semigak will take over interpretation at this time for the duration of the Committee of the Whole. As the food has arrived-, I think besides Adjournment this is the most excited I've seen the Members around the Table. We will be taking an hour for our lunch and we'll come back to complete the Moderator in Committee of the Whole. *Nakummek.*

[Recess]

**MR. WINTERS:**

Welcome, Members, back into the Committee of the Whole. I want to first ask that everyone is clear with the task we are undertaking because as necessary we can opt to bring in a witness to give explanation to the process if that would be helpful. Would the Members of the whole appreciate a witness? I'm seeing that no one appears to require a witness. So we'll go ahead and move ahead. The names that are being considered for moderator of the Presidential Inuttitut Debate are Ms. Sarah Townley, and Ms. Katie Winters. CV's of the two candidates are in your binders and the selection will be made by secret ballot after the Committee of the Whole. Before we get started, it's been identified to me that a few people around the Table feel as though they have a conflict of interest based on who the two people are. At this time I'll ask anyone



who feels that they have a conflict, to identify themselves-, yes, Ms. Barbour?

**MS. BARBOUR:** My husband-, Katie is my husband's aunt. So I'm wondering if I should excuse myself?

**MR. WINTERS:** At a certain point this gets difficult with how small are communities are and how tight our family relations are. So I will leave it to the committee to determine what you think is too close. Yes, President Lampe.

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** *Nakummek.* I also have to declare that I am in conflict as Katie Winters is my niece. *Nakummek.*

**MR. WINTERS:** Because you believe that to be a conflict, you believe that to be too close, I appreciate you letting us know and you will not be casting a ballot today. Are there other conflicts around the room?

**MS. BARBOUR:** I'm just wondering if I should cast a ballot or not? I'm-, it's kind of unclear to me right now at this point.

**MR. B. ANDERSEN:** If you feel you can't be impartial, then don't cast a ballot.

**MS. BARBOUR:** Okay. I'll just determine myself in conflict then and I won't cast a ballot.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* Thank you, for being open and clear with that. We need to make sure that there is no perception of conflict in this room. Yes, recognizing Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

**MS. FLOWERS:** I just had a question. Where there's only two candidates-, they're both very good-, there's no way that they can co-debate is there?

**MR. WINTERS:**

The position of moderator is one specific position to be appointed by the Assembly. But I appreciate that you recognize this to be a difficult decision given the quality of both moderators up for appointment. Are there any questions, comments? We can now get into the discussion of the two candidates. You all have the CV's in front of you. To be clear, if there are no questions or comments we can go right ahead with the casting of ballots. Do I have consensus to move ahead with the vote? At this time, we are leaving the Committee of the Whole and we are back in the Assembly to cast our ballots. The ballots have been distributed. All of you, except for President Lampe and Ms. Barbour, should have ballots.

**MS. BARBOUR:**

And Point of Order almost, don't we have to cast the ballots in the Committee of the Whole cause...

**MR. WINTERS:**

No.

**MS. BARBOUR:**

Okay.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Could one of the pages please retrieve Ms. Barbour's ballot?

**MS. BARBOUR:**

Oops, sorry.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Please write the name of the moderator of your choice on your ballot. The Clerk will be coming around with a basket to collect them. And then the Clerk and a non-Assembly member will count them. I will ask the page to retrieve Dawn Winters. We will now give a few minutes while the Clerk and Dawn Winters count the ballots and they will return with the result.

**MR. W. ANDERSEN:** Point of Clarification, Mr. Speaker. I understand that in most Assemblies that the Speaker doesn't vote, only to break a tie?

**MR. WINTERS:** There's been no determination of that on this secret ballot cast.

**MR. W. ANDERSEN:** So just for clarification can we get the number of eligible ballots that will be cast?

**MR. WINTERS:** One hundred percent. There are 15 ballots cast-, 14. Say again?  
Fourteen ballots have been cast, yes. And for clarification, I did not cast my ballot.

**MR. VINCENT:** Mr. Speaker, just for clarification, what's CV's?

**MR. WINTERS:** Curriculum vitae. So it's like a resume but it also has your work history and additional experience and education. As the person who's constantly saying not to use abbreviations, I apologize. We're going to take a five-minute recess while the votes are counted.

[Recess]

**MR. WINTERS:** There was a total number of 14 ballots cast. Four ballots were cast for Ms. Sarah Townley. Nine ballots were cast for Ms. Katie Winters and one ballot was spoiled. At this time I will ask for a consensus to destroy the ballots from this vote. Seeing no, "Nays," the ballots will be destroyed. As stated, the votes have been counted. The moderator selected by the Assembly is Ms. Katie Winters. And at this time because Katie Winters has been in the boardroom during this Committee of the Whole discussion and vote casting, I will ask her back into the interpreter's booth and take a couple of minutes to let her get in here. *Nakummek,*

everyone. We're still on Item 14, "Motions." I would like to recognize the Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Mr. Roland Saunders.

**MR. SAUNDERS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by Mr. Jeffrey Montague, Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation Chairperson, that the Assembly confirm the following appointments to the Detailed Review Committees with respect to the Strange Lake Rare Earth Minerals Project: Mr. Terry Vincent, the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Ms. Rexanne Barbour, Ordinary Member for Nain-, Roxanne, I'm sorry.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Excuse me, I believe you mean to say Ms. Roxanne Barbour.

**MR. SAUNDERS:**

I do.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.*

**MR. SAUNDERS:**

I did correct. Ms. Marjorie Flowers, AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Mr. George Gear, Ordinary Member for Postville, Mr. Joey Angnatok or non-Member appointee.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Just making sure we're where we're supposed to be. Thank you, Member. The motion is in order. Would the Member like to speak to the motion? Yes, Mr. Dicker.

**MR. DICKER:**

Are we in Committee of the Whole. Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member forgot to read the last part of the motion.

**MR. WINTERS:**

I think you might be on the wrong motion, sir. One moment.

**MR. DICKER:**

No, he never read it.

**MR. WINTERS:** The motion being discussed is number 11-5(1).

**MR. DICKER:** Mr. Speaker, he never read the Terms of Reference for this committee.

**MR. WINTERS:** Apologies, sir. Ordinary Member Saunders, there is a line at the end that was missed.

**MR. SAUNDERS:** Thank you, Mr. Dicker. "And that the Terms of Reference for this Committee are those approved by the Committee of the Whole on March 5, 2024.

**MR. WINTERS:** Apologies, sir. Thank you, for the clarification. Thank you, Member. The motion is in order. Would the Member like to speak to the motion?

**MR. SAUNDERS:** No, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does anyone else wish to speak to the motion? Yes, Ms. Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:** The members on this committee, there's only one person from Nain. Sorry.

**MR. WINTERS:** I'll ask you to stand.

**MS. BARBOUR:** Sorry. There's only-, sorry, Mr. Speaker. There's only one representative from Nain. I thought there would at least be another one.

**MR. WINTERS:** Due to the establishment of two Environmental Protection Act Committees in the same area, as we discussed yesterday, there will be a great deal of work that comes along with this. And so it would be onerous to put it on one person to try and be on both of these committees because of the amount of work included. But again, this committee will also have the support of the Department of Lands and

Natural Resources as well as specifically the non-Member appointee who is also from Nain. Go ahead, Ordinary Member Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:**

Thank you. I'm just-, like, I don't have nothing against Mr. George here, but shouldn't it be for Members that are closer to the area? Like, I don't know, maybe Makkovik instead of Postville.

**MR. WINTERS:**

We do have the AngajukKâk from Hopedale. Does the Ordinary Member have further questions at this time?

**MS. BARBOUR:**

No, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Does any other Member wish to speak to this motion? Seeing no one, does the Member wish to make final comments and close debate?

**MR. SAUNDERS:**

...Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

That concludes this debate. Is the Assembly ready for the question? All those in favour of the motion by show of hands? There are non against. The motion is carried. We are still on Item 14. I would like to recognize again, the Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Mr. Roland Saunders.

**MR. SAUNDERS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by Jeffrey Montague, Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation Chairperson and that the Assembly confirm the following appointment to the Detailed Review Committee with respect to the new Nain Airport Project: Mr. Terry Vincent, Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Mr. David Dicker Jr., Ordinary Member for Nain, Mr. Joe Dicker, AngajukKâk of Nain, and Mr.

Dwayne Metcalf non-Member appointee. And that the Terms of Reference for this committee are those approved by the Committee of the Whole on March 5, 2024.

**MR. WINTERS:** Thank you, Ordinary Member. The motion is in order. Would the Member like to speak to the motion? Yes, Mr. Joe Dicker?

**MR. DICKER:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I've got along with the Member from Rigolet, a spelling error-, or I've got Mr. Joe Dicker, AngajukKâk for Hopedale and he had it. And this was given to me this morning when these first came out and look.

**MR. WINTERS:** AngajukKâk, that's an earlier printed copy and the correction has been made. I will take a five-minute break to ensure that everyone has the exact right motion in front of them.

[Recess]

**MR. WINTERS:** Welcome back. Apologies for the confusion. As soon as we as Assembly begin to notice errors in our binders, then our eyes attune for errors in our binders. The error this time is that these motions were not in the *Order of the Day*, because we utilized the Standing Order to waive the delay and deal with them today. So these would've been motions that were on the Table for Day Three had there been a Day Three. However, we utilized the Standing Order to waive the necessity of notice to deal with them tomorrow in order to deal with them today. So the Orders are correct. The difference is we have waived the Standing Order to deal with them later in order to deal with them today in this sitting. I

apologize for the confusion. It is confusing. Are there further questions at this time before we move forward? Yes, sorry, First Minister.

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

Thank you. I-, now that you've explained it, it makes it more understandable. However, it doesn't list it. So in future sessions where such an event occurs, is it possible to get an updated *Order of the Day*, as soon as? I've been using the *Orders of the Day* to attempt to follow along and go to the relevant motion within the binder, and I wasn't able to see them 'cause they're not actually listed. And in order for us to consider it, shouldn't it have to be listed on the *Orders of the Day* at some point if you need to do a revised copy, et cetera?

**MR. WINTERS:**

The *Orders of the Day*, set the agenda for the day at the beginning of the day. They do not change and get waived-, not waived, sorry-, amended throughout the day. So these are still the Orders of today. It's just that we have changed the way that we're addressing certain motions. So yes, it's confusing. Again, I apologize for that. But no, we will not be amending midday motions based on waiving of Orders. Yes, Ordinary Member Roxanne Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:**

*Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker. I have a few questions now after you mentioned that. These sittings, they're public, so, like, is there a reason why they're not put into the notices of motion when we-, like, we obviously already know beforehand if we're gonna do a notice of motion and then utilize the Standing Order to waive the Standing Order to deal with it at the same day instead of 24 hours after. So I think, like, what



Ms. Williams is saying here is, like, valid to be able to include them anyways, even though they don't really need to be?

**MR. WINTERS:**

It's not about anticipating the way that it's going to be done. The Standing Orders set out that you are to give notice of motion and then deal with the motion. The Standing Orders give us the flexibility to waive the notice of motion in order to deal with work today. So yes, although we do anticipate that that's the way that we're going to do it, we cannot circumvent the Standing Orders in anticipation of the way that we're going to operate. If we were sitting here for a week it would be very different because we would do everything as the Order of Operations suggests. Is that a satisfactory answer?

**MS. BARBOUR:**

I guess this is something that can be discussed at a later time, I suppose, just to provide further clarification?

**MR. WINTERS:**

Yes. We will definitely put together an information packet to provide to Members of the Assembly that can also be made available to the public to explain these discrepancies that can happen between our Orders and the way that we actually end up operating as a result of the condensed time periods within which we sit. Is that satisfactory to everyone around the Table or are there further questions? Yes, AngajukKâk Flowers.

**MS. FLOWERS:**

Thank you. These-, the *Orders of the Day* were only given to us today for the Day Two. We dealt with it yesterday to waive it. Shouldn't the other three motions have been in with today's *Orders of the Day*?

**MR. WINTERS:**

The AngajukKâk will recall that we waived those notices today, in today's session. There were other notices waived yesterday but then there are the ones that we waived today. So these are not-, there were notices made yesterday for motions that we are dealing with today. There were notices yesterday that were waived yesterday to deal with yesterday. And there were notices today that were waived to deal with today. So again, I recognize the confusing situation that we're in. But we can definitely put something together that further explains this operationality beyond what's in the Standing Orders which can be dense. Is that clear for everyone? *Nakummek*. Before we broke, apologies. I'm trying to collect where we were-, the Member chose to close debate. All those in favour of this motion? And are there any opposed? *Nakummek*. We're on to, Item 15 which is the, "First Reading of Bills." At this time I would like to recognize the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Tom Evans.

**MR. EVANS:**

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I move, seconded by the First Minister, that Bill 2024-02, "*The Budget Act 2024*," now be introduced and read for the first time.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Would you like to introduce the bill?

**MR. EVANS:**

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure today to deliver the Nunatsiavut Government 2024-2025 Budget, my second, as Treasurer of the Fifth Nunatsiavut Assembly. I want to thank the President, the Ministers and all of their staff for the critical work in developing strategies and action plans, securing funds, setting annual goals, practising strong financial management and holding themselves

accountable to Labrador Inuit and to the Nunatsiavut Assembly. This Financial Plan is built on their work. It appropriates funds so that the Government can implement these plans and achieve the ultimate goals of improving the health and social well-being of Labrador Inuit, building the economy of Nunatsiavut while celebrating our language and culture. And before I continue, I'd just like to mention or recognize my Deputy Minister, Rexanne Crawford, our comptroller for all her fine work and dedication to the Nunatsiavut Government not only at this time of the year but all year round. Mr. Speaker, the main sources of funding for the Government operations, programs and services, comes from the Government of Canada. These funds are remitted under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* or as we commonly refer to it, the FFA. The Government of Canada sends an annual Fiscal Plan that outlines the core funding and other sources of negotiated, targeted funding. Mr. Speaker, this budget reflects \$108 million being remitted to the Nunatsiavut Government in the upcoming fiscal year. These funds are received for governance activities, health, housing, infrastructure, Indigenous early learning and childcare to name a few. Another key element of the FFA is the ability to carry over funds that are not expended in any given year. This flexibility allows us to properly plan for projects, programs and services that are multi-year or cost more than a single-year's funding. There is a significant amount of funds being carried over from previous years, about 225 million, Mr. Speaker. All of these funds have been appropriated in this Budget to ensure that the Government has the

necessary authority to expend them as needed. The Nunatsiavut Government also generates its own sources of revenue through personal income taxes, GST, income earned on our bank accounts and investments and allocations from the *Implementation Trust*. Mr. Speaker, these revenues enable our Government to make strategic decisions grounded in evidence of need and to monitor our success. Housing and Infrastructure: Housing-, investments in Housing and Infrastructure are priorities for Nunatsiavut and indeed for all of Inuit Nunangat. To the work of the Inuit Crown Partnership Committee, our Government has received a significant amount of targeted funds to address critical needs in Nunatsiavut. Some key highlights for the 2024-2025 year include the construction of housing units for elders and vulnerable populations, and an emergency shelter, an investment in the Labrador North Wireless Broadband Project, continued support for the Nain Airstrip and development of strategies to address Nunatsiavut growth, land development and housing, economic development of the construction sector in Nunatsiavut and alternate funds, to name a few. Our Government will continue to support the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission and its programs as well as continue the Affordable Warmth Nunatsiavut Home Repair and Emergency Repair programs. The Nunatsiavut Housing Strategy will also undergo a refresh. Mr. Speaker, our Government has outgrown its office and program spaces. This Budget commits funds to continue the construction of a new community office space for the Department of Health and Social Development, to

begin the construction of a new educational regional office in Makkovik, a daycare in Postville, and to start design of office extensions in Nain and Postville. Recruitment and Retention: Recruitment and retention of employees is a top priority for the Government, Mr. Speaker. This Budget continues to invest in employee benefits such as the new fuel and utilities benefit, enhanced bilingual allowances as well as set aside funds to implement new or improved benefit packages. This budget also commits funds for the completion of staff housing units in Nain and Makkovik, as well as for the design and commencement of new units in Postville and Rigolet. Our goal as the Government, Mr. Speaker is to have Labrador Inuit working and living in Nunatsiavut. We feel that these investments are key to obtaining this goal. Some other areas: Our investment of 8.146 million in the operation of the Inuit Community Governments is a testament to our belief in empowering local governments and decision making. We are ensuring that resources are distributed effectively to support the unique priorities in each of our communities. There are other commitments to the Inuit Community Governments for recreation and I am pleased to announce, for Economic Development. The Tourism and Economic Development Divisions are collaborating on an early stage of a plan to work with the Inuit Community Governments to place longer-term community development officers in each community. These positions will focus on community tourism and economic development priorities as well as support for regional focus priorities. These are only a few highlights of the Financial Plan. There are

many exciting plans for the 2024-2025 year. Just in conclusion, Mr. Speaker, as we continue on this journey of progress and prosperity, let us not forget the importance of sustainability and foresight. This plan is a testament to our dedication to creating a brighter future for generations to come. I am confident that this Budget will pave the way for unprecedented growth and development. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Minister Evans. We will now be taking a 20-minute break until five minutes to the hour. The snacks are here. *Nakummek*.

[Recess]

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*. For clarification, the reason for such a long pause-, and I appreciate your patience-, was that there was a numbering inconsistency across the last two Bills and we wanted to make absolute certain that the bills that we're addressing, which will be made into Inuit Law are exactly how they need to be. We are now contented with that and we can begin again. The last thing to have happened was that the Honourable Tom Evans, Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technologies as well as the Treasurer of the Nunatsiavut Government, had given his explanation introducing the Bill. The motion that he presented is in order. Would anyone wish to speak to the principal of the Bill? And for a reminder, the Bill is 2024-02, "*The Budget Act*." If no one wishes to speak, does the Minister wish to conclude the debate?

**MR. EVANS:**

Yes, I wish to conclude debate.

**MR. WINTERS:** Thank you, Minister. That concludes debate on our first reading. Is the Assembly in favour of approving Bill 2024-02 on first reading? All those in favour? And that is everyone. The motion is carried. Accordingly, Bill 2024-02, "*The Budget Act 2024*," has had first reading. I would like to again recognize the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Tom Evans.

