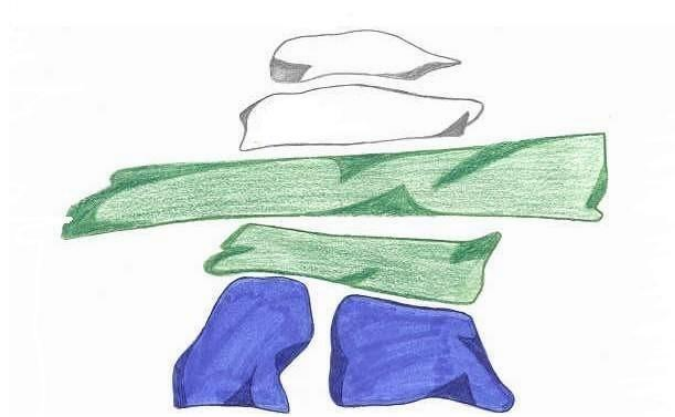




Nunatsiavut kavamanga
Nunatsiavut Government

**FIFTH ASSEMBLY
OF
NUNATSIAVUT**

SPRING SESSION 9th Session 2nd - SITTING

**kAVAMALIGIJET
KAUJITITSIUTINGA
PARLIAMENTARY REPORT**

In Attendance:

Speaker and Ordinary Member for Canada, Honourable Bryan Winters

Deputy Speaker and Ordinary Member for Canada, Honourable Roland Saunders

President of Nunatsiavut, Honourable Johannes Lampe

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

Minister of Language Cultural and Tourism, Ordinary Member for Nain David Dicker Jr

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

Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen

Ordinary Member for Postville, Mr. George Gear

Ordinary Member for Nain Roxanne Barbour

AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen

AngajukKâk for Postville, Ms. Diane Gear

AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Mrs .Marjorie Flowers

AngajukKâk for Nain, Mr. Julius Dicker

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

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

Director of Legal Services, Mr. Mark Gillette

Legal Counsel, Mr. Kevin Maher

Director of Lands and Natural Resources and Information Technology Brent Denniston

Absent:

First Minister and Ordinary Member for Rigolet Honourable Melva Williams

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

AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Mr. Chesley Sheppard

**The Nunatsiavut Assembly proceedings
were recorded in Inuktitut and English.
March 4, 2025
Assembly commenced at 9AM , 2025**

MR. WINTERS: *Ullâkut.* I would like to call to order the Second Sitting of the 2025 Spring Session of the Fifth Nunatsiavut Assembly and ask Gerald Asivak to say the opening prayer, whenever you're ready, sir.

MR. ASIVAK: (Audio muted.)

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* We are now on to Item Two, "The Opening Address." I'll ask the President for his opening address when he's ready. We'll take five minutes and sort out the technical difficulties. Apologies. It appears that everything is working fine now. Mr. President, whenever you're ready.
Nakummek.

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

Mr. Speaker, I also had the opportunity to attend and present at the Aqsarniit Conference and Trade Show in Ottawa a couple of weeks ago. Many thanks to the organizers for bringing us together for this inaugural event, which essentially, replaces the former Northern Lights Conference. The Nunatsiavut Government stands in unity with Canada's other Inuit Treaty organizations and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami in the decision not to participate in the planned 2025 Northern Lights Conference due to the involvement of The NunatuKavut Community Council which continues to falsely claim its members to be Inuit. This decision was not made lightly,

Mr. Speaker, but was a necessary step to uphold our commitment to protecting the rights and interests of Labrador Inuit and Canada's true Indigenous Governments and organizations. The Aqsarniit Conference and Trade Show provided a valuable platform to foster unity and collaboration among true Indigenous peoples. From all accounts, Mr. Speaker, it was a big success. Again, thanks to the Baffin Regional Chamber of Commerce for taking this on. And we look forward to gathering at the next Aqsarniit. On a final note, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Premier Furey for his dedicated service to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador. His leadership and commitment to public service have been greatly appreciated and I believe his efforts have made a positive impact on our Province overall. My relationship with Premier Furey was for the most part very positive. He was approachable, easy to communicate with and willing to listen. I do believe, Mr. Speaker, that he was committed to building a strong relationship with the Nunatsiavut Government and to reconciliation. However, we did have our differences, particularly around the issue involving the NunatuKavut Community Council (NCC). Premier Furey was well aware of our concerns. Yet he continued to support having a member of the NCC serve as the minister responsible for Indigenous Affairs. He continued to engage with the NCC as if it were an Indigenous collective, which it isn't. And by doing so, in my view, set back any progress that had been made in recent years, towards reconciliation. It is essential that the future premier prioritizes sincere and mindful engagement with only legitimate

Indigenous communities if meaningful reconciliation is to be achieved.

Nakummek, UKatti.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Mr. President. I'd like to welcome everyone back to beautiful, sunny Hopedale. It's always nice to be here. And as everyone knows, you can't beat March in Nunatsiavut. I would like to note that the Honourable Terry Vincent has been excused although he is here for the time being. The AngajukKâk of Postville, Mr. Chesley Sheppard and the Ordinary Member and First Minister for Postville-, sorry, for Rigolet, both of these are for Rigolet-, the Honourable Melva Williams have both been properly excused. The pages for this sitting are Samuel Boase and Joedean Winters. The interpreter translators are Katie Winters and Nicholas Flowers. Harry Dicker is providing IT support. As well, we would like to recognize the OkâlaKatiget Society staff, Nancy Nochasak and Caroline Nochasak. If there are any questions around travel or logistics, please see the Assistant to the Clerk, Tabea Onalik. Are there any Members who would like to wish-, who would like to recognize visitors in the gallery at this time? Since no one has put their hand up-, okay, go ahead, whenever you're ready, AngajukKâk Dicker.

MR. J. DICKER:

I'd like to introduce our (inaudible) clerk.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. As a matter of decorum. I would like to mention that we have the new Deputy Clerk of the Assembly at the Table, Darlene Winters, and thank her for her commitment to the Assembly.

Nakummek, AngajukKâk. We will now move on to Item Four, "Ministers

Statements." And the hands are already raised. Okay. Mr. Terry Vincent, Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, when you're ready.

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, March is a busy year for the Fishery Sector as the division is busy attending various DFO Stock Assessment meetings in preparation for the 2025 fishing season. The division is also in policy review of the Fisheries Fund. This included various other Nunatsiavut departments. Mr. Speaker, we are continuing to review all applicable applications for the 2025 fishing season and are pleased to see that we have had multiple applications for the Nunatsiavut Fisheries Specialist Position. "Wildlife." Mr. Speaker, the moose hunting season was opened on September 16th and will continue until March 21st. As Minister I have restricted harvest to North of Zoar, and South of Michael's River. The Kaipokok Moose Management Area is showing extremely low abundance. To date, five licences have been filled, all in Nain. Mr. Speaker, the polar bear hunting season is now open. To date, 6 of 13 licences have been taken, three in Nain and three in Hopedale. We were also able to offer a licence in the Upper Lake Melville Area for the first time, in 2025. Mr. Speaker, the National Polar Bear Technical Committee met in Nain in February. It was the first time the PBTC has

met in Nunatsiavut. The meeting went well, and I'm pleased to say that our Wildlife Manager Jason Dicker has been appointed to a second term as co-chair. Mr. Speaker, the Province are planning collaring for the George River Caribou Herd in March. Depending on favourable snow conditions, staff from the Lands and Natural Resources will also assist the Province in this collaring. Mr. Speaker, it is disappointing for me to announce that the Caribou Distribution Project will not be able to access caribou from the KAF this year. Harvesting in Nunavut has been difficult and the KAF will not have caribou available for us to purchase. I have my staff looking into other regions for caribou, as well as other species.

"Lands Division." Mr. Speaker, six land-use applications have been submitted to date in 2025 and are at various stages of processing. The Lands Division is once again partnering with the Non-Renewable Resource Division in Labrador Inuit Lands inspections this year. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, the job ad for the GIS Specialist position closed last week and we're hopeful the position will be filled in the near future. "Impact Benefits Agreement." Mr. Speaker, Vale has transitioned into full operations including surface and underground operations. Excuse me. Vale recently initiated a restructure that had resulted in a number of support positions with Vale becoming redundant. President Lampe, Deputy Minister Goudie, Deputy Minister Pain, and IBA Coordinator met with Vale on February 3rd to better understand these changes and how they will affect Vale's commitment to uphold Impacts and Benefit Agreement moving forward. The IBA coordinator has been working with

Vale on contractor demobilization ensuring that contractors in Voisey's Bay follow the IBA demobilization process. Mr. Speaker, Vale hosted winter shipping information sessions from January 27th to 29th in Hopedale and Nain. Discussions included Vale's proposed winter shipping schedule and an opportunity for community members to ask questions and express concerns. The quarterly Tasiujatsoak Committee meeting was scheduled for February 27th but has been postponed until a later date. Torngat Mountains Co-Management Board had a virtual meeting on February 18th. Discussions included updates from the CMV, Parks Canada and a continued discussion on management of caribou in Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve. Parks Canada also provided an update on the proposed 2025 season. Mr. Speaker, Parks Canada has assigned John Wall as the new Field Unit Superintendent for Labrador replacing Eric Nielson. John started in his new role on January 31st and will oversee the TMNPR and MMNPR activities moving forward. The Mealy Mountain National Park Reserve Co-Management Board had a virtual meeting on January 21st. Discussions included updates from Parks Canada on the work that is happening in Mealy Mountain National Park Reserve. Mr. Speaker, the IBA Coordinator is working with Parks Canada on hiring a community liaison in Rigolet as part of the Parks Impact and Benefits Agreement. This is a key position that will connect the community of Rigolet to Parks Canada as it relates to the MMNPR. "Non-Renewable Resources." Since the last Assembly meeting, Non-Renewable Resource Division has been engaged in the following files

pertaining to mineral exploration: Mr. Speaker, Aurora Energy has been approved for a diamond drill program. The winter program started on February 27th. Drilling is scheduled to start at Michelin in the first week of March until mid-April, and again from July to mid-November. Aurora has been approved for 129 drill sites totalled 10,000 meters of diamond drilling with two rigs. Mr. Speaker, the Non-Renewable Resources and Lands Division will be Annual Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada Conference March 2nd to 5th in Toronto. This year they have a booth to encourage and promote exploration in our region. Mr. Speaker, the Geological Survey of Canada, Gem Geo North Program and the Geological Survey of Newfoundland and Labrador held a public session in Nain on January 27th and met with the Non-Renewable Resource Director to discuss their upcoming field research programs for Nain and Hopedale. The GSC plans to visit the other communities this spring and update the public on their ongoing research and findings. Finally, Mr. Speaker, the Division and Human Resources are still in the recruitment process for our Mining Analyst vacancy. We are hoping to have this position filled. "Environment Division." Mr. Speaker, the Environment Division, through the support of Nunatsiavut Government Climate Change Committee has finalized the Nunatsiavut Climate Change Strategy with approval being received with by Nunatsiavut Executive Council on February 12th. The strategy will be launched on March 25, 26 in Nain with a celebration event and community feast. Community Members that participated in development of the strategy from throughout

Nunatsiavut, Upper Lake Melville and the Canadian Constituency are participating, as well as the Provincial and Federal Governments and representatives from the Inuit Community Governments. For the Environmental Assessments for the New Nain Airport, both Canada and the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador have released the project from assessment with conditions. However, Nunatsiavut Environmental Review is continuing and will ensure that the negative impacts of the project under Environment to Inuit are minimized, while ensuring the project meets the environmental expectations of Inuit. This work is supported by the Assembly Committee for this project. Winter Research Programs in the Environment Division are underway focusing on areas such as monitoring of sea ice, understanding ocean temperature and salinity, and focusing on a winter research program out of Torngat Mountains Base Camp and Research Station. Additionally, planning for the summer research station-, sorry, research season, is underway including planning for the annual co-led Nunatsiavut Government and DFO Research mission onboard the Canadian Coastguard ship Amundsen this summer. *Nakummek.*

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. We will now hear from the Honourable Gerald Asivak, whenever you're ready, sir.

MR. ASIVAK:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. I'll provide updates in Tourism. The Division of Tourism is continuing to work on many projects within our Tourism Strategy. A few, including finalizing the 2025 Nunatsiavut Visitor's Guide, drafting job descriptions for Tourism staff, for each of the Inuit

Community Governments, and ongoing Tourism development support to communities. We are working on offering storytelling and Inuit game workshops within our communities. Our hope is also to offer hospitality training for frontline staff at the same time, to help community members who offer story telling and Inuit game demonstrations to visitors become more comfortable with the experience that they offer. The first storytelling workshop is scheduled for April in Rigolet, in partnership with the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador. The Division has been working on a long-term plan for Hebron for a few years. Now that we have extra Human Resource capacity, we are finalizing the plan to bring to the Nunatsiavut Executive Council for approval. The deadline for request for proposals for an operator for the Torngat Mountains Base Camp and Research Station and Hebron National Historic Site has passed. Staff are reviewing proposals and working with other departments that are involved on this file. We are working with the Impact Benefits Coordinator, Parks Canada and Innu Nation on a design concept for structure at Beaver Brook within the Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve, to help support community programming and tourism development. Staff attended the Aqsarniit Trade Show and Conference. Due to weather and a few of our staff and craft producers didn't make it. We had 11 of our 15 craft producers attend and all four of our performers. It was a success and we're still waiting on the final total of sales. Staff attended the International Indigenous Tourism Conference in Montreal last week. The conference provides a great opportunity to

connect with other Indigenous Tourism operators across Canada as well as media. Mr. Speaker, "Language and Culture." The second Language Summit will take place in Nain from May 6th to 9th, 2025. Invitations have been sent out and planning is taking place. There will be approximately 50 people in attendance, not including staff, from elders, Inuttitut activists, linguists and youth. The annual terminology workshop happened last week in Nain, from February 25th to the 28th. The workshop was originally planned for January 28th to the 30th but due to poor weather conditions it had to be postponed until February. The workshop had 15 expert Inuttitut speakers gathering to discuss and document terminology, and the focus this year was on assembly terminology. Once the terminology workshop is complete, staff will gather all terms and create a booklet. This will be helpful in translating Assembly terminology and will be helpful for the interpreters at the Assembly as well. The Aullâsimapvet Program preparations are taking place. We have launched the 2025 winter program and the deadline for applications was January 25th, 2025. There are six families chosen for the winter program. Training programs have also been organized for a Chainsaw Safety Course, Bear Guard Course and First Aid, which were held in Hopedale February 12th to the 14th. The families are working with the Aullâsimapvet coordinator, Brandon Lane on their safety plans and routes to ensure a safe and successful program. The Spring Program for 2025 is open for applications with the deadline having passed as of February 28th. The Spring Program will be for the months of April to

June. The 2025 Spring-Winter Program will depend entirely on the safety of travel and ice conditions. This week we are launching the Indigenous Language Component, Nunatsiavut Government ILCNG Funding.

Historically, the ILC Funds have been administered directly by the Department of Canadian Heritage to Indigenous Groups. This funding is for external organizations to apply for up to \$150,000 annually for the Language and Culture Program and is now being distributed directly to the four Inuit Land Claim Regions for implementation. Applications will be accepted twice a year, March 31st and September 30th. Funds have been approved for the Indigenous Language Component Funding to include more staff under our division from 2025 to 2028. We'll be working with Human Resources to advertise the positions of additional language program community workers in Makkovik, Rigolet and Postville.

Two Language Nest trainees, one in Nain, one in Hopedale and one Interpreter Translator Trainee in Nain. Staff are continuing to take the lead for the Language Strategy. Year Four activities are now occurring. These include the Ilin-nia-Ka-tigen-nik Program, Tupik Program, elders socials, Language resources, sewing programs, flat making, et cetera.

"Nanilavut Initiative." There is currently a request for proposals for artisans or artist teams to design and create a monument in memory of the Labrador Inuit who died of Tuberculosis. The monument will be permanently located in the Assembly Building in Hopedale. The deadline for the RFP is March 17th, 2025. The RFP also includes four smaller replicas of the monument that will be for each of the other four

Nunatsiavut communities. There will be an unveiling event for the monument in Hopedale, tentatively scheduled for October 2025. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, "Archaeology." NG Archaeology is still vacant two positions which we hope to have filled in the coming months. The NG archaeologists participated in the first round of training for the Collections Management Software. This software will be the holding and inventory for all Nunatsiavut Heritage and Archaeology collections currently within our possession with room to add items that are vested in the Nunatsiavut Government since the effective date. Repatriation requests are increasing, highlighting a potential need for dedicated staff for this important part of Inuit Heritage management. The policy remains a priority to complete. NG also has Inuit Cultural Material and artifact collections from archaeologists that are all currently being held externally. These items are linked to the identity of our People and should be considered when we think about repatriation. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Minister of Language, Culture and Tourism. Recognizing the Minister of the Department of Education and Economic Development. Whenever you're ready, sir.

MR. EVANS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll do just a brief update from the last Assembly sitting. A brief update probably doesn't do justice to the work happening in my department. Okay, as a reminder of our annual plan for the division focuses on Business Development, Community Development, Policy, Data Collection and Offering Supports. I'm sorry this is the

Economic Development update. From Business Development, from January to February the division had two businesses in Cultural Services, Artisan and Food Services added to our Inuit Business Registry. Our Registry is currently at 264 businesses. We have received one package from Vale with our division submitting two Inuit Business nominations and one Qualified Business Entity nominations. And this is with the Procurement. There are a total of 12 business clients, six in Start-up and six in Growth. Under Community Development, I'll just-, it's-, I've already mentioned them before, but I'll mention them again because they're part of the fiscal year. We have two funding programs, the Community Economic Development Fund, the CEDP, and our Fiscal Financing Agreement, the FFA. These encourage community improvement initiatives, sustainable employment and local economic development projects. We have approved the following community investments-, and I'll just go over them again-, \$9,400 for the Makkovik ICG Cemetery Expansion Project, \$81,000 for the Hopedale Inuit Community Government Cemetery Expansion Project, \$27,000 for the Rigolet ICG Netloft Restoration Project, \$64,000 for the Rigolet ICG Tourism Coordinator Position, \$21,000 for the Makkovik Inuit Community Arena Assistant Positions. Also there was \$50,000 for the Rigolet Inuit Community Grasswork Production Project, and finally there was \$150,000 for the Torngat Fish Producers Cooperative. This provides employment in Nain and provides \$13,000 pounds of char to the Community Freezer Program operated by the Environment Division. This

is still ongoing, so we are reviewing two Fiscal Finance Agreement applications, the floating dock replacement and boardwalk from the Rigolet Inuit Community Government. We continue to work with the Division of Tourism to draft a program to expand the Community Development Tourism Officer positions at the Inuit Community Governments, the CDO. This program is expected to increase the level of funding to \$60,000 annually to each ICG. It'll operate on a monthly year funding model and have formal supports between the Nunatsiavut Government and the Inuit Community Governments. We expect this program to be available early in the new fiscal year. Under, "Policy and Data Collection," the Community Economic Profile Project-, this was in partnership with the Harris Centre, is finalized. And we will release the profiles of each Inuit Community Government through a social media and website campaign in mid-March 2025. We are working with the NLWIC-, I think this is the Newfoundland Workforce Innovation Centre and the CNA, the College of the North Atlantic, to hire a student this winter to complete the framework and data collection for our skills labour database, working to understand the best practice with the LATP, Labrador Aboriginal Training Partnership, and the Education Division. We are hoping to launch this summer. Also, Mr. Speaker, we are preparing a Request for Proposals for Labour Market Study and analysts on the cost of living in Nunatsiavut in comparison to the cost of living outside, like in other regions. These reports are expected to be completed in summer 2025. Under our Self-Employment Program, we have completed three

clients under this program. This provides EI-type benefits for six months to new Inuit-, new business start-ups. The program has provided \$49,764 in investment in business start-up support. And this program is continued, like-, so it's still open for applications. Under, "Financial Support," the Division launched its Annual Financial Support Program for businesses to attend industry events, including, like, \$10,000 to support three Inuit businesses and because of weather only one was able to attend the Atlantic Indigenous Procurement Connector in Moncton. And this is February 3rd to the 5th of 2025. Also there was \$29,000 in support for five Inuit businesses, and unfortunately, due to weather, only four were able to attend the Aqsarniit Tradeshow and Conference in Ottawa February 17th to the 21st. The, "Small Business Tour." Our business development staff are completing the final legs, Nain and Rigolet of the Small Business Tour in March 2025. We visited Jens Haven Memorial School February 13th to discuss business entrepreneurship. A community session will be held in Nain in March. The Rigolet event will take place from March 12th to March 14th. This includes one-on-one sessions with start-up plans in Inuit businesses, a high school engagement session and a community engagement event. One moment, Mr. Speaker. Sorry, can I do the brief update for the Education Division, or should I wait until Day Two?