**MR. EVANS:** Honourable Speaker, in accordance with Standing Order 54(3), I seek unanimous consent to waive Standing Order 54(1)(d) to have the Assembly proceed to second reading of Bill 2024-04, "*The Budget Act 2024*," today.

**MR. WINTERS:** Correction, Minister, Bill 2024-02, "*The Budget Act 2024*," today.

**MR. EVANS:** I'm sorry, Standing Order 54(3).

**MR. WINTERS:** No, apologies, sir. You said, "Bill number 2024-04." You mean to say, "2024-02". Apologies.

**MR. EVANS:** Apologies, 2024-04, "*The Budget Act, 2024*."

**MR. WINTERS:** 02.

**MR. B. ANDERSEN:** It should be "three."

**MR. EVANS:** Oh, I'm sorry, it's three.

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** No, it's two.

**MR. EVANS:** Apologies, I...

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** No, it's two, two.

**MR. WINTERS:** We're talking about the, second reading of Bill 2024-02.

**MR. EVANS:** Yes. Sorry, it's been a long day.

**MR. WINTERS:**

You can see why we had such a long break to correct all of these numbering issues. *Nakummek*. In accordance with Standing Order 54(3), the Minister is seeking unanimous consent to waive Standing Order 54(1)(d) to proceed with second reading of Bill 2024-02, "*The Budget Act 2024*," today. All those in favour? I see no, "Nays." Minister you have unanimous consent, so the Bill can proceed to second reading today. I would like to recognize the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Tom Evans.

**MR. EVANS:**

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I move, seconded by the First Minister, the Honourable Melva Williams, that Bill 2024-02-01(ph) 2:41:00, "*The Civil Service Amendment Act, 2024*," now be introduced and read for the first time.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Would you like to introduce the bill, sir?

**MR. EVANS:**

Yes, thank you. Mr. Speaker, *The Civil Service Act*: The Act was first enacted on December 1, 2005. There have been four amendments to this Act since that time, with the most recent being passed by the Assembly during our November sitting. As I noted then, Mr. Speaker, a review of the Act was completed during the first half of 2023 by my department in conjunction with Legal Services. A number of portions of the Act require amendments, mainly for two primary reasons. First, the Nunatsiavut Government's workforce has grown significantly in terms of numbers of positions and the types of work or duties. Secondly, the complexity of and diversity of human resource matters within our Governments as well as requirements under the *Canada Labour Code*,



necessitates amendments to the Act. Mr. Speaker, this is the second in a series of bills proposing amendments to the Act. This particular Bill contains amendments mostly related to Part Three and Four of the Act. Part Three covers the Organization of the Nunatsiavut Civil Service. However, there are currently subsections in Part Three that deal with matters related to hiring. These subsections should be under Part Four of the Act. Replacement provisions for these subsections are included as amendments. Section 13 and Section 14 of this Bill will make amendments to the existing Section 18 of the Act and add two new sections, 18.1 and 18.2, to set out provisions specific to the process of hiring in the Employee and Casual Divisions. The reasons for these changes are to provide more clarity on the process of hiring. This Bill also fixes an issue with respect to the Act's automatic application to employees of agencies of the Nunatsiavut Government which was intended to be included in the amendments made under *Civil Service Amended Act 2023*. This amendment will confirm that the Act would apply to employers of agencies only if required by Inuit Law. Mr. Speaker, I took this time to note only a few of the proposed amendments. The explanatory note to the Bill covers the details of all the amendments proposed. The amendments to this Inuit Law are important and I trust they will, or I hope that they will be supported.

*Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

**MR. WINTERS:** Thank you, Minister. That concludes debate on first reading. Is the Assembly in favour of approving Bill 2024-01 on first reading? All those in favour? And there are none opposed. The motion is carried and accordingly, Bill 2024-01, "*Civil Service Amendment Act 2024*," has had first reading. I would like to again recognize the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Tom Evans.

**MR. EVANS:** I will also ask Members to please stop flicking through your binders as the Minister speaks. *Nakummek*. Yes, First Minister Williams.

**MS. WILLIAMS:** The reasons we are-, thank you, Mr. Speaker-, the reason we're looking through our binders is we're trying to find the document that we-, it doesn't appear to be in our binder.

**MR. WINTERS:** Does everyone in the room not have Bill number 2024-02 as a front page? Yeah, one moment. We'll take five minutes, but just five minutes. I'll be right back.

[Recess]

**MR. WINTERS:** Honourable Tom Evans, Minister of Finance, you can introduce the Bill. Sorry, does anyone wish to speak to the principal of the Bill? Does the Minister wish to conclude the debate?

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

**MR. WINTERS:**

Thank you, Minister. That concludes debate on first reading. Is the Assembly in favour of approving Bill 2024-01 on first reading? All those in favour? Seeing none opposed, the motion is carried, and accordingly, Bill 2024-01, "*Civil Service Amendment Act 2024*," has had first reading. I will again recognize the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Tom Evans

**MR. EVANS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. 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 2024-01 of, "*The Civil Service Amendment Act 2024*," today.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*. In accordance with Standing Order 54(3), the Minister is seeking unanimous consent to waive Standing Order 54(1)(d) to proceed with second reading of Bill 2024-01, "*The Civil Service Amendment Act 2024*," today. All those in favour? There are no, "Nays." Minister, you have unanimous consent so the Bill can proceed to second reading today. Item 16 is, "The Second Reading of Bills." I would like to recognize the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Tom Evans for the second reading of bills.

**MR. EVANS:**

Honourable Speaker, in accordance with the motion passed previously by the Assembly, I now ask that we move to the Committee of the Whole to consider the Financial Plan 2024-'25 in conjunction with Bill 2024-02.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*. We will now invite Rexanne Crawford, the Nunatsiavut Government comptroller to join us as a witness in the Committee of the Whole. *Nakummek*. We are now in the Committee of the Whole to

consider the Financial Plan along with the Budget Bill and as Members are aware, the procedure for second reading debate will be a page-by-page, clause-by-clause review of the Budget. The Financial Plan is important for our discussions today. It will be reviewed during our Committee of the Whole discussions. After a view of the Financial Plan, we'll move to the Annex of the Bill, the Budget Act Annex A, then on to the clauses. Ms. Crawford.

**MS. CRAWFORD:**

*Ullâkut.* We're gonna start today-, I'll go over the highlights of the Financial Plan. So it's the document with the logo of the Government saying Financial Plan 2024-2025. We'll just take a moment so that translators and everyone can get...

**MR. WINTERS:**

The copies were given out yesterday but we do have extra copies if anyone is missing theirs.

**MS. CRAWFORD:**

Okay, we'll start if everyone has their document. I just want to, if you don't mind, just get a check from translators to make sure that they have the one saying, "Financial Plan 2024-2025." Just (inaudible) 2:53:50

**MR. WINTERS:**

I see a head shaking in the translation booth. Page, would you be able to grab a copy of the Financial Plan 2024-2025 from Dawn Winters, next door?

**MS. CRAWFORD:**

While we're waiting, I'll just go over the preface of the Financial Plan. So the Department of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology is responsible for the completion of the Annual Financial Plan for the Nunatsiavut Government. As noted, under the *Labrador Inuit*

*Constitution*, this Financial Plan must be approved by the Nunatsiavut Assembly and Appendix A to this Financial Plan is what we have as the Annex to the Budget Bill. But it's included here with the Financial Plan for your information and for your reference as we walk through this Financial Plan. So if we can all move to Page Three, the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*, Section One. You have it? Oh. Just...

**MR. WINTERS:**

They were handed out yesterday, Mr. Gear.

**MS. CRAWFORD:**

We'll continue on with the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*, Section One on Page Three. So the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* is an agreement-, Tripartite Agreement between the Government of Canada, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Nunatsiavut Government. And what it does under a particular section of it, we receive a significant amount of money from the Government of Canada to deliver programs and services and for operations of the Nunatsiavut Government and the Inuit Community Government. So the FFA-, one of the biggest benefits of it is that it allows us the authority to carry monies over. So if we don't expend money in one year, we can carry it forward. And that is a really important component of the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* because it gives us a lot of flexibility and a lot of the ability to make plans and to implement major projects and things that take multiple years. So under, "Current Year Revenues," we are entering negotiations for the fourth renewal this fiscal year, of the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. Over the last couple of years we've undertaken a review of the current agreement with the Government of Canada and had a

number of presentations made on what we've done with the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* funds. The current year funding under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* is significant. It's about just about \$108 million coming under the Annual Fiscal Grant for 2024-2025. So through the Inuit Crown Partnership Committee we've been successful in receiving targeted funds in priority areas, specifically education with the Inuit Post Secondary Education Strategy, under Housing, under Infrastructure-, just going through making sure I cover off the major areas. And also under Governance, through some of the work that we've done there. We also have received targeted funding under, Indigenous Strategy Employment Training, Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Strategy, Inuit Health Survey, TB Elimination Programs. And these funds are now flowing through the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* as a reflection of our Government-to-Government relationship versus going through a contribution agreement where there are a lot more reporting requirements and a lot more restrictions on the funding them under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. So as I spoke earlier, one of the important abilities of the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* is for us to be able to carry forward funding. And so all funds received under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* in prior years that have not been expended. These are some technical accounting terms. We internally restrict them, but in order to expend them in the next year, we have to bring them forward into the *Budget Act*. So we have carried forward \$226 million from prior years and we have appropriated them so that during the year, some of the

plans that have been committed to can be completed, as well as continuation on other plans and strategies that are in the works. So under Schedule One, we also outlined the expenditures for the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. \$17 million is allocated to the General Operations of the Nunatsiavut Government. And these revenues expenditures are outlined in Section Two of the Budget. Other areas of expenditure include Housing. So the Government of Canada committed an additional \$16 million for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. \$3.3 million of this funding is committed to seniors and social housing in Nunatsiavut. We've also committed to funding the Affordable Warmth Home Repair Programs and the Emergency Repair Programs as well, as we all know, the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission is now operational. And funds from this particular area will support their programs and operations.

Nunatsiavut Government will have \$61 million remitted from the Government of Canada to address infrastructure needs. An Action Plan with priority areas and needs was submitted by the Nunatsiavut Government to the Government of Canada. Nunatsiavut Affairs is finalizing its Strategic and Implementation Plans to address needs which include new term positions, capital infrastructure and some strategies.

And there are some pieces already in play. For example, \$3 million has been committed towards the Labrador North Wireless Broadband Project. We've done work on data management. And funds from that particular area under Data Management are being used to continue with the work on data management and information management. Inuit

Community Governments and Capital Works: The allocation to the Inuit Community Governments has increased by an inflationary adjustment and it's \$8,146,000 for the 2024-2025 year. There is a schedule in Schedule One that outlines the breakdown between the Inuit Community Governments. And as a reminder, each Inuit Community Government receives the same amount for governance, and then the allocations for services is based on the number of residential and commercial dwellings, of which the data was all provided by the Inuit Community Governments for our calculation. And finally, just to conclude on Section One, Capital Infrastructure: There are a number of capital infrastructure projects planned or ongoing for the year. In Nain, the design and site work of a multipurpose building will begin. Funding for this project comes from a GAPS Closing Fund under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. The Nunatsiavut Government will continue to construct the new Community Office in Rigolet and the new Education Office in Makkovik. Construction for new office space in Nain and Postville is planned to begin in the 2024 construction year. There are housing projects planned, or ongoing, and planned to be concluded in Nain, Hopedale, Makkovik, Postville and Rigolet. And there are a few other capital projects supported with external funds and Fiscal Financing, such as a daycare in Postville as well as the other housing units that I just noted. I'll pause here and see if there are any questions on Section One of the *Budget Act* referring to the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. *Nakummek*.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Yes, Recognizing Mr. Joe Dicker.



**MR. DICKER:** In my report to the Assembly, I noted that the auditors-, is there a section here on auditors before I get to far, or can I ask about them now?

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

**MS. CRAWFORD:** There is no specific section in the Financial Plan specifically on auditors. We have professional fees appropriated for the Nunatsiavut Government's audits of the financial statements under the Department of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology.

**MR. WINTERS:** Mr. Dicker?

**MR. DICKER:** Okay, thank you. Under-, I speak on behalf of all the other Inuit Community Governments but I will speak for Nain. For example, our 2021 audit is not done yet. Our 2022 audit hasn't even started. Our 2023 audit is getting further behind. Through that, we've lost-, forfeited Municipal Operating Grants. We'll never get them back. But to date we lost \$484,000 and that's significant. Is there any way we can change the auditing system so that, you know, we're not so far behind and we're not left behind on these extra monies we need for our budget? I ask you that question.

**MR. WINTERS:** Ms. Crawford.

**MS. CRAWFORD:** *Nakummek.* So I understand the question was also asked yesterday during Oral Question period. And after you raised the question, I have reached out to the auditors. I have a meeting set up to talk to them about the concern to the Inuit Community Governments. This is not the first meeting that I've had as well. I've also asked them to reach out to

each of the individual Inuit Community Governments to discuss your audits and the plans for bringing them up-to-date. I know in previous years, there has been correspondence and communication between auditors and the Municipal Affairs who are responsible for Municipal Operating Grants so that they can be remitted to the Inuit Community Governments once each year's audits are done. I can't commit that that's what's gonna happen. I'm not in the Provincial Government system. But Minister Evans and I are very concerned and I was-, and I know this conversation is not really related to the Financial Plan, but I will just state that I had two meetings in one week with the auditors early February on some concerns with auditing services. Minister Evans has committed too, to, you know, put out a request for proposals for auditing services.

**MR. WINTERS:** I'll ask the witness to slow down a bit for the interpreter.

**MS. CRAWFORD:** I apologize.

**MR. WINTERS:** There's a headset beside you should you need it.

**MS. CRAWFORD:** Yeah, I can hear them. Thank you. So in terms of the work that our department is trying to do to help, you know, we're committed and, you know, we're having conversations and trying to get the auditors to have conversations with you as well.

**MR. WINTERS:** Mr. Dicker.

**MR. DICKER:** Thank you, for that. And now I'll leave that alone knowing that it's going to be hopefully taken care of and go on with the Budget. I just thought

that that amount of money would affect the Budget itself. Apparently it's not, so, thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:**

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

**MS. CRAWFORD:**

We move to Page Five, Section Two, "Own-Source Revenues." Besides the funds received under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*, the Government also raises what we call Own-source Revenues or OSR. We receive funding for personal income taxes revenue. So 95 percent of all Federal Income Taxes remitted to the Government of Canada each year is paid back to the Nunatsiavut Government. Each year they will give us an annual remittance of \$5.5 million. As well, when they finish the audit on a particular taxation year, the difference will be remitted to us. And we get those funds at the end of March for two years prior and we take that money and we'll budget it as needed in the upcoming year. So in this particular budget year of 2024-2025, we have budgeted an additional \$2.4 million for operations and programs and services being planned. We also receive money through a *Goods and Services Tax Agreement*. And it's based on an estimate from the Government of Canada and for this upcoming year is \$1,958,000. Another source of revenue for the Nunatsiavut Government is interest on our bank accounts and investment income from our investments. We also receive funds from the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Implementation Trust*. We have to receive 50 percent of the investment income earned in the previous calendar year. And this year it is budgeted at \$5,869,500. We also have a Fishery

Fund and an Environment Fund, currently valued at \$10,743,500. As a reminder, the Nunatsiavut Government collects access fees from fishers for the use of Nunatsiavut Government's fishing licences. This has been occurring for the last number of years in accordance with the Nunatsiavut Government Commercial Fishery Policy. Fishers were consulted on the development of this policy and they signed an agreement with the Nunatsiavut Government to remit the access fees to them. So these fees are restricted specifically for the purchase of fishing opportunities such as quotas, licences, vessels and for the implementation of a new Commercial Fisheries Designation Policy. So what you'll see when you get into the departmental budget, is you will see a Revenue on top for \$10 million or it will be in one schedule. And you'll see an expenditure under the Department of Lands and Natural Resources for-, it's over \$10 million but for about \$10 million of it relates to this particular fund. So it's a balance out. The revenue's budgeted and the expenses are budgeted. Other smaller sources of revenue include external sales from the Nunatsiavut Visual Design, promotional items, rental revenues. And I also just want to note that again, the Nunatsiavut Government is not-, did not receive any mining royalties under part 7.5 of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement* for the 2023-2024 year. Are there any questions on Nunatsiavut Government's Own-source revenues?

**MR. WINTERS:**

Recognizing Mr. Joe Dicker.

**MR. DICKER:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. That last statement there, is that the court case that we have with the Newfoundland Government regarding the mining in-, the mining refinery (inaudible)? 3:13:07.

**MS. CRAWFORD:** Yes, it is.

**MR. WINTERS:** Yes, Mr. Joe Dicker.

**MR. DICKER:** You got any idea how much we're owed or if we do win? Like this has been going on for a while now and we have received no mining taxes. We-, I'd like to know the amount, if possible.

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

**MS. CRAWFORD:** We don't know what the amount would be. So when we put the Court Case forward it was bifurcated which meant the premise of the case went forward, and upon success we would go back and work with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to try to determine the amount. It's not easy to determine because there's taxpayer confidentiality from the owner of the mine. So we actually have no idea what it could be.

**MR. WINTERS:** Yes, Ms. Barbour?

**MS. BARBOUR:** Doesn't it-, sorry, doesn't it say somewhere in the Standing Orders that we can't discuss a matter that's before the Courts?

**MR. WINTERS:** I would say that the answer of, "We don't know," is essentially saying that.

**MS. BARBOUR:**

Yeah, okay, thank you. And the other thing I wanted to ask was, I think-, the personal income tax, we get 5.5 a year? Has it ever been determined in, like, our history that it might've been less than that? And were we ever in a situation where we might've had to owe back? It's just a question of curiosity, really.

**MR. WINTERS:**

I'll ask the Members to speak up a bit if possible as well. Witness, were you able to get all of that? Okay.

**MS. CRAWFORD:**

No, we have never had to pay back any personal income taxes. The way the Annual Remittance Amount was set was to not-, to really deliberately try not to put the Nunatsiavut Government in a place that when an audit was completed we would have to owe back money. So as a history, a little bit of historical, we used to only receive just over \$3 million. Then it went to, like, 3.8. Then it went to 5 million and now it's at 5.5 million. And it was a slow increase based on historical data of what the actual personal income taxes remitted in Nunatsiavut have been. Just a comment in terms of your Court Case comment, the question asked was not anything that would complicate a legal case. But the status of where that case is, is that the Court of Appeal and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador-, or Court of Appeal of Newfoundland and Labrador sent it back to what would be the Dispute Resolution Board under Chapter 21 of *Land Claims Agreement*. We then applied for leave through Supreme Court of Canada which was not approved. I don't know all the technical legal terms. So we're back to following a process under Chapter 21.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Are there any further questions at this time? Seeing none, you may continue.

**MS. CRAWFORD:**

So under the Annex A of the *Budget Act*, there are two schedules-, one with a projected budget five-year plan. A couple of points to highlight from those two schedules are that under the *Labrador Inuit Constitution*, we are required to maintain a contingency fund that may be used by the NEC for four particular reasons which are outlined in your document. A total of \$1,28,000 has been budgeted to put into this fund for 2024-2025 which brings your accumulated contingency reserve to \$8.7 million. The *Labrador Inuit Constitution* also gives the authority to approve the budgets for the Inuit Community Corporations to the NEC. Those budgets have been approved and the total amount to be given, remitted to the NunaKatiget and Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporations is \$184,500. I do wanna note that the Own-source revenue claw back, we call it, under the *Own-source Revenue Capacity Agreement* is suspended which means that we have to make no payments back to Canada. The five-year plan will change, primarily due to planned capital projects of the Nunatsiavut Government. I'll pause if there are any questions.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Yes, Ms. Kemuksigak.

**MS. KEMUKSIGAK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question about the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation budget. We put in a budget for what it actually cost to operate our corporation, including our Community Freezer. However, we did not get an increase. There's money that we had for 2023 that was up until a certain point in 2024 so we couldn't spend it all

last year. So for instance, with the IGA money we got it was for a craft project is \$22,000 but we have to spend it until December 31st, 2024. That's why we didn't put in crafts in our budget. The New Horizons for Seniors Program, it's from April 1st, 2023 to March 31st, 2024. So we couldn't spend all that money at the end of our calendar year. And COVID recovery funding, we received \$15,000 from the Federal Government-, we have until June the 30th 2024 to spend that money. So if you add it all up, \$47,000, we couldn't spend in 2023. We had to carry it over to 2024 because of our funding agreements. And also Deloitte did not send us a bill for our audit for 2023 so that has to come out of 2024 funds which is between \$13,000 and \$17,000 a year. So I really don't understand, giving the number of people that we serve which is over 2,000, and also given our number of elders which is 450-plus elders, and disabled people, why we were not granted more money for our corporation 'cause I believe it's really needed.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Ms. Crawford.

**MS. CRAWFORD:**

So in the letter that was sent to you with your budget approval, your budget was approved, subject-, I think there might've been a small amount adjustment under your Community Freezer. So the total amount was budgeted. Your cash grant for this current year remain the same, but you did have significant amount under your financial statements and your current financial statements which we reviewed, in deferred revenue which was sitting in your bank account to be able to support your entire budget. So there was-, while the cash grant that we



had to remit this year didn't change, there were carry-over of funds from NG and other sources as per your audited financial statements for 2022 and your unaudited financial statements which were provided by your accounting firm.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Ms. Kemuksigak.

**MS. KEMUKSIGAK:**

May I ask another question? Yeah, but I just pointed out that \$47,000 could not be spend in 2023. That's why it got carried over to 2024 because it was multi-year funding. So we couldn't spend all the money we got in 2023 in 2023. It had to be carried over-, some of it had to be carried over to 2024.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Ms. Crawford?

**MS. CRAWFORD:**

Your internal financial statements that your accountant provided did not reflect any items that were not spent during the year. It wasn't a balance sheet they provided. It was actual expenditures that you had during the year, and the detail of any cash that was received was also provided up on top. So we looked specifically at items related to your Community Freezer, your operational dollars, et cetera. None of the funds that you are noting were accounted for or shown on a-, in the information that would-, like it wouldn't show up on your expenditures 'cause you didn't spend it. So it wouldn't have been reflected or taken into any of the analysis.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Ms. Kemuksigak?

**MS. KEMUKSIGAK:** I'm sorry, I'm not fully understanding and I don't wanna bog down the Assembly. Would you be able to put some of that information in writing to me because I didn't find the letter that I received from the Minister very clear. Thank you.

**MS. CRAWFORD:** Yes, we can. *Nakummek.*

**MR. WINTERS:** Are there any further questions at this time? Ms. Crawford, you may continue.

**MS. CRAWFORD:** So I sit in a really interesting spot in my role as comptroller because I get to have insight into many different things of the Nunatsiavut Government. One of the pieces that are really exciting is to talk to each of the departments and understand the work that they're doing; understand what their plans are for the upcoming year. So we're gonna go into what the departments are planning for the upcoming fiscal year. There has been a two percent increase in salaries for employees which was approved starting 2023. So we're in our second of three years of approval.

**MR. WINTERS:** I will ask that you use your headset so that you can follow where our interpreter is. *Nakummek.*

**MS. CRAWFORD:** The-, during the 2023-2024 fiscal year, a new fuel benefit was approved for employees and were built into this upcoming budget. We'll move to the Nunatsiavut Secretariat. They're responsible for the planning and priority setting of the Nunatsiavut Government, developing the legislative agenda, as well as intergovernmental relations. In this upcoming fiscal

year they have requested an increase in their professional fees. And this is to continue Nunatsiavut Government's ongoing work in relation to protecting our land and treaty rights. This is the most significant change in the request for the Secretariat. Other items is advancing Labrador Inuit priorities through participation in the Inuit Crown Partnership Committee, advancement of the Nunatsiavut Energy Plan. They are also responsible for external public information, communications, and for the operation of Nunatsiavut Visual Design. They have requested additional funds this year to develop a communication strategy and a fulsome social media plan. They've also requested one additional position for a social media specialist focusing on Nunatsiavut Government social media and implementation of a social media plan. Are there any questions on Nunatsiavut Secretariat? All right. I'll move to Nunatsiavut Affairs.

Nunatsiavut Affairs is responsible for the implementation of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement*, Housing, Legal Services, the Office of the Registrar of Beneficiaries and Public Property. There are no significant changes for the Implementation and Legal Services. There are two key changes for the Registrar of Beneficiaries Office. They're starting the second phase of the Inuit Ancestry Project as planned. There are also plans for two workshops for the Membership and Inuit Appeal Board. The workshop for the 2023-2024 year was postponed due to weather. The Infrastructure and Planning Division is exceptionally busy. They are implanting the Inuit Community Infrastructure Plan. They're managing the current stock of public properties and coordinating the plans and

construction of new office and program spaces. So there are requirements to purchase a truck, and two snowmobiles for maintenance staff. And the Torngat Mountain Base Camp and Research Centre requires critical maintenance. In the 2024 season the septic system, fuel tanks and waste management items will be addressed. There's a requirement to purchase a new Skidster, a new motor for the Zodiac and replacements of washer and dryers. And these preventative and critical maintenance plans are budgeted at 1.5 million. Are there any questions on the plans for Nunatsiavut Affairs?

**MR. WINTERS:**

Seeing none, you can continue.

**MS. CRAWFORD:**

So Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology. I'll just highlight a couple of the key changes for our department. We use a financial system for our accounting and financial reporting. There are plans to upgrade the system which will allow the Government to move to electronic purchase orders and eventually to electronic time keeping. Funds have been budgeted \$150,000 for this upgrade. Human Resources Division have focus areas identified to assist with recruitment and retention that will be actioned over the next year and a half. There's significant progress made in the area of Occupational Health and Safety with funds budgeted for continued Implementation and Training. We have funds budgeted at \$130,000 to purchase capital assets related to infrastructure monitoring, data storage and new phone systems. There's a significant increase in the amount for subscriptions. And one of the biggest drivers is we're migrating from Kaspersky for our anti-virus

system, which is a Russian-based platform. And the new system is at a much higher significant cost than Kaspersky. I'll pause here to see if there are any questions.

**MR. WINTERS:** Yes, Ms. Barbour?

**MS. BARBOUR:** *Nakummek.* I'm just curious, is there-, has the new provider for the security been identified, the cybersecurity?

**MS. WILLIAMS:** Ms. Crawford?

**MS. CRAWFORD:** It has. We went through a competitive process. I don't have the name of it off the top of my head but we went through a competitive process looking at the costs and a lot of different quality, like, qualitative factors as well to select one. The cost for Kaspersky could be anywhere from 20,000 to 40,000 and we're looking at three to four times the amount for any other provider. But I don't know if anyone follows the news but in December, the Government of Canada also released information that they were, as well, moving from having Kaspersky as their anti-virus or anything to do with cyber security on their entire network.

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

**MS. KEMUKSIGAK:** I wanted to ask this question. Does the Province give Nunatsiavut Government, like, extra admin cost funding to cover the cost of the supportive living program and the homeless shelter? Because I would hazard to guess that, that's a lot more work for the financial staff.

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

**MS. CRAWFORD:** There is an administrative fee built into the budgets and contribution agreements for the supportive living program and the emergency shelters.

**MR. WINTERS:** Ms. Kemuksigak?

**MS. KEMUKSIGAK:** Wonderful, thank you.

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

**MS. BARBOUR:** Sorry, again, just a question of curiosity, supplemental to my last one I guess. Is that because of, like, global goings on, like, in terms of, like, the war and things like that?

**MS. CRAWFORD:** It's definitely as a result of geopolitical tensions in the world.

**MR. WINTERS:** Further questions at this time? Seems like a good a time as any to draw attention to Standing Order 5(3). I do need consensus to move beyond 5:00 p.m. and we're quite close. Looking for a show of hands. Yes, Ms. Barbour?

**MS. BARBOUR:** Can we go eat first?

**MR. WINTERS:** We need to extend before we can determine our break.

**MS. BARBOUR:** Okay.

**MR. WINTERS:** Show of hands, please? And that's everyone. *Nakummek*. You may continue, Ms. Crawford.

**MS. CRAWFORD:** Lands and Natural Resources. Lands and Natural Resources is responsible for Labrador Inuit Lands, all natural resources within, the management and regulation of Inuit harvesting, protection of the environment,

establishment of the exploration standards and the approval of workplans, the establishment and management of protected areas in LIL and the implantation and administration of impacts and benefits programs and agreements. So there are no significant changes planned for Non-Renewable or Lands divisions. They're going to continue with their plans of conducting inspections on various sites on LIL, as well as Non-Renewable Division is planning to deliver a prospecting course in 2024-'25 year. The Financial Plan does draw attention to the budgeting of the program expenditures related to the Fisheries Fund. The Renewable Resources Division will be participating in research projects related to moose and the annual fishery workshop. It continues to implement its Capital Asset Replacement Plan. So there's an allocation in the current year for a purchase of a boat and trailer and for two new snowmobiles as well as the appropriate safety gear required to meet Transport Canada regulations. And there are no significant changes to the current program plans for the Environment Division.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Members, are there questions? Seeing none, you may continue.

**MS. CRAWFORD:**

So there are-, for Health and Social Development there are no significant plans or changes for their programs and services. For Family Services, Youth, Elders and the Status of Women, the majority of the funding for the department comes from funds remitted under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. And I do know in the upcoming year they will start the planning for the Regional Health Plan for the next five-year period. Education and Economic Development. They're responsible for

establishing and administering education and economic development policies, programs and services for the Nunatsiavut Government and promoting the economic development of Nunatsiavut and the education of Inuit. The department continues to implement programs related to education, capacity building and the development of economic opportunities. So education expenditures are primarily supported by the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* funds. They cover areas related to secondary education and post secondary education. Under Secondary Education, they're planning on delivering summer literacy camps, participation with students on ice, Grade 9 Career Fair, just to name a few programs. The Economic Development Division budgets for programs such as wage subsidies, the Community Economic Development Program, and programs related to the development of Inuit Businesses. I'll pause here after I've done these two departments to see if there are any questions.

**MR. WINTERS:**

You may continue.

**MS. CRAWFORD:**

So the last department to be highlighted is the Language, Culture and Tourism Department. And as a reminder, they are responsible for administering the cultural and linguistic affairs for the Inuit and Nunatsiavut Government. This includes policies, programs and services for the preservation, use and development of Inuttitut, protection and management of archaeological and historic resources, and protecting and developing the cultural heritage of Inuit and fostering Inuit creativity through the Arts. They also administer our programs, policies and services in relation to Tourism, promotes Tourism, strengthens Inuit



participation in the Tourism industry and encourages economic growth and employment throughout Nunatsiavut in the area of Tourism. So their plans for the upcoming year are guided by their four strategies. Implementation of the Language Strategy is a key priority for the Department. They will continue with the operations of the Language Nest programs, Inuttitut Radio Hour, Interpreter Translator annual workshops, and the Inuttitut Master Apprenticeship Program. The Archaeology will continue with a number of their current programs as outlined in the document and they continue to plan for an event for the evictees from Hebron and Nutak. There's a small amount of funds that have been budgeted which have been used to leverage external funds and will be used to leverage more external funds for this very important event. So the Tourism Division is the lead for tourism in Nunatsiavut. Hebron, the Torngat Mountains Base Camp and Research Centre and for the Arts. Hebron is an important part of the Labrador Inuit history. So continuation of the Hebron Restoration and Ambassador Program is budgeted for the upcoming year. We're committed to the operations and a youth leadership program at the Torngat Mountains Base Camp and Research Centre. And the biggest development and change or plan for their upcoming year is in conjunction with the Economic Development Division. The Department is in early stage of a plan to collaborate with the Inuit Community Governments to have longer term community development officers in each community. The positions will focus on community tourism and economic priorities as well as support regional

focus priorities. The NG has continued to contribute funds for activities under the Torngat Recreation Commission as well as funds to participate in other Inuit or Arctic winter games. And there's no change in the plans for Arts. And just to conclude, the departmental budgets, there is a section in the departmental plan for administration and we work very hard to keep that fund as efficient as possible. I'll pause for questions.

**MR. WINTERS:** Yes, Ms. Barbour?

**MS. BARBOUR:** *Nakummek.* The Torngat Recreation Commission-, I know last year-, has that budget changed or increased or is it still the same from last fiscal year?

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

**MS. CRAWFORD:** There is a slight increase in the amount of cash budgeted. So the Inuit Community Governments manage the money for recreation and we track the amount of expenditures and the revenues remitted. So as a Inuit Community Government is getting close to needing additional funds, those are budgeted for the upcoming year. So we-, there is a slight increase 'cause one community needed funds this year that they didn't need last year.

**MR. WINTERS:** Ms. Barbour?

**MS. BARBOUR:** And that's separate from the funds budgeted for the Arctic Winter Games?

**MS. CRAWFORD:** (Audio muted.)

**MR. WINTERS:** Any further questions at this time? Yes, Mr. Joe Dicker?

**MR. DICKER:**

Touching on the subject of community economic development, it sounds like you're-, in this project you're creating a-, monies now that we wouldn't have looked for from other sources. What I mean for the Economic Development Office in Nain, we had to search for funding from different sources. And we found a source through-, what's the name? It's a person in Rigolet anyway. Is that the funding that you look at, that you partake as the gift to Inuit Community Governments?

**MR. WINTERS:**

Ms. Crawford.

**MS. CRAWFORD:**

So what they are looking at is something separate from the Community Economic Development Program Fund where you have applied to annually for funding to support your Economic Development Officers or Tourism positions, depending on what community you are from. They're looking at something that will give you-, each of the Inuit Community Governments more stability with having Community Development Officers. It is in the planning stage. My understanding is that both the Economic Development Division staff and the Tourism staff should be communicating-, I don't like the word consulting-, but collaborating with the Inuit Community Governments on what these will look like and the funding levels that will be required. But it will not, to my knowledge, be subject to annual proposals being written any more. And it would be looking at as we've heard from the Inuit Community Governments-, longer-term sustainable funding so that you're not hiring your individual into a position for one year at a time, and hoping that there's more funds in a subsequent year.

**MR. WINTERS:** Mr. Joe Dicker.

**MR. DICKER:** Thank you. That's gonna go a long way in retaining that person who might apply 'cause we found that Community Governments (inaudible)3:47:23-, we might get them for a year but something else comes 'cause they're more secure with it. That's why-, thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** Ms. Crawford, when you're-, actually, are there any other questions about this? Yeah, Mr. Barry Andersen.

**MR. B. ANDERSEN:** Thank you, Ms. Crawford and I'd like to thank you again as well for-, and the Department of Finance. I know I brought up this issue a number of times trying to secure funds so that we could have or advertise for a more secure position with benefits for potential employees in this position. As we've seen in Makkovik in the last couple of months, we lost our CEDO to the NG for the better salary and better benefits as there's none-, there was no benefits as the program was last year, let's say. Now, so, if I may, for the Torngat Recreation Commission, those funds then will be-, I guess the policy was a bit vague. So it would be turned over to the ICGs now for total administration?

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

**MS. CRAWFORD:** So to your-, both yours and AngajukKâk Dicker's comments of gratitude to our department, I will pass it on to the Departments of Education and Economic Development and Language, Culture and Tourism. I'm just delivering the message. So you're welcome, and on their behalf, thank you for your compliments and gratitude.

**MR. WINTERS:** Yes. Oh, sorry, are you not finished? Go ahead Mr. Andersen.

**MS. CRAWFORD:** No, sorry, in terms of your second...

**MR. WINTERS:** Oh, sorry.

**MS. CRAWFORD:** ...questions on the Torngat Recreation Commission. I know there has been emails sent to me about the use of the funding. So when we turned the money over to the Inuit Community Governments to administer, we really have nothing to do with the Torngat Recreation Commission or the allocation of the funding between-, I think they do it between capacity and travel or training. So I would recommend that your recreation directors, I believe either formally or informally compose of the Torngat Recreation Commission-, If as a collective you wanna do a different route and just have the money remitted to the ICGs, there is no Torngat Recreation Commission. If you can communicate that back to us and we'll just continue to give you the money to implement and use for recreation. *Nakummek.*

**MR. WINTERS:** Yes, Mr. Barry Andersen.

**MR. B. ANDERSEN:** Yeah, not to belabour the subject, Mr. Chair, but again, due to the instability of the recreation director positions on the North Coast within Nunatsiavut, I think where the Torngat Recreation Commission has sort of faltered and is not as strong anymore. There's no meetings-, there's no Recreation Director Meetings within Nunatsiavut as far as I know. I know we-, and I can only speak for Makkovik but our Recreation Director has changed hands four times in my term here. So it's very difficult to

compete with the other wages outside, Voisey's Bay et cetera. So we will be able to manage the funds. I'm sure we can come up with a plan. We need some of these funds for capacity building too for our Recreation Directors in the field.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* I also saw that Mr. Evans had his hand up. When you're ready.