MR. WINTERS:

As per Standing Order 29(3), I do need to ask for everyone's approval to move beyond 35 minutes. All in favour? Okay. Whenever you're ready, then, Minister, you can continue. *Nakummek.*

MR. EVANS:

Okay, thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's just a brief update to the Education Division. The Division is quite busy with, they have 28 supports that they provide in the-, for the Postsecondary Student Support Program-, I mean, the Education Postsecondary Program. So this is the update for Education. Under, "Current Students," our winter semester is well underway. Right now we have currently 241 students enrolled in postsecondary studies and being supported by the Nunatsiavut Government Education Division Funding Program. A hundred and eighty-five of these clients are being supported fulltime and 56 are receiving part-time benefits. In addition to these numbers we are supporting six Adult Basic Education students at our learning centres in Nain and Hopedale. Also, we are supporting one beneficiary under our work experience program. The application deadline for the fall semester was March 1st, however, beneficiaries can still submit applications and the late applications will be looked at after the on-time applications are processed. We have approximately 75 to 80 on-time applications for the fall semester. I'll just briefly touch on the serious situation in our schools in our communities in Nunatsiavut, the teacher shortage. We're continuing to monitor this-, the teacher shortage situation and my department is working with the Labrador Schoolboard Office to try and find solutions to this nationwide problem. We are currently also exploring other options for a possible delivery of a teacher training program in Labrador. And we hope to have more progress made over the next several months. For-, under, "Career Trips," the call had gone out

for interested Grade 11 students from Nunatsiavut and Upper Lake Melville who are interested in participating in the Grade 11 Career Trip. This year the group will be traveling to Halifax with plans to visit postsecondary institutions in the area as well as get a taste of city life. Thirteen students have been selected from Nain, Hopedale and Makkovik and Upper Lake Melville. There were no applicants from Postville or Rigolet, despite reminders being sent out. Students and chaperones are scheduled to explore Halifax from March 17th to the 21st, 2025. And just a brief update on the Inuit Nunangat University. The location of the university will see a main campus in one of the four Inuit regions with a smaller satellite campus in each of the remaining regions. Work is underway to gather all information that'll be required for leaders to make decisions regarding locations of all four sites. There's currently an Expression of Interest out or interested groups/municipalities can complete a survey to provide information about their community as a possible location for the mail campus. The survey can be found on the ITK website or you can contact our Director of Education for the link.

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Minister. Would another Minister like to give their statement? Recognizing David Dicker, the Minister for the Department of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology. Whenever you're ready, sir.

MR. DICKER JR.:

Nakummek, Uhattik. 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 the 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, "*Residency Information for Tax Administration Agreement*." There have been errors with tax filers incorrectly answering this declaration since effective date. Tax filers declared that they reside in Nunatsiavut when in fact they do not, and vice versa. As a result, CRA completes audits annually to ensure that the declaration has been completed correctly. Our department, Mr. Speaker, makes 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. I am pleased to inform the Assembly that these efforts are successful. In 2022 only 90 tax filers in Nunatsiavut did not complete the declaration correctly, a decrease from 122 tax filers in 2021. However, outside of Nunatsiavut, there has been an increase from 598 tax filers in 2021 to 677 tax filers in 2022 who indicated that they resided in Nunatsiavut

when they did not. Filing tax returns not only benefits the Nunatsiavut Government but in fact may personally benefit the tax filer. The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador will remit annually, \$500-payment under the Coastal Labrador Seniors Food and Heating supplement to seniors living in coastal Labrador communities, to help with the cost of food and heating. Residents have to have their tax return filed in order to receive this payment. The Government of Canada also has benefits available based on information provided through the filing of tax returns. These benefits include a GST credit, Canada Child Benefit and Canada Carbon Rebate. Our department, Mr. Speaker, will continue to complete outreach to tax filers and tax preparers. I respectfully ask all Members of the Nunatsiavut Assembly to share these notices and this information with their constituents and members of your communities and corporations. These efforts will make a difference.

Nakummek, UKatti.

MR. WINTERS:

Are there further Ministers statements at this time? Recognizing Mr. Gerald Asivak, of the Department of Language, Culture and Tourism, when you're ready, sir.

MR. ASIVAK:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. I'll be reading the acting Minister of Health and Social Development, Melva William's statement in her absence. Muriel Edmunds will be retiring in April after 36 and a half years in service with the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program. Her knowledge and expertise will be definitely missed. Well-wishes Muriel on a happy and healthy retirement. On a happier note, we are pleased that Johanna Tuglavina

has accepted the permanent position after several months as a casual employee. The new *Qanuippitaa?* National Inuit Health Survey manager has been hired. Welcome, Shannon Webb. She started this week. We are very excited to have this project back on track after an extended time with this position vacant. We are ready to report initial results back to communities and a schedule will be shared soon. Inuit Health Liaison Committee partnership with DHSD and Labrador Grenfell Health meets quarterly, and the most recent meeting was held January 21st. There were many agenda items but a couple of interest were concerns with pharmacies delivery to community, overflow situation at Labrador Health Centre, diversion of patients to Labrador City, and the need for improved communication between senior Labrador Grenfell Health leadership and DHSD. Mr. Speaker, under, "Family Services, Inuit Child First Initiative," Nunatsiavut beneficiaries are experiencing lag in approval time for applications for services and support under the ICFI. This is due to the application backlog at Indigenous Services Canada and the change in approach made by ISC in October, 2024. IFC funds and the IFC funding flows to the Nunatsiavut Government. NG can only administer the services and supports as the funding is allocated to NG. If beneficiaries have questions or concerns about the long wait times, please reach out directly to Indigenous Services Canada. The Nunatsiavut Government are working diligently in partnership with the other three Inuit regions in Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami to get answers and a timely service of the ICFI. We understand this is an issue across Canada, and we continue to lobby on

behalf of Nunatsiavut beneficiaries to Indigenous Services Canada. Of notable mention, Inuit are in the last year of our five-year proposal to Indigenous Services Canada for the administration of the Inuit Child First Initiative. It is uncertain what the ICFI will look like after March 31st, 2025 until we get a commitment from Canada. However, we are active and working toward a plan that is consistent with gaps in services and supports and are unique determinants of health. If beneficiaries are concerned or have questions regarding the status of their application, or the progress in general, we urge beneficiaries to reach out to ISC for more information. Indigenous Representative. The position is still vacant, and the Director of Family Services is the acting Indigenous representative until the position is filled. We have begun discussions on an information-sharing agreement with Children, Seniors, Social Development, that will assist with more information sharing between Family Services staff and CSSD. We continue to have trouble in working with the Department of CSSD as a whole, and hope that by developing concrete mechanism, it will allow for better information sharing as we strive for proactive case planning and better outcomes for children and youth. NG is leading this work and it is our goal to have the first draft submitted to CSSD by the winter of 2025. Mr. Speaker, under, "Mental Wellness and Healing," the Men's Conference in November was a huge success with many recommendations coming forward to assist with planning men's programs and services. We are waiting on the final report which we'll be sharing once received. We are planning some

events in communities to support mental health with all the impacts of climate change, inability to access land-based activities is normal. The first event focused on anti-bullying, Pink Shirt Day on February 26th. The second event will focus on Anti-Indigenous racism on March 21st. And there is a special event planned for all households in April, so stay tuned.

Inuit Mental Health First Aid was delivered in Rigolet in February. Mr. Speaker, under, "Community Programs," Rigolet is piloting a school lunch program for Nunatsiavut. Currently, DHSD staff are cooking two hot lunches per week which are delivered to the school and the children and youth take them home with them. We have advertised for a temporary worker to assist. We will be looking at expanding this program to other communities. Funding from Harvesters Support Grant will support the Nunatsiavut Government to deliver a meal kit program to all families in Nunatsiavut with at least one beneficiary living in the household. The program aims to improve food literacy skills for all beneficiaries by providing a nutritional meal with educational materials once a month. A monthly advertisement of the program will be distributed to raise awareness of the monthly meal box. For the duration of the program, a communication campaign will run to raise awareness and promote engagement and learning beyond a meal kit. Households will be encouraged to participate in a monthly contest where prizes will be awarded. "Mental Wellness and Healing, Youth Services." The Nunatsiavut Youth Symposium will be held March 17th to 21st in Nain. And the theme is Land-Based Healing. The Caribou North trip will be

taking place April 1st to the 4th, 2025 with seven youth from Nunatsiavut, Upper Lake Melville, and Canadian Constituency over the age of 18 participating. Individuals will be selected through an application process. "Trauma and Addictions." The Trauma and Addictions team launched their mobile treatment program in Nain in February and will continue to travel to Nain one week a month for the next five months. The Trauma and Addictions Team will also host treatment programming in Hopedale once this six-week program is complete. The Harm Reduction Specialist and Sexual Violence Prevention Outreach Counsellor have plans to offer Seeking Safety and Repair Programming in Nain in partnership with the Trauma and Addictions Program. "Justice Services." The FASD Coordinator position is filled with Georgia Abel of Hopedale. Welcome, Georgia. Staff continue to provide services and programming to inmates at the Labrador Correctional Centre. A presentation on Inuit Culture, Intergenerational Trauma, Impacts on Inuit Within the Justice System. On February 6th, 2025, Minister Williams, President Lampe, and DHSD staff met with Robin Fowler, Chief Justice of Provincial Courts NL to discuss challenges within the court system and how we can be working more closely together for change. This was an initial meeting and there are plans to meet on a regular basis as we move forward. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, Social Development. For the past few years, the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador has provided \$100,000 to Nunatsiavut Government for outreach activities in Happy Valley-Goose Bay in connection with the

Housing Hub Shelter. Effective April 1st, 2025, Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation has allocated an annualized commitment of \$100,000 support to the outreach team. This will have more stability for staff, program planning, activities, et cetera. So this is a welcome announcement. We received confirmation of a funding extension from Reaching Home until 2027-2028 which will provide operational funding for the shelters in Nain and Hopedale. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Minister. Is there another statement? Yes, recognizing Minister David Dicker, from the Department of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology, when you're ready, sir.

MR. DICKER JR.:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. I'll be providing the First Minister's statement in her absence. Under, "Membership and Enrollment," as of January 15, 2025, we have a total of 6892 beneficiaries on the Register of Beneficiaries. A Membership Workshop was held in Nain on January 27, 2025. The workshop focuses on training and development for the committees and the Appeal Board to ensure that criteria is appealed properly, and decisions are clearly defined. Members of the Nain, North of Nain Committee are Beni Ittulak, Don Dicker Jr., Susan Webb, Henry Lyall and Simon Kohlmeister. - Members of the Hopedale Committee are Shirley Broomfield, Ruth Flowers, Sarah Jensen, Christine Foltz-Vincent and Darlene Vincent. Members of the Makkovik-Postville Committee are Kate Mitchell, Cameron Andersen, Tyler Edmunds, Annie Evans and Shirley Goudie. Members of the Rigolet-Upper Lake Melville Committee are Inez Shiwak, Carol Matthews, Sam Palliser, Roger Shiwak and Jill

Williams. Members of the Appeal Board are Edward Allen, Celeste Andersen, Elizabeth Evans-Mitchell, Trudy Flowers and Emma Rose Murphy. I would like to thank all members of the Membership Committees and Appeal Board for their dedicated service and hard work on these very important files for Labrador Inuit. The Inuit Membership Database Development Project is entering its final phase which is likely to take another 18 months to complete. This phase includes the work required to continue adding family lines from Rigolet and Upper Lake Melville, Hopedale and Makkovik and Postville. This database will become an invaluable tool to preserve the knowledge of Nunatsiavut's Membership Committees and support them in their ongoing work. Scanning the remainder of files held in Nain and to add relevant information to the database. We will meet with knowledge holders from each community to review family lines and record information about key individuals. Once the database has been updated with this information, Know History team will meet with all member committees to review and confirm various ancestors. At the completion of the project, there will be training sessions, provide login credentials and develop a plan for a transfer or long-term database maintenance. Under, "Housing," Mr. Speaker, Nunatsiavut is still in a housing crisis. NG will continue to build homes where we can, repair homes through the Housing Commission, acquire and develop new land in effort to address this crisis. This week our Infrastructure Team will be presenting to, and consulting with Members of this Assembly on the development of the Nunatsiavut

Housing Strategy. When finalized, this strategy will be the guide to addressing the housing needs in Nunatsiavut for many years to come.

The strategy will guide us in developing housing and housing programs, not just for our most vulnerable, but for all Inuit in Nunatsiavut. I encourage all Members of this Assembly to engage thoroughly in this process as we work together to make housing better in Nunatsiavut.

"2025 Home Repair." Mr. Speaker, there are approximately 200 homes that require either major, minor, critical repairs in 2025. This includes 75 in the Affordable Warmth and Home Repair Program scheduled to start in June of 2025. This also includes 125 critical or emergency repairs that will be addressed as soon as possible. "Nunatsiavut Housing

Commission." Danielle Baikie is appointed as the new Chair of the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission, replacing Nicole Dicker, who had served as the Chair for the past two and a half years. NG thanks Nicole for her dedication to the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission and housing issues in Nunatsiavut and welcomes Danielle as the Chair of the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission. The Nunatsiavut Housing Commission Board has appointed Margie Fox as Vice Chair. Under, "Infrastructure,"

Mr. Speaker, the Nunatsiavut Government's Public Property and Infrastructure Team is intensively preparing for the 2025 construction season, prioritizing key projects and refining processes to ensure efficient delivery. This includes developing several large capital project tender packages with plans to issue them by late winter. This strategic timing will provide contractors ample opportunity to prepare detailed bids and

make necessary preparations for a successful construction season. There are approximately 25 infrastructure designs, strategies, and plans ongoing, or under development for 2025, from supporting ICG's to planning for Housing. There are approximately 35 new or ongoing infrastructure construction projects planned for 2025. "Current Capital Projects update." Nain staff housing six-plex, occupied; Nain office extension, finalizing for construction tender; Nain Shelter, new construction 2025; Nain fourplex, occupied; Hopedale fourplex, occupied; Nain and Hopedale seniors units, complete in 2025; Makkovik fourplex, staff social housing, complete in February of 2025; Regional Education Office Makkovik, complete in 2025; Rigolet DHSD, significant progression on the building has taken place in the summer of 2024. Work will continue on the building through winter of 2024-2025 and is on schedule to be completed in summer of 2025. "Implementation Committee." The Implementation Committee made up of representatives from Nunatsiavut Government, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Government of Canada are mandated to oversee the implementation of the Land Claims Agreement. The IC will meet on March 12th, 2025. On the agenda, Migratory Birds; harvesting outside of the claim area, amendments to the dispute resolution chapter, the Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-Management Board workplan; and the Torngat Joint Fisheries Board workplan. Tracy Ann Evans-Rice has been hired as a new Senior Policy Analyst for Nunatsiavut Affairs. The

Implementation File will be on her main files and we welcome her to this very important position. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Minister. I've received a note that says that the Hopedale Membership Committee Member you named as Darlene Vincent is actually Darlene Winters. However, I would like to remind the Members around the Table that it is not the role of the Speaker to correct the information provided. This note could've been sent directly to the Minister. At this time we'll be taking a 15-minute break. The snack is here. *Nakummek*.

[Recess]

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Welcome back. We are now on to Item Five, "Members Statements." Are there Members statements around the Table? First recognizing the Chairperson of the Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation, whenever you're ready, sir.

MR. MONTAGUE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since our last sitting, I attended the DHSD Seniors Consultation along with Ordinary Members Asivak and Andersen. This was a very informative and positive session where seniors in the community gave feedback and asked questions about the services offered by DHSD. On February 24, Sivunivut hosted an open house partnering with the Labrador Friendship Centre's Jenny Oliver, Indigenous Patient Navigator who spoke with our members and took questions about her role. Information was very well received, and we look forward to doing this again in the near future as navigating the health care system

can be daunting. Our Community Freezer continues to have a regular stream of people using the freezer, and each one expresses gratitude of this service. We have on average, 42 people a month visit our office, access foods from the freezer. On behalf of the members in North West River and Sheshatshiu, I would like to express a big thank you to the Nunatsiavut Government for making this possible. Weekly fitness classes are ongoing every Tuesday evening and alternating Tuesday afternoons of crafting and bingo are going over very well. Our Winter Supports for Seniors Program is in full swing meeting or exceeding our objectives. Every Tuesday afternoon we offer and arts and crafts or merchandize bingo. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. We will now hear from the AngajukKâk for Nain, Mr. Dicker.

MR. J. DICKER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is that better? Okay. The Nain-, Mr. Speaker, the Nain Wooding Project; this is going well with the addition of two people (inaudible) funding from the Nunatsiavut Government. They are a great help with the catch up and the (inaudible) identified is hoping getting out of the way. This year will show in its entirety how much that wooding project is going to cost each year. And last year I remember we started locally, late. And the NIGC would like to thank the Nunatsiavut Government for the support on this and Ordinary Member Roxanne Barbour and Nain Town Manager Benigna Ittulak for their hard work to get (inaudible). Mr. Speaker, with regards to our (inaudible) carryover to the service of CASD to complete all the services we had last year, they're referencing projected time so we can move to the new year. There are

many discussions and we're going to update them as we near the completion. We talked about going this week with the budget and more monies will be-, we'll identify more monies that we need in order to get the projects on the go. And more updates regarding the future for communities also. Lastly, the CEEP program was-, that's being finished again and (inaudible). That's all in my department for now. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk. We will now recognize the AngajukKâk for the community of Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers, when you're ready.

MS. FLOWERS:

Nakummek, Uhalitik. I missed the last Assembly sitting for medical reasons, so today I would like to acknowledge three more of our residents that have passed on. I send my deepest condolences and prayers to the families of Eva Winters, Winnie Abel and Sukie Abel. Abel is another one of our residents who had to leave our community because he could no longer be cared for at home, and there is no facility here in our communities to care for those who can no longer be cared for. So sadly, we bring our loved-one back to be buried. In his younger years, Abel played in a local band here and could play, "House of the Rising Sun," like no other. A man who loved his family and social gatherings-, always a smile and a wave to all. Winnie was often seen at the Amaguk playing a good game of darts with her husband David and her friends. Although quiet in nature, she was a loyal and true friend who loved her family and extended family. Solid and strong, that was our Winnie. Sukie was the rock of her family, a truly community-minded person. Sukie loved to make people laugh and carry on. Most of all, Sukie's work in life was

dedicated to working with the town in the Recreation Department. She was also elected as counsellor after she left recreation and went to work in Voisey's Bay. Strong as an oak in character and work ethic. Thank you, Sukie, for your service and hard work in our community. All three wonderful souls left this earth way too early. They are greatly missed. Their legacies will live on in their children and their grandchildren.

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk. We'll now hear from the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Andersen, when you're ready.

MR. W. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had the opportunity along with my colleague, the Honourable Gerald Asivak and the Chairperson from Sivunivut to attend a senior's gathering in North West River. And certainly, to sit down and listen to their experiences, the memories that they shared certainly gives us the impression that our seniors are among the greatest in the world. I listened to the AngajukKâk from Hopedale who mentioned of an elder who had to be removed from the community because she could not be cared for here in Hopedale. And again, Mr. Speaker, more and more in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, I'm seeing elders, beneficiaries, not just from North West River and Happy Valley-Goose Bay, but from the North Coast who are forced to move out of Labrador because there is no facility that can accommodate them in Labrador. Many of these people are people who were relocated. And many of them are residential school survivors. And in the last years that they have, they're moved away from family and friends. They're moved out of Labrador.

And when we look back over the years in every community, to see our seniors who only wanted one thing, and one thing only, was a better way of life for the children and future generations. And now we look at these people being moved, moved away from Labrador, moved away from their family. And Mr. Speaker, I honestly, and truly believe that as a Government we should do more. And furthermore, if the Federal and Provincial Government is sincere when they mention the words, "Truth and Reconciliation," then one of the things that they-, we should remind them to strongly look at is more adequate level care for seniors, because if they're going to preach Truth and Reconciliation, then how can they talk about truth when our seniors are being moved away from their homes and from their loved ones? And Mr. Speaker, I think as a Government, that we should seriously look at ways and means of which we can accommodate our dearly beloved seniors and in the last few years of their lives, give them a bit of respect and show honesty to them, by making sure that we have a place where they can be looked after. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member. We'll now hear from the AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Andersen, when you're ready.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to pass along our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of the last Reverent Olaf Andersen who passed away in late January, and had his memorial service on February 15th. I'd also like to thank at this time, Ordinary Member for Canada, Roland Saunders for sending out an email from the pastor in

Wisconsin that I can assure you I shared with the members of the family in Makkovik. Thank you, very much. (Inaudible.) Olaf Andersen was the first ordained minister in Makkovik, and in Labrador, from my understanding as a Moravian pastor. I'd also like to pass along my sincere condolences on behalf of Makkovik ICG, to the family of the last Joas Fox. Joas was originally from Nain, but was living in Makkovik for over 30 years where he raised his family. Joas will be missed by us all as he was a man of the land and sea where he spent his time, whenever he had a chance to do so. Joas was also a member of our Ground Search and Rescue Team for many years. He's knowledge on the land, especially in the winter at our searches was an asset. On a happier note, Mr. Speaker, Frank's General Store of Makkovik opened again in early February. While it's not fully stocked with hardware and items, Makkovikimiut can now shop there for food, skidoo parts, et cetera. It's just a great benefit to our community to have that back open. I would like to thank A&K Variety, Barry and Rachel and her staff, for all the hard work they did over the least eight months to keep Makkovikimiut supplied with groceries and other items. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk. We will now hear from the Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, whenever you're ready, Mr. Saunders.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. Hello, Assembly Members and staff. It's good to be back here again. Now, hopefully, we'll be here for a longer time this time. The last one was short, weather-wise, everything else. I'd like to welcome our new Deputy Clerk, Ms. Darlene Winters. And I hope your

work with us is a smooth transition for you and I wish you all the best in your new career. Welcome. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Deantha Edmunds Ramsay on her success as an opera singer and composer. She recently held a concert night with the Newfoundland Symphony orchestra along with two drummers, Sophie Angnatok and Ashley Dicker and with a very special choir, the Shallaway Youth Choir. Congratulations Deantha on your many, many musical achievements. Mr. Speaker, I would also like at this time to recognize the MHA for Torngat Mountains, Lela Evans. And everyone here does know Lela. She's been a constant and steady voice for her riding, but she lives in the Canadian Constituency. So we're taking credit. She has worked tirelessly for the district, and always keeps Labrador North in the eyes of the Government. And she speaks well. She's a true advocate for all people of Labrador, and I wish her well, and her assistant, a cousin of mine, Suzanne Ford. I wish them all well in the future and now we have to wait and see, Mr. Speaker, who's going to be the next Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member. Are there any other First Members Statements? Recognizing the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. Condolences to the family of the late Mr. Ross Humby of North West River. Congratulations to Earl and Nita Edmunds of Happy Valley-Goose Bay who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on February 25th. Governor General Mary Simon awarded recipients of

the King Charles III Coronation Medal on February 20th, 2025 at Rideau Hall in Ottawa. This prestigious award reflects Canada's commitment to Honouring people for their remarkable contributions to our country.