**MR. EVANS:**

No, Ms. Crawford, it's not just Finance-, it's Finance that's getting the credit but really it was AngajukKâk Barry and Joe that we pushed it to Economic Development and the Economic Development team, like, they did a lot of work to secure these funds for this need. And it's-, like, we-, we're just like the messengers of this good working relationship. That's all I wanted to say.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Are there further questions at this time? Seeing none, Ms. Crawford?

**MS. CRAWFORD:**

Page 12 covers the Nunatsiavut Assembly. I won't spend any time on this particular page as we covered it yesterday. Page 13. There is a schedule in Annex A called the, "Implementation Plan." We have an obligation under the Implementation Plan between Nunatsiavut Government and the Government of Canada and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to fund the activities of the Torngat Joint Fisheries Board and the Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-Management Board. And so the schedule in the *Budget Act* reflects our commitment for the upcoming year. And that concludes the written part of the Financial Plan. The

remaining document is Annex A from the *Budget Bill*. Are there any questions on the Implementation Plan funding or anything we've covered so far?

**MR. WINTERS:** Yes, Ms. Kemuksigak.

**MS. KEMUKSIGAK:** With the Implementation Plan Budget, what's given here is what Nunatsiavut Government pays for-, it's tripartite, so the Province and the Federal also contribute? Is that correct?

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

**MS. CRAWFORD:** Yes, it is. It's only Nunatsiavut Government's commitment of what we have to pay for their operations and research activities.

**MR. WINTERS:** Ms. Kemuksigak, do you have another question?

**MS. KEMUKSIGAK:** Yes. And the increase that's built every year, what percentage is the increase?

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

**MS. CRAWFORD:** I would have to double check but I believe it's two percent that we've built in 'cause they get an application of FDP, which is our adjuster under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* and up till about two years ago when inflation was going very high, it was about two percent.

**MR. WINTERS:** Are there further questions at this time? Seeing none, you can continue.

**MS. CRAWFORD:** Just a question of how-, do you want to go through the Annex and get approval on each page of the Annex by vote?

**MR. WINTERS:**

Yes, we'll go through the Annex and then we'll finally approve the Bill itself.

**MS. CRAWFORD:**

So Annex A is attached to the Budget Bill. The first page which you will see is noted as Page seven, is really a summary of two key components. One is-, we call it, "Administration." The second column is the money that comes under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* for a total, to bring a summary of what goes to each of the department's administration under the Budget Bill and the body of it. The details are as we get further along in the Annex. So if we can go to, "Projected Revenue and Expenditure," which is called Page Eight of the Annex. Again, this is just a summary page that reflects that we have a balanced budget. *Financial Administration Act* says that we have to have a balanced budget. And so this page will show that we do. The next page, Section One, covers the funds received under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. So we have, under, "Revenue," \$333,686,500. And these amounts are composed of our Annual Fiscal Grant as well as funds carried forward. \$17 million of this amount will be brought over into Section Two which will provide the details of the expenditures of the Government for the year. The expenditure section on this page breaks down the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* funds by category. The largest amount we had is for Housing, at \$102 million, funds for the Department of Health and Social Development at \$69 million, Governance Funding at \$61 million, Infrastructure funds, \$38 million, Education \$30 million, Capital works at 6.2. The GAP Closing Fund at 9.4. Inuit Community Governments funds



for operations, \$8.1 million, Economic Development \$4.5 million, Emergency Operation Centres at 1.8. Data, Lands and Natural Resources and Culture and Language.

**MR. WINTERS:** Yes, Mr. Vincent.

**MR. VINCENT:** Could you elaborate on GAP Closing Fund, please?

**MR. WINTERS:** Ms. Crawford.

**MS. CRAWFORD:** There was a specific fund that we receive funds under called GAP Closing, through the Collaborative Fiscal Policy process. I sit as representing Nunatsiavut Government on-, it's called the Collaborative Fiscal Policy Working Group which is made up of the 25 self-governing Indigenous Governments as well as Government of Canada representatives working on funding for self-governance. And that's how we were able to get an increase in the Governance Funds. But they also had a fund where they remitted a certain amount of money to each SGIG for particular items that we put a proposal in and it was called the GAP Closing Fund. And the proposal was submitted by the Department of Health and Social Development to put two program spaces, one in Nain and one in Hopedale and we received \$9.4 million to do that.'

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

**MS. KEMUKSIGAK:** I just need some clarification. What's SGIG?

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

**MS. CRAWFORD:** Sorry, my apologies for using an acronym. Self-Governing Indigenous Governments.

**MR. WINTERS:** Are there any further questions at this time? Yes, Ms. Barbour?

**MS. BARBOUR:** I just wanted to highlight again that Culture and Language is the lowest funded aspect under the FFA. But I was wondering if you might know-, I know there is significant work being done through the ICPC and if you might know when there's some more funds supposed to be coming through that?

**MS. CRAWFORD:** We're working very hard on a final stage and hope to be able to be able to communicate something soon. I would hope in the next two months.

**MR. WINTERS:** Any further questions at this time? Yes, Mr. Joe Dicker?

**MR. DICKER:** I would like to know, the Cultural Centre, it's been closed down now for a number of months. Who's paying for that? Is it insurance, or what? You know, it cost a lot of money to get started. It cost a lot of money to build it. Where is that money coming from?

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

**MS. CRAWFORD:** There is a insurance claim for covering the building.

**MR. WINTERS:** Are there any further questions at this time? Seeing none, you may continue.

**MS. CRAWFORD:** Page 10 reflects the allocation of the \$8,146,000 for Inuit Community Government operations and services between each of the five Inuit Community Governments. Are there any questions on this schedule?

**MR. WINTERS:** Yes, Mr. Joe Dicker?

**MR. DICKER:** Let me just go back to the monies that were lost for operating grants. How do we gain that back? I mean, that's monies that was available to us if the audits were done and, you know, how do we gain them back? That's a lot of money for a small community or for a community like Nain where we-, extra funds that we have are hard to come by. We're short-staffed. We've got staff that do multi-task that they're not, you know, more or less trained for it. How do we regain those monies?

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

**MS. CRAWFORD:** As I noted before, you know, we've been working even since you raised your question yesterday with the auditors, to try to get an understanding of the status of your audits, where things are held up, as well as looking at communications with Municipal Affairs.

**MR. WINTERS:** Mr. Joe Dicker.

**MR. DICKER:** Yeah, but the audits, we had problem with them 'cause one can get a new, appoint a new person on the audit, you go back and get the same information you gave them in years before. And that seems to be stuck at that stage. And they've been falling further behind. We're not at fault. We-, I don't know, it's frustrating. We should have a better way of auditing our numbers.

**MR. WINTERS:** Ms. Crawford.

**MS. CRAWFORD:** I appreciate and understand your frustrations. And it's probably a conversation that we need to have together outside of the discussion of the Budget, even as a full group of all of us who use the same auditing

firm. You know, as I said earlier, I've had multiple meetings in the last couple of weeks with them and I'm, you know, really trying hard to push to get things completed. I know we've gotten some things even today, a financial statement was released to us today on one of our items. So we're really diligently trying to work hard to get these things completed. And then the summer release of RFP to look at auditing services. But again, I don't believe that I can answer your question or address the concerns here in this Committee of the Whole when we're discussing the Budget.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Mr. Joe Dicker.

**MR. DICKER:**

Maybe we could meet somewhere down the road as a group like you said, you can incorporate the other ICGs and talk with Roxanne [*sic*] about it and come to a satisfactory solution, timeline.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Ms. Crawford?

**MS. CRAWFORD:**

The last schedule under Section One has to do with Capital Infrastructure. It will show that we have planned \$29.7 million of Capital Infrastructure Activities for this upcoming fiscal year. And those are broken down between current new constructive buildings, extending on current infrastructure, staff housing, social housing, daycares, et cetera. Are there any questions?

**MR. WINTERS:**

Mr. Joe Dicker.

**MR. DICKER:**

Yes, you've got 2025 in bold. Is that-, is there something to that?

**MR. WINTERS:**

Ms. Crawford?

**MS. CRAWFORD:** It's the current year. So I've highlighted that it's the current year and showed the two years prior and the two years ahead.

**MR. WINTERS:** Are there any further questions at this point? Yes, Ms. Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:** The years, like, our fiscal year, we say, like, 2024-2025. So I'm-, like, it says 20-, it doesn't say the fiscal year. It says the actual year. So this year for Capital Infrastructure, do we have 2.5 million for office buildings and renovations to be spent this year and then in 2025 is it gonna be 18.5 and does that have to be before March 31st or is it the 2.5 plus the 18.5? I'm sorry, I'm just confused on the accounting layout of it.

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

**MS. CRAWFORD:** So it says, "Nunatsiavut Government Capital Infrastructure, year ended, 2025," which would be our March 31st year- end. And so in bold is the amount that we have planned for the upcoming year. And yes, we have planned, hopefully to expend 29, almost \$30 million in Capital Infrastructure this current year.

**MS. BARBOUR:** Thank you, for that.

**MR. WINTERS:** Are there further questions at this time? Seeing none, you can continue.

**MS. CRAWFORD:** That was the conclusion of Section One of Annex A. Section Two, on Page 12 covers the Own-sources of Revenue as well a an allocation of the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. Earlier I went over the sources of our Own-sources of Revenue which include personal income tax, our Fisheries and Environment Fund, Interest and Investment Revenue, the *GST Agreement*, an allocation from the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims*

*Implementation Trust Fund* and other revenue for a total of \$47 million.

Are there any questions on our sources of revenue? The next page, page 13 takes a total look at all of our expenditures for \$47 million. We have the Departmental Budgets at \$41 million, the Contingency Fund which is 2.5 percent of the Departmental Budgets, at just over \$1 million. As I noted before, we do not have to pay anything for OSR claw back. It's \$184,500 for Inuit Community Governments, \$4.1 million for the Nunatsiavut Assembly and just over half a million for the Implementation Plan, for a total of \$47 million.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Are there questions on this page? Ms. Kemuksigak?

**MS. KEMUKSIGAK:**

I'm wondering if under the Inuit Community Corporations-, I'm only speaking for mine, could we-, do we get the FDP increases for, like, cost of living or anything? 'Cause of course the cost of living has gone up for all different products and services, which makes it difficult.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Ms. Crawford?

**MS. CRAWFORD:**

When you submit your budgets you base it-, you use zero-based budgeting where you budget what you need to operate your corporation in the next year and submit the budget to be reviewed and approved based on what your needs are for the year.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Ms. Kemuksigak?

**MS. KEMUKSIGAK:**

But one year we did get a small increase along with the Inuit Community Governments and other...

**MR. WINTERS:**

Ms. Crawford?

**MS. CRAWFORD:** But there was a change in the amount of cash. But even since then we've changed and asked you to submit budgets as to what you need to operate your corporation and then look at the sources of revenue that you have from either carried forward from prior years, external sources, et cetera, and then the analysis done to make a decision. We use zero-based budgeting when assessing your corporation budgets.

**MR. WINTERS:** Are there further questions at this time? Seeing none, you may continue.

**MS. CRAWFORD:** Page 14 is just a five-year plan, looks at the current year which is in bold, the two years prior and the two years ahead. I won't spend any time on this. It's really just a little bit more of an elaboration on what was on the page before. I believe what everyone's probably most interested in talking about would be Page 15 which covers the Departmental Budgets.

**MR. WINTERS:** I see a question from Ms. Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:** Yeah, it just says-, so the expenditures are \$47,075,500 on Page 13. But on Page 14 it says, "Projected five-year plan," under that and it says \$47,052,500. Is that a typo or? Okay.

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

**MS. CRAWFORD:** Good catch. There's a typo under the Inuit Community Corporations in the version I have here. So it should be-, when we go through to approve each page, we will approve it making an amendment to change the Inuit Community Corporations from \$161,500 to \$184,500. *Nakummek.*

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* Any other questions at this time? You may continue, Ms. Crawford.

**MS. CRAWFORD:** So I've already gone over the details of Significant Program Plan Changes for each department. What you see on this page is the dollar figures broken down by categories by department and then a total figure. It's on Page 15. So you'll see Nunatsiavut Secretariat \$3.4 million, Nunatsiavut Affairs, \$7.3 million, Finance and Human Resources, \$5.3 million, Lands and Natural Resources, \$16.1 million, Health and Social Development, \$1.3 million, Education and Economic Development, \$1.9 million, Language Culture and Tourism, \$4.6 million, and just under one million for administration, for a total of \$41 million. Are there any questions on this page?

**MR. WINTERS:** I see Mr. Joe Dicker.

**MR. DICKER:** I know that the six-plex up on the hill in the new subdivision, it's gonna need furniture and equipment and stoves and all that for the tenants, which is employees of NG. Is that already budgeted for?

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

**MS. CRAWFORD:** Yeah, there's the-, we, under Capital Infrastructure we've budgeted for the completion of those units and there's an allocation for making sure as per the design that the appropriate appliances, et cetera would be in those apartments before they get turned over to us.

**MR. WINTERS:** Are there any further questions on this page? Yes, Ms. Kemuksigak.

**MS. KEMUKSIGAK:** I was wondering how much is spent on administration for Nunatsiavut Housing Corporation?

**MS. WILLIAMS:** Ms. Crawford?



**MS. CRAWFORD:** I would have to take that under notice. I don't have that information handy. They are run by a Board of Commissioners. Our responsibility is to approve an annual budget for them and I don't have that information with me.

**MR. WINTERS:** The witness will take that as notice. Are there further questions at this time? Yes, Ms. Barbour?

**MS. BARBOUR:** Under Finance, printing, promotional and subscriptions is \$623,500. I'm just wondering, like, does that include, like, I'm assuming it's for, like, the Word and the Cybersecurity and stuff like that? Is that why it's so significant?

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

**MS. CRAWFORD:** Yes, it includes all our subscriptions for all our Information Technology software. So the licencing for Microsoft itself is in the range of a quarter of a million dollars. Our new cybersecurity will be well over a hundred thousand dollars and there are multiple other software applications and subscriptions that we have to have in place to operate our Government.

**MR. WINTERS:** Yes, Ms. Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:** Yeah, I'm just going through the lines and under, "Training," there's none under, "Health and Social Development." Is there a reason for that?

**MR. WINTERS:** Ms. Crawford.

**MS. CRAWFORD:** Most of the training for their staff comes under the funds they receive under their *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. This is really specific to what we

fund with Own-sources of revenue such as personal income taxes, GST and the other sources we have.

**MR. WINTERS:** Are there any further questions at this time? Yes, Ms. Kemuksigak.

**MS. KEMUKSIGAK:** In looking at, "Professional Fees," some numbers are very high and some numbers are more reasonable. Is there a reason for some to be so high?

**MR. WINTERS:** Ms. Crawford.

**MS. CRAWFORD:** Yeah, it often comes down to the nature of the operations of a particular department and what their plans are for the upcoming year. So as we noted earlier, Nunatsiavut Secretariat has budgeted a change in their professional fees, an increase relating to protecting and defending land and treaty rights. So there would be professional fees associated with that. There's an increase in legal fees. So that would be budgeted for external lawyers given some of the legal work we have to do in relation to different items-, our auditing services, if we have to engage a tax lawyer, a human rights lawyer, et cetera, those all drive changes in professional fees.

**MR. WINTERS:** Are there any further questions at this time? Seeing none, you may continue when you're ready.

**MS. CRAWFORD:** The next schedule is the Nunatsiavut Assembly which we reviewed yesterday and was approved by the Nunatsiavut Assembly. And the last schedule under the Implementation Plan covers our obligations for funding the Torngat Joint Fisheries Board and the Torngat Wildlife and Plant Co-Management Board and a small amount for the Land-Use Plan

which is written under the Implementation Plan, therefore has to be budgeted. In bold is what we expect that we have to budget for the current year. And then we look back two years of what we've actually expended in two years as a projection. *Nakummek*.

**MR. WINTERS:** Yes, Ms. Barbour?

**MS. BARBOUR:** Is there a reason why the budgeted amount for the Land-Use Plan hasn't increased or we don't project it to increase?

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

**MS. CRAWFORD:** It's what's there in accordance with the Implementation Plan. And there are some other ongoing issues and items being worked on for land-use planning.

**MR. WINTERS:** Ms. Barbour?

**MS. BARBOUR:** Yeah, I just wanted to highlight that was because the Minister mentioned-, and the Deputy Minister when he was here, mentioned that the Land-Use Plan is, like, on the go again. So we know that there's gonna be some fees coming out of that, right? So I was just-, like, is that adequate enough?

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

**MS. CRAWFORD:** So there's a 900-page Implementation Plan. So when that Implementation Plan was signed it was in anticipation that at a certain point there would be a Land-Use Plan in effect. And this is the limited amount of money that would be used on an annual basis on an approved Land-Use Plan. So it's very specific. You'd have to look at Annex D of the

Implementation Plan in order-, that's where this amount comes from, and what it would be used for.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Ms. Crawford has now taken us through a detailed look at the Financial Plan for the upcoming budget. We will now vote on each individual page and as noted, there is one amendment that we have pointed out. Regarding the first page of Annex A, Page Seven. If it helps, you might pull the Financial Plan itself off of the Annexes. Do we approve this page of the Budget, by show of hands? Are there any, "Nays?" There are none. We are now on to Page Eight. The heading of this page is, "Nunatsiavut Government Projected Revenue and Expenditure." Do we approve this page? I will wait for Ms. Barbour. Yes, is there a question?