Congratulations to uor very own Isabella Pain. Isabella Pain, from Nain, Newfoundland and Labrador is a senior negotiator empowering Nunatsiavut by advancing significant economic drive, widening community reach and impact, and encouraging regional growth and prosperity. She was recognized under the category of, "Reconciliation."

Also, congratulations to Andrew Case from Happy Valley-Goose Bay for helping others heal from addiction and for engaging and supporting families whose loved ones are in recovery. Mr. Case was recognized under the category of, "Mental Health and Wellness." Congratulations to Jamie Jackman from Happy Valley-Goose Bay for advancing regional sustainability in agriculture through research and education, and for fostering collaboration amongst farmers, Indigenous groups and Government agencies. Mr. Jackman was recognized under the category of, "Nature and Environment." Lastly, Mr. Speaker, on February 5th and 6th, my colleague, Mr. Andersen, Chairperson Montague and I attended Seniors Consultations in the beautiful community of North West River. This event was hosted by DHSD Elders Coordinator Beverly Hunter with Seniors. There were presentations, information sharing, question and answer, great food, lively discussion with some laughs. Great job, Bev, and thanks to the seniors. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member. We will now hear from the Ordinary Member for the community of Nain, Mr. Dicker, when you're ready.

MR. DICKER JR.:

Nakummek, Uhattik. During this quarter, Mr. Speaker, I have assisted 27 Nunatsiavut beneficiaries of the constituency of Nain to complete the following: Helping beneficiaries in completing their 2024 income tax returns with the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program, who are unable to do their taxes on their own and receive their notice of assessment. Assistance to beneficiaries on obtaining new bank cards from the Bank of Montreal, and providing appropriate documentation, activation and updating their personal information on their files with BMO. 2025 Critical Repair Program applications and following up with beneficiaries about Emergency Repair Program applications, affordable rental unit applications and advising applicants of inspections on their homes; aiding beneficiaries in partnership with the DSHS in the Eviction Prevention Program by having funds to transport beneficiaries to live with their immediate families; help constituents in filling out the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Care Plan Card Replacement Information Update applications for renewal of MCP cards; helping beneficiaries with rental housing applications renewal with the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Association; working with the Department of Health and Social Development on supporting beneficiaries with their medical appointments outside the region and advocating for escorts for beneficiaries. Mr. Speaker, we held our Nain winter constituency meeting in Nain, Nunatsiavut on February 26th, 2025

from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the Pullakvik Room. We had a great turnout with a total of nine constituents in attendance. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I want to highlight that I have supported beneficiaries by addressing their questions, guiding them to their appropriate departments and doing everything within my power to assist and benefit the constituents of Nain. I remain committed to continuing my efforts to serve to the best of my ability as Ordinary Member for Nain. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member. Now, recognizing the Chairperson for the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, Ms. Kemuksigak, when you're ready.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. The Community Freezer is running really well thanks to the Community Freezer Coordinator Debbie Hynes' return. I wanna thank the people who came to work as casual call-ins during the time she was off. Belinda Andersen, Jackie Adey, Shirley Flowers and Evan Voisey. We want to thank the Department of Lands and Natural Resources for the char and moose we received. We received 10 cases of char in January and 15 cases of char in February. The moose is a really big hit for the elders, and people say it's really good. We had a Valentine's Elder's Social on February 14th with 52 elders in attendance. I wanna thank the staff and the Board of Directors for their assistance. We would not be able to take on large socials if we didn't have help from our board, as there's a large amount of preparation for the socials. It is well worth the work, though, when you see the smiles on the elders' faces. We are in the process of planning an outdoor event with elders

and youth, ice fishing. However, we are waiting for the ice conditions to improve. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of NunaKatiget Board and staff, we wanna thank the Honourable Ordinary Member Wally Andersen for Upper Lake Melville for reading and presenting NunaKatiget's petition in the January Assembly sitting. Thank you, Honourable Andersen. We'd like to thank the Nunatsiavut Government for approving our increase for the corporation for '25-'26. Wishing Muriel Edmunds a very happy and well-deserved retirement. Thank you, for your 37 years of hard work and dedication to our people. And we also offer aqua-fit twice a week to elders 60 and over at the YMCA. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Chairperson. Now recognizing the Ordinary Member for Nain, Ms. Barbour.

MS. BARBOUR:

Nakummek, Uhattik. I didn't prepare anything, so I'm gonna try to be quick as my colleague, Ordinary Member Dicker mentioned, we had our constituency meeting last week. And there were a number of discussions around that. A lot of them was around escorts for seniors. There was even a suggestion that came up, you know, for planeloads of seniors from Nunatsiavut to go to the clinic all at one time because what we're hearing in our community is that oftentimes, seniors or elders will just agree to what's being told to them and downplay their health issues, et cetera. I thought that was a really good suggestion and it was an action item that come out for me to try and see that come to life. A lot of the other conversations that we had...

MR. WINTERS:

I'll ask the Member to turn the mic away a little bit. We're getting some feedback. Just try to-, away. Thank you. See if that helps.

MS. BARBOUR:

A lot of the other conversations that we had were around Inuttitut, Inuttitut programming, and increasing the number of, or creating the number of interpreter translators within our communities, mostly because there are a lot of people in my community who struggle with learning. They might be scared to learn, and this is common knowledge. However, we don't see enough exposure programs, exposure to just Inuttitut. You know, I had the honour and the privilege to attend the Inuttitut terminology workshop organized by the LCT last week. And then at that time I didn't realize how much I forgot until I started listening to it. And it all came back to me like second nature. You know, so it's those types of programs that really supported our current interpreter translators, for example, like Katie, you know, who has been exposed to Inuttitut, who has been exposed to those types of programs, who had guidance in those types of programs. And there was even programs for interpreter translators in the past. And that was a lengthy discussion. It was a really good discussion. Another thing around Inuttitut and a suggestion that came out of that was that, you know, we have this wonderful Aullasimavet program and they were-, the questioning around that was if Inuttitut speakers are gonna be going with the families to help them learn while they're on the land, healing while on the land while also being stewards of the land. And there was lots of concerns around occupational health and safety, particularly around the need to have

these certificates when, for example, using a chainsaw is second nature to most of our young men and women in our communities. I understand the requirement for that, but it's still a conversation that's happening in my community and there's a kind of lack of understanding for that. There was lots of conversation around the Hunter's Fund for the *Tasiujatsoak Trust* because, you know, according to the Trust Deed there is dollars that was allocated to that. And there was questions around that. One of the other big conversations that we had was around CSSD and, you know, the welfare of our children being put at risk because of certain staff in senior positions within the CSSD acting discriminatory or the word racist was even used. And being advised that it's still happening today. So that's also a big concern in our community. Outside of that I would like to say, you know, over the last six months and over the last quarter, it's been really challenging for me, like, lots of personal things going on. It's been really hard for me to navigate through some of those things. And I even thought about leaving. I even thought about leaving. But I put a lot of thought into it and hopefully I can stay committed to doing such the work that we do. And I look forward to the ongoing work that's set to be done.

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. And you were right at time. So thank you. Are there any other statements around the Table right now? Yes, recognizing the AngajukKâk for Postville, Ms. Diane Gear.

MS. GEAR:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to send special condolences to the family of the late Ross Fudge. Ross Fudge was not from Postville,

but he was originally from Lewisporte, but he lived in Postville with his family for 20 years. So I'd like to send extra special condolences to his daughters. Also I'd like to say thank you to Shaun Jacque for taking the contract to do the winter trails. Postville Inuit Community Government choose not to do it this year, so Shaun has taken on the contract. Also, I want to say thank you to NG for the char and moose that was sent to-, for our Community Freezer. It's very much appreciated, and people really took advantage of it. We're once again short-staffed at our office. The town clerk has taken another job and the CEO is on extended leave. I want to wish all the students that will be participating in the Winter Sports Meet this weekend, I want to wish them all the best of luck. We are proud to be the host community this winter. Best of luck to each and every one there. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk. Are there any other first statements around the Table at this time? Yeah, recognizing the Ordinary Member for Postville, Mr. Gear, when you're ready.

MR. GEAR:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to congratulate the dart players that went out to try out for the Nationals this year. Terry Gear, the father, Terry Ford, the son, and Jenny Voisey, the daughter, all made it to the, to represent the Nationals for all Labrador, so-, and Graham Blake for making it this far. The three-, well, they're all from Postville but they're living in other places, a couple of them, so, but they, they're representing all Labrador so that's putting us on the map also. So they got pretty good aim there, so they'll be looking for some money for June for if they call

you for some donations and whatever. I'll say that now. And I'd like to congratulate all the nice work that was done to host the Pan Lab Choir and Lego Competition that was held here in Hopedale and congratulations to Makkovik for winning the Lego competition. And even though they was caught for extra five days, they-, Hopedale hosted them very well as usual. And I'd just like to say looking forward for that to happen again next year. And also the-, as my AngajukKâk said, that wish all the students all the best of luck in the what do you call it-, sports meet coming up which will be held in Postville. So I gotta give a speech now when they-, on Thursday, so I told them I hope I can get there in time. So make sure a plane comes in where I can get out there. So *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member. Are there any other first Members statements around the Table? Seeing none, are there any other second Members statements around the Table? Recognizing the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Flowers when you're ready.

MS. FLOWERS:

Nakummek UKatti. My first statement was an acknowledgement of our community residents who have passed on. My second statement is to acknowledge our living and our most precious resource and future leaders, our youth. Last week, students at ACMS traveled to Conne River to participate in the Provincial Table Tennis Tournament. They worked hard and won two individual medals, one in the boys' double, Draven and Joel, and one in girls' single, won by Bianca. Congratulations to Jocelyn Nochasak, Bianca Winters, Anne Dyson, Stephanie Bennett, Draven

Pijogge, Joel Kelleo, Issac Abel and Enrique Lampe on a job well done.

Mr. Speaker, if you walk past 3 Harbour Drive, you'll notice sealskins outside drying as well as a huge polar bear skin. This is the home of Inotsiavik Centre, an innovative group of youth who won the million-dollar Arctic Inspiration prize last year. Inotsiavik is a youth-led initiative dedicated to language and culture revitalization right here in our community. It is an accessible means to education and programming for all ages. They teach online Inuttitut classes, hold sealskin cleaning and kamik-making classes as well as bead-making classes and elder get-togethers just to name a few. I want to congratulate Nicholas, Vanessa and Veronica Flowers as well as Kim Pilgrim for the awesome job they are doing on culture and language revitalization in Nunatsiavut. Also, thank you to our elders Rosie Percy and Ross Flowers, who is a vital part of this awesome programming. And I'd like to congratulate Darlene Winters on her new position. It's really good to see our own up here. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk. I thought I was your own too. Now recognizing the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Andersen, when you're ready.

MR. W. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I wanna pass along condolences to so many people that we've lose, beneficiaries, Nain right down through Goose Bay and even in parts of the Canadian Constituency, that we have lost a lot of our good people over the last short period of time. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, I wanna pass on condolences to First Minister Melva

Williams and to AngajukKâk Sheppard who left their community yesterday to come to the Assembly and the short distance from Rigolet to here when they arrived to find that they had lost a family member. I wanna say congratulations to my niece Muriel, "Mu", Edmunds for her dedicated service over the years. And I'd just like to re-echo some of the stuff that the AngajukKâk from Makkovik said about Reverend Olaf Andersen. Reverend Olaf Andersen was also my teacher in Grade 3 and one of the highlights of growing up in Makkovik was when the pond in back of Uncle Tom Evan's house froze over, that we used to play hockey. And there was no such thing as picking sides. It was Montreal against Toronto. And God love him, Uncle Olie was a good Montreal Canadiens fan. In the pond, there was three or four rocks there and many times we played in the moonlight and when someone's skate struck a rock, you could see sparks. And I think that Olie hit that rock more than anyone else because sometimes when you see sparks fly from the rock some people would bellow out, "That must be Olie." But I know that he's-, when he became an ordained minister which is very seldom seen in our society today that a beneficiary becoming a minister, I recall, I think it was Reverend Ray Hunter from Hopedale who was ordained also. But I can remember the pride and joy on Aunt Alice and Uncle Torsten, Olie's parents when he became ordained. Uncle Torsten held many services as an elder. And he could go up there and he could give a sermon without marking even one word on a piece of paper. But certainly, we thank Olaf for the faith that he bestowed on the people and to his family and to the

hometown of Makkovik that again we've lost one of our great pioneers.

And condolences to his wife Rita and their family. Thank you, Mr.

Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member. Are there any other second Members statements around the Table at this time? Seeing none, that brings us to Item Six, "Returns to Oral Questions." Under Standing Order 34(3), a Minister has the option of reading the response to a written question. Would any of the Ministers like to read their responses at this time? Seeing none, the responses are all inside of your binders and will be added to the January Hansard. We are now onto Item Seven, "Oral Questions." Are there any oral questions at this time? Yes, recognizing Ordinary Member Barbour of Nain.

MS. BARBOUR:

Nakummek, *Uhattik*. My question is for the Minister of LCT. You mentioned in your statement that there's a long-term plan for Hebron within Tourism. My question is has-, was this long-term plan include relocatees from the Hebron and Saglek Bay area?

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Minister, whenever you're ready.

MR. ASIVAK:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. Ordinary Member Barbour, can you repeat the last location, please? Sorry.

MS. BARBOUR:

Saglek Bay. So Hebron North.

MR. ASIVAK:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker and Ordinary Member Barbour. I do not have the specifics as this is very preliminary. And we will inform the Assembly of future plans with regular updates in the Assembly and community

consultations when finalized. And we will keep in mind former residents and dislocates of Hebron and Saglek Bay. *Nakummek.*

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* The Minister has taken the question under notice and will follow up with more information in the future. Does the Ordinary Member have a follow-up question? When you're ready.

MS. BARBOUR: You kind of touched on it about keeping them informed. But I wanted to ask if they can be included in this planning.? As you mentioned, it's preliminary.

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

MR. ASIVAK: *Nakummek,* Mr. Speaker and Ordinary Member Barbour. Yes, I will take this under notice with your recommendation. *Nakummek.*

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

MS. BARBOUR: No, Mr. Speaker, but I would just like to thank the Minister. *Nakummek.*

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Are there further oral questions at this time? Recognizing the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Andersen.

MR. W. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And my question will probably be taken under advisement, but I have to ask it on behalf of the beneficiaries. Again, I might sound like a broken record but the salmon fishery is due to open in less than four months-time. And I know negotiations had been going on between the Department of Fisheries, Lands and Resources with regard of a quota for the Upper Lake Melville area. My question to the Minister is, with such a short period of time prior to the opening season, when can the beneficiaries in the Upper Lake Melville area expect an answer?

MS. BARBOUR: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS: What's the point of order?

MS. BARBOUR: This requires a detailed response from the LNR and the Minister isn't here. So I'm wondering if this should be pushed to a written question.

MR. WINTERS: I'm going to encourage the Ordinary Member as well as any other Ordinary Members who have questions for Ministers who are not in attendance currently to make all of them written questions to ensure that we actually get an answer instead of writing down an oral question that can be better phrased as a written question anyway. Are there-, sorry, I see that AngajukKâk Dicker has a question. Whenever you're ready, sir.

MR. J. DICKER: Thank you. *Uhalitik*. My question is to the Minister for the LCU I suppose, Culture, Recreation, Youth When is the building gonna open? The big building we got under in due to open since March of last year almost.

MR. WINTERS: Minister, you can answer when you're ready.

MR. ASIVAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Mr. Dicker for the question. There have been updates provided to the Assembly and we will provide another update as soon as possible, even outside of the Assembly. The holdup right now is the insurance. Dealing with the insurance companies and having to follow some of the protocols as all the work required is not being completed on time. Also we'll have a phase-in approach for all staff affected who are temporarily relocated to the Administration

Building in Nain. As soon as have a tentative open date of Illusuak, we will definitely inform the Assembly, the communities and the public. But of right now we don't have a set open date. *Nakummek*.

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

MR. J. DICKER: Yes, just to let the insurers know, I believe the problem has taken a long time getting their act together, whatever it is and why are you waiting on them? I'd just like to know when they expect (inaudible) seriously?

MR. WINTERS: Sorry, AngajukKâk, I'm wondering if that's a question.

MR. J. DICKER: Yeah, it is a question in a way that when is the insurer going to stand up or speak up when they are gonna be ready? We've been waiting a long time now.

MR. WINTERS: AngajukKâk, I'm not certain that that's a different question than the original question.

MR. J. DICKER: It may be-, sound like that it's a question to them as well as when is the insurer-, I don't know who the insurer is-, gonna go back and state that, okay, the insurance is ready or the (inaudible) is ready? 'Cause we can go back to them and they could say, you know, we're going to say that the insurance is ready, but it's not gonna be ready. You know what I mean? They should give a statement as to when they expect it to be ready. That's my-, what I'm leading up to.

MR. WINTERS: So if I'm understanding, for the clarity of the room, the first question was, "When will the interpretation centre be opened?" And the second question was, "When will the insurance be approved?" Is that correct?

MR. J. DICKER: I'm not sure. The insurer was-, had told the Assembly or the people who it's working for that it was ready to go ahead, but they weren't ready physically to do anything. When are they going to physically do what they're doing to get it ready? That's all.

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

MR. ASIVAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Mr. Dicker. As noted earlier, safety is of the utmost importance for all our staff, users of the centre and the community. We won't go in preliminary until it's completed. We are moving forward with it. We are in the final stages. I should've noted, however, we still have to get approval in consultation with other departments involved, including Nunatsiavut Affairs who are overseeing infrastructure, Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology under the insurance, and the employees and their wellness and safety as noted. So things will be updates as we get more progress on this very important file and hopefully we'll be able to provide in the very near future on dates. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*, Minister. So the response is that information will be provided as it's received. Does the AngajukKâk have a second supplemental question? Shaking head, "No." Thank you, AngajukKâk. Are there any other first questions around the Table at this time? Yes, recognizing the Chairperson of the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, Kemuksigak, when you're ready.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Honourable Tom Evans, Minister of Education, Economic Development. I'm wondering if you may be able to give an update on the LATP training program? Like for instance, how many beneficiaries were trained in a certain area, how many were hired and information such as that. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

I would like to remind the Members around the Table that questions where research for things like numbers, specific numbers within their departments should be listed as a written question because it is highly unlikely that a Minister is going to know the response to that question's specific numbers off the top of their head. So I would like to remind everyone around the Table to please submit written questions instead of questions they don't expect an answer to. Having said that, would Minister Evans like to provide some sort of a response to this question?
Nakummek.

MR. EVANS:

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you, to Chairperson from NunaKatiget. Yes, I have a report from the LITP. I don't have it with me. It was an update that was provided to me. So I can certainly, as the Speaker alluded to, I'll take it under notice, and I'll provide the information within 10 days. Thank you. Oh, I'm sorry, seven days.

MR. WINTERS:

Just as we're talking about numbers. *Nakummek*. Does the Chairperson have a supplemental question?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

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

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Are there any other first oral questions around the Table?
Yes, recognizing the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister for Finance, Information Technology, Human Resources, Minister Dicker. Now that the budget is done, my question is, how did you come up with the increase in budgets for the ICG's?

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

MR. DICKER JR.: *Nakummek,* AngajukKâk Marjorie for the question. I'll take this question under advisement. *Nakummek.*

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek,* Minister. The question has been taken under notice and I feel like there's going to be a fair amount of conversation on this topic tomorrow. Does the AngajukKâk have a supplemental question?

MS. FLOWERS: No, I don't. And I thank you for taking it into advisement.

MR. WINTERS: Are there further first questions around the Table at this time? Seeing none, would any of the Members like to ask a second question at this time? Seeing none, we will now take a break until one o'clock for lunch.
Nakummek.

[Recess]

MR. WINTERS: Can everyone do a headset check? I think that was human error. We're still missing one AngajukKâk, but we'll get underway. First of all, I would like to welcome the Grade 7 class from ACMS, Ms. McLain and Ms. Dicker and all of these students. Everybody can give a wave.

[Applause]

MR. WINTERS:

Thank you, all for your interest in the proceedings of our Assembly. To get back to the *Orders of the Day*, we have just completed, "Oral Questions." Recognizing the Ordinary Member for the Constituency of Nain, Ms. Roxanne Barbour.

MS. BARBOUR:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. As per Standing Order 22(1), I, Roxanne Barbour, Ordinary Member for the community of Nain, move, seconded by Roland Saunders Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, to set aside the ordinary business of the Assembly to discuss a matter of urgent importance to Inuit, requiring immediate consideration regarding the Inuit Child First Initiative Program.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Member. So at this point we will have a debate on whether this issue is urgent and should set aside regular business. And every Member may speak for up to five minutes if they wish to. But the presenting Member cannot speak again until they wish to conclude debate. We will take five minutes to circulate the motion. We'll be right back. *Nakummek*. For any Members who might have their Standing Orders handy, since an urgent matter isn't something that happens regularly, Standing Order 22 and 23 generally cover an urgent matter. And then later on you will see the regular rules of debate that we follow under Standing Order 39 to 45. *Nakummek*. Excuse me, Joedean if you could also pass one into the interpreter's booth when you have a chance, I would appreciate that, one of those. Does everyone now have a copy of the motion? I will now ask the Member proposing the motion to make a

statement of no more than five minutes before we begin debate.

Nakummek.

MS. BARBOUR:

Nakummek. As we know, the ICFI is not guaranteed funding after March 31st, 2025 and the purpose of the ICFI is to provide equal and adequate access to health, educational, social and cultural supports to Inuit across Canada. We know this is a collective issue but this motion pertains specifically to Labrador Inuit children and our constitutional responsibilities to Labrador Inuit children under Parts 2.4.21(c), 2.4.22, 2.4.23, and 2.4.30 of the *Labrador Inuit Constitution*. There are many families that rely on the ICFI to help lift Labrador Inuit children out of poverty and to have adequate and equitable access to the programs and services within Newfoundland and Labrador and Canada. And the intention of the motion is to call upon the NEC to implement and fund interim program of the ICFI until a long-term funding solution is obtained with the Government of Canada and the Inuit Treaty Organizations. There are currently resources and avenues within the Nunatsiavut Government that can do this. It is not impossible and that is the reason why this is put forth to you guys in the Assembly today. *Nakummek.*

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. We will now begin debate and I'll remind Members that you have five minutes each to speak on this point. You each get to speak once. And you may not ask questions of the mover because for her to respond would conclude debate. At this time are there any comments or statements on the motion that you have in front of you? Recognizing

Ordinary Member Andersen of the Upper Lake Melville, when you're ready.

MR. W. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I fully support the motion, fully realizing that many times, far too many times, we've seen our children fall between the cracks of Provincial and Federal regulations where they were left out. And certainly at a time when I think the children, Inuit children need to be heard too and cared for in so many ways, that I honestly and truly believe that this is a wonderful resolution brought forward and I fully support it.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. And just to provide a little bit more clarity because I think I may have been vague, the discussion at this time right now is whether this is urgent, technically urgent as far as the Standing Orders are concerned. But I appreciate the Ordinary Member's statement. Yes, go ahead.

MR. W. ANDERSEN:

Yes, and I fully concur that this is a urgent matter.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Would any other Members like to speak to the urgency of this item? Yes, recognizing the Chairperson of the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also concur that this is very urgent because children who are getting supported is gonna stop. And that's not good. So I believe it is a very urgent meeting that needs to be dealt with right away. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS: Would any other-, yes, recognizing the Honourable Tom Evans, Ordinary Member for the community of Makkovik.

MR. EVANS: It's not-, I agree that the matter's urgent, like, when they prorogued Parliament we knew that there was funding at risk. But I'm just wondering, like, where the Budget is done, like, would this be something that we'd have to address outside the Budget, or?

MR. WINTERS: Member, you may not ask questions of the mover...

MR. EVANS: I'm sorry.

MR. WINTERS: ...at this time.

MR. EVANS: That's the question I'm just wondering is like where will it be budgeted? Like, it's urgent and we have to address it but I'm wondering, like, is there any consideration where we're gonna fund it from, you know?

MR. WINTERS: At this time, your option is to make a statement or comment based on the matter of urgency, not ask questions. This is not a discussion point, but if you would like to continue and complete a comment or statement, you're welcome to.

MR. EVANS: Yes, I agree completely with the urgency of the matter and I'll ask the other question later.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Are there any other comments around the Table? Yes, recognizing President Lampe, when you're ready, sir.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: *Nakummek, UKatti.* Certainly the urgency is real, especially with the Federal Government, you know, election looming over Canadians and

this program has been through the Inuit Crown Partnership Committee Table, has been raised as a very important matter to the Inuit across Inuit Nunangat including Nunatsiavut. And so-, and also with the Provincial election also looming over Newfoundlanders and Labrador, is including Nunatsiavut Inuit. So the service of the Federal and Provincial Governments, you know are going to stop at a point where Labrador Inuit children needs are, you know, at it's greatest. And so, this is very important for Nunatsiavut Government and also for Labrador Inuit, most certainly, Labrador Inuit children and our grandchildren also. *Nakummek, UKatti.*

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Mr. President. Are there further comments or statements around the Table regarding the urgency of this item? Recognizing the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers, when you're ready, ma'am.

MS. FLOWERS:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. I fully support this matter and I truly believe that it should be brought before the NEC now and also once it's brought before the NEC-, I don't know if I can ask this question, do-, can...

MR. WINTERS:

Questions can follow.

MS. FLOWERS:

Okay. Thank you. I'm just saying I think it's very important. It's a very important matter for our Inuit children and their families. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk. Are there further comments or statements? Recognizing the AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen.

MR. B. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, as a comment for the last paragraph, "And whereas the Nunatsiavut Government already mechanisms? So it should be...

MR. WINTERS: AngajukKâk?

MR. B. ANDERSEN: Yeah.

MR. WINTERS: Just about the urgency.

MR. B. ANDERSEN: Okay.

MR. WINTERS: The, the...

MR. B. ANDERSEN: A typo.

MR. WINTERS: ...continuing debate would get into the whereas.

MR. B. ANDERSEN: Okay. So, the comments part of it is out of the question? I'm just commenting on the typo maybe or for the English language, maybe you want...

MR. WINTERS: And that can, that can also happen in the...

MR. B. ANDERSEN: Okay.

MR. WINTERS: ...next section. Right now it's just a matter of commenting on the urgency.

MR. B. ANDERSEN: Okay, thank you.

MR. WINTERS: Are there any further Members statements or comments right now? Yes, recognizing AngajukKâk Gear. Just a reminder everyone you don't need to stand to say that you do or don't support it. It's just if you want to

comment on the urgency, this will be going to a vote. *Nakummek.*

AngajukKâk Gear of Postville, when you're ready. Your mic, ma'am.

MS. GEAR:

I fully support the petition and I also think it's very important that our children be taken care of as well as their families. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Any further comments or statements? At this time I'll ask if the Member would like to conclude debate?

MS. BARBOUR:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. I would like to conclude debate.

MR. WINTERS:

The question now is whether the Assembly agrees this issue is urgent enough to set aside the regular business of the Assembly to be discussed. A simple majority is needed. All those in favour? Any opposed? Seeing none, we will proceed to debate. Member, would you like to start debate?

MS. BARBOUR:

Yes, notwithstanding Standing Order 57(1), that talks about money, bills or appropriations. That's not what I'm trying to do or say. But I heard from the Member from Makkovik about funding such a program, an interim program that is specific to Labrador Inuit. There is a potential avenue for funding, and it's outlined in the Labrador Inuit Constitution in Section 8.5.5 that reads that the NEC-, the Government has to provide for a contingency fund. In the prepared Budget Plan by the FHRIT, that said contingency fund is currently accumulated to \$9.45 million. One of the reasons those funds can be appropriated for is responding to an urgent and immediate need to implement a new program or service for the good of the Labrador Inuit. So that's where this is coming from. That's where

that idea is coming from. And then I'll leave it there. I've already said what I needed to say in introducing the motion. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Are there any other comments or questions around the Table regarding this motion? Yes, recognizing AngajukKâk Andersen of Makkovik, when you're ready.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now just to my previous comment earlier, maybe the mover will recognize that maybe there is a just a typo and the last paragraph and I say from her just recent statement that this is where the resources are coming from. Whereas the Nunatsiavut Government already has mechanisms and resources in place to support the Inuit Child First Initiative on an interim basis. Just a slight edit a word there, maybe.

MR. WINTERS:

I will now ask the Member, because I should have already, to read the motion top to bottom and good eye, AngajukKâk on the error. If anyone else can keep an eye out for such mistakes, that would be appreciated.

MS. BARBOUR:

Nakummek, Uhattik and Nakummek Inukatiget for the unwavering support. I really appreciate it. It's-, I'm nervous even. I'm just kinda nervous. But anyways, the motion is as follows: Whereas the funding for the Inuit Child First Initiative Program is not guaranteed after March 31st, 2025 and whereas the Inuit Treaty Organizations, the ITK and Indigenous Services Canada are working collectively to reach a long-term funding solutions for the four Inuit regions including Nunatsiavut; and whereas until the said funding agreement is reached, Labrador Inuit children after March 31st, 2025 will not have equitable and adequate access to the

health, educational, social and cultural programs and services within Newfoundland and Labrador and Canada; and whereas the Nunatsiavut Assembly has a constitutional responsibility to Labrador Inuit children, under Sections 2.4.2(c), 2.4.22, 2.4.23, and 2.4.30; and whereas the Nunatsiavut Government already has mechanisms and resources in place to support the Inuit Child First Initiative on an interim basis, therefore I, Roxanne Barbour Ordinary Member for the community of Nain move, seconded by Roland Saunders, Ordinary Member of the Canadian Constituency that the Assembly call upon the Nunatsiavut Executive Counsel to immediately implement a program starting April 1st, 2025 and ending upon the achievement of a long-term funding agreement between the Inuit Treaty Organizations, the ITK and the Government of Canada for the ICFI that is specific for Labrador Inuit children, and responds to their urgent and immediate need for continued, equal and adequate access to health, educational, social and cultural services within Newfoundland and Labrador and Canada.

MR. WINTERS:

Are there further questions or comments around the Table at this time?

Yes, recognizing AngajukKâk Andersen of the community of Makkovik.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would it be appropriate for us as Members sitting at the Table here to get a copy of the Labrador Inuit Constitution Section 2.4.21(c), 2.4.22, 2.4.23 and 2.4.30? Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Sorry, I missed part of that. What was the-, sorry.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Sorry, Mr. Speaker. I was just asking for a copy of the referred sections to the Constitution for context.

MR. WINTERS:

Sure, yeah, absolutely. We can print those and circulate them. Please while this is happening, everyone else take note of any questions or comments of similar nature. We're gonna circulate them anyway.

Ordinary Member Barbour, if you'd like to read out those clauses in the meantime while they're being printed for circulation, you're welcome to. I think that, that could probably help provide some context in real time. *Nakummek.*

MS. BARBOUR:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. So 2.4.21 reads the rights of children; 2.4.21(c) states, "Every Labrador Inuk under the age of 16 has the right to basic nutrition, shelter, health care services and social services." 2.4.22 of the *Labrador Inuit Constitution*, reads, "The best interests of children." A Labrador Inuit child's best interests are of paramount importance in every matter concerning the child which is to be decided by an institution of Labrador Inuit Government, Court or Tribunal. 2.4.23 reads, "Water, Food, Health Care and Social Services." Every Labrador Inuk has the right to have access to water, food, health care and if they are unable to support themselves and their dependents appropriate social services. And every Labrador Inuk has a responsibility to provide for his or her own wellbeing in accordance with his or her abilities, to be a self-sustaining, productive member of Labrador Inuit society in accordance with his or her abilities to share food and shelter with those Labrador Inuit who are in need, and to protect children, the elderly and those Labrador Inuit who

are vulnerable or helpless. 2.4.30 reads, "Financial Obligations of the Nunatsiavut Assembly in relation to Inuit Social Rights." The Nunatsiavut Assembly must take reasonable legislative and other measures within its available financial resources and other priorities to achieve the progressive realization of the rights referred to in Sections 2.4.21, 2.4.23, 2.4.24, 2.4.25, 2.4.26 and 2.4.28. It also continues to read, "But nothing in any of those sections, a) obliges the Nunatsiavut Assembly or the Nunatsiavut Government to impose a tax, borrow money or incur a deficit for purposes of the realization of those rights, b) prevents the termination of a program or service in respect of a matter referred to in any of those sections, c) prevents the establishment of terms and conditions to provide for the recovery of the costs of supplying programs and services in respect of a matter referred to in those sections or d) prevents the recovery of funding provided to individuals in accordance with the terms and conditions governing the provision of the funding or program or service." That's what those sections read.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. I'm uncertain how long it will take the Deputy Clerk to copy them. So I appreciate you vocalizing that. Did any Members around the Table have any statements or comments or questions about this motion at this time, beyond what has already been said, of course? Recognizing the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question, it has to do with, I'm sorry, the funding. So I don't know if-, where the money is gonna come from. I don't know if this is an appropriate question to ask now or later. I know

that it's saying that it's-, they already got mechanisms in place, but this is a huge amount of money that we're talking about and I'm just wondering, like, do we have, even though there's money in reserve, there's a lot of things going on in the world today and I think that we as a Government need to be careful what we're, we're doing when we're making good financial decisions. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

I fully appreciate the sentiment in the statement. What I will say is that this is a motion for the Assembly to make a resolution for the NEC to find a way of doing this as opposed to a direction for the NEC to do this in any particular way. So we have no means of drilling down into what the details of what this would look like, just that the Assembly is stating that this needs to be a priority of the NEC. So we can't-, like, yes it's the week of the budget, et cetera. There are no details. So we can't really debate what the details would or wouldn't be. As a resolution, this would go to the NEC.

MS. FLOWERS:

So if I'm hearing you right and I understand it, all we're doing right now is just deciding what is gonna go into that resolution to pass on to the NEC?

MR. WINTERS:

No. This is the motion. Unless we were to make an amendment to this motion, the motion is saying that the Assembly resolves that the NEC needs to come up with a solution for the end of this Federal funding. And we are not in the Committee of the Whole, so I just wanna remind people that we're not going back and forth on this. You have one opportunity to speak. But as an urgent matter isn't something we exactly do every couple of sittings, there's always grace. *Nakummek*. Are there any

further questions or comments at this time? Yes, recognizing the Ordinary Member for the community of Makkovik.

MR. EVANS: I'm not sure if I can ask it.

MR. WINTERS: Stand up, sir.

MR. EVANS: I'm not sure if I can ask this or, like, with the urgency or whatever. Like, it's urgent. But April 1st, until achievement of long-term and we know there's an election coming up. So what happens if there's no-, if we just keep funding it through the means that the Minister identified? I'm not sure if I can ask that. (Inaudible.) Sorry, I, just, like, we all agree that it's very urgent and there's also challenges with the criteria from the Federal Government. I was wondering, like, do we have an estimate of how much we spent last year on the program, so, like, we'd have an idea, or is that discussion for another day?

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* That would be a discussion for the members of the NEC. At this point the discussion is to resolve for the NEC to take on this project. We do not make a habit of fortune telling or making assumptions about what is going to happen politically, especially in other spheres. So this motion is what's in front of you. There are no further mechanisms or wheels and cogs behind that. *Nakummek.*

MR. EVANS: Thank you, and...

MR. WINTERS: Again, we're not in the Committee of the Whole.

MR. EVANS: Okay.

MR. WINTERS: So...

MR. EVANS: And I think we're, we realized we're not into fortune telling or predicting.
So thank you for...

MR. WINTERS: Would any other Members like to make a comment or statement regarding this motion? Seeing none would the Member like to close debate?

MS. BARBOUR: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS: At this time I'll ask for a show of hands determining who is in favour of this resolution of adopting this motion. All in favour? Any opposed? Seeing none, the motion is carried. *Nakummek*. I wanna first thank everyone for their patience dealing with something we don't do often in this Assembly, in an urgent matter. And secondly, thank the Ordinary Member for the obvious amount of research and diligence put into this work. *Nakummek*. We will take a five-minute break at this time for you smokers.

[Recess]

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*. Welcome back into the Assembly. I would like to recognize the attendees of the Inosivut program of 10, 11 and 12, Ms. Dicker's class. Can everybody give a big wave-, as well as Mr. Abel. *Nakummek*. Thank you, for being here. With the conclusion of the urgent matter, we are now onto Item Eight "Written Questions." Are there any written questions today? Yes, recognizing Roxanne Barbour. Could one of the pages grab from her, her written question and bring it to the clerk please? Joedean, could you bring the other written question over here?

Oh, you've been beat to the punch. Are there any further written questions at this time? Seeing none, we'll take a moment to go over them. I'm gonna ask that people let me know who is submitting these questions? These small cut-off piece of paper here is from?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Mine (inaudible) and the little, yellow sticky note.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Chairperson. Please sign your questions, everyone.

Nakummek. After review, all seven written questions submitted are in order. That concludes written questions. We will now move on to Item Nine. Item Nine is, "Returns to Written Questions." Under Standing Order 34(3) a Minister has the option of reading the response to a written question. There are five returns to written questions from the January sitting. You will find them in your binders. Would any of the Ministers like to read their written question response? Seeing none, we'll move on to Item 10. Item 10 is, "Petitions." Are there any petitions today? Seeing none, we'll move on to Item 11, "Responses to Petitions." Under Standing Order 35(13), a Ministers has the option of reading the response to a petition. At our January sitting, a petition to the Nunatsiavut Assembly concerning NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation's budget was tabled. Would the Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology like to read his response? Shaking his head, "No," you will find it in your binder. This moves us on to Item 12, "Reports of Standing in Special Committees." There are no reports of standing in special committees today. We'll move on to Item 13, "The Tabling of Documents." I would like to recognize the

Honourable Minister of the Canadian Constituency, Mr. Saunders, when you're ready, sir.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I am pleased to table the following document, Nunatsiavut Assembly Budget 2025-2026.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. The document presented is tabled and numbered as follows 10-5(9). There are no more documents to be tabled today, so we'll move on to Item 14. This is, "Notices of Motion." I would like to recognize the Honourable Minister of the Canadian Constituency, Mr. Saunders.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, March 5th, 2025, I will move, seconded by the AngajukKâk of Postville, Mr. George Gear as follows: Whereas the Members Services Committee has tabled its Consolidated Budget Recommendations for the approval of 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 2025-2026; now, therefore, I move, seconded by the AngajukKâk of Postville, Ms. Gear-, I think, is it? No. That's what it says, Ordinary Member Gear, that tabled document 10-5(9), The Assembly Budget Recommendations for 2025-2026 be referred to the Committee of the Whole for consideration with Ms. Rexanne Crawford, the Comptroller of the Nunatsiavut Government as a witness. And Mr. Speaker, I am seeking unanimous

consent of the Assembly to waive Standing Order 37(1) to deal with this matter today.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with his motion today. All those in favour? Are there any opposed? Seeing none, Honourable Minister Saunders, you have the consent to bring your motion today at the appropriate time. This brings us to Item 15, "Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills." And there are no notices for first readings today. Item 16 is, "Motions." I will again recognize the Honourable Minister of the Canadian Constituency, Mr. Saunders.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. 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 2025-2026; now, therefore, I move, seconded by the Ordinary Member for Postville, Mr. George Gear, that Tabled Document 10-5(9), "The Assembly Budget Recommendations for 2025-2026," be referred to the Committee of the Whole for consideration with Ms. Rexanne Crawford, the comptroller of the Nunatsiavut Assembly Government as a witness.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*, Mr. 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, not at this time. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: I would like to apologize to the students that I didn't know were coming, otherwise I would've made sure you had headsets to hear this in Inuttitut. And I will welcome into the Assembly Chambers, Ms. Rexanne Crawford. Oh, apologies. I do need unanimous consent before I can do that. All those in favour? Any opposed? Seeing none, except the President smiling at me. We've moved forward. We are now in the Committee of the Whole as soon as Ms. Crawford joins us. *Nakummek*. Welcome to the Chambers, Ms. Rexanne Crawford and we are in the Committee of the Whole. If you would like to get started, you are welcome to.

MS. CRAWFORD: The document we'll be looking at today has the Assembly logo on it. It's called the, "Budge 2025-2026." And we'll start on page three. *Naku*. The opening table provides a summary breakdown of the Assembly budget for the 2025-2026 year. It shows a total of \$4,288,000 being budgeted for the Assembly operations for the upcoming year.

MR. WINTERS: Witness you are being asked to speak up a bit.

MS. CRAWFORD: So overall, there is \$136,500 increase in the budget from the 2024-2025 year. This report will highlight the significant variances in the budget from this year, or proposed for the upcoming year and the current year

we are in. Salaries and Benefits are proposed to increase by \$199,000.

The MSC engaged a consultant to complete a review of the salaries and

benefits for elected officials. The MSC has included the following

recommendations into their budget: Resetting the base salary for

elected officials to \$95,000. The base salary for the current year is

\$91,682. Therefore, an increase of 3.6 percent to \$95,000. The salary

will continue to be increased annually using the Consumer Price Index for

the preceding calendar year. This is the way that elected officials' salaries

are currently being adjusted annually, and has been since 2017. The

second reason there's an increase for the salaries and benefits is a

proposal to increase the indemnities for the First Minister, for Ministers,

for the Speaker and Deputy Speaker to the following: First Minister,

\$40,000. All ministers and the Speaker of the Assembly, \$25,000.

Deputy Speaker of the Assembly, \$11,000. The other variance for the

2025 and 2026 year relates to elections. As I note every year, the

elections budget will fluctuate depending on what cycle we are in in the

election. So the 2025-2026 year, budgets the amounts from January to

March as we're getting ready for the general election. And again, the

budget includes three Standing Committees of the Nunatsiavut Assembly,

Members Services Committee, Rules and Procedures Committee and the

Alcohol and Drug Committee. There is also an allocation provided in the

event that a Special Committee or Code of Conduct Committees have to

be struck during the year. The budget for the direct operating costs of

the Nunatsiavut Assembly includes funds to replace the audio-visual

system in the Nunatsiavut Assembly. This was planned for the current fiscal year. However has been deferred to the 2025-2026 year.

Nakummek.

MR. WINTERS:

Thank you, Ms. Crawford. Are there questions around the Table at this time? Yes, recognizing AngajukKâk Andersen from the community of Makkovik, whenever you're ready, sir.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess one of my first questions, and I sent an email to the NSC and I believe Ms. Crawford, I can't remember the exact date, but I asked a question of how much the consultants cost for this review. Do you have that handy?

MR. WINTERS:

Ms. Crawford, do you have that information handy? I don't off the top of my head.

MS. CRAWFORD:

I don't, and I apologize. I didn't get the email that asked for that amount, but I can definitely, get it for you. There was a public call. A RFP was released and proposals were received and proponents selected. I will-, I can speak to the process, but I will get you the information you ask.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. WINTERS:

Mr. Andersen, Ms. Crawford mentioned that she could speak to the process. Would that be of value to the Assembly and yourself at this time?

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

I understand the process. I'm not sure if it would benefit anyone else?