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:**

Yes, Mr. Chair, there's a typo under what's supposed to be, "Operational Expenditures, Section Two."

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Witnesses, you will make this amendment? *Nakummek.* With this correction, do we approve Page Eight? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, we are on to Page Nine. The top of this page is, "Nunatsiavut Government *Fiscal Financing Agreement*, April 1st, 2024 to March 31st, 2025. Do we approve this page? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, the page is approved. We are on to Page 10. The top of this page is, "Nunatsiavut Government *Fiscal Financing Agreement*." Do we have consensus? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, we're on to Page 11, "Nunatsiavut Government Capital Infrastructure, Year-Ended." Are we in agreement? Are there any, "Nays?" The page is approved. This is Page 12, "Nunatsiavut Government Projected Sources of

Revenue." Are we in agreement? Are there any, "Nays?" Next page is approved. The next page is "Nunatsiavut Government's Projected Budget," Page 13. Are we in agreement? Are there any, "Nays?" Page 13 is approved. Page 14, "Nunatsiavut Government Projected Budget, Five-year Plan, Year-Ended March 31st." Are we in agreement?

**MS. BARBOUR:**

This is where the typo was, hey, so you're gonna make sure it's fixed?

**MR. WINTERS:**

The typo has been acknowledged.

**MS. BARBOUR:**

Yeah.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Are we in agreement? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, Page 14 is approved. Page 15, "Nunatsiavut Government, Total Department." Are we in agreement? Are there any, "Nays?" This page is approved. Page 16, "Nunatsiavut Government, Nunatsiavut Assembly." Are we in agreement? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, page is approved. We are on Page 17, "Nunatsiavut Government Implementation Plan, Year-ended." Are we in agreement? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, the Financial Plan has been approved. At this time we'll be exiting the Committee of the Whole. I will thank Ms. Rexanne Crawford for her time and diligence for executing this and explaining it to the Members. And we will be taking a break for supper. *Nakummek.*

[Recess]

**MR. WINTERS:**

Everyone good? Okay. As a refresher, we've just come out of the Committee of the Whole with our witness, Ms. Rexanne Crawford where we approved the Financial Plan. At this time, we will go to the Budget Bill

itself. In reviewing the Bill we will begin by voting on the substantive sections first, starting with Section Two. And then once the substantive sections are finished, we will go back to the beginning to consider the Preamble and title of the Bill. So if you have, "Nunatsiavut Assembly, Bill number 2024-02 in front of you, we'll be going to Page Two to begin. The clause on Page Two-, sorry, Clause Two on Pages Two and Three-, (2) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, (a) Act means the Budget Act 2024; (b) Budget means the Consolidated Financial Plan referred to in Section Three of this Act, and annexed to this Act; and (c) Nunatsiavut Fund means the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Nunatsiavut Government established and maintained in terms of Chapter Eight of the *Labrador Inuit Constitution*. On Clause Two, are we agreed? Show of hands? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, to Page Three, under the title, "Budget Approved and Adopted," Clause Three, the Consolidated Financial Plan of the Nunatsiavut Government for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2024 and ending March 31st, 2025, a copy of which is annexed to this Act is hereby approved and adopted as the Consolidated Financial Plan of the Nunatsiavut Government for the fiscal period, April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025. On this clause, are we agreed? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, this clause is approved. Staying on Page Three, under, "Authorizations Respecting Revenues," Number (4), the Nunatsiavut Treasurer is hereby directed, (a) to bring the following amounts from the Government of Canada under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* into the amounts available to the Nunatsiavut Government

for the fiscal year starting April 1, 2024. The dollar amount is 333,686,500. And (b) to raise and collect the following revenues and to pay the same into the Nunatsiavut Fund during the fiscal year starting April 1, 2024. Fisheries and Environment fund, dollar amount 10,743,500. Personal Income Tax, dollar amount 7,998,000. *Labrador Land Claims Implementation Trust Fund*. Dollar amount, 5,869,500. Interest/Investment Revenue. Dollar amount 2,654,500. Goods and Services Tax, dollar amount, 1,958,000. Other Revenue, dollar amount 840,500. This is underlined as the sum for a total dollar amount of 363,750,500. On this clause, number four are we agreed? Are there any, "Nays?" Yes, Mr. President.

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:**

Mr. Speaker, under, (b) I read Labrador Land Claims Implementation Trust Fund. Should that read Labrador Inuit Land Claims Implementation Trust Fund?

**MR. WINTERS:**

That's a good question. Let us take a moment to check. Members can you check to see if the Inuttitut says the same thing? It says, "Labrador Inuit." We'll have to make an amendment. *Nakummek*. Thank you, Mr. President. Has anyone identified any other inconsistencies with this clause? With the amendment in consideration, on Clause Four are we agreed? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, on Page Four, under, "Additional Revenues," Clause Five, "The amounts referred to in subsection 4(b) are estimates. An nothing in Section Four prevents or shall be construed to prevent the Nunatsiavut Government from collecting or receiving additional money provided, such money as paid

into the Nunatsiavut Fund. But nothing in this section authorizes or shall be construed to authorize an increase in any tax payable by Inuit, whether under an agreement with a taxing authority or otherwise. Are there any questions on this section? If there are no questions, are we agreed on Clause Five? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, we are agreed. Still on Page Four, Clause Six. No payments may be made out of the Nunatsiavut Fund during the fiscal period April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025 except (a) in accordance with the budget, (b) with the authorization of the President and Council where the payment is made in pursuant to a funding agreement entered into by the Nunatsiavut Government and the payment does not exceed the amount payable to or received or receivable by the Nunatsiavut Government pursuant to the agreement, or (c) in accordance with an authorization under some other Act of the Assembly, including the *Land Claims Agreement Funding Act*. On Clause Six are we agreed? Yes, Ms. Barbour, you have a question?

**MS. BARBOUR:**

This might be more so for the interpreter translator. I was just going through the Inuttitut as we was going through the English too. And on (b) it says, okay, [speaks in Inuttitut]. Is it supposed to be [speaks in Inuttitut]? Like just to read the sentence I guess, (b) [speaks in Inuttitut]. So-, and et cetera. So I was just wondering if that had to be [speaks in Inuttitut]?

**MR. WINTERS:**

So this did come from the translation department.

**MS. BARBOUR:**

Yeah.



**MR. WINTERS:** But what we can do is bring it back to the translation department and ensure that the spelling is what it's intended to be.

**MS. BARBOUR:** Okay.

**MR. WINTERS:** I guess I should've been saying that to the room, but the Interpreter Translator was saying that every translator has slightly different styles. As long as the word is there and the spelling is there, then it's there. Mr. President, did you have another point?

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** *Nakummek, UKatti.* As a former interpreter translator and a member of the Isumutat Language Knowledge Bearers, this translation under (b), all of it is correct. And the word that Ms. Barbour is referring to is [speaks in Inuttitut], not to exceed or go over the amount. *Nakummek.*

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* I appreciate the conversation and it stays as is. So in terms of Clause Six, are we now agreed? There-, are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, we are agreed on Clause Six. We are now on, still Page Four, Clause Seven, under the header, "Time Limit on Payments Authorized Under this Act." Subject to Section 64 of the *Financial Administration Act*, no payment may be made under this Act after March 31, 2025. Are we agreed on this clause? Are there any, "Nays?"

**MS. BARBOUR:** Did we go through (c)? Hey, we missed (c)? Is that? Yeah, okay.

**MR. WINTERS:** Are we agreed on Clause Seven? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, under the header of, "Appropriations," (8) Subject to Part Nine of the *Financial Administration Act*, the following persons may in accordance with the Budget, requisition from and out of the Nunatsiavut Fund up to

the following amounts for the fiscal year beginning on April 1, 2024 for the following purposes: Nunatsiavut Assembly (a) dollar amount 4,151,500 in respect of the Assembly and the Members on the requisition of the Speaker. Continuing on the second page-, the next page, sorry. The Nunatsiavut Secretariat. (b) dollar amount 5,276,500 in respect of the functions, programs and services of the Nunatsiavut Secretariat on the requisition of the President. Under the header, "Nunatsiavut Affairs," (c) dollar amount 158,443,000 in respect of the functions, programs and services of the Nunatsiavut Affairs on the requisition of the First Minister. Under the Department of Finance and Human Resources, (d) dollar amount 69,813,000 in respect of the functions, programs and services of the Department of Finance and Human Resources on the requisition of the Nunatsiavut Treasurer; (e) under the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, dollar amount 16,421,000 in respect of the functions, programs and services of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources on the requisition of the Nunatsiavut Minister of Lands and Resources. Under header of Department of Health and Social Development, (f) dollar amount 71,113,000 in respect of the functions, programs and services of the Department of Health and Social Development on the requisition of the Nunatsiavut Minister of Health and Social Development. Under the header of, "Department of Education and Economic Development," (g) dollar amount 36,723,500 in respect of the functions programs and services of the Department of Education and Economic Development on the requisition of the Nunatsiavut Minister of Education and Economic

Development. Under the header of, "Department of Language, Culture and Tourism, (h) dollar amount 4,851,000, in respect of the functions, programs and services of the Department of Language, Culture and Tourism on the requisition of the Nunatsiavut Minister of Language, Culture and Tourism. Under the header of, "Appropriation in Respect of Inuit Community Government Budgets." Dollar amount, 14,415,000, in respect of the functions, programs and services of the Inuit Community Governments on the requisition of the Nunatsiavut Treasurer, provided the Treasurer is satisfied that-, continuing on Page Six-, (a) the budget of each Inuit Community Government has been approved in accordance with Section 10.3.6 of the *Labrador Inuit Constitution* and (b) the requisition is consistent with the advice of the Community's Joint Management Committee with respect to the equitable division among the Inuit Community Governments of the amount of dollar amount, 14,415,000. Finally, under the heading of, "Appropriation in respect of Inuit Community Corporation budgets," (j) dollar amount 184,500, in respect of the functions, programs and services of the Inuit Community Corporations on the requisition of the Nunatsiavut Treasurer provided the annual budget of the Inuit Community Corporation has been approved by the Nunatsiavut Executive Council. Regarding Clause Eight, and all of its subsections (a) through (j), are we agreed? Yes, First Minister Williams.

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

Go ahead.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Mr. President.

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** *Nakummek, Uhattik.* On Page Five, under (e) the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, I believe that it should be consistently where it says on the Department of Lands and Resources, the term, "Natural," is missing at two lines, at the second line and the bottom line. *Nakummek.*

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* In (e) where we have, "Lands and Resources," this will be amended twice, "Lands and Resources," will be changed to, "Lands and Natural Resources." With this amendment in consideration, are we agreed on this clause? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, back on Page Six. Other requisitions must be budgeted for and be authorized by Executive Council. Clause Nine, "Any requisition for a payment from and out of the Nunatsiavut Fund that is not specifically authorized in Sections Six, Seven and Eight of this Act but that has been provided for in the Budget, must first be authorized by order of the Nunatsiavut Executive Council. On Clause Nine-, yes, Mr. Joe Dicker.

**MR. DICKER:** Could you give me an example of what that might be so we can expect it or not expect it?

**MR. WINTERS:** As we are not in the Committee of the Whole, I will ask that you stand for questions, but I did hear what you said, AngajukKâk.

**MR. DICKER:** Yeah.

**MR. WINTERS:** You were asking for examples. I cannot give examples as the Speaker.

**MR. DICKER:** Yeah. It would come up should we get that so it won't be a surprise?

**MR. WINTERS:** So what the clause is stating is that anything beyond what has just been approved has to be approved by the NEC. The Nunatsiavut Executive

Council would have to be consulted and authorize any payment outside of the above amounts. Are we all agreed? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, under, "Transfers between Funds or Departmental Budgets," Clause 10, "Nothing in this Act prevents the transfer of an amount between funds or departmental budgets in accordance with Sections 49 and 50 of the *Financial Administration Act*. Are there any questions on this clause? Seeing none, are we agreed? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, Clause 11 is effective date, this Act has effect on April 1, 2024. Let's go back to Page Two. Clause One is the short title. This Inuit Law may be cited as, "*The Budget Act 2024*." Are there questions? Are we agreed? Are there any, "Nays?" We are agreed. Finally, the long title, "*An Act to Implement the Consolidated Financial Plan of the Nunatsiavut Government for the Fiscal Year Beginning April 1, 2024 and ending March 31, 2025*." Are we agreed? Are there any, "Nays?" That concludes the page-by-page, clause-by-clause review of the Bill. Does the Minister wish to conclude the debate?

**MR. EVANS:**

Thank you, I wish to conclude debate.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Thank you. That concludes the debate. All those in favour of Second Reading of Bill 2024-02, "*The Budget Act 2024*?" Any opposed? Seeing none, the motion is carried. Accordingly, Bill 2024-02, "*The Budget Act 2024*," has had second reading. I would like to thank the Minister.

**MR. EVANS:**

Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** We are now on to Second Reading of Bill 2024-01, "*Civil Service Amendment Act, 2024*." I would like to again recognize the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Tom Evans.

**MR. EVANS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the First Minister that Bill 2024-01, "*The Civil Service Amendment Act 2024*," be moved into the Committee of the Whole with Ms. Rexanne Crawford and Mr. Mark Gillette as witnesses and that the said Bill be read for the second time.

**MR. WINTERS:** The motion is to move into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill. All those in favour? *Nakummek*. The motion is carried. We will now move into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill and I invite Ms. Crawford and Mr. Gillette to join us in the Committee of the Whole. We will give them a couple of minutes to get in here and get situated.

[Recess]

**MR. WINTERS:** ...back to the Committee of the Whole. Again, the procedure for second reading debate will be a page-by-page and clause-by-clause review of the bill. Before doing so, though, I'll invite any of the witnesses to make any remarks they may wish.

**MS. CRAWFORD:** [Speaks in Inuttitut] As you may be aware, and are aware, in the November sitting of the Nunatsiavut Assembly, we indicated that we would undertake a series of amendments to the *Nunatsiavut Civil Service Act*. This is the second, in what I hope is only three series of amendments. This set proposes amendments to the Act, mostly related to Part Three and Part Four. I know you've had the note, the explanatory

note in the Bill. Would it be helpful for us to review through each section in the explanatory note and then follow through with the clause-by-clause of the Bill? Okay. Do you wanna take it?

**MR. GILLETTE:**

So just generally, as with the last set of amendments that the Assembly dealt with back in November, a lot of what's going on here is just updating the Act in accordance to the way the Government has evolved in structure since its inception. And also some of it is more or less administratively moving some sections around to fit better with the provisions that are around it. So just to go through the explanatory note to the Bill explains what the purpose of each of the various provisions are. So I'll just go down to where we start on Section 2 on the first page of the explanatory note. Section 2 of the Bill repeals the defined term, "Hiring Committee," that exists currently in the Act as other amendments that are other proposed in this Bill will make that existing definition unnecessary. Section 3 of the Bill fixes an issue with respect to the Act's automatic application to employees of agencies of the NG. And that was discussed as part of the last set of amendments as well. This amendment will confirm that the Act will apply only to agencies if there is a specific agency created by Inuit law and that law says that the *Civil Service Act* will apply to it.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Yes, sorry, Mr. Dicker.

**MR. DICKER JR.:**

Yeah, just asking if Mark would speak into his mic. Can barely hear him.

**MR. GILLETTE:** Are there any questions about what I've discussed so far? Of course we have to go through the clauses as well, so-, but by all means, stop me if you have any questions. Section 4 makes a modification to Section 10.1 of the Act by adding the positions of Legal Counsel and the Registrar of beneficiaries to the list of management level employees. Now these employees are already management level employees who just weren't listed in that list in the Act. So that just corrects that. Oh, sorry.

**MR. WINTERS:** Yes, Ms. Barbour?

**MS. BARBOUR:** If we're including senior or management level employees in the Act, shouldn't it just say who are defined as management in terms of the Civil Service?

**MS. CRAWFORD:** It's not prescriptive in terms of most positions, in terms of direct-, it will say Deputy Ministers, Directors. But there are a couple of positions that don't quite fit that characterization. So these are the ones that we have added.

**MS. BARBOUR:** *Nakku.*

**MR. GILLETTE:** Where were we? Section 5, I think. Section 5 basically takes a couple of provisions and moves them to a different section of the Act, which is basically what's happening here. It repeals Section 10.2 through 10.6 and that's because those sections really should be in another portion of the Act that deals with hiring process and not about Government Civil Service structure itself. So you'll see later on in some of the other amendments



that they're actually just taking that block of text and moving it to another part of the Act. It's the simplest way I can explain it.

**MS. CRAWFORD:**

Yeah, so Part Three of the *Nunatsiavut Civil Service Act* deals with the organization of the *Civil Service Act*. So basically what should be in that part is really what are the divisions and what are composed of those divisions? What was in there were procedures related to hiring. And like outlining all the steps for hiring. So those are now proposed in this amendment to be moved into Part Four of the Act where they should be. *Nakku*. Are there any questions on that? That actually applies to Section Seven as well and Section 8. Those are the reasons for the amendment. So it will repeal the clauses in Part Three and then you'll see basically word-for-word those particular clauses in Part Four. And Section 6 is, again, it just makes-, it's another reference to removing-, sorry, a reference to employees of agencies with respect to the Civil Service. So because of the other changes that have already been made and the changes proposed here with respect to the automatic application of this Act to employees of agencies.

**MS. CRAWFORD:**

So Section 8, we already spoke to. Section 9, amends in a section to provide more clarity and provide explicit direction with respect to transfers of employees between positions. So again, it's to provide more clarity and make it very clear as to what has to happen. Section 10 is, provides clarity with respect to salary controls and also to align these rules with the *Financial Administration Act*. Section 11 of this Bill amends Section 16. So it provides-, it actually aligns with the definition of

promotion. So the clause and the Act will better align with the definition of promotion. It provides clarity as to who is responsible for promotion, in what position and what division. And then as a result of these amendments, a provision is necessary to clarify the authority for a promotion of an employee of the position of the Clerk of the Nunatsiavut Assembly which is a position appointed by the Nunatsiavut Assembly.

Section 12 of this Bill revises Section 17 of the Act. And it sets out provisions specific to hiring of management level positions. And also, as we spoke before, moving the provisions from another part of the Act into this section. There's also a change made where there was a formal requirement that all notices for job competitions had to be placed on notice boards. And this is not practical because we have employees in all different types of work spaces. So-, and also in an effort to reduce the number amount on paper, it will permit a move to posting job ads electronically. It doesn't mean you can't post them on notice boards but it does also allow us to do things electronically to have a further reach.

Section 13 and 14 set out the provisions specific to the process of hiring in the employee and casual division. Again, it's to provide clarity and also revise the provision about notice boards. Section 15 is a new clause that was not in the Act previously. And it deals with circumstances where a member of the Hiring Committee may be in a conflict of interest. And Section 16 is just moving one provision to a new place in the Act due to proposed provisions in Section 13. I will let Mark speak to the provision on the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act*.

**MR. GILLETTE:**

So due to the amendments within this Bill to, I think specifically Section 10 of the Act which talks about where the management level positions of the Civil Service includes the Clerk of the Assembly, although the Clerk of the Assembly it's clear under the *Assembly Act*, and under the *Civil Service Act*, the Clerk of the Assembly is a position-, while it's in the Civil Service, it's a position that's appointed by the Assembly. And we know that. We've been through that process. So there's just an amendment to the *Assembly Act* here as well just to clarify the wording based on some of the other amendments that are going on here with respect to confirm the fact that the Clerk of the Assembly is a position that's appointed by the Assembly unless the Assembly decided for some reason-, it's just a proviso which is it could happen, that the Assembly could decide in some future case that it wanted, like, NG Human Resources to do that work with regards to the Clerk as opposed to doing it itself, like make an appointment. But-, so that's-, it's clarifying language that confirms that the Assembly has the authority to appoint the Clerk, essentially.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Are there any questions? Yes, Ms. Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:**

I understand, like, the intent behind the notice boards and things like that, like, especially in terms of, like, saving paper. But there are a lot of people that come into our offices on the coast, like, people come in all the time to print, fax, scan documents or looking for help or whatever, like, people who might not see it on an electronic database of some sort, whether it's through the website or social media-, those types of things. So I'm, like, trying to be considerate of them and that. So...

**MS. CRAWFORD:**

So the requirement was that it must be posted in every location that an employee may be located. And we have some employees who are working in leased office space in the Makkovik Arena, as an example or in a rental house where we've set up temporary office space. So when you look at it from the perspective of the Act and saying it must be posted on a notice board wherever an employee is, it's not practical. So what this changes-, it's not-, it's basically taking away the must. And we have no intention of not having our job ads posted on notice boards for community members to have access and do come. I mean, we see it ourselves walking into this building that there's a public notice board there. It was the must wherever an employee is located. *Nakummek*.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Are there any further questions at this time? Witnesses, you may continue.

**MR. GILLETTE:**

I think that is our...

**MS. CRAWFORD:**

Presentation.

**MR. GILLETTE:**

...presentation. So if the Committee would like to go through the clause-by-clause...

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*. Yes, Ms. Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:**

Sorry, last question. It says in here that one of the amendments in the *Civil Service Act* will take affect to the *Assembly Act*. So I'm just trying to understand the process of that, like, the *Assembly Act* is a separate Act. So when this one is amended, will we have to amend the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act* afterwards, like, at another sitting or what?

**MR. WINTERS:** Mr. Gillette?

**MR. GILLETTE:** No. So the-, a bill can amend any number of different Acts in one bill. So in this particular instance it's actually amendments mostly to the *Civil Service Act*. And one then other consequential, what we call consequential amendment to another Act. So you're actually amending-, if you pass all of these sections, it'll actually amend two Acts. But you do it in one bill. So, yeah.

**MR. WINTERS:** Are there further-, yes, Ms. Williams.

**MS. WILLIAMS:** Thank you. So what is the other Act and what is the clause that will be added to that other Act, or amend the other Act?

**MR. WINTERS:** Go ahead when you're ready, Mr. Gillette.

**MR. GILLETTE:** So the...

**MS. CRAWFORD:** If you go to Page 11 of your Bill, it will say, "Part Two, Consequential Amendments." Page 11, Part Two, Consequential Amendments at the top of the page. So the other Act is the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act*. And that is the amendment that is proposed to the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act*.

**MR. WINTERS:** Ms. Williams, you have further questions?

**MS. WILLIAMS:** Thank you. So if we have-, when we start going through this Bill and we get to that section, if there's questions on it, how-, what is the process to have those questions answered? Will the witnesses come back into the room, or?

**MR. WINTERS:** The witnesses will remain in the room while we go through the clause-by-clause. I think there was another question, yes, Ms. Kemuksigak.

**MS. KEMUKSIGAK:** Hello. Under that-, oh, sorry, under the, "Exploratory [*sic*] Note," on the last-, first paragraph, the last line, it says, "Under the *Canada Labrador Code*," but I think it might be, "*Canada Labour Code*." Is that correct?

**MR. GILLETTE:** *Nakummek.*

**MS. CRAWFORD:** Thank you, Ms. Kemuksigak. Yes, it is the, "*Canada Labour Code*," as much as it would be interesting to have a *Canada Labrador Code*."

**MR. GILLETTE:** I'll just add that doesn't require an amendment 'cause it's not actually part of the Bill. It's just a note that explains it. So-, but thank you, for that.

**MR. WINTERS:** Ms. Barbour, did you have another question?

**MS. BARBOUR:** Yes. So going back to Part Two on Page 11, I know we're gonna talk about it in the clause-by-clause, the ones, but-, and you said in the Explanatory note over here that it's still the Assembly who appoints officers of the Assembly. But it's almost contradictory to me when I read it in this. So the appointment of any officer of the Assembly is to be made under the *Civil Service Act* instead of being made by the Assembly.

**MR. WINTERS:** Mr. Gillette, would it be at all possible to provide the-, that entire note from the *Assembly Act* for clarification for the Members?

**MR. GILLETTE:** We can, yes, we can. This-, the amendment is to only to one part of the Section 92.2. So you're only seeing part of it. I can tell the Assembly that what Section 92 is talking about is the Assembly's authority to appoint

officers of the Assembly. And so what the proposed Section 92 to a amendment is stating that the Assembly could-, notwithstanding the fact that it has the authority to appoint its officers-, could require that the appointment of an officer to be made under *Civil Service Act* which essentially means to allow NG Human Resources to basically make that appointment on it's behalf, right? Now that's not the normal case. It's just saying that in a particular circumstance, the Assembly could decide, okay, we'll let NG Human Resources deal with that appointment. But in the normal course, the Assembly appoints officers of the Assembly. So that's essentially what it means.

**MR. WINTERS:**

For further clarification, are you suggesting that the Assembly would have to make a motion to choose that Human Resources be designated the hiring authority?

**MR. GILLETTE:**

Yes, exactly.

**MS. CRAWFORD:**

At each time.

**MR. GILLETTE:**

Yeah.

**MS. CRAWFORD:**

It's just allowing an option to do it. Really what Mark's explaining is, it's allowing an option. So one, the Assembly could take on the entire appointment process itself, establish in its hiring committee, doing the entire process. It could engage with support of HR to help with certain parts of the process, or as an alternative, it could say, "Okay, we are gonna designate this authority to go through the process and ask the Human Resources Division to do it." But in order to do so, as the Speaker

just pointed out, there would have to be a motion of the Assembly to say, "We're going to designate this process to the Human Resources Division to do." So it would have to be on each case time that a motion would have to be brought forward to the Assembly for that purpose. It's just allowing you an option. Without it, the process would have to go-, would be totally undertaken by the Assembly.

**MR. WINTERS:**

I would ask that we take a five-minute recess to grab copies of the *Assembly Act* to assure Members of what is being said, just for absolute clarity and so no one feels as though they are voting on something that they don't have the entire context of. *Nakummek*.

[Recess]

**MR. WINTERS:**

Do you all have in front of you, the snippet from the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act*? Clause 92. Please take a moment to read this over and consider that what is being suggested is a replacement of 92(a). Yes, recognizing Ms. Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:**

*Nakummek*. I have an issue with the language in the requested amendment. So in the current *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act* under 92(a) it says, "Require that the appointment of any officer of the Assembly is to be made by the Assembly," instead of being made under the *Civil Service Act*. So in the requested amendment it's saying that the appointment of any officer of the Assembly is to be made under the *Civil Service Act* instead of being made by the Assembly. So it's-, when I'm reading that, it's saying that the *Civil Service Act* can appoint members-, officers of the



Assembly. But I'm hearing otherwise. So I don't know where I'm, like, not connecting the dots or misinterpreting somewhere, or?

**MR. WINTERS:**

You've asked your question. Mr. Gillette?

**MR. GILLETTE:**

Okay. So the important part is the first part right after 92. So it says, "Despite any other Act, the Assembly may-, the Assembly by resolution, may require that the appointment of any officer of the Assembly is to be made by the Assembly instead of being made on the *Nunatsiavut Civil Service Act*." So what is going on here is there's a bit of-, the language in the *Assembly Act* and the language in the existing *Civil Service Act*, there's a little bit of ambiguity there, okay? And what the purpose of this amendment is to clear up the ambiguity to ensure that the Assembly primarily has the control over the appointment of officers of the Assembly, okay? What the existing section says is essentially that the-, in order for the Assembly to appoint a officer of the Assembly, the Assembly has to pass a resolution that it's going to do it itself. Otherwise it would be done by-, under the *Civil Service Act*. What the proposed wording here is saying is that the default is that the Assembly has control over that process unless it decides in a particular circumstance that it would delegate that authority under the *Civil Service Act*. So it actually-, it's-, this is why we're saying and in the explanatory note it's saying it's confirming and affirming that the Assembly has control over the process unless it decides to delegate it otherwise.

**MS. CRAWFORD:**

So if the Assembly didn't make a resolution currently, so if everything stayed the same and the Assembly did not pass a resolution, the

*Nunatsiavut Civic Service Act* is what does the appointment for the Clerk. And that is not what the intention nor what I feel and what I hear the Assembly wants. So what the proposal is, is actually switching it, is that automatically, the Assembly is the authority for appointing an officer of the Clerk. But you may by resolution appoint it to the Civil Service. If you don't make the amendment it automatically will be the Civil Service unless-, the *Civil Service Act* unless you pass a resolution to say the Assembly is going to take control of it. That's why Mark pointed out that the opening line is incredibly important. Despite any other Act, the Assembly by resolution may, in the current law it says, "Require that the appointment be made by the Assembly." But you have to do it by resolution. You shouldn't have to do it by resolution. It should be an automatic. It should be automatically that the Assembly is required to make the appointment of their officers. But that's not what your Act says.

**MR. GILLETTE:**

And sorry, if I could just add to that. There's-, and part of the ambiguity then also is that the *Civil Service Act* says that the Clerk-, specifically to the Clerk, the Clerk is not appointed under the *Civil Service Act*. So there's a crossover there that we're trying to correct in favour of the Assembly.

**MS. CRAWFORD:**

Yeah.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Ms. Williams?

**MS. WILLIAMS:** Thank you. So why would we not just amend it to empower automatically that without having the *Civil Service Act* have authority at all to appoint?

**MR. WINTERS:** Mr. Gillette?

**MR. GILLETTE:** That could be the case as draft or propose and as the Bill was approved, it just adds flexibility. It would have to-, like the Assembly in order to delegate that to another course of hiring would have to bring that as a motion, debate it, determine on the merits whether or not it's appropriate in that particular circumstance. If that's not there, then you're always stuck with the Assembly process. It can never change, right? There could be some circumstance, and I don't know what circumstance that would be, that maybe it would be appropriate to have the Human Resource process, the normal NG Human Resource Process take on a particular appointment process. So it's just to add flexibility, really. But again, as drafter, the default is that the Assembly will always do it unless it decides otherwise. So...

**MR. WINTERS:** I will point out for sake of clarification, that the context of this was somewhat absent, significantly absent from the Explanatory Note and the additional context of the *Assembly Act*, Clause 92, is greatly valuable and considering the element of the resolution, it really does shine it in a different light. Mr. Evans, you had a question?

**MR. EVANS:** Sorry, it's not a question, however. It's just to-, this amendment will ensure that the Assembly has, like, has the control to appoint and there's

no way that it can fall to the Civil Service to do, like, you know? 'Cause like as Mark said, if we do not amend it, it could fall to Civil Service and that's what we don't-, what I'm hearing, we don't want the Civil Service to appoint. The Assembly has to be control unless we fix this, there's a minute possibility that the Civil Service could do it but we want the Assembly to be control to do it, right? Is that, that make sense?

**MR. WINTERS:**

Yes, Ms. Crawford?

**MS. CRAWFORD:**

It does make sense. But then as you-, if you keep everything the same as it is, so it falls to the *Civil Service Act*. The *Civil Service Act* does say that we don't do the appointment. So it's kinda-, what is proposed is to try to provide that-, as Mark said, that ambiguity. But you're right. Right now we want the default to be the Assembly. And the clause that's being proposed was just to allow more flexibility. It's not a may, a must. It's a by resolution in the event there is any circumstance that the Assembly wants to do their appointment through the *Civil Service Act*. But it's just an option to give you that option.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Mr. Wally Andersen, I see you had a question?

**MR. W. ANDERSEN:**

Thank you. Just a point, I guess for clarification, I want. It says required appointment of any officer of the Assembly. I was under the understanding that the only-, only one officer that the Assembly appoints and that's the Clerk-, that the Assembly doesn't appoint any other officer of the Assembly. It's just the Clerk. So, like, that's what I was sort of led to believe. So I just want some clarification on that.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Mr. Gillette.

**MR. GILLETTE:**

Currently there's only one officer of the Assembly and that is the Clerk. There could be other officers of the Assembly. I know the Assembly's talked of implementing other positions over time or, you know, within a relatively short period of time. So there could be other positions. Like the section in the *Assembly Act* talks about any officer of the Assembly, any employee that's within the gamut of the Assembly itself, right? So...

**MR. WINTERS:**

Are there any other questions? Yes, Mr. David Dicker Jr.

**MR. DICKER JR.:**

So like you just stated, if there was another appointed Clerk, that is another option?

**MR. WINTERS:**

Mr. Gillette?

**MR. GILLETTE:**

Well, there's only one Clerk, but if there were other positions that were added to, you know, the...

**MS. CRAWFORD:**

That came up.

**MR. GILLETTE:**

Sorry?

**MS. CRAWFORD:**

Yeah, sorry.

**MR. GILLETTE:**

Yeah, essentially, if there were other-, I know that the Assembly has talked about the Assistant Clerk, things like that or, you know, other Assemblies have-, could have any number of larger employee bases that are attached specifically to the Assembly. So this is broader than just the Office of the Clerk. It could be any of those employees.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Ms. Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:**

*Nakummek.* I'm just wondering, like, for clarity's sake, okay? The process that we previously went through, you know, there was lots of noise about that. And we sat here for an extended amount of time debating it. And I don't wanna go through that anymore. Anyways, I wonder, like, is it wise or is it plausible right now where we can just say-, and just from hearing the concerns, like, I agree, you know, it's good to have these avenues and things in place. We're all under agreement that, you know, the decision should be made by the Assembly, right? But what I'm hearing was the process in terms of hiring, like, through the Hiring Committee or whatever, is there some way where we can just say that Civil Service can make recommendations to the Assembly, like, screen people through? And then based on, like, however many people is screened through, we can just talk about it as an Assembly instead of saying, "Okay, the Assembly is going to do it all or the Civil Service is going to do it all." Like can it be, like, a hybrid process where HR makes recommendations to the Assembly to make a decision?

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek,* Ms. Barbour. Ms. Crawford?

**MS. CRAWFORD:**

I think that the process that happened last time was done mostly by the Assembly with support of HR. So I wouldn't say that the Human Resources Division quite possibly by resolution of the Assembly could take on components of it if that was the will of the Assembly but it would have to be by resolution. So in the last process what Human Resources did was support who were tasked to do the hiring of the Clerk, you know, using our resources in terms of drafting the job ads, in terms of getting

the postings out, getting the applications brought in through our HR process rather than having a different email address out there or different things like that. So there-, I look at that more as a hybrid process where it's always support. And that's what we're here for is to provide support to the Assembly for any of their Human Resources.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Ms. Williams, you had a question?

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

Thank you, yes I do. I'm just thinking-, I'm looking at these Acts and I'm thinking that this is information that's for Labrador Inuit. So looking at the revised one, if I was just someone come off the street and said I wanted to read your Act on this topic, and I read that, I would say, "Require that the appointment of any officer of the Assembly is to be made under the *Civil Service Act* instead of being made by the Assembly," what am I going to expect? What am I hearing here? I think I appreciate that this is-, it's been noted as a concern by yourselves, the witnesses here and the Department as something that needs to be addressed. I think that maybe we need to-, as I had stated earlier, we should consider if there's a change required to have it that the appointment of the officer of the Assembly is made by the Assembly, and not necessarily have the option of any other Act imposing onto this decision? Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Ms. Crawford.

**MS. CRAWFORD:**

Let me just make one comment in terms of I completely understand what you said. If someone comes in and just picks up this piece of paper, but what happens under laws is they become consolidated. So this

amendment will become consolidated into the *Assembly Act* and there'll be a note at the top saying, "Amended on this date," and what someone will pick up is the Act. And it will have that full Act with that full clause. So they shouldn't just have the one-liner that's here. They would have the entire section under Consolidation. I know what you're saying in terms of the interpretation but just so that everybody understands that when you have a consequential amendment built into a Bill that affects another Act, there will be a consolidation that will happen. And what is available to the public is the Consolidated Inuit Law. So they get the entirety in the full opening like et cetera, to understand the whole thing about the resolution, et cetera. I know you're-, I think what you're getting at too is proposing an amendment to what the clause is when we get to it.

**MR. WINTERS:**

I'm just thinking of the amount of time that I'm sure the majority of us spend looking through Inuit Laws and come across a piece within a clause that says in brackets, "IL-2015-01," for an example. And we only see that snippet, that footnote but that got there through this process of consolidated amendments. I see that Mr. Barry Andersen had a question. Yes.