MR. WINTERS:

Are there other questions or comments around the Table at this time?
Yes, Ms. Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I was just-, from going through the report that we had from the consultants to this budget, there's been some things that are not in there, like, there was a recommendation for the AngajukKâks to have a indemnity. Is that how you say it? But that doesn't seem to be in there, and there was also a contingency for caregiving allowance for people who have to leave their home communities and they have children or other people that needs caregiving. Was there a reason that they weren't in there or I'm just wondering about the process? Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Would the witness like to respond, or for that matter, any of the other members of the MSC?

MS. CRAWFORD:

It's probably more appropriate for the MSC since I'm not a decision-maker on the MSC. I'm support staff.

MR. WINTERS:

Specifically, what I can say as Chair of the MSC is that there were...

MS. BARBOUR:

(Inaudible.)

MR. WINTERS:

I'm unclear, but I'm certainly not getting anything from the other members of the MSC right now, unless one of them would like to speak up. Give me a moment. Thank you, for bringing that up Ms. Barbour. It's something that I have done in the past and so I will continue to until someone makes me stop. In terms of all of the recommendations, quite a number of the recommendations that were in the proponent's report directed the MSC to continue work on these things. That is not to say that the MSC won't, but it was in the mandate of the MCS to focus on

salaries and benefits at this time and we will continue to work on and, or develop these processes and these policies, but these were the ones that were essentially direct recommendations that could be immediately put into practice, if that helps. Are there further questions? Yes, Mr. Andersen.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I think as everyone around this Table would probably recognize from my vocal stance on this issue, I guess, overall, just due to the fact that the ICG's and especially Makkovik Inuit Community Government, we are struggling. We had to revise our own budget to increase our staff salaries so that we wouldn't lose them or wouldn't go on strike at the end of this month. So I'm not sure how-, I guess I'm making a comment to say to the NEC, to the Assembly and to the Member Services Committee that if we give ourselves this large raise by approving this proposed increase, a lot of the increase that we'll see for some of the elected officials, especially the First Minister and the Ministers will be above and beyond what some of our people are living on today in our communities. So I just wanted to make it official that Makkovik Inuit Community Government is struggling. We had to revise our budget this last couple of weeks ago in order to stay afloat with our employees trying to retain them on staff. I think I've made myself pretty clear through emails circulating through the elected officials email groups over the last several months. So I'm just hoping that the NEC and Member Services Committee can have some compassion for all our workers and treat them fairly. We need to have them treated fairly and

retain them. I know Hopedale is struggling. Postville is gonna be struggling. We're all aging and there's not many people within our communities coming up to step forward into these positions unless we make it attractive, similar to what we're doing here now. We're saying that we need higher salaries to attract people to come to the elected service. For me my pay is \$91,000 a year. For those listening in the gallery, I think that's a pretty good salary for an elected official. And my stance is that I don't think that we should approve any wage increase until we get our ICG's on a sound footing. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Mr. Andersen. Yes, Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Just so all Members around the Table know, in terms of renewing our *Fiscal Financing Agreement* which is where we get funds from-, for operations of the ICG, we are working with the ICG's on getting a pro forma budget so that we can build our negotiation mandate to take to the Federal Government and negotiate much needed increases. We do know that we are good at providing data to the Federal Government and providing a solid case for funding. We've proved it in contribution agreements for proposals and for other proposals that we put forth for Fiscal Financing Agreement. And so that's the status of where we are in terms of the Fiscal Financing Agreement and renewing it. *Naku*.

MR. WINTERS:

Yes, first recognizing Ms. Barbour.

MS. BARBOUR:

I don't know if this is a conversation outside of that, but I did want to note that what's in front of us today is specific for the Assembly

Members, right? Although I sympathize with AngajukKâk Andersen, you know, it's also in the discretion of each AngajukKâk and each self-governed ICG to be able to negotiate those things with their union, one, and through the funding resources that's available to them, you know? As an Ordinary Member, me, it's not my responsibility to determine the salaries of your staff. And I just wanted to make that comment. *Naku-*, although I sympathize.

MR. WINTERS:

Mr. Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I wanted to echo as well, like, Ms. Barbour said, collective bargaining within the ICG's and the union is not held in the Assembly. That's strictly between the union and the ICG's. *Nakummek.*

MR. WINTERS:

Mr. Andersen.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Yeah, thank you, very much, Mr. Chairman. And I fully recognize that. The only reason I say that is because it's all coming from the same pot of money, from the FFA. We don't have bargaining power to offer wages compatible to Nain and any other group of workers within the field of our staff that we have to operate our water system, operate our heavy equipment. There's no plumbers in Makkovik. There-, like I said in emails, if you need something done in Makkovik, if Hydro needs a pole put up, they gotta come to the MICG. You can't-, there's no equipment everywhere-, anywhere. So I just wanted to say that I understand the FFA and the FFA dollars that they give to the ICG's is core funding and I

just wanted to point out as well that this is nothing new. I brought this forward and you can check Hansard for March 2019 is when I first started raising this issue. So it's nothing new to the Assembly or the NEC. I was fighting to run our Inuit Community Governments legitimately with all the assets that we have in our community that we can't cut any further. If we do cut, then somebody's gonna lose their job or we won't be able to thaw waterlines or anything like that. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Ms. Barbour.

MS. BARBOUR:

Nakummek, Mr. Chair. One thing I also did want to add to that was that, you know, in terms of the indemnities for the Minister, I can't remember how long since it's been that there was an increase, but I do want to say, you know, as a young Inuk woman, putting myself out there to try and advance the livelihood of Inuit in my community, I did not realize how challenging that would be. It nearly broke me. And I still think that this is not enough to do that, to be a Minister of the Government, I still don't think it's enough. So as a young Inuk woman in my community and knowing how many other people in our communities are so smart who are so capable to do such a job but choose not to, because of that reason or because of job insecurity. You know, this is not stable for life. I still don't think it's enough, but I agree with the recommendations that are put forth. And I cannot stress just enough, you know, when you make that sacrifice in your life, it's not just a professional sacrifice. It's a personal one. Your life comes under the microscope. You are not seen as a person anymore. You are only seen as a Minister of the

Government. And it's hard, you know, especially when if you're like me and just consider yourself simply low Inuk, no better, no greater than the next person, you know? I'm just me. Yeah. So I think it's-, I still think it's not enough, but it's great to see that this is what's put forth today. *Naku*.

MR. WINTERS:

Yes, recognizing Ms. Flowers of Hopedale.

MS. FLOWERS:

Thank you. I just want to echo AngajukKâk Andersen's sentiments around the budget and just to, for the record, just to show people how hard it is to run a Government, how hard it is to run a community. Because of our budget and because of our salaries, I lost six staff, six top positions, a town manager, a town clerk, a heavy equipment operator, all because of salaries. And for me to be AngajukKâk in this community now is very difficult and to try and rejig the budget even though the costs are escalating, we still had to do it because we wanted to get fair salary to our staff and I think they deserve that as well. And I work three jobs. I was a town manager, town clerk and AngajukKâk. It nearly broke me too. But I just hope that this Government will see that how hard we're trying to work and how hard we're trying to keep our staff. And I hope that they will come and help out. And negotiations really has nothing to do with it because if you don't have the money, you don't have the money. You can't negotiate when you don't have enough money. Something's gotta give somewhere. So I just want to say for the record, this-, and how hard, how hard that it is to run Inuit Community Governments, water freezing up all the time. I hardly even sleep in the wintertime because someone's water froze up or our water system is freezing or

something is going wrong. It's very hard to live in the limelight as well.

So I agree with the salaries, but I just hope that something will change for our Inuit Community Governments and that someone will listen to us.

Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk, Ms. Flowers. Yes, recognizing Mr. Evans.

MR. EVANS:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm just wondering, like, I'm not sure if this is the time to speak about it or wait for Day Two, but...

MR. WINTERS:

Is it about the Assembly Budget?

MR. EVANS:

Yes. So that if we...

MR. WINTERS:

Then it would be right now.

MR. EVANS:

...the process, the Members Services Committee are consist of elected officials that are not Ministers. And on this Member Services Committee there's four...

MR. WINTERS:

Right now there are five.

MR. EVANS:

Five. Can we name them, or?

MR. WINTERS:

Yeah, they're...

MR. EVANS:

Okay, so it's...

MR. WINTERS:

...everyone to the right of you.

MR. EVANS:

...Speaker, Bryan Winters, Ordinary Member, or Roland Saunders, Upper Lake Melville Ordinary Member Wally Andersen, Ordinary Member from Postville, Bud Gear. Did you say there was five?

MS. BARBOUR:

Me.

MR. EVANS:

Oh, I'm sorry. Okay. So like, I think their consultations involve the beneficiaries of the Nunatsiavut Land Claim Agreement and consultations were sent out, right? And then the-, then we had feedback to the Members Services Committee that would discuss that they-, so there's a process in place. So like do you take those comments-, are they gonna be made public or do you just internally discuss them and how does that affect the resolution?

MR. WINTERS:

The...

MR. EVANS:

I just only ask that so people listening can understand the process because I've got to tell the Members Services Committee myself and my AngajukKâk we hear from the people. We hear from people who are struggling to put food on the table. And like that's life, right? And so, like, it's hard for us elected officials when they see us, "Oh, you're getting yourselves a raise while we still struggle to put food on the table." So think about that too, okay? I agree, like, this Ordinary Member Barbour, it's hard on you. I'm old. I wanted to do this. But like she said, we have intelligent, young people who I think would do it, just put the name forward. We have trouble getting people to run. So people need to understand, like, this is all part of the process, like, to, you know, ensure that we have continue self-governance for Nunatsiavut. But at the same time, the Assembly needs to understand, and I'm sure they do, our people are struggling. And there's only so much money. So we get a raise. Does that affect the programs we offer to Nunatsiavut people, the people that not getting their repairs done? The Food Security Program.

So bear that in mind. That's all I got to say about that. And I understand the process, but people might not understand process. And so, like, you know, like, see easy for me to say I'm in favour of the recommendation. We need out young people to put their names forward for four years and give up their fulltime job to come forward so it's not just approving a raise for the elected. There's a lot of information and background that people might not understand. And we see the community governments struggling: Makkovik, Hopedale, Rigolet, Nain, Postville. And, like, we hear them. I'm sure everybody hears them. But, like, you know, it's, like- , it's, it's not like apples and oranges but it's like apples and orange, you know? Like the Community Governments are their own form of government. And the Nunatsiavut Assembly, like, we don't tell the AngajukKâk what salaries they can pay their people. Like that's, like you said, right, it's negotiated through the process. But I just want to make sure that the Member Services Committee understands and appreciates, like, the-, and I commend you too 'cause you're getting it from all sides, right? So even though people might be upset. People might be approving it. So like it's something that has to be spoken to. Like the main thing is that our Land Claim Agreement is to advance for the betterment of our people and so like there's lots of things to consider, like, you know? It's not just one thing. And I think this is the, you know, like a positive step, but we give the people an opportunity to speak and have input. And so please take their comments under really consideration. I'm sure you do. I'm just, like, that's what people are

telling me. And I'll just telling the AngajukKâk the same thing. So we-, I'm glad Ordinary Member Roxanne Barbour mentioned the stress and the, you know, putting your name forward. So that's all I've got to say because this for me itself is a real challenge, I gotta tell you. When you're making six figures and people are coming to you choosing between heating their home or putting food on their table it's a very heavy burden. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

I can say with confidence that the Members Services Committee does not take the role lightly whatsoever. That's why this went to an RFP and that's why it resulted in such an extensive report. The consultation, unfortunately, yielded nine responses of the 6,892 beneficiaries, nine people submitted responses. As you mentioned, of course we took those responses to heart. We read them all last evening. We discussed them. Like I said, nine responses, for well over an hour. Engagement is low. It's difficult. We are having a hard time filling seats around this Table. Of the representatives of Nain, three ran for Ordinary Member, one Mr. Lyall, bless him, passed. Tony Andersen resigned. Ms. Barbour is still with us here. And then it took three calls for nominations to get Mr. Dicker. So governance does not move forward without people involved. So a consultation process, we would-, I would love if we could've spent-, you know, if we could've had to extend it because of the overwhelming response that we received. We did not. We have not heard from people. If you as representatives around the Table hear from people, you can direct them to be a part of the consultative process because it requires

direct engagement for it to be considered. I've noticed the witness writing feverishly. I just wanna-, no, okay, just notes. Yes, Ms. Barbour.

MS. BARBOUR:

Nakummek. I think it's fair to say that we all now understand properly our roles and responsibilities as elected officials. You know, personally, it's one of the biggest learning curves that I've ever experienced in my life so far. There's probably going to be more. But, you know, this is the biggest one. The other thing to add to that is that the salary, like, alluding to what you said about governance moving forward. We know there's all these issues. We know about food insecurity, heat insecurity. You know? Inadequate access to healthcare. Inadequate healthcare, inadequate healthcare providers. But that's our job is to ensure that the Government receives this, right? And the Government although not perfect, we are making strenuous strides in the right direction. And I know people are struggling today and things like that. And that's known all around the Table. But we have to remember that things cannot move forward without people who sit in the offices that we sit in. They need to be filled, whether it's salaries of the ICG's or of the Civil Service, those are two different places where we don't-, I mean, outside of the civil service for the NEC-, where we don't have the ability to determine or make them, you know? And how do we move forward on that, right? There are places and tables where those conversations are had. And as elected officials, it's our responsibility to ensure that those conversation are had. So it's almost like there's always going to be-, I feel like there's always going to be disconcern(ph) about that, you know? Until the salaries of

civil servants and other-, or the ICG's are made up to par, we will always have that conversation but that's not the decision that's in front of us, you know? That's a decision for different tables. And we can sit down, and we can talk about it and we can sympathize all we want, like, you know? But it's still not a decision for this Table. And I think that needs to be made very clear. There are the seven departments of the NG, they have different responsibilities. And they're making strenuous strides. And if, you know, if it's not seen, maybe again that's a communications thing. Maybe again that's something that we as elected officials have to do better at communicating. But what's in front of us right now and considering everything that we're hearing, like, you know, those were some of the comments that we received. But it's up to everybody here to agree or not on this. And I think-, I'm not gonna say that. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Are there any other questions or comments around the Table? Yes, recognizing Mr. Wally Andersen.

MR. W. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I listened intensely to the comments that was made around the Table. And I sit on the Member Services Committee. And I'm in my 54th year, in public life. And I can tell you I will be voting in favour of the proposed increase for the Assembly. We don't-, haven't got the control over the community councils. But I'm in favour of the increase and I'll say this from the bottom of my heart, not for Wally Andersen, but to attract future young educated people to run for a seat on our Government or for the Chair of the Community Corporations. And it's difficult. We see calls going out there and no response. At the same

time, we have to keep up with the jobs out there that's being offered.

And really, the question is here, how can we expect a young person who's gone out there, who's well-educated, to come out and take a salary of this nature, when with their trade they can almost double that and have half the year off? And at the end of a 10 or 15-year term have a strong pension. A lot of people think that the elected officials are making big bucks. And that's not really true. We have a lot of people, God love them and, yeah, they probably deserve it. Many of our civil servants who are making far more than that. The difference is to attract that young person to come forward today. He's only guaranteed four years. That's all they're guaranteed is four years because they've gotta go back out at the end of four years and bang on doors and ask people for re-election. And our civil servants, they get a job and God love them, yes, and they can work, they can work a whole career without ever being challenged. And I'm glad for them. But until we find a way to make it attractive to bring young people forward, when there are so many opportunities in this day and age that it's difficult. And I made this decision, thought about it, and I thought about it again. But I'm doing this to try to improve the lives of the Inuit people. And at the same time I hear what the AngajukKâks are saying. And boy, they've got a serious problem. And I wonder how can we as Government sit down and try to find a way to address that because at the same time we have to make it attractive to them. A heavy-equipment operator working for one of our town counsels when he can go to Voisey's Bay. A plumber has been

mentioned. So I think as a Government there's a need that really needs to be taken and discussed at a serious level as how do we move forward to make things attractive, yes, for the elected officials, but also to give a sense of belonging and a good wage to the workers who do so much good work in our communities of building the roads, mending the roads, fixing frozen pipes and busted pipes. So Mr. Speaker, I can say I sit on the Member Services Committee and I believe that I'm doing the right decision for future generations by voting yes to the amendment that will be put forward.

MR. WINTERS:

Yes, Mr. Saunders.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I've also sat on the Member Services Committee and the decisions that we make are not easy. We have to go through all of the pros and cons. We have to get RFP's. We have to decide what's gonna be good. We also have to decide what we can slough off to the side. They're not easy decisions but we stick to them. And I agree with what Barry is saying-, I'm sorry, Mr. Andersen is saying and also Ordinary Member Barbour. And also Mr. Evans. We must do more, but to do that it has to come through Members Services Committee first. And then from there on it'll come to the Assembly. You're the final say. All we do is represent. All we do is give you the points that we've come across. So it's your decision, not ours. We're just gonna point you in the right direction and crack the whip. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Mr. Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Other than the consumer price index raise the last few years, when was the actual last raise for elected officials and increase in indemnity? *Nakummek*.

MR. WINTERS: Ms. Crawford, if you have that information.

MS. CRAWFORD: I believe, in 2017, the indemnity was changed at that point from \$15,000 to \$16,500. But I would have to go and verify-, I'd have to get my computer to verify the exact date. But that would be the change on the indemnity. In terms of when the base salary was re-set, I have a feeling in 2017 the base salary was reset at the same time that the method of increasing the salaries was changed at that time. But again, I'd have to go back and check that consultation document.

MR. WINTERS: Are there any other questions around the Table? Yes, recognizing Mr. Gear.

MR. G. GEAR: Thank you. Mr. Chair. I'm on the MSC and by the Constitution if you're not a NEC member you automatically be a MSC member. So and it states in the *Constitution* that the MSC is supposed to go over the Assembly Budget for raise or whatever you gotta do every five years. So this is what we're doing now. And like Mr. Saunders said, Mr. Andersen, Ms. Barbour and even the AngajukKâks(ph), we empathize with you because we know how-, what struggles-, we lives in those communities. We knows the trouble yous is going through. And like these situations that we're doing nowadays prices and all that is really hard on the, hard on the system 'cause we gets feedback too saying that, you know, you

should be giving yourself-, why can't we do this or whatever. And I even had people coming in my office in the small community that's hungry, that's wanting fuel, wood, and all that kinda stuff. Same thing as Makkovik or anywhere else. But this is for the Assembly that we made the Budget for now and hopefully this can attract good members to run for future. It's a start. So that's all I have to say. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Are there further questions or comments around the Table?

Yes, recognizing first, Mr. Andersen.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Than you, Mr. Chairman and thank you to the all five Members Services Committee members for you work. I appreciate and I understand your work fully. And I understand from what you bring forward, there were nine respondents to the public call for comments. I know I was on the other end of the stick, maybe a number of years ago, when that same call came out. And I know myself and one other person submitted comments-, two people at that time. I don't know if Ms. Rexanne Crawford was around back then but it's hard to get people to make comments to their Government members, to myself. I know I talk to all my council. I brought it all to the council at a council meeting on the 27th of February. I said, "Here, if you've got concerns about my salary or what's coming down the pipe from the Budget, it's all coming from the FFA dollars." So will this increase effect the ICG dollars? I don't know-, down the road. But it's not uncommon to not have a high response. I talked to the NG Government employees in Makkovik and they said, "Yeah, well, I'll-, will there be repercussions?" I said, "Just put in your

email, 'without prejudice." And I don't know if anybody responded in that manner, right? If they feel intimidated to reply to the MSC. I don't know. But for the ICG's, for the operations of the ICG's just this winter, I know my colleague Diane Gear, they stopped doing the trail marking this year. Marjorie did it last year. Again just an example of what we're going through of life and death situations, I had a person come to my office and say, like, "What the F are you not doing marking the trails this year?" I said, "The Province gave us enough money to pay the persons below minimum wage, breaking their own rules." We had to take our own administration money to bring the wages up to minimum the last time we did the trails. We said, "No more, this is, transportation is the Province's responsibility." And it's all grant money. It's not ICG money, or it's not NG money. It's just grant money. We can't just say, "Okay, we will pay you \$20 an hour." It's just not in the cards. You've gotta buy your fuel. You gotta pay insurance on the groomer and everything like that. And to have a person coming to my office and say, "Look, without those markers I could get lose or my kid could get lost going to Postville." That's, yeah, weighs hard on a lot of people if you don't know how to use a GPS. Traveling between Makkovik and Postville on the ice now is a lot of people doing it. It's only an hour and a half trip now by, with the new machines. And if the storm comes up like it did the other day when we had the incident here in Hopedale, it only takes a flick of second for somebody to disappear and not be able to be found for a couple of days. So I just wanted to bring it forward that we do have a lot of weight on our

shoulders as AngajukKât in our communities. We're not just sitting there in my office or in my colleague's office playing Solitaire or on a video game. It's hard sometimes when you're trying to manage situations that are not supposed to be in our control. We get a lot of stuff downloaded onto us as ICG's, as I mentioned earlier. So with all due respect, I'll conclude here and I'll stick to my assertions that I will not be voting in favour of the wage increase. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Mr. Andersen. Ms. Gear, do you have a comment? When you're ready.

MS. GEAR:

Thank you. I'd just like to add onto what Barry said. But first I'll make the comment that I don't see anything wrong with giving the Minister a raise or the Deputy Speaker. I've been a Minister. I was a Minister for four years, six years, actually. And I understand the (inaudible) there too. But being an AngajukKâk when you've got the full responsibility of your town on your shoulders, it's a whole different ballgame. When you have your workers coming in and saying, "I don't know how much longer I can work. This pay is not putting food on my table," but as AngajukKâk your hands are tied. You have a budget that you have to follow and follow strictly. I think the only solution here is for the NG's to get an increase in their budgets. That's all I have to say.

MR. WINTERS:

Are there any further comments? If there are no further comments from Ms. Crawford, I will thank her, and we can move back into the Assembly. I'll give you five minutes to do that. *Nakummek*.