**MR. B. ANDERSEN:**

Yeah, not a question as such, Mr. Chairman, but I comment that I support the amendment. I think it would bring more clarity. And the two options would be there for the Assembly whether it be through the *Civil Service Act* or through the Assembly. So that's my thoughts and I respect the witnesses' expertise in this field. And that's why they're here. That's why



we pay them the big bucks to come here and make these recommendations. Without that we would be in chaos, I think. Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** Would either witness like to respond before we take another question?  
Ms. Kemuksigak.

**MS. KEMUKSIGAK:** I've been looking at the two, the proposed change and what's there already. And I think with the proposed amendment creates more ambiguity. When you're looking at 92, if you just take out, "By resolution," it's very clear that an officer of the Assembly will be appointed by the Assembly. So to me the one that's already there is clearer than the one they're proposing, in my mind.

**MR. WINTERS:** Mr. Gillette?

**MR. GILLETTE:** With respect to the Member, what-, it actually says the opposite of that. What you stated you think it says, it actually says the exact opposite.

**MR. WINTERS:** Yes, Ms. Barbour?

**MS. BARBOUR:** When-, the last time we were discussing officers of the Assembly it was already resolved that the decision would come back to the Assembly anyways. So the Assembly already made a resolution that the decision would come back to the Assembly. So I'm-, and that's until 2026 right, during the entirety of the Fifth Assembly or is that going to carry into the Sixth Assembly?

**MR. WINTERS:** Mr. Gillette?

**MR. GILLETTE:**

I'm not sure I understand. Any process that the Assembly undertook previously was for that process. It doesn't go forward. Like if there was another process to start tomorrow, then the Assembly would have to decide tomorrow how it's going to do it. Under the proposed amendment the default would be that the Assembly would take care of that process. With the existing provision in the *Assembly Act*, there's ambiguity about how that process happens. So...

**MR. WINTERS:**

Are there any other questions or comments right now? Yes, Sorry, Mr. Wally Andersen.

**MR. W. ANDERSEN:**

Mr. Speaker, like, I don't wanna hold out but again I'm being confused because it says here, "The Nunatsiavut Assembly Act-," and this is what I'm gonna vote on-, "The Nunatsiavut Assembly Act is replaced with the following: (a) require the appointment of an officer of the Assembly to be made under the *Civil Service Act*, instead of being made by the Assembly." So...

**MS. CRAWFORD:**

But you have to read this one. You've got to read the opening line.

**MR. W. ANDERSEN:**

Yeah, I see it but it's just that-, anyway, I...

**MR. WINTERS:**

Go ahead, Ms. Crawford.

**MS. CRAWFORD:**

So, Wally, Mr. Andersen, you're right. That will replace the (a). But when it gets consolidated, you will read, "Despite any other Act, the Assembly by resolution may," and then you read the new proposed, (a). So it will never be a stand-alone clause. You do need to read the first sentence in order to understand and interpret what (a) means.

**MR. WINTERS:** Yes, Ms. Barbour?

**MS. BARBOUR:** I'm wondering if there's a typo in the proposed amendment 'cause it says, "18 Subsection 92(2)(a)," but the thing we were-, the Act-, piece of the Act we were provided with just says, "92". There's no bracket.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* Mr. Gillette?

**MR. GILLETTE:** Yes, no, that's correct. And despite the number of reviews this has gone through, that is true. It should just be 92(a) not 92(2)(a). Yeah, thank you, for that.

**MR. WINTERS:** Yes., Ms. Williams.

**MS. WILLIAMS:** So from my understanding then, and when it's all consolidated, there's still gonna be a resolution required regardless by the Assembly because it's gonna be a consolidated-, nothing on the header of 92 is being proposed to be changed. We're only changing-, and which is-, I don't know if it's different on somebody else's but it's showing me 18-, oh, that's 18 of this-, 18th clause of this one. It's only showing-, it doesn't say anything about changing the fact that there's not a resolution required, right?

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

**MS. CRAWFORD:** So right now if you-, so under the current legislation as you read it, you would require resolution for the Assembly to take on the appointment of an officer of your own Assembly right now, currently. You would have to pass a resolution. Otherwise, if with no resolution, the *Nunatsiavut Civil Service Act* is supposed to, under this *Assembly Act* appoint your own

officer. What the proposal is, is saying that you don't need a resolution. You are automatically the authority to appoint an officer of the Assembly. The resolution would only be required if you wanted the *Nunatsiavut Civil Service Act* to do the appointment under that Act. So that's what the new proposal is saying. What you have-, so the-, I'll just go through it again. I know you're still pondering it. So the current Act says, "Despite any other Act, the Assembly by resolution may require that the appointment is to be made by the Assembly." So why do you need-, my question would be why do you need to have a resolution to say that you can appoint your own staff? You shouldn't. So the proposal is gonna now read, when it's consolidated together, "Despite any other Act, the Assembly by resolution may require that the appointment be made under the *Civil Service Act*." If there is no resolution saying the Civil Service Act does it, the Assembly carries on and has the authority to do their appointment. They have their authority to do the appointment without any resolution, without anything at all. That's what the Act is gonna tell you to do.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Yes, Ms. Barbour?

**MS. BARBOUR:**

I was trying to think, in the *Assembly Act*, does it already state in there that officers of the Assembly is to be appointed by the Assembly instead of automatically assuming? Like, so...

**MR. WINTERS:**

Mr. Gillette.

**MR. GILLETTE:**

It does, but it's not-, well, depending on which officer you're talking about. And I know right now there's only one officer and that's the Clerk. But there's potential for others. That's why this clause here talks about officers and not just specifically a clerk. The Clerk is appointed by the Assembly. But the way it's currently framed, it creates more confusion about what that process is. So the correction here is that there won't be any confusion about that anymore-, that the Assembly is to default. The Assembly has that authority, okay? That's what this is set to achieve, right? So, yeah.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Because it seems as though we're beginning to speak in circles, I will ask that Mr. Gillette illustrate what the process would be from start to finish should the Assembly be without a Clerk under the current Act with 92(a) versus under the amended Act with 92(a).

**MR. GILLETTE:**

So specifically with respect to the office of Clerk, if we had a vacancy in the office of Clerk the Assembly has the authority to select a Clerk. We know that. Other than this existing provision gives some ambiguity about that because there's a reference to-, it seems to be that the default is under the *Civil Service Act*. If you go to the provision of the *Civil Service Act* that talks about the appointments of the Clerk for the Assembly, the *Civil Service Act* says the *Civil Service Act* doesn't apply to-, the Executive Council doesn't appoint the Clerk. So that's where this ambiguity is. Between the two Acts there's an ambiguity, okay? So the proposed amendment to the Act here would deal-, along with the other proposed amendments to the *Civil Service Act* is going to get rid of that ambiguity

completely. It's going to say that the Assembly has the default in control of the appointment of any officer of the Assembly unless it decided in any particular circumstance that it wanted to delegate that authority to the Civil Service-, or under the *Civil Service Act* to the NG.

**MR. WINTERS:** Ms. Williams, you had a question.

**MS. WILLIAMS:** Thank you. So having heard you say that, is there any way the language could be changed? Is there other options of changing the language for that amendment that doesn't state it in that format?

**MR. WINTERS:** Mr. Gillette?

**MR. GILLETTE:** With respect, I think that the language here is the most clear and appropriate language to achieve that objective. To not have that language is to leave ambiguity into the process. The language will essentially affirm that the Assembly has control over its processes, unless in any particular circumstance it decides it doesn't want to. So my professional opinion is that I wouldn't propose an amendment if that's what the intention of the Assembly is.

**MR. WINTERS:** Are there further comments at this time? Yes, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

**MS. FLOWERS:** It's getting late so what I'm saying may not even make sense. But am I hearing that the Assembly gets to-, if there was a vacancy, that it's-, the Assembly is the forum that hires, that appoints the officer and not-, nothing to do with HR? HR can't do that. It has to be the Assembly?

**MR. WINTERS:** Ms. Crawford.

**MS. CRAWFORD:** HR would not formally appoint any of the officers of the Assembly unless it is directed to by resolution of the Assembly.

**MR. WINTERS:** Ms. Flowers, do you have anything else? Does that satisfy your question?

**MS. FLOWERS:** Okay. Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** Yes, Mr. Wally Andersen.

**MR. W. ANDERSEN:** Again, Mr. Speaker, not to hold things up but just for, I guess for a bit of clarity, like, right now we're aware that the only officer that the Assembly appoints is the Clerk. But I've also heard say that there's a possibility of other officers. Like so, that's news. But like, the only officer that I think it's in black and white, that the only officer that the Assembly appoints is the Clerk, and the Clerk only. And I in no way am I referring any questions to (inaudible) but it's in black and white that the only officer of the House that the Assembly appoints is the Clerk. So, you know, like, some-, maybe it's me but I find it a little hard to swallow and a bit hard to understand.

**MR. WINTERS:** Ms. Crawford, I would ask that Mr. Gillette put forward if there are any other officers of similar Assemblies that he could give as an example. 'Cause as of right now the only officer is the Clerk.

**MS. CRAWFORD:** I just have one comment before that. I think we need to look and think that laws are not just drafted for one moment in time. Laws are drafted-, and I know we have mechanisms to amend them. So yes, right now there is one officer of the Assembly. However, a law is not drafted just because we have one law of the Assembly today. Potentially tomorrow there may

be a decision to have multiple. And I'll pass it over to Mr. Gillette to comment on the Speaker's comment.

**MR. GILLETTE:**

Sure. There's-, in other Assembly depending on their size, there are a number of officers of the Assembly. There could be, I know, the Member is familiar with the Provincial system. So there's the Clerk, there's Assistants Clerks. There's the Law Clerk. There's the-, any of the number of probably 20, 30 members of the Provincial system that are appointed by the Assembly or staff of the Assembly. We just happen to have one right now per se but there could be more. I know there's been discussion about adding more over time. So-, and the section as it currently is deals with officers of the Assembly not specific to the Clerk. So...

**MR. WINTERS:**

Mr. Barry Andersen.

**MR. B. ANDERSEN:**

Sorry, Ms. Crawford sort of stated what I was gonna state that we are not static. We will be moving forward as an Assembly. So we're just talking one Clerk like we said. I think we are a dynamic Government. We're moving all the time. So I just want to thank you, Ms. Crawford for the clarity.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Are there further-, Mr. Wally Andersen.

**MR. W. ANDERSEN:**

Yeah, thank you, Mr. Speaker and I thank the Legal for what he mentioned about the Provincial Government. Yeah, I was a member but it's spelled out the number of positions there that the Assembly hires. But in our case here it's very clear from what I could read that there was only one person, one position only that our Assembly was responsible



for. And that's the Clerk. But anyway, we'll, yeah, it's just time to move on so like I-, but I feel a bit hesitant. But yeah, when the time comes I'll vote for it.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Yes, Mr. Asivak.

**MR. ASIVAK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I know we're going round and round in circles but this is the power of the Assembly. And I think the interpretation that I'm feeling from around the room is that the Assembly-, yes, the language of legality-, we get what we're hearing but we don't necessarily agree technically with it. And I think we're gonna continue to barter back and forth. And I think we need a short break to meet as the Assembly because I don't think this will go any further. It's gonna continue back and forth because of the language. Yes, it might be legal and right, but as Assembly Members who own the Assembly and appoint the officer, this will-, is not making sense even though technically it's, you know, right on paper. But my feeling is the Assembly is not in agreement with it. Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:**

I can say that we can take a break but we are a public Government. Any discussion and deliberation on this point needs to be held in a public forum which is where we are right now. So we can take a break and maybe see if we can come to some better resolutions but I appreciate that. Let's be back in 10 minutes. *Nakummek.*

[Recess]

**MR. WINTERS:**

...clause as well as what this additional amendment would mean. At this time I'm gonna ask if there are any further comments or if we're ready to do the clause-by-clause and approve the elements of this Bill. Can everyone hear me okay? Okay. Ms. Kemuksigak.

**MS. KEMUKSIGAK:**

I'm still slightly confused on the wording. But I think Roxy understands it now so could she explain it to us?

**MR. WINTERS:**

Ms. Barbour?

**MS. BARBOUR:**

Okay. My thought process was the same that it takes away the power of the Assembly. But like the witnesses have said, right now, the way it currently stands, is that the Assembly has to make a resolution to have the power to hire officers of the Assembly. So if an officer of the Assembly was to be hired-, any type of officer, the Assembly-, the current power would be within the *Civil Service Act*. This update insinuates-, sorry, let me go back-, where is it? You got it there? So this, the requested amendment says-, what it currently says is that there has to be a resolution right? But this says that the resolution that we would have to make would be for the *Civil Service Act* to hire the officer of the Assembly instead of being made by the Assembly. So I think that's the important language is the end of that clause, instead of being made by the Assembly. So because it says, "Instead of being made by the Assembly," it already notions that the power to hire officers of the Clerk is already with the Assembly not with the *Civil Service Act*. Does that make sense?

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Are there any further questions or comments before we move to the clause-by-clause? Also, would either witness care to make another statement at this time or are you ready for the clause? Okay. Please turn to Page Four if you're not there already. We'll start with Clause Two. Under, "Amendment to s. 2 of the *Civil Service Act*, 2(1) paragraph 2(1)(k) of the *Civil Service Act* is repealed." Do we have any questions? Are we in agreement? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, we are agreed. Amendment to s. 3 of the *Civil Service Act*, 3(1) Paragraph 3(1)(b) of the *Civil Service Act* is amended by repealing the phrase, "In an agency," with the word, "With." Are there any questions on this clause? Are we in agreement? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, are we agreed? Amendment to s. 10(1) of the *Civil Service Act*, Clause Four. 1(10)(1) of the *Civil Service Act* is replaced by the following: "(1) the Management Division is comprised of the positions of (a) the Secretary of the Executive Council (b) Deputy Ministers of each department, (c) the Clerk of the Nunatsiavut Assembly (d) the Registrar of Beneficiaries, (e) Legal Counsel, (f) Directors and (g) such other similar positions as the Executive Council may designate." Are there any questions on this item? Are we all agreed? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, please turn to Page Five. Amendments to ss. 10(2)-(6) of the *Civil Service Act*. (5) Subsections 10(2) through 10(6) inclusive of the *Civil Service Act* are repealed." Are there any questions or comments? Yes, Ms. Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:** Shouldn't that include-, and then because these were the ones that had to be under Part Four of the *Civil Service Act*, hey, shouldn't that say to be moved to Part Four or no?

**MR. WINTERS:** Mr. Gillette?

**MR. GILLETTE:** So the way this works is we're dealing with taking something out and moving it. So the way it works is you passed this section that says something is being taken out. Further on there will be another section that says the language that's gonna be put in. So, yeah.

**MR. WINTERS:** Are there any further questions on this? Are we in agreement? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, amendment to s. 11 of the *Civil Service Act* (6) Subsection 11(1) of the *Civil Service Act* is amended by replacing the phrase, "And agencies other than positions," with the words, "Except positions." Are there any questions on this clause? Seeing none, are we agreed? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, under, "Amendments to s. 11 of the *Civil Service Act*, (7) Subsections 11(3) and 11(4) of the *Civil Service Act* are repealed. Are there any questions or comments on this clause? Seeing none, are we in agreement? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, we are agreed. Amendments to s. 12 of the *Civil Service Act*, (8) Subsections 12(2) through 12(6) of the *Civil Service Act* are repealed. Are there any questions? Seeing none, are we in agreement? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, we are agreed. Amendment to s 13(2) of the *Civil Service Act*, (9) Subsection 13(2) of the *Civil Service Act* is replaced by the following. "(2) The Executive Council may (a) transfer a position in the management division or the employees division from one

department to another department, (b) transfer a position in the management division or the employee's division from a department to an agency or (c) approve the transfer of an employee from an agency to a position in the management division or the employee's division of a department." Are there any questions on Clause Nine? Yes, Ms. Williams.

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

Thank you. I'm just wondering, does this subsection give the power to second to another department for a term or is there a place within the *Civil Service Act* that does that?

**MR. WINTERS:**

Ms. Crawford?

**MS. CRAWFORD:**

I think it would-, it would cover secondments 'cause those are-, would just be a temporary transfer so it wouldn't be permanent. It's just the term of the transfer.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Are there further questions on this clause? Seeing none, are we agreed on Clause Nine? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, we are agreed. "Amendment to s. 13 of the *Civil Service Act* (10) Subsection 13(3) of the *Civil Service Act* is repealed." Are there any questions on this clause? Seeing none, are we in agreement? Are there any, "Nays?" Hearing none, we are agreed. "Amendment to s. 15 of the *Civil Service Act*. (11) Subsection 15 of the *Civil Service Act* is replaced with the following: Control of salary costs." Oh, apologies. It's late. "Subsection 15 of the *Civil Service Act* is replaced with the following: Control of salary costs, 15(1) with respect to any employee in the management, employees or

casual divisions, no payment of remuneration shall be made or started unless provided for under an appropriation. (2) There shall be no increase with respect to salary and related costs for any employee other than an increase improved by the Executive Council and provided for under an appropriation (3) There shall be no reduction made in the rate of pay of any employee except with regards to a change in positions without the written authorization of the comptroller." Are there any questions on this clause? Yes, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

**MS. FLOWERS:**

Sorry. Does this mean that if someone was transferred to another position with a higher salary than what they're getting, they wouldn't get that salary if they were like in the acting position?

**MR. WINTERS:**

Ms. Crawford.

**MS. CRAWFORD:**

It's basically saying it has to be under a budget or an appropriation, so you have to have that salary, that funding appropriated under your budget in order to pay someone under a budget. So the key part is provided for under an appropriation.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Are there any further questions? Yes, Ms. Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:**

I'm just remembering the *Civil Service Act* where there's a clause under there for, "Salary Review." So currently the process right now is, like, for budgeting we're all aware of the process NG has, right, for budgeting. Like all the money that we spend has to be budgeted for or appropriated for, right? But the clause in the *Civil Service Act*-, I mean the Civil Service Policy, Employee Policy says that something about a salary review can

happen if the supervisor determines that the roles have changed or whatever. But-, so somebody who-, an employee who is in a position where the supervisor feels like they can have a salary review for increased salary, the Civil Service Policy says that, but the *Civil Service Act* is saying otherwise under this clause, no? Okay.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Ms. Crawford.

**MS. CRAWFORD:**

So you're talking about a process where someone can go through the-, so just for information purposes, under the policy manual for employees, if an employee feels their job duties have substantially changed or there's a different scope, they can apply to have their compensation reviewed. And we'd go through our compensation review process and a position could be determined to be allocated on a different pay scale. This speaks nothing to that process. This speaks to that if we only have funding for \$10,000, we can only pay funding for up to \$10,000 because that's all we've budgeted. So we can't-, there's no increase in salary unless it's provided for under an appropriation. So it has-, we have to have enough money to pay for our salaries. And so this is just lining up with the provisions in our *Financial Administration Act* and making sure it's clear on when increases can be paid. It doesn't go against the salary review process. If we went through a salary review process and it said we had to pay-, your salary should be \$250,000 and we only had \$10,000, we can't pay you 'cause it's not appropriated, and we don't have the money to do so.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Are there any other questions on this clause? Seeing no questions, are we agreed? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, we are in agreement. Clause 12, "Amendment to s. 16 of the *Civil Service Act*. Section 16 of the *Civil Service Act* is replaced with the following: Promotions, 16(1). Subject to Subsections (2) and (3), promotions to positions in the management division, employee division or casual jobs division must be made by a committee composed of the Deputy Minister of the department in which the vacancy occurs and the Director of Human Resources. (2) The Executive Council must approve any promotion to a position of Deputy Minister. (3) The Assembly must approve a promotion to the position of the Clerk of the Nunatsiavut Assembly. (4) All promotions must be made on the basis of the Merit Principal having regards to measures established under Section 14, (5) The Director of Human Resources may conduct such examinations necessary for purposes of establishing lists of persons eligible for promotion within the employee's division. But an examination shall not be conducted to elicit information concerning a prohibited ground of discrimination under the *Constitution*." Are there any questions on this clause? Yes, Ms. Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR;**

Should (3) include or-, and officers-, other officers of the Assembly?

**MR. WINTERS:**

Ms. Crawford, or Mr. Gillette?

**MS. CRAWFORD:**

Yes, it could. I'm just thinking back to the only position of the Assembly that is specifically referenced in the *Civil Service Act* is the Clerk of the Assembly. It doesn't reference any other officers. It doesn't use that term because we define out a Clerk of the Assembly. But yes it most



certainly could be that the Assembly must approve a promotion to the position of-, to the Clerk of the Nunatsiavut Assembly or any other officers of the Assembly.

**MR. GILLETTE:**

Well, if I could add, I think the purpose of that provision-, and that is a provision that already exists in the Act. It's just being moved-, is because under the previous page that we already dealt with, Page Four, Number (4), "The Amendments to Section 10," so the Clerk of the Assembly is in the management division, is listed there in the management division. But it's not a position that the Executive Council appoints. We know that based on the discussion we already had here. So this just says that no one's gonna also be promoted to that position unless the Assembly approves it, okay? It's talking about a position-, promotions of existing employees as opposed to appointments of people who might not already be employees. Do you get what I'm saying? So I think that's the purpose of it there and why it's specific to the Clerk.

**MS. CRAWFORD:**

So I will-, just to provide a little bit more clarity, currently 16(1) of the Act says, "No promotion may be made to the Management Division except upon written order of-", " sorry, let me go back. Promotion definition states that-, sorry I've completely lost my train of thought. It is late. "No promotion may be made to the Management Division except upon written order of the Executive Council." This is what 16(1) says. And what we are proposing is substantial revisions to break it out more clear. So in the Management Division, there are Deputy Minister. So specifically the Executive Council must appoint the Deputy Minister. The

Assembly must appoint the Clerk of the Assembly or promote to the Clerk of the Assembly. So (2) and (3) are just kind of making those very explicit. Under Number (1) it says, "Employees to positions in the Management Division, Employee Division or Casual Jobs Division are made by a Committee of the Deputy Minister of the Department and the Director of Human Resources." So it-, there are no other explicit positions in the Act which I think is the reason why we explicitly listed the Clerk of the Assembly there.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Yes, Ms. Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:**

Thank you. So, like, some of the conversation we had earlier was that, you know, we are a growing Government and we will continue to grow, and I strongly believe that. And so officers of the Assembly will continue to grow. So just for clarification's sake, I guess, like, when we come to that point in time instead of coming back and saying, "Okay, we're gonna add another management position into the Assembly," is the Clerk of the Assembly, like, the highest ranked officer in other legislative processes? Okay, thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:**

So I'll just remind everyone because it is easy to kind of forget and we are quite late into the evening at this point, that we're talking about two Acts being amended, right? So the language in the *Civil Service Act* only refers to the Clerk not officers. And the language in the *Assembly Act* only refers to officers. Ms. Williams, you also had a question, I believe. No? Okay. Are there any further questions on this clause? Are we then in agreement? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, we are agreed.

"Amendment to s. 17 of the *Civil Service Act*. (13) Section 17 of the *Civil Service Act* is replaced with the following: Hiring committees for positions in the Management Division. 17(1) If a vacancy or new position in the Management Division becomes available, a hiring committee must hold a competition to fill the position. (2) For purposes of Subsection (1), all functions related to selection and appointment are held by (a) in the case of the appointment of a Deputy Minister, a hiring committee composed of the Minister of the responsible department as Chair, one other Minister and the Director of Human Resources, (b) In the case of the appointment of a Director, a hiring committee composed of the Deputy Minister of the responsible department, as Chair, and the Director of Human Resources or (c) In the case of the appointment of Legal Counsel or the Registrar of Beneficiaries, a hiring committee composed of the Deputy Minister of Nunatsiavut Affairs as Chair, the Director of Human Resources and the Director of Legal Services (3) An applicant for a position referred to in Subsection one who is an employee of the Nunatsiavut Government and who is qualified to fill the position shall be given preferential consideration. (4) Notice of a competition under Subsection (1) must be (a) given at least two weeks in advance of the closing date of the competition and (b) posted or advertised in such a manner as the Director of Human Resources or a committee appointed under Subsection (3) considers, will provide reasonable access by employees and the public to the notice, (5) The hiring committee shall (a) review the applications of all candidates, (b) examine those candidates

who possess the required qualifications, (c) rate the candidates in order of merit having regard to Subsection (3) and (d) Appoint the successful candidate. (6) Before nominating a candidate for a position, the hiring committee must satisfy itself that the person is fit to perform the duties and to undertake the responsibilities of the position." Regarding Clause 13, are there questions or comments? Yes, Ms. Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:**

In 2(a), "In the case of appointment of Deputy Minister," shouldn't the senior employee of the Nunatsiavut Government be included in this hiring committee?

**MR. WINTERS:**

Ms. Crawford?

**MS. CRAWFORD:**

The Act is prescribing that there are three members. They can bring others on if the Hiring Committee deems that they need additional-, want an additional member. But this is prescribing that this is the minimum that they would have.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Are there further questions? Seeing none. Regarding Clause 13, are we in agreement? Are there any, "Nays?" Then we are agreed. Clause 14. "Amendment to s. 18 of the *Civil Service Act*. Section 18 of the *Civil Service Act* is replaced with the following: Hiring Committees for positions in the Employees Division. 18 (1) A Hiring Committee shall be used to fill any vacancy or new position in the Employees Division. (2) The Director of Human Resources (a) is responsible for the establishment of Hiring Committees for positions in the Employees Division and (b) may delegate the authority to establish any one or more specific hiring

committees to another Member of the Human Resources Division, (3) subject to Subsection (4), a Hiring Committee for a position in the Employees Division is (a) The Director of Human Resources or another employee of the Human Resources Division as Chair, and (b) the Deputy Minister of the responsible department, director or direct supervisor of the position be filled. (4) In addition to the individuals forming a committee under Subsection (3), a Hiring Committee may include other members of the Nunatsiavut Civil Service as may be approved by the Director of Human Resources." Regarding Clause 14, are there any questions? Seeing no questions, are we in agreement? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, we are agreed. (15) "Addition of ss. 18.1 and 18.2 to the *Civil Service Act*. The following sections are added to the *Civil Service Act* immediately after Section 18: Competition for Positions in the Employees Division. 18.1 (1) The Hiring Committee established under Section 18 with respect to a vacancy or new position in the Employees Division must hold a competition to select a candidate. (2) The Hiring Committee must give preferential consideration to an applicant who is an employee of the Nunatsiavut Government and who is qualified to fill the position, (3) The Hiring Committee must give notice of a competition in the Employees Division at least two weeks in advance of the closing date of the competition, (4) Notices pursuant to Subsection (3) must be posted or advertised in such a manner as the Director of Human Resources or the Hiring Committee considers will provide reasonable access by employees and the public to the notice, (5) The Hiring Committee shall

(a) review the applications of all candidates, (b) examine those candidates who possess the required qualifications, (c) rate the candidates in order of merit having regard to Subsection (2) and (d) appoint the successful candidate, (6) Before nominating a candidate for a position, the Hiring Committee must satisfy itself that the person is fit to perform the duties and to undertake the responsibilities of that position." Regarding Clause 15, are there any questions? Yes, Ms. Williams.

**MS. WILLIAMS:** Thank you. Can I ask for clarification on Section (3) please?

**MR. WINTERS:** Witnesses, whenever you're ready.

**MS. CRAWFORD:** 18.1 (3) means that we have to have at least two weeks advertising of any job competition, at a minimum. It gives notice of the competition. So when it releases its job ad it has to be out for at least two weeks.

**MR. WINTERS:** Yes, Ms. Williams.

**MS. WILLIAMS:** That's to the general public. But does this clause refer to the employees?

**MR. WINTERS:** Ms. Crawford.

**MS. CRAWFORD:** It's for a job competition in the Employees Division. So in that particular division when we release a job ad we have to have at least two weeks notice before we can close the job ad.

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

**MR. GILLETTE:** Just a-, I was going to say Point of Order, but I can't make a Point of Order, 18(2), the next 18(2) it was also part of the same section. So 18(1) and 18(2) are all part of Clause 15 of the Bill. So just to...

**MR. WINTERS:**

Yep. Are there any more questions on Clause 15? Seeing none-, apologies have I not read 18.2? I was so confident I had. Apologies.

"Procedures to fill positions in the Casual Jobs Division, 18.2 (1) A Deputy Minister may hire a relief employee who is considered capable of performing required work while the incumbent of a position is not available. But the relief employee's appointment must not exceed a period of one year. (2) a Deputy Minister may hire a contract employee, a temporary employee or student employee for a maximum period of one year and their employment must be terminated no later than the end of that period. (3) Where an employee in the Casual Jobs Division has received a satisfactory performance evaluation with respect to a seasonal job, if that job is available in a subsequent season or is subsequently made permanent, the former employee in the Casual Jobs Division shall be offered the job before it is advertised. (4) A Deputy Minister may delegate a power under Subsections (1), (2) or (3) to a committee composed of an employee of the Human Resources Division as Chair and the direct supervisor of the position to be filled, (5) A Deputy Minister or a committee under Subsection (4) must follow the procedure set out in Subsections 18.1 (3) to 18.1 (6)." Now, are there any further questions on Clause 15? Yes, recognizing Ms. Barbour?

**MS. BARBOUR:**

Just for further understanding, the clauses set out in 18.2, that's without job ads?

**MR. WINTERS:**

Ms. Crawford?

**MS. CRAWFORD:**

So I think it's important to realize that these are in the casual job positions and yes, they could happen without job ads. So if you have someone go off on an extended six leave for three months because they have an operation and they need to recuperate, this gives the authority to a Deputy Minister that they could go and hire someone for a three-month period if that's the term. It could go up to one year, but this is allowing that flexibility without having to go through a job competition. Some job competitions can take up to two months before they're completed.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Mr. Gear.

**MR. GEAR:**

Yes, I think I got it figured out now because we went from (1) 18 to (1) (2) but it's all the same thing so I thought we need a show of hands for agreement?

**MR. WINTERS:**

Both of us. Regarding Clause 15 are there any further questions? Seeing none, are we in agreement? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, we are agreed. Clause 16, "Addition of s. 18.3 to the *Civil Service Act*. The following section is added to the *Civil Service Act* immediately after Section 18.2: Conflicts of Interest of Hiring Committee Members. 18.3 "Where a person is mandated under this Act to serve on a hiring committee for a particular position but for reasons of relationship to one or more candidates, the person is in a real or perceived conflict of interest, that person may be substituted on the Hiring Committee by another person on the approval and direction of (a) in the case of a Minister, by another Minister on approval of the President, (b) in the case



of a Deputy Minister, by the Minister of the responsible department or (c) in the case of any other employee by another employee of a similar level as approved by the Director of Human Resources." Are there any questions on Clause 16? Seeing none, are we in agreement? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, we are agreed. Clause 17, "Amendment to Section 28 of the *Civil Service Act*." The following subsection is added to the *Civil Service Act* immediately after Subsection 28.3. (4) The Executive Council may abolish positions in the Management and Employees Divisions." Are there any questions on Clause 17? Seeing that there are none, are we agreed? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, we are in agreement and on to Clause 18. As discussed, there is a change necessary on the page in front of us. "Amendment to Section 92 of the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act*, Subsection 92(a) of the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act* is replaced with the following: Require that the appointment of any officer of the Assembly is to be made under the *Civil Service Act* instead of being made by the Assembly." Are there any questions or comments on this clause? Then-, yes, Ms. Kemuksigak.

**MS. KEMUKSIGAK:**

I'm not playing devil's advocate. But could we look at changing the wording to be more clear, 'cause I kinda thought-, I don't know how to write resolutions but if it is the resolution decision will of the Assembly an appointment of another-, of any officer of the Assembly can be delegated to the *Civil Service Act*. I don't-, and not those words but that's kind of what I'm-, it's our will if we're gonna do it as an Assembly or if we want to delegate it to the Civil Service.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Mr. Gillette.

**MR. GILLETTE:**

Yeah, thanks, Mr. Chair. In my opinion, the amendment as worded achieves what the Member just spoke about, that the intention, the power of the Assembly is to make its appointments unless it decides to give that to somebody else. So I would-, you know, I don't wanna be-, overstep here, but I would suggest perhaps if the amendment as drafted could be put to a vote and then if it doesn't pass, then we can consider additional wording. But just because we have had some substantial discussion on this already. But I'll leave that to the discretion of the Chair.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Yes, Ms. Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:**

Can I just add something? So right now in 92 of the Act it says, "Despite any other Act, the Assembly by resolution may require that the appointment of any officer of the Assembly is to be made by the Assembly instead of being made by the Nunatsiavut Civil Service." So the way it is right now notions that the appointment has to be made by the Civil Service. But in this one it says, "Instead of being made by the Assembly." So the amended part notions that the decision is for officers of the Assembly is already being made by the Assembly. (Inaudible.)

**MR. WINTERS:**

The decision is defaulted to the Assembly without any motion having to be passed. Are there further questions or comments at this time? Seeing none, are we in agreement? Are there any, "Nays?"

**MS. BARBOUR:** Sorry, Mr. Speaker I forgot to add that in this there is a typo. It's-, on the thing it says, "Subsection 92(2)(a)."

**MR. WINTERS:** It's been addressed.

**MS. BARBOUR:** Okay.

**MR. WINTERS:** I will try again. Apologies for the interruption. Are we in agreement on Clause 18? Are there any, "Nays?" And we are agreed. *Nakummek*. Clause 19, "Coming into Force, under Part (3), Miscellaneous, this Act comes into force on a day to be fixed by order of the President." Are there any questions on Clause 19? Seeing none, are we in agreement? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, we are agreed. Let's go back to Page Four. Clause One is the short title. The short title states that, "This Act may be cited as the *Civil Service Amendment Act 2024*." Are we agreed? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, finally, the Long Title, "An Act to Amend the *Civil Service Act* and make consequential amendments to another Act 2024." Are we agreed?

**MS. BARBOUR:** Shouldn't it say, "Make consequential amendments to the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act*," or no?

**MR. WINTERS:** Go ahead, Mr. Gillette.

**MR. GILLETTE:** That's not necessary. There's only one Act that-, if you read it, there's only one Act that it addresses.

**MR. WINTERS:** Say again Ms. Barbour?

**MS. BARBOUR:** It's two Acts that's being amended, right? It's a Bill-, okay, yes, sorry.

**MR. WINTERS:**

I'm gonna read it again. "An Act to amend the *Civil Service Act* and make consequential amendments to another Act 2024." Are there any further questions or comments? Seeing none, are we in agreement? Are there any, "Nays?" Hearing none, we are agreed. That concludes the page-by-page, clause and Annex review of the Bill. Does the Minister wish to conclude the debate?

**MR. EVANS:**

Yes, thank you everyone. I wish to conclude debate.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Thank you. That concludes the debate. It also concludes the Committee of the Whole and I want to thank the witnesses for their time. We are now back in the Assembly. All those in favour of second reading of Bill 2024-01, "*Civil Service Amendment Act 2024*." Are there any opposed? Seeing none, the motion is carried. Accordingly, Bill 2024-01, "*Civil Service Amendment Act 2024*," has had second reading. I would like to thank the Minister. We are on to Item 17, "Assent to Bills." Honourable President, the Assembly has given second reading to two Bills, Bill 2024-02, "*Budget Act 2024*," and Bill 2024-01 "*Civil Service Amendment Act 2024*," and wish to present them to you for assent.

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:**

*Nakummek, UKatti.* Honourable Speaker and Members, as President of Nunatsiavut, I wish to assent to Bill 2024-02, "*The Budget Act 2024*," and Bill 2024-01, "*The Civil Service Amendment Act 2024*," and hereby sign them into law. *Nakummek, UKatti.*

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Mr. President. That brings us to Item 18, "Adjournment." The Assembly is now adjourned, and the next sitting is in the first week of

June. I would like to thank all Members of the Assembly for their diligence this week as well as all Assembly support staff for their excellent work that made this possible. I would like to thank our interpreter translators Katie Winters and Gus Semigak as well as our new interpreter translator Eva Obed. I would also like to thank our OKâlaKatiget Society support staff Silpa Suarak and our IT support Ches Evans, our absolutely exceptional pages have been Cole Dicker and Keisha Hunter.

[Applause]

Our drivers have been Daniella and Jim. Thank you, so much, as well to Agnes and Dawn for providing around-the-clock support. *Nakkumesuak*. Take care. Safe travels home, everyone.

[Adjourned]