[Recess]

MR. WINTERS:

We are now back in the Assembly. Given that the budget recommendations for 2025-2026 have been considered in the Committee of the Whole, is the Assembly in favour of approving the Assembly Budget Recommendations for 2025-2026? All those in favour, please raise your hand and say, "Aye." All opposed? Seeing one, the motion passes. We will move on to Item 17. This is, "The First Reading of Bills." There are no bills for first reading today. Item 18 is, "The Second Reading of Bills." And there are no bills for second reading today. Item 19 is, "The Assent to Bills." And there are no bills for assent today. The Assembly is now adjourned until 8:30 a.m. tomorrow morning, Wednesday March 5th, 2025. *Nakummek.*

4:09:00 - (3:21:45)

[Adjourned.]

Day 2 March 5, 2025

MR. WINTERS:

Yes, recognizing the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, when you're ready, Ms. Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS:

Nakummek, UKatti. Today I bring a quick update on HICG. Once again, Mr. Speaker, we are short-staffed. Since your last Assembly sitting, HICG has lost their town manager, town clerk, water and sewer supervisor, heavy equipment operator and janitor, all left for higher salaries. The water and sewer supervisor worked for 15 years with HICG Water and Sewer System. This is a lot of work experience to leave an organization. The Fire Chief position is also vacant and has been for two years. Working under such a work shortage, especially in management has put a

huge strain on HICG to keep the office running effectively and efficiently. I thank Stonia Nochasak, office assistant who has been a huge help to me in keeping our office running. I thank NG for the increase in funds that we will get to try and offset from the costs in operating our town. A couple of capital works projects have been completed. The water main upgrades, SCADA System and intake building were commissioned in late February as well as the new bay for our town garage. With the shortage of snow and milder temperatures, many freeze-ups have been reported as well as freeze-ups and breaks in around curb stops due to frost going down into the ground. Climate change is here, Mr. Speaker. And I believe we, as a Government need to address the issues that our towns are facing and how to address the effects of climate change in our day-to-day operations in our towns. I thank our whole HICG team for your continued hard work and dedication to HICG. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk. Are there other Member Statements around the Table? Yes, recognizing the AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Andersen, when you're ready.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was mentioned yesterday, I believe by Ordinary Member for Postville, about the events that happened here in Hopedale a couple of weeks ago for the Labrador Lego competition and the choir, Pan Labrador Choir, I think it was. And I'd to thank the community of Hopedale for hosting again and providing our young people with some confidence building, I guess, skills and meeting new friends here. And I'd like to congratulate the town, the Lego team from

Makkovik who won the competition overall. And the choir, the children, or the kids that came down from the school for the choir. They enjoyed themselves immensely and they were stuck there for five days and didn't complain. They liked it here. They attended the school for a couple of days that they were stuck here as well. So it was a good experience overall for those young people, not just from Makkovik but from the other communities. I'd also like to echo what Marjorie is saying there, sorry, my AngajukKâk friend, Flowers. We're all struggling with the ICG's and I'd like to thank-, I believe we are getting some hopefully extra funds after this budget today. And it will help, but we're still probably gonna be needing extras for all the infrastructure we have in our communities, to try and stay afloat, 'cause without the ICG's there is no Nunatsiavut Government. I just wanna point that out to our leadership here. And I'd like to also publicly thank Minister Dicker who is very responsive to any emails that I sent to him. It's not days or anything like that, that-, the responses come within an hour pretty much. So Mr. Dicker, I thank you for your promptness. And the rest of the NEC, we'll work all together, and hopefully build our communities and have our residents able to enjoy the facilities that we have. Thank you. Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Thank you, AngajukKâk Are there other Members statements around the Table at this time? Seeing none, that brings us into Item Four, "Returns to Oral Questions." Are there any returns to oral questions today? Are there any returns to oral questions today? Recognizing none. Before moving on to Item Five, "Oral Questions," I

would like to welcome again the Grade 7 class from ACMS who are entering the gallery right now. So everybody let's take a minute and give some waves. It's great to see you all again. *Nakummek*. Item Five is, "Oral Questions." Do any Assembly Members have oral questions at this time? Recognizing the Chairperson of the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, Ms. Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for Minister Asivak based on the information and update he gave yesterday. For the funding the Indigenous Language component, I would like to ask if other organizations outside the Land Claim Area such as NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation may be eligible to apply for the funds for Inuttitut classes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

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

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Chairperson Kemuksigak. Applications will also be selected from Upper Lake Melville and the Canadian Constituency. Priority will be given to applications within the Nunatsiavut region. In addition to the Indigenous Language component funding, Canadian Heritage also accepts applications under, "Indigenous Language Component Multi-distinction an Indigenous Urban Organization. These funds are separate than the funds being distributed directly to the four Inuit Land Claim regions for implementation. Groups within Canada can apply to these funds, and they are not available within Nunatsiavut communities unless applied by multi-Indigenous organizations. The maximum amount of this funding is \$150,000. This

would include urban Inuit groups that serve multiple groups of Indigenous people, Friendship Centres, for example. This would be an additional pot of funding available for Upper Lake Melville and Canadian Constituency that would not be available to Nunatsiavut communities. It should be noted that the multi-distinction and Indigenous Urban Organization funding is not Inuit-specific and the Nunatsiavut applications of Upper Lake Melville and Canadian Constituency who apply to this funding are competing for this funding at a national level with all Indigenous groups and organizations. If NG does accept applications from outside the Nunatsiavut regions, there are two requirements that will be added to the application form to ensure that our Nunatsiavut beneficiaries are benefiting from funding. 1) Nunatsiavut Inuit business number, and 2) number of new Nunatsiavut beneficiaries this program will impact. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Does the Chairperson have a supplemental question?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker, and *Nakummek* for your really good answer. I was wondering if you may be able to send that information to us 'cause it was kind of a lot to absorb. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Chairperson. Minister?

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Chairperson Kemuksigak, yes, I can send it.

MR. WINTERS:

Does the Chairperson have a second supplemental question on this issue?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

No, Mr. Speaker, thank you.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Yes, recognizing Ordinary Member for Nain, Ms. Barbour, when you're ready.

MS. BARBOUR: *Nakummek.* My question is for Human Resources and Economic Development both. Please be patient with me for the preamble. A while back there was discussions around staff shortages in multiple departments and one of the ideologies to try and tackle that was to come up with a training program for entry-level positions within the Nunatsiavut Government to address these staff shortages. What I'm trying-, what I would like to ask is, is this work still ongoing and being considered? The ideology behind it was that it would be almost like a job readiness training program to meet the hiring expectations of the Government.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Ministers, this is of two departments, so whichever one of you or if both of you would like to provide the most fulsome response you can, you're welcome to, whenever you're ready.

MR. DICKER JR.: *Nakummek, Uhattik and Nakummek* to Honourable Ordinary Member Rosanne Barbour for the question. I'll take the question under advisement and get back to her. *Nakummek.*

MR. WINTERS: The Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology is taking the question under notice and will have seven days to respond. Does the Minister of Education and Economic Development want to contribute?

MR. EVANS: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, Ordinary Member. I think what you're referring to is when you were with Education and Economic Development, the JRTP, and I think that was discussed. There's work ongoing. What I think, like, I would like to take it under notice as well just to make sure I get the most up-to-date information. But there's still work, but I'm not sure how much work has been done with that. So I would take the question under notice as well. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* The Minister of Education and Economic Development will also be providing a response within seven days. Does the Ordinary Member have a supplemental question?

MS. BARBOUR: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, and thank you, for your response. My supplemental question is if this is currently still not a priority or a way as to this is being addressed, with the departments consider this a priority to address the staff shortages within the departments and to be able to provide training for Labrador Inuit to work with us?

MR. WINTERS: The Member cannot assume what is or isn't a priority, so if you'd like to rephrase that, it would be appreciated.

MS. BARBOUR: So I asked if it was going to be prioritized.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Minister of Education and Economic Development.

MR. DICKER JR.: Yes, so when you use-, thank you, for the question-, so in terms of, like, a priority, like, I'm not saying it's not a priority, so, like I think the assumption is that it is something that, you know, it might not be mentioned as a priority, but it's-, I can assure the Ordinary Member that

is something that is of high importance and like I said, there's work ongoing. But I don't have the information in front of me how much work has been done. So I wanted to take it under notice to make sure I get the correct information. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Does the Ordinary Member have a second supplemental question on this issue? Shaking her head, "No." Are there any other first oral questions around the Table at this time? Yes, well, this would be your-, that's right. My apologies. Whenever you're ready, AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe my question is for the Minister of Finance, Information Technology and HR, Minister David Dicker. I heard you yesterday and I'm not sure if it was in your report or if it was in the report from the First Minister that this year we won't be getting caribou. My question is will NG be looking at getting caribou from elsewhere this year as it's very much needed in our communities. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

I believe that was from the report of Lands and Natural Resources. So I will ask the AngajukKâk to direct that question in writing to Lands and Natural Resources. And if you can write it down now it can be taken during written questions. *Nakummek.* Are there further first questions around the Table at this time? Seeing none, are there any other second questions around the Table at this time? Seeing none, I will ask the Deputy to take the Chair and I will ask a question. *Nakummek.*

MR. SAUNDERS:

Thank you, Mr. Winters. You have a question.

MR. WINTERS:

I do. This question is for Minister Evans around Policies and Education. Minister Evans, you and I had a difficult exchange by email in January when a constituent of mine was upset that her child attending school in Vancouver, the most expensive city in this country had been denied living allowance due to paperwork being late. I asked you at that time and did not receive a response, "What is the rationale or justification of the punitive nature of this policy?"

MR. SAUNDERS:

Minister Evans, would you like to respond?

MR. EVANS:

Yes, thank you, Ordinary Member. Yes, we did have exchange and it was regarding policies I think the-, was the-, it's called a SACC form what you're referring to. Student Address Course Confirmation. And the rationale for receiving those forms is that we have funding that we've secured from Canada and we are constantly audited and monitored and we have to confirm that the student is actually in attendance for post secondary training in order that we can continue to fund the many great programs that are offered, 28 funding programs. So I think the Ordinary Member has done some university training. And so it, to me, if the Ordinary Member is not quite familiar with the policies I was wondering if, would it be something to consider a presentation to the Committee of the Whole so all Assembly Members could ask the questions for the policies and explanations could be given. I would ask my deputy and director to provide information 'cause it-, even though we have the information in the handbook, oftentimes the student might not read the information in the handbook. And so when they reach out, we always

encourage the student to reach out to the education at Nunatsiavut dot com. But the rationale for these policies, they're vetted over time and these are policies that if they're improved on after-, you know, like, we do hear from our beneficiaries, not only the students, like, even though the student is the individuals that we encourage to communicate. But we have parents that are concerned, you know, for the well-being of their-, and so any time we get a, some questions or whatever, like, we try to provide answers. But we have to have clear guidelines to continue to provide the funding to those individuals. But I would say to you, not only as Speaker of the Assembly but as the Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, that I would recommend that the Education Department be permitted to do a presentation at the Assembly in the Committee of the Whole to ensure information that you have you could provide to any of your constituents that have questions as to all of our Ordinary Members here. So I'm not sure if that's an answer, but I'll just (inaudible).

MR. SAUNDERS:

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

MR. WINTERS:

I do. And you can understand the emotion I bring to this question having faced food insecurity while a student being funded by the Education Department. But as we saw yesterday and as you well know, it is the role of this Assembly even in the Committee of the Whole to discuss laws, not policies. And when our Assembly deals with these laws and changes in our Government, we revisit them when these laws no longer serve their

purposes or match our needs. When is the last time that this specific policy was modified or changed to better reflect the needs of our students?

MR. SAUNDERS:

Thank you, Mr. Winters. Minister Evans, would you like to respond?

MR. EVANS:

Yes, thank you. And I'm sure I don't have to tell the Ordinary Member of the Canadian Constituency that Education is very clear in their policies. Like even though they update them from time to time, we have forms that we need our students to send in to ensure their funding is not in jeopardy because, like, of the-, if somebody's not in training, we can't continue to send them a training allowance or whatever. But having said that, the reminders are sent out to the students from time to time. And as you are probably aware of, the Education Department, they do send out reminders to ensure that the student is aware of a document that we need to confirm their attendance in schools. And so like when you say, "Hardship," like, I, I've worked in the Education Division for a number of years. And I've seen, like, there's like a few programs that were offered to our beneficiaries. But thanks to the hard work and dedication of people in the department, we've been able to secure additional funding from Canada to provide more supports to our students in training. Like we can help with their high cost of rent. We can help with the childcare costs. We could not do that back in the day. But in ensuring that we continue to provide these programs, we have to ensure that we have clear policies in place for our students to continue to avail of this. And this is one of the few-, not few programs-, one of the programs that are

universal to all beneficiaries, not just if you live in the Land Claims Area. Education and Health Benefits. So the policy manual that you referred to, there's policies in the policy manual that is given out to the students. And during the counselling sessions prior to their start of their funding and their post secondary career, these policies, like, the deadlines that have to be met in terms of documentation are laid out to the students. There isn't-, there's probably, like a specific section in the policy manual that I think is highlighted in red for deadlines that we want to ensure our students send in the information to the department. But in terms of updating the policy, usually we don't keep a policy there for the sake of keeping a policy there. The policy is often reviewed based on feedback from our students. And if there's something that we feel is-, the student is not realizing the full benefit of the program because of a policy that should be, you know, perhaps amended and improved to reflect-, I think it works not only one way, it also works in the other way too. We might have the greatest program available for our students, but we might not have safeguards or information in there to prevent it from not being used correctly, you know? So to your point of-, I think you asked for a date. I think the last update on the policy manual would be written at the bottom of the policy. It would say, "Updated March 2021," or something. So, like, that way, the students would know that the last updated revision of that manual was on that date. I'm not sure if that would answer your question. I don't have the exact date when it was revised. I'm not sure of the significance or relevance that would have, but the date that policy

was revised, and I think with the forms, there's some policies that we have to keep them with a deadline. Otherwise we could jeopardize funding for the remainder of the-, we normally are funding 250 students fulltime. And maybe 50 odd students part-time. And the part-time students may not get all the supports that the full-time students could, but we still have to have deadlines to ensure that information is captured that we can send their benefits to the correct address. We have the confirmation from the institution that the student is actually a student and will continue to provide these supports. And any time you want to email me you can email myself. But I would encourage you also to reach out to the Education Department, the education at Nunatsiavut dot com is constantly monitored and responded to. Thank you.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Thank you, Minister Evans. Ordinary Member Winters, you have a third and final supplemental question?

MR. WINTERS:

I do. A year would've been fine. When our students are away from home, the future leaders of our region and trying to achieve a better education, the very last thing that they need is the stress of being food or housing insecure. Will the Minister commit to a full review of the Education Department's Student Handbook in the policies followed to ensure more compassion is being shown to our students?

MR. SAUNDERS:

Thank you, Ordinary Member Winters. I take it that was for Minister Evans. Thank you. Minister Evans?

MR. EVANS:

Thank you, Ordinary Member. Our policies are always under review. I think the, like, they're reviewed regularly. I think it was last updated some time last year. And I'll just respond to the Ordinary Member that our department, compassion is a given in our department. So, like, your comment, I don't agree with your comment, "Compassion." Every-, we have different supports and people in charge of the supports. We have a student counsellor who reaches out to the students and they talk to him because we all know our students are in training, that there's a lot of pressure. But I can assure you the supports that we provide are provided with compassion. And so I would just like to assure you that the 250 plus students that we fund, they appreciate the supports that are given. And in no way or shape or form does our department try to enforce hardship as you referred to on our students. Quite the opposite Mr. Ordinary Member.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Thank you, Minister Evans. Are you gonna return?

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Are there any other second oral questions around the Table at this time? Seeing none, that brings us to-, one second. I have a commentary from the interpreter's booth. One second. We'll straighten this out. We'll take five minutes.

[Recess]

MR. WINTERS:

We're now on to Item Six, "Written Questions." Written questions are an opportunity for Members to submit questions that require a more detailed or complicated answer, and not reasonably assumed to be in the

general knowledge of the President or Ministers. Are there written questions today? Yes, could a page retrieve the written question from the AngajukKâk from Hopedale? The question is in order. Are there any further written questions around the Table at this time? Seeing none, that brings us to Item Eight, "Petitions." Oh, sorry, Item Seven, "Returns to Written Questions." Are there any returns at this time? Seeing none, we are on Item Eight, "Petitions." Are there any petitions at this time? Seeing none, Item Nine is, "Responses to Petitions." There are no responses to petitions today. Item 10 is, "Reports of Standing in Special Committees." And there are no standing or special committee reports today. Before moving on to Item 11, we will take a 15-minute break and be back at the bottom of the hour. *Nakummek.*

[Recess]

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Welcome back. I would like to recognize the-, sorry, we're on Item 11, the "Tabling of Documents." I would like to recognize the treasurer of the Nunatsiavut Government the honourable David Dicker Jr., when you're ready, sir.

MR. DICKER JR.:

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. As required by the Labrador Inuit Constitution I am pleased to table the Nunatsiavut Government Financial Plan 2025-2026. *Nakummek.*

MR. WINTERS:

Thank you, Minister Dicker. The tabled document will be numbered as 11-5(9). There are no more documents to be tabled today. So we'll move on to Item 12. Item 12 is, "Notices of Motion." I would like to

again recognize the Nunatsiavut Treasurer, the Honourable David Dicker Jr.

MR. DICKER JR.:

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday March 6th of 2025 I will move, seconded by the Minister of Language Culture and Tourism, Gerald Asivak that tabled document 11-5(9) the Financial Plan 2025-2026 be moved into the Committee of the Whole for discussion in conjunction with Bill 2025-01, "The Budget Act 2025," and that Ms. Rexanne Crawford, the Comptroller of the Nunatsiavut Government be called as a witness. And Mr. Speaker, I am seeking unanimous consent of the Assembly to waive SO (Standing Order) 37(1) to deal with this motion today. *Nakummek.*

MR. WINTERS:

The Member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with his motion today. All those in favour-, sorry, it looks like there's a question. AngajukKâk?

MS. FLOWERS:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, today is Wednesday February the 5th *[sic]*. 40:26. It's Thursday.

MR. WINTERS:

That's correct. He made a notice of motion for tomorrow and he's asking for us to waive Standing Order 37(1) to deal with it today. The Member is seeking unanimous consent. All those in favour? Any, "Nays?" Seeing none. Honourable Minister, you have consent to bring your motion today at the appropriate time and there are no more notices of motion today. So we'll move on to Item 13. Item 13 is, "Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills." I will again recognize the Minister of Finance,

Human Resources and Information Technology, the Honourable David Dicker Jr.

MR. DICKER JR.:

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday March 6th of 2025 I will move, seconded by the Minister of Language, Culture and Tourism the first reading of Bill 2025-01, "*The Budget Act 2025*," 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.

Nakummek.

MR. WINTERS:

The Minister is again asking for unanimous consent to proceed with first reading today. All those in favour? You have consent from the Assembly to proceed with first reading at the appropriate time. We'll move on to Item 14, "Motions." I will again recognize the Nunatsiavut Treasurer, the Honourable David Dicker Jr.

MR. DICKER JR.:

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I move, seconded by the Minister of Language, Culture and Tourism that tabled document 11-5(9), "The Financial Plan 2025-2026," be moved into the Committee of the Whole for discussion in conjunction with Bill 2025-01, "*The Budget Act 2025*," and that Ms. Rexanne Crawford, the Comptroller of the Nunatsiavut Government be called as a witness. *Nakummek.*

MR. WINTERS:

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

MR. DICKER JR.:

No, Mr. Speaker. *Nakummek.*

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

MR. DICKER JR.: I wish to close debate, Mr. Speaker. *Nakummek.*

MR. WINTERS: That concludes debate. All those in favour of the motion? Any opposed? Seeing none, Financial Plan 2025-2026 will be moved into Committee of the Whole for discussion in conjunction with Bill 2025-01, "*The Budget Act 2025*," at the appropriate time. We are now on Item 15, "The First Reading of Bills." First reading of Bill 2025-01, "*Budget Act 2025*." I would like to recognize the Minister of Finance, the Honourable David Dicker Jr.

MR. DICKER JR.: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to stand before you today with a deep sense of pride to present the Nunatsiavut Government's Budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, my first as Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology. This is also the 20th budget in the history of Nunatsiavut Government. This year's Financial Plan is a testament to our growth and maturity, as we reflect on the past and envision what lies ahead with excitement and hope, confidence and steadfast determination. Mr. Speaker, we have made huge strides as a Government and as a people. Together, we have tackled many priority areas, developed and implemented numerous strategies and action plans, expanded our civil service and focused on fostering growth within our five Inuit communities. Under, "Revenues," this year's budget Mr. Speaker authorizes the Nunatsiavut Government to raise and collect

revenues totalling approximately \$433 million. This includes \$399.5 million from the Government of Canada under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. Additionally, we will generate revenues from sources such as such as the Fisheries and Environment Fund, Personal Income Tax, Goods and Services Tax, Interest and Investment income. These funds will ensure we continue to implement strategies and action plans and to provide a range of programs and services that are crucial to the needs of our people in our communities. Mr. Speaker, there is a \$7.5 million committed to construct seniors and social housing in Nunatsiavut. We have also committed to continue funding the Home Repair and Emergency Repair Programs. Funds have been budgeted to action many of the priorities under the Inuit Capital Infrastructure Plan which includes the Nunatsiavut Growth Land Development and Housing Strategy, Economic Development Strategy for the construction sector, a waste management strategy and fire breaks to name a few. There are also a number of capital projects for both the Nunatsiavut Government and the Inuit Community Governments. The ICG's have seen increased costs due to new infrastructure and growth. Therefore an additional \$200,000 is budgeted for each, totalling \$1 million annually for operations. I am very pleased, Mr. Speaker to announce today the development of a new plan that will establish long-term Community Development Officers in each Inuit community. This plan is being collaboratively developed by the Tourism and Economic Development Divisions and is currently in the early planning stages. These positions will focus on Community Tourism

and Economic Development as well as support regional priorities. Other highlights in the financial plan, Mr. Speaker, include funds to prepare and implement an Emergency Response plan for Nunatsiavut, to update our strategic plan and to support a new regional recreation program. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement*: and the establishment of the Nunatsiavut Government. To help celebrate this significant milestone, we have set aside funding to support community events and activities throughout the year. This is a time for us to come together, celebrate our achievements and look forward to the future with hope and optimism. Mr. Speaker, we have accomplished so much over the past 20 years. This budget reflects our unwavering commitment to sustainable development, community well-being and effecting governance. It enables our Government to continue providing essential services and support to Inuit communities and all beneficiaries of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement*, regardless of where we live. As we celebrate the progress we have made, Mr. Speaker, we also look forward to building even a brighter future for our five Inuit communities and our people. Together we will continue to strive for excellence, ensuring that Nunatsiavut remains a beacon of hope, resilience and prosperity. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Minister. I appreciate your budge speech and didn't want to cut you off. But you still need to move the motion.

MR. DICKER JR.:

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I move, seconded by the First Minister-, seconded by the Minister of Language, Culture and Tourism, Gerald

Asivak that Bill 2025-01, "*The Budget Act 2025*," now be introduced and read for the first time, *Nakummek*.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Minister. The motion is in order. Does anyone else wish to speak to the principle of the bill? Seeing no one, if no other Member wishes to speak, does the Minister wish to conclude-, oh, yes, Ms. Barbour.

MS. BARBOUR:

Sorry. I don't know if this is the time to say it now or later, but I noticed he mentioned, he said that there's an additional \$200,000 each year for the ICG. But in the...

MR. WINTERS:

As-, Ordinary Member, as part of the principal of the bill, we're not getting into the (inaudible) Does anyone else wish to speak to it? Does the Minister wish to conclude debate?

MR. DICKER JR.:

I wish to conclude debate, Mr. Speaker. *Nakummek*.

MR. WINTERS:

Thank you, Minister, that concludes debate on first reading. Is the Assembly in favour of approving Bill 2025-01 on first reading? All those in favour? None are opposed. The motion is carried, and accordingly Bill 2025-01, "*The Budget Act 2025*," has had first reading. I would like to again the Minister of Finance, the Honourable David Dicker.

MR. DICKER JR.:

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 2025-01, "*The Budget Act 2025*," 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 2025-01, "*The Budget Act 2025*," today. All those in favour? Seeing none opposed, Minister, you have unanimous consent so the Bill can proceed to second reading today. We are on Item 16, "The Second Reading of Bills." And the second reading of Bill 2025-01, "*The Budget Act 2025*." I would like to recognize the Minister of Finance, the Honourable David Dicker Jr., for the second reading of bills.

MR. DICKER JR.:

Honourable Speaker, in accordance with the motion passed previously by the Assembly, I now as we move to the Committee of the Whole to consider the Financial Plan 2025-2026 in conjunction with Bill 2025-01, and that the Bill be now read for a second time. *Nakummek.*

MR. WINTERS:

The Minister is asking for unanimous consent to move into the Committee of the Whole. All in favour? None are opposed. We will now move into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Financial Plan along with the Budget Bill. And will invite Rexanne Crawford, the NG Comptroller, to join us as witness in the Committee of the Whole. *Nakummek*, Ms. Crawford. Welcome to the Committee of the Whole. As the Members are aware, the procedure for second reading debate will be a page-by-page and clause-by-clause review of the budget. The Financial Plan is important for our discussions today. It will be reviewed during this Committee of the Whole discussion. After review of the Financial Plan, we'll move to the Annex of the Bill, the *Budget Act* Annex A. And then onto the clauses of the Budget Bill. Ms. Crawford will review each page

of the Financial Plan page-by-page before we get to the Budget Bill. The comptroller will explain the Financial Plan page-by-page when she is ready. Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD: Just before I start, I wanna make sure everyone has the right document in front of them. It's called the Financial Plan 2025-2026.

MR. WINTERS: It should be under Tab 5, everyone.

MS. CRAWFORD: I'll start at page three. Page three covers the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* Section One of the Annex A. As you are aware, the Fiscal Financing Agreement or the FFA sets out certain programs and services that the Nunatsiavut Government has to provide. However, we do have authority to set dollar amounts. And it also gives us the ability to carry over funds into multiple years. It really does allow long-term planning on projects such as capital infrastructure and, you know, being able to properly plan out, do strategies, et cetera. We are currently in the process of renewing the third *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. We have started preparations for the fourth renewal in the 2024-2025 fiscal year. And have submitted some proposals to Canada and are preparing other proposals to be sent to Canada for that renewal. The current year funding under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* is significant, at \$104 million. The Nunatsiavut Government through our participation in the Inuit Crown Partnership Committee have been successful in receiving significant funds under priority areas such as Housing, Infrastructure, Education. We've also received funding for targeted programs such as ISETS, the Indigenous Strategy Employment Training Strategy, the Inuit Health Survey, TB

Elimination, to name a few programs. We've also been successful in, I guess asserting our rights and our Government to Government relationship in that most funding that's being negotiated and secured through our partnerships are being flowed through the Fiscal Financing Agreement rather than contribution agreements, which again, allow us more flexibility and the ability to carry forward these funds. As you'll note, funds received in prior years and that are not expended, do have to be budgeted. And those are built into this schedule as well. A lot of the funding is committed for long-term projects such as Infrastructure, such as Housing, Education, et cetera. There are \$35.8 million allocated to general operations programs and services of the NG. And these are detailed in Section Two of the Budget. Housing, as we all know is a significant priority area. Canada has committed an additional \$17 million for the 2025 and 2026 year. \$7.5 million of this funding is committed towards seniors and social housing in Nunatsiavut. We're committed to continuing to fund the Repair Program and the Emergency Repair Programs. As well, the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission is operational, and funds are provided for their operations and programs. As noted above, Canada provided \$61 million to address infrastructure needs. An action plan was approved by the Government of Canada, and funds have been remitted to the Nunatsiavut Government. Funds are budgeted to action many of the priorities under this action plan, which includes strategies, fire breaks, capital projects within NG and within each of the Inuit Community Governments. We have a consultant engaged who has

been working and assisting us in developing a data security governance framework. And another consultant engaged to help develop an emergency response plan for Nunatsiavut. Implementation on these two projects will begin in 2025 and 2026. And as a note, there are no significant changes in program plans for funding allocated for Health and Social Development, Education and Economic Development, Language, Culture and Tourism and Lands and Natural Resources, through funds received under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. I'll pause here in the event there are any questions on this particular section.

MR. WINTERS:

Ms. Barbour.

MS. BARBOUR:

Yeah, you mentioned that there's \$7.5 million allocated for seniors housing. But also mentioned that there's a total of \$17 million. So I just wondered how the other \$9.5 million is being used?

MR. WINTERS:

Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD:

As you'll note in that paragraph, there is funds being allocated towards the Home Repair Program, Emergency Repair Program and funds allocated for the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission and their program.

Nakummek.

MR. WINTERS:

Are there any other questions at this time? Yes, Ms. Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

My question is in regard to the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission. How much of the funds are used for administration of this program? And is there a certain amount that has to be used?

MR. WINTERS:

Ms. Crawford, when you're ready.

MS. CRAWFORD:

That's a really good question, Patricia, or Ms. Kemuksigak. I don't have the information in front of me to be able to provide you the exact percentage. But I can get that information for you. We've been assessing their budgets. And just recently received their 2025 and '26 budget for review.

MR. WINTERS:

Are there further questions at this time? You may continue, Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Inuit Community Governments and Capital Works for Inuit Communities. The Inuit Community Governments' funding for a period of time have been based on two factors; a set amount for each Inuit Community Government for governance because regardless of the size of your community, you still have the same needs and responsibilities related to governance. And then there is an allocation based on the operational side. We've used a methodology to date based on the number of buildings. We've committed to revisit that allocation knowing that some communities have more active development than others for various reasons beyond our control at times. And all these allocations are increased by an inflationary adjustment annually. And this adjustment is provided by the Government of Canada. We recognize that the Inuit Community Governments have seen increased costs due to the addition of new facilities, growth in their communities, et cetera. As such, the Government is allocating an additional \$100,000 to each Inuit Community Government for the 2025-'26 fiscal year. We've also-, the Government has also allocated an additional \$100,000 per community to support the

purchase of new information technology equipment and to support additional accounting fees as audits of their financial statements are up-to-date as well as internal capacity issues. The total funding for the operations of the Inuit Community Governments is \$8,920,000, a 9.5 percent increase over the 2024-2025 fiscal year. There's also \$8,455,000 being received for Inuit Community capital works projects. This includes the \$2.3 million specifically for water and waste-water projects that the Minister referenced this morning in his Ministerial statement. I'll pause on the Inuit Community Governments.

MR. WINTERS:

Mr. Dicker, when you're ready.

MR. J. DICKER:

Good morning, Mr. Chair. The amount of money, a hundred thousand per community support the purchase of IT equipment, are we as a Community Government expected to use that money at our own discretion? Like are we able to, I would say, like, take all the money per Inuit Community Government, add all them all together with the other ones and hire somebody to order them for us? We don't have no expertise in the IT department. We don't have the ability to even go out and go looking for the persons to get these for us. I was wondering if we can get together and, you know, join up and hire one group, I suppose, to help us purchase the equipment and have an example of one group, rather than us having separate accountants to take care of that.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Mr. Dicker. Ms. Crawford?

MS. CRAWFORD:

As self governments, that would be entirely your decision.

MR. WINTERS: Mr. Dicker.

MR. J. DICKER: We have that chance when it comes to that point to get them. So how long do we have to get that in order? Do we meet as a Joint Management Committee to discuss that or, you know, what else do we do?

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Ms. Crawford?

MS. CRAWFORD: The money is in your budget and it would be at your determination as to when you would execute and make decisions on that funding. I think your question as to when you get together and make decisions really is entirely your decision if you use a Joint Management Committee process where you're all together. But again that would be your decision as to when you would meet to do that work together.

MR. WINTERS: Mr. Dicker.

MR. J. DICKER: Yeah, like I said, we have that chance to appreciate the money. Thank you for, that, by the way. I think that we've got to get together to find the same denomination or same effect as to what to get, you know? It's no good to get one type of thing and have it different situations. That's my opinion anyway. I don't know what the others have to say.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek,* Mr. Dicker. Are there any other comments at this time? Yes, Ms. Barbour.

MS. BARBOUR: I'm just looking for clarification here and I was gonna talk about it just now. In the intent of the Bill, in Mr. Dicker's speech he mentioned additional \$200,000 per year for the Inuit Community Governments and

then I only seen the one, 100,000 when I quickly glanced at it again. But it's these two numbers right here, right?

MS. CRAWFORD:

Correct. There's two, \$100,000 referenced in the Financial Plan.

MS. BARBOUR:

Okay, thank you. I just needed that clarity. And then the other thing I wanted to ask was although there is an additional \$100,000 per year to purchase the new IT equipment as such, each Inuit Community Government doesn't have an IT person technical staff. And I think I'm touching on what AngajukKâk Dicker has been talking about. So I'm wondering, based on his comments, can the NG IT Department commit to supporting the ICG's in making those purchase? Additionally, has it been considered within this plan or future plans, to include Human Resource and IT staff persons or funding to hire such people as a part of the core functions of the ICG's?

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Whenever you're ready, Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Thank you, Ms. Barbour. I believe the AngajukKâk has a path forward on securing IT equipment working with the five Inuit Community Governments collectively to hire a consultant, which is their decision on how they would move forward in purchasing the Information technology equipment and determining the needs of each of their Inuit Community Governments. Secondly, in terms of the question of considering to include to hire such people as part of the core operations of each of the Inuit Community Governments, I believe those would be discussions that the Inuit Community Governments would have individually when

determining what their needs are where their core functional areas are and would be decisions and discussions between the ICG and the NG.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Are there further questions at this time? Recognizing Mr. Andersen of Makkovik.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I, I think as the Assembly probably would recall, there's been some significant discussions on IT operations within the ICG's over the last number of years. And we had on the table, three options a few years ago, but that never materialized. And I guess as AngajukKât Dicker mentioned there, that we've been trying as AngajukKât to operate our ICG's on a similar basis rather than each Inuit Community Government having totally different policies, totally different structure. It would be better for all of us to operate on the same field or in the same, so that if we have residents moving from one community to the other, which happens all the time, there'd be no surprises at either end of each when people move around, especially when it comes to land administration and IT for the operation staff at our local ICG's. We will be consulting Brian Scammell's office when it comes to IT and computers to operate our Sage 50 systems. So that we're not gonna buy computer hardware that cannot support that sort of software. And that requires a high volume-, or high memory content or whatever. I'm not sure Mr. Montague there might be able to set me straight. But it's-, yeah, we need the proper hardware in our Inuit Community Governments in order to operate those systems effectively and not be hung up with inoperable systems and trying to get our audits done on time. And we need the

people there as well, as you mentioned, Ordinary Member Barbour, to be familiar with the systems, not just one person. When one person was on leave, we need somebody else to take right over and keep on running with the systems. And not to be too long-winded, but with the variable amount, I believe Ms. Crawford, you mentioned that the variable amount is under review for how it's allocated, correct? Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Ms. Crawford?

MS. CRAWFORD: Yes, very because people can't see me nod my head, yes, we will be reviewing. It's one-, gonna be one of our next projects.

MR. WINTERS: Yes, Mr. Andersen.

MR. B. ANDERSEN: Yeah, I raise that issue again with regard to the allocation for the variable amount because if it's not changed then we'll never be able to keep par with Nain 'cause we don't have as much housing development as Nain do. And even with regard to Hopedale. So if that policy's not changed, we're gonna be continuously coming to the Assembly-, and I learned my lesson from Ordinary Member Roxanne Barbour from yesterday's motion that she brought forward as an emergency. So do not be surprised if I come back next year with an emergency motion to operate our ICG. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek,* and thanks for the heads-up. Ms. Crawford, did you have another comment on this, or? No? Ms. Barbour.

MS. BARBOUR: The next question I wanted to ask regarding this section on you know, AngajukKâk Andersen and I, we've been having-, we've had a lengthy

discussion about the concerns that he's been bringing forward to this Assembly and to the FHRIT for a number of years. And it's almost like repetitive that something-, it's almost a pet peeve to me when somebody has to say something so long that 'til you get blue in the face. You know? So I want them to be heard. What I'm trying to ask is, I know that there are additional funds and I know that the funding for the ICG's come through the FFA and then there's another option through the Provincial whatever. However, we know that in Nain that the ICG couldn't access some dollars because their audits weren't complete. And I recognize that a portion of that is reflected in this Financial Plan. However, I wanted to ask, because you mentioned that we're currently going into the next FFA negotiations for the next five years, how are we ensuring that increased salaries or increased funding to increase salaries within our ICG's and their respective communities are going to be reflected in the Budget for the upcoming fiscal years?

MR. WINTERS:

Ms. Crawford, whenever you're ready.

MS. CRAWFORD:

As part of the process for the renewal, we have been engaging directly with the Inuit Community Governments on what their needs are and what their requests are. And as we know, with the Government of Canada and the relationship we have with them, when we provide strong proposals that are backed up by data and information, Canada has been listening to us. So that's really where we are in terms of the renewal. It's specifically with the Inuit Community Governments.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Are there other-, yes, recognizing Ms. Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS: Thank you. I was really happy to see some-, a bit more money coming through, especially with, for help with the salaries and IT support, as I've been so often wanting more IT support or asking, "Can we have IT support?" So when I knew that we were getting more money, I just immediately went and we contracted our own IT support working under Brian Scammel's office as well, 'cause they know our systems. So that's who we will be using because we can't use the NG's IT. So we're already have someone who will be helping us order all the new equipment that we need and to support it. Thank you.

MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you, Ms. Flowers. Ms. Crawford, when you're ready?

MS. CRAWFORD: I don't believe there was a question there, but just a comment.
Nakummek, Ms. Flowers.

MR. SAUNDERS: Yeah, I understand that. Are there-, okay, Ms. Barbour?

MS. BARBOUR: Yeah, I just needed some clarification for myself for those around here and for those who may be listening online. So in response to what you answered to my question, it is in the discretion of each ICG to determine their salaries based on data? Is that what I'm hearing? To be able to provide that to the NG to be included in their negotiations, in your-, in the FFA negotiations I mean?

MS. CRAWFORD: I recognize your-, and I, just for clarity-, I know your question's not directly related to the Budget but is related to the FFA renewal process. So the department that I represent, Finance, HR and IT has been directly engaging with each individual ICG who have provided us information to

use in developing a proposal to go to Canada on what we need to operate our ICG's.

MR. SAUNDERS: Are there any more questions? Mr. Andersen.

MR. B. ANDERSEN: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I guess for Ordinary Member Barbour's information, we as an ICG in Makkovik, Inuit Community Government, we submitted our performer budget. We were hoping that was gonna be our budget for this year. Obviously, it's not. But that budget will be used by Ms. Crawford and her department to bring to the negotiation table for Canada so that Canada will see that we need extra funds to operate our ICG legitimately, as I keep saying over and over. Thank you.

MR. SAUNDERS: Are there any further questions? Ms. Gear.

MS. GEAR: Thank you. That hundred thousand, is that gonna be carried over from year to year or is it just for 2025-'26?

MS. CRAWFORD: I am hopeful and feel positive that it could be supported from now in in terms of that extra \$100,000. And I am also hopeful that we'll be concluded our negotiations, you know, within the next year or so. And we'll have additional funds for the ICG operations. But, yes.

MS. GEAR: Thank you.

MR. SAUNDERS: Are there further questions? Thank you. Seeing no more questions, Ms. Crawford, will you continue?

MS. CRAWFORD: Deputy Speaker, I believe Ms. Gear has a question.

MR. SAUNDERS: Oh, did you have a supplement? Oh, okay, continue on, Ms. Gear.

MS. GEAR: Thank you. It's really not a supplementary question to that one, but under the \$8,455,000 for capital works projects is this where PICG can go to get extra money for their stormwater drainage project that was supposed to go ahead last year? But it came in, like, 350-odd-thousand over-budget so we haven't been able to find the money up to now to carry our-, to do our stormwater drainage project without cutbacks.

MS. CRAWFORD: In terms of the allocation of the capital works funding, those are the decisions that are made collectively with the Joint Management Committee. But I believe if I understand the process on the Joint Management Committee, you've all submitted or will submit your priority areas, and then the determination is made by that committee as to the allocation of those funds.

MS. GEAR: Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: Are there any other questions at this time? Is your hand up, Mr. Dicker? No. Are there any further questions at this time? Seeing none, you can continue, Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD: Capital Infrastructure. The Nunatsiavut Government has been reviewing its current office and storage requirements in each of the Inuit communities including an assessment of current office buildings. In the upcoming year, construction on extensions to both the Nain Administrative Building and the Postville Administrative Office is slated to begin. The Government will continue to construct the new community

office in Rigolet and the new Education Office in Makkovik. Plans will begin for potential new facilities for the Language Nests in both Nain and Hopedale, and for a new shelter in Nain. The upcoming year will see the completion of a four-unit staff building in Makkovik. And initial phases for new staff units in Rigolet and Postville. And these are critical items in being able to recruit and retain employees in our Inuit communities. As noted in the Minister's Speech and earlier on, there is a commitment of \$7.5 million for the construction of social and senior housing units in Nunatsiavut. And these funds will see various types of units constructed ranging from single units, duplexes and multi-unit facilities. I'll pause for questions. *Nakummek.* Mr. Dicker.

MR. J. DICKER: Yes, that last statement you made, you said that 7.5 million was meant for seniors housing construction. Is that correct?

MR. WINTERS: Ms. Crawford?

MS. CRAWFORD: For seniors and social housing in all five of the Inuit communities.

MR. WINTERS: Mr. Dicker.

MR. J. DICKER: Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: Are there any other questions? Yes, Ms. Barbour.

MS. BARBOUR: *Nakummek.* My question is around the Language Nest. Just remembering a few conversations before. There's dire need for a cultural centre that is not something similar to the Illusuak Cultural Centre, but an actual cultural centre where the Language Nest and the Cultural Division

and Language Programming can happen. Is that the idea of this facility for the Language Nest that's mentioned here?

MR. WINTERS:

Ms. Crawford?

MS. CRAWFORD:

This is still in very early stages. So I'm unable to comment on what the vision or how far along or how it will end up.

MR. WINTERS:

Are there any other questions at this time? Yes, Mr. Andersen.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And as I look at the office buildings and things that NG's building around, I can only speak for Makkovik. It is not a comment on Ms. Crawford or to Ms. Crawford specifically, but to the engineers that designed those buildings, that when we get an office space built in our communities, I would like to see it put out that we utilize every square foot of that facility. We have a DHSD building in Makkovik with an 18-foot peak roof. And it's nothing but fresh air up there. And it could've been used for a lot more office space or whatever. And the new Education Building in Makkovik has another 18-foot roof, a slope roof and I won't say what I would call the roof, but that office space-, or that fresh air space could've been used as office space to utilize every square foot of any building in our communities because we're very scarce on land. And we need to utilize every bit of every building that we're putting up in our communities. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Ms. Crawford?

MS. CRAWFORD:

Nakummek, Barry-, Mr. Andersen. I will definitely pass that comment along.

MR. WINTERS:

Ms. Barbour.

MS. BARBOUR:

I want to highlight that, you know, even though there's \$7.5 million allocated for social housing, it says within Nunatsiavut. So \$7.5 million, when you think about it, when you think about the RFP, hiring a consultant to do the construction or to do the architecture design, et cetera, it's not a lot. So I just wanted to highlight that. I feel like, I mean, you know, is it-, do we know how many units this can construct? And then we're saying various types of units. So like, where is that money gonna go? Is that in the discussion of the NEC? You know what I-, I mean, where's the-, which community is it gonna be built in? Because in Nain we know that in the-, not this current round of call for applications but the last one for a unit, there was over 46 applications, you know? So social housing, I mean, this is great. I'm not trying to say that it's not. But it's not enough to address the ongoing need and housing crisis, particularly within Nain and Hopedale.

MR. WINTERS:

I heard a number of questions in there, so whenever you're ready, Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Hopefully I will be able to address them all. You have some great operational questions that may not be quite for the forum that we're in right now. However, there-, please recall that we already have designs for four-units, six-unit. So funds that would typically be for designing units have already been expended and we had plans. There are some cost-shared projects with other funders. Some of these funds could be used to leverage funds. I'm not saying, committing that that's what the

NG is doing with it. And as we noted, there are various types. The allocation, there is a plan. I don't have it off the top of my head as to where, but again, it is a plan should this money be approved under this *Budget Act*. It gives the departments the ability to start actioning these plans.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*. Mr. Saunders.

MR. SAUNDERS: Than you, Ms. Crawford, with your capital infrastructure, has the idea of building a long-term facility in any of the five Inuit communities come up?

MR. WINTERS: Ms. Crawford?

MS. CRAWFORD: I believe this has been brought up in Ministers statements. So they are undergoing studies and doing data collection and work. I'm not exactly sure at what stage they're at now in terms of the seniors' facility. But this is an ongoing project within infrastructure and DHSD.

MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: Yes, Ms. Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS: Thank you. Now, my question with the 7.5 million is, does that include some of the talks that we're already having with the housing infrastructure, of the types of housing that we will be having?

MR. WINTERS: Ms. Crawford?

MS. CRAWFORD: I haven't been involved in those discussions, so can I take that aside and send a response back? I only know that they've allocated the funds and they're for different types of units in all the different communities. So

the tie to that discussion you're having on the housing, I can't comment on at this time. My apologies.

MR. WINTERS:

Are there other questions at this time? Seeing none, Ms. Crawford, you may continue when you're ready.

MS. CRAWFORD:

We'll turn to page five on the Own-source revenues. As the Minister commented in his speech, there are various sources of revenues for the Nunatsiavut Government that we called our own-source revenues. The annual remittance for the personal income tax is projected to be \$5,775,000 for the upcoming fiscal year. The Goods and Services Tax is based on an estimate from the Government of Canada. And is estimated to be \$2.4 million for the upcoming fiscal year. Interest and investment income is based on interest earned on our bank accounts and from long-term investments, as well, under the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Implementation Trust the NG receives 50 percent of the investment income earned in a previous calendar year, which for this upcoming year is budgeted at \$5,250,000. NG has a Fisheries and Environment Fund which is valued at \$12,325,000. The NG collects access fees from fishers from the use of the NG fishing licences. This has been occurring for the last eight years and is in accordance with policies under the Government. Other revenues which are small, include external sales from Nunatsiavut Visual Design, promotional items and rental revenue. I also feel it's important to point out again that the Nunatsiavut Government did not receive any mining taxes under part 7.5 of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims*

Agreement for the 2024-2025 year. And we do not project to receive any in the 2025-2026 year. Taima.

MR. WINTERS:

Are there any other questions at this time? Ms. Barbour.

MS. BARBOUR:

I have a question of curiosity. How much of the Fisheries Fund is used to fund the Department of Lands and Natural Resources? That's one. The other part to that question is, I know that it says that there's a policy to purchase a what? Licences and quotas. However, to my knowledge, the last I knew, there was final, there was no final draft of such a policy. It was still being drafted. So-, and please correct me if I may be incorrect in stating that, but I-, to my knowledge, that policy is still in draft stages. So how much of these dollars are being used to fund Lands and Natural Resources and then -, or, or whether it's their operations or their programs and services that they offer, et cetera. And then the other question separate from this one that I wanted to ask was how much of the personal income tax dollars are being used to fund other departments? It's all of them to my knowledge, but I wanted to ask how much of this, the personal income tax dollars are being directed to fund the Lands and Natural Resources?

MR. WINTERS:

I would like to suggest that the Members around the Table, in the interest of getting more expansive responses to their questions ask one question at a time and stick to one topic at a time rather than such a large question or series of questions. Whenever you're ready, Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD:

This fund does not fund anything of the Lands and Natural Resources operations, programs and services. As noted here, the fund collects the access fees from fishers. All those funds are put into this fund. It is only being used at this time to purchase fishing opportunities such as quota and licences. It is not dependent to purchase those items based on the development of a policy. You'll see that there's two items. The access fees are restricted for use specifically for the purchase of fishing opportunities such as quotas and licences and for the implementation of a new commercial fisheries designation policy. Those are two separate items. I'll pause here in case you have other questions on the Fisheries Fund before I proceed to answer the personal income tax question.

MR. WINTERS:

Are there other questions at this time on this item? Seeing none, you may continue, Ms. Barbour.

MS. BARBOUR:

Thank you. So we know that a lot of the personal income tax dollars, they go into operations. And please try to bear with me while I lay out my what I'm trying to say that's going on in my mind. Why isn't-, although it states that it's specific for this use, has it ever been considered to use the Fisheries Fund to fund part of the budget of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources? Because this is an own-source revenue, you know, it is almost-, I think it's safe to assume that it's in the discretion of the legislative authorities of the NG to determine how this fund is used. Going over to the Budget, I know I'm skipping ahead, but going over to the Budget the total budget for the Department of Lands and Natural Resources is \$17,000,973. I know there's different

accounting considerations that need to be made, you know, responsible spending, things like that. But to save on either, on our other own-source revenues whether it's within the personal income tax or, you know, external sales, et cetera, why isn't this being-, this Fisheries Fund, being used to support the operations of the LNR?

MR. WINTERS:

Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD:

So prior to an access fee being collected from fishers for the use of the Nunatsiavut Government quotas and licences, there was significant consultation taken by the Department with all those involved in the fishery. And the real purpose of the fund is to grow the fishery in Nunatsiavut and grow economic development within Nunatsiavut. And so this fund, the fishers agreed that, that was critically important to them. And they agreed to contribute access fees from the use of the quotas in order to be able to grow the fishery and grow economic development. That was what let-, the consultation gave back. It was not to be used for general operations of Lands and Natural Resources. The fund is to be used to grow the fishery.

MR. WINTERS:

Are there any other questions at this time? Yes, Ms. Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. My question is related to the interests and investment income. There's quite a lot of volatility right now in the stock markets and what would happen if we went down next year, next fiscal year and there was no interest or income that was able to be with-, be used by the Nunatsiavut Government. Would there be a plan in place on

what could be used instead of, if there was none? I don't know if that makes sense.

MR. WINTERS:

Ms. Crawford, when you're ready.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Thank you, Ms. Kemuksigak. Yes, we would definitely be looking at plans. Our money that we can invest with Nunatsiavut Government funds are in items such as GIC's, bonds with set rates. So our funds have been invested in GIC's with secure interest rates at that time and we'll continue to look at that treasury position and the cash management position to try to ensure that NG earns as much money as it possibly can from this investment and interest on excess funds. The volatility is certainly a top concern of everyone at this time. We'll continue to monitor it and we will continue to monitor the plans we make for ensuring we have funds to operate the Government in upcoming fiscal years. *Naku.*

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Are there other questions at this time? Without seeing any, Ms. Crawford, you can continue.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Ms. Barbour did have an additional question on personal income taxes. She had asked how much personal income taxes were used to fund other departments and how much personal income taxes were directed to fund Lands and Natural Resources? The simple answer to that in terms of your question is that we don't actually say, "Okay, this dollar of personal income tax is funding this dollar of Lands and Natural Resources," or, "This dollar of the investment income is funding this dollar of Lands and

Natural Resources." There are some funds under the Fiscal Financing Agreement that can be used for particular areas of Government operations of which, other than the amounts received for the conservation officers in English River, there is no other funds under the Fiscal Financing Agreement for LNR. So we have to use the Nunatsiavut Government own-source revenues to fund those items under our budget that aren't directly linked to the Fiscal Financing Agreement. But we definitely do not do the budget and say, "This dollar goes here and this dollar funds that." I hope that's helpful.

MR. WINTERS:

Yes, Ms. Barbour.

MS. BARBOUR:

Thank you, for that clarity. And that's part of the reason why I was asking about the Fisheries Fund. You know, there are so many things, and we've had these discussions in the Committee of the Whole and even yesterday. You know, food insecurity, housing insecurity. There are so many things that our people are facing every day of their lives, you know, just struggling to get by. And I know that the Government is working towards trying to come up with a food security solution and working on a food security strategy, et cetera. But this personal income tax own-source revenue comes from the working people of Nunatsiavut. It is the taxes that they paid. So, you know, the reason why I was asking what I was asking was I hope at some point in time, you know, whether it's when I'm in office or somebody else is here, or in the upcoming fiscal years, we can figure out a way how to give these hard-earned tax dollars back to our people, who essentially, work for it. You know? So that's

where that come from. And I hope it's something that can be taken back and considered.

MR. WINTERS: Ms. Crawford, whenever you're ready.

MS. CRAWFORD: I don't believe there was a question, but definitely have it noted in my notes. *Naku.*

MR. WINTERS: Are there any other questions at this time? You may continue.

MS. CRAWFORD: On page six, it speaks to the schedules in Annex A called the, "Projected Budget and Five-year Plan." So there was a discussion yesterday related to the contingency fund, and the reference to the Labrador Inuit Constitution was raised at that time. A total of \$712,000 has been budgeted for the 2025-'26 year. My apologies for the error in the plan. And it brings the accumulated contingency reserve to \$9,495,000. The budgets for the Inuit Community Corporations were submitted and approved by the Nunatsiavut Government for a total cash remittance of \$184,500. The budgets were slightly higher than that, depending on if they had deferred revenue being carried over from prior years. And I do again want to point out that at this time the Government of Canada has paused the *Own-source Revenue Capacity Agreement*. And this agreement states when it comes into effect, that, "Up to 50 percent of our own-source revenue that we generate will be clawed back through the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*." But through agreements between the Government of Canada and all the self-governing indigenous groups across Canada, this is paused while other areas of financial importance

and priority areas are being worked on. And the five-year plan changes primarily due to planned capital projects of the Nunatsiavut Government in the upcoming years. And that is the significant change in terms of planning. *Nakummek.*

MR. WINTERS:

Are there any questions at this time? Yes, Ms. Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. My question is regarding the ICG's budget. And I didn't realize until I was speaking to the other Chairperson, that it doesn't appear to be additional money even though we were approved for-, NunaKatiget was approved for an additional \$60,000 in fiscal year 2025-'26. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD:

It's because some of the cash for your budget, you already have remitted to you based on prior years budget. So the number that's built in this budget is only the amount of cash that the Government will have to transfer to you to support your budget.

MR. WINTERS:

Ms. Kemuksigak. Are there any other questions at this time? Yes, Mr. Dicker.

MR. J. DICKER:

That there were 2024-2025 year. That's gonna be corrected, right? It's just noted so that we, it is changed.

MR. WINTERS:

Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Yes, we will make the change. *Nakummek.*

MR. WINTERS: Are there further questions at this time? You may continue. Ms. Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: I don't know if this is the right place to ask the question, but is our-, with the emergency thing that was done yesterday with Ordinary Member Barbour, I was wondering if-, will there be funding allocated from the contingency fund to help fund the Inuit Child First Initiative until things work out with the Federal Government?

MR. WINTERS: The resolution yesterday passed so that is work that the NEC will undertake. There will be no details available at this time. Ms. Crawford, did you have anything to add? *Nakummek*. Are there further questions at this time? Seeing none, you can continue.

MS. CRAWFORD: We'll move to page seven. Employees are obviously a key to success of running any organization. And the Nunatsiavut Government is no different. This budget reflects a two percent increase in the salaries for employees effective April 1st, 2026. It does talk to that this has been in place for three years. Over the last year, there's been an increased amount for the travel benefit which will be effective April 1st. This was built into the Budget as well as an increase in the pension plans. The contribution from the Nunatsiavut Government is now five percent versus the 3.5 percent it was previously. And that was effective as of October 1st, 2025. I'll run through each department and I will pause after each department in the event there are questions on their programs or the budgeting that's been assigned to these departments. The Nunatsiavut Secretariat is responsible for the planning and priority

setting of the NG. Developing the legislative agenda as well as inter-government relations. In 2025-2026, there is an increase in professional fees, as they begin to finalize and implement an emergency response plan for Nunatsiavut. They will begin the renewal of the Nunatsiavut Government's strategic plan and develop educational resources related to policy development and governance. They will also continue their ongoing work in relation to protecting our land and treaty rights to advance Labrador Inuit priorities, through participation in the Inuit Crown Partnership Committee and to advance the Nunatsiavut Energy Plan. The department requires an additional position to support the Nunatsiavut Energy Plan. And there continues to be funds allocated to address data management needs, as well as establish a library of Labrador Inuit Association and Nunatsiavut Government reports and resources. The department is also budgeting for an additional position to support the increased communication needs of the Nunatsiavut Government. And as the Minister spoke to today, it is the 20th anniversary of the Nunatsiavut Government and funds are being budgeted to celebrate this anniversary.

Nakummek.

MR. WINTERS:

Are there questions at this time? Ms. Barbour.

MS. BARBOUR:

We know with the Prime Minister resigning, that comes with the question of the stability of the ICPC. So I'm wondering, you know, in the event-, I think it's safe to assume that in the event that when a new Government comes in, when a new Federal Government comes in and

they do not agree with continuing the Inuit Crown Partnership Committee, what will happen then with these dollars?

MR. WINTERS:

Ms. Crawford?

MS. CRAWFORD:

So the funds that we are discussing under Nunatsiavut Secretariat relate to travel and participation of the ICPC. I cannot speak to during this budget process or reviewing this document, in terms of the, "What if," if there is a change in Government or a change in leader of a current government. It is a good question maybe for oral question period to ask the President in terms of the ICPC and the advocacy that the ITK is undertaking on that very important committee.

MR. WINTERS:

Are there any other questions at this time? Ms. Barbour.

MS. BARBOUR:

I wanted to ask a question around the last sentence of the second-last paragraph where it says, "There continues to be funds allocated to address," and then, "As well as establish a library." I don't know if you've ever seen the back room of the NG Admin building. But it is filled with historic documents, videotapes, CD's et cetera of the time when we were in negotiations of, you know, certain areas throughout the negotiations and throughout the LIA. And it says, "Continues to be allocated." So, you know, does this include for a staff person to be hired to organize those? Does it provide for the needs to potentially digitize some of those documents? Because again, they're not sealed in a room with controlled airflow. They're in banker boxes. And they need to be preserved before they're any further damaged. So I know that the funds are there to do

that. But does that also-, you mentioned having staff, new communications staff to address the communications need. Does that also account for staff to begin this important work and preserve a part of our history?

MR. WINTERS:

Ms. Crawford?

MS. CRAWFORD:

At this time, there's no new staff person being contemplated. Funds have been expended in the last year. Ms. Anita Fields was in Nain doing work on developing the management system which then can start being implemented. This is very early-stage in terms of this management system. But it is being actioned and should a staff person be required then those decisions will be made at that time as they move further along in the process.

MR. WINTERS:

Are there any other questions? Ms. Crawford, you can continue.

MS. CRAWFORD:

We'll move to pagina eight, page eight. So 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 planned for the Register of Beneficiaries Office. The next phase of the Inuit Ancestry Project is underway. Legal Services Division has plans to recruit an articling law clerk to assist their division with all the work in that division. Infrastructure and Planning Division has been exceptionally busy. As we've discussed, there was \$61 million received under the Inuit Community Infrastructure Fund Action Plan. There is an increase in

professional fees as the division develops strategies, engages professional engineers and consultants on moving forward with capital projects. They also manage a current stock of public properties and coordinating plans and constructions of new office and program spaces. The Division requires five new positions. These positions will assist with the coordination and management of current capital projects and support the ongoing maintenance of current facilities. The requirements to purchase three new trucks and two snowmobiles for maintenance staff. The Torngat Mountains Base Camp and Research Centre requires critical maintenance. In the 2025 season the preventative and critical maintenance plans are budgeted at \$2.5 million. *Nakummek.*

MR. WINTERS: Sorry, Ms. Crawford, go ahead.

MS. CRAWFORD: \$2.8 million. And that's the end of Nunatsiavut Affairs, if there's any questions on that.

MR. WINTERS: Are there any questions at this time? Ms. Barbour.

MS. BARBOUR: To my knowledge, Nunatsiavut Affairs also oversees Housing. And I know we spoke about it in the preamble and things like that, but it doesn't mention anything here about the Housing Commission. So I know that Housing Commission makes their own budget and the NEC approves it. I'm just wondering if there's a requirement for it to be included in the Financial Plan?

MR. WINTERS: Ms. Crawford?

MS. CRAWFORD: There's no requirement for it to be included in the Financial Plan. And we did speak about the expenditures under, "Housing," under the Fiscal Financing Agreement section. So we didn't want to get into repetitiveness into the Financial Plan under this department.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* As we've now reached the top of the hour, we're gonna take a 15-minute break. *Nakummek.*

[Recess]

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Welcome back. Whenever you're ready, Ms. Crawford, we can continue with the Financial Plan.

MS. CRAWFORD: *Nakummek.* We're on the Department of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology, obviously, a department close to my heart. The department is responsible for the financial affairs, human resource needs and for the supplying and managing of the Information Technology needs and resources of the Government. So Finance has a critical role in implementation of strategic priorities through review of forecasts, budgets, policies, tax, and funding agreements. Our current financial system is in need of an upgrade. And it is being upgraded to allow us to move to electronic purchase orders and electronic timekeeping. Funds for this upgrade have been budgeted at \$150,000 for the financial system upgrade. As well, a new Human Resource management system is required and funds have been budgeted to continue the implementation of this new system which will talk to our finance system. We're very excited about this move. The Human Resources Division continues to

move forward with the strategic objectives to make the Nunatsiavut Government an employer of choice. There have been areas of focus identified to assist with recruitment and retention that have been actioned and will be actioned over the next 12 to 18 months, such as a complete review of the organizational structure of the Government, productions, like, videos and photos highlighting Nunatsiavut Government as a place to live and work. This particular project is being completed in collaboration with the Tourism Division and will have dual roles in terms of-, also there'll be pictures and videos to showcase Nunatsiavut as a place to visit. There's significant progress made in the area of Occupational Health and Safety and funds budgeted for the continued implementation and training required under this program. The Government has a requirement to purchase capital assets related to infrastructure monitoring and data storage at a projected cost of \$130,000. The department has budgeted for two new positions in Information and Technology. One focused on information security and one focused on the day-to-day tasks related to the maintenance of Atukitigevik and other data management. I'll pause for questions on this department.

MR. WINTERS:

Ms. Barbour.

MS. BARBOUR:

Nakummek. I notice it doesn't mention anything in here about expanding or increasing staff capacity within FHRIT. So we know that you guys are doing a lot of good work in terms of restructuring and recruitment and retention and things like that. But I do want to highlight that, you know,

although there-, within Government there is like a DHSD finance or a DHSD payroll, and then NG. For DHSD alone you know, being the biggest department of the Government, you know, and comprising of more than half of the civil service, and responding in a timely manner to either services rendered or, you know, particularly, services rendered. We rely on a lot of that to help with programming such as land-based programming with interpretation, translation services, et cetera. You know, hiring extra help to ensure that programs and services can be run effectively and efficiently. And a lot of the things that I've been hearing, you know, is that people sway away from that because of the long wait times, from Finance. You know, we get in our approvals in a timely manner. But then sometimes individuals or Inuit can wait weeks to receive their payment that they're entitled to. So I was wondering, has it been considered to expand the human resource capacity within Finance? And the other side to that is also Human Resource, you know? There's been instances within departments that I've been involved with that an employee has been off of work for an extended period of time waiting for a human resource review conclusion, whether it was based on scheduling or deferring schedules between the relevant supervisor and the human resources? You know, there are some significant delays and I was just wondering in an attempt to decrease those delays, has it been considered to increase that capacity?

MR. WINTERS:

So you have a series of questions related to the Finance Department and a series of questions related to HR. Whenever you're ready.

MS. CRAWFORD:

As I mentioned, the Government is undergoing a complete review of its organizational structures with looks at roles and responsibilities of the employees, as well as the way the Government is structured. At that time, depending on what the recommendations come out from the organizational structure, there may be additional positions in this department and other departments. That being said, there are always workflow processes being evaluated in all departments, not just the department that I'm responsible for, to look at where efficiencies can be gained, and looking at capacity needs. *Nakummek.*

MR. WINTERS:

Are there other questions at this time? Seeing none, you can continue, Ms. Crawford, when you're ready. Oh, apologies, Mr. Dicker.

MR. J. DICKER:

I'm going back to the Human Resources Division, seems like that the positions are advertised but all the people that are hired are hired out of Goose Bay or out of Nain. And the people that are needed are, I supposed, advertised as could be here, could be there. But I find that difficult to grasp sometimes 'cause that person needs to be in one place to focus on the whole works, you know? If a person can't get the job within let's say Makkovik or Postville, they won't bother. It's just Nain or Upper Lake Melville. And people from Upper Lake Melville want the job in Goose Bay rather than Nain. Is there, is this a more, you could say, enough is enough now. We need this job but, you know, you're going after Nain and you are going after Nain. Just what the policy was before. And nobody's (inaudible)

MR. WINTERS:

Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Nakummek, Mr. Dicker. I know your question's not directly related to the Financial Plan in front of you. It is a really important question. And as part of the ongoing work of the Human Resources Division in collaboration with all departments to try to recruit and retain positions in Nunatsiavut, sometimes operational decisions have to be made that a position needs to be in a different location that if it's an education position and the operations are in Makkovik, they can't recruit in Makkovik, they would open it up to Nunatsiavut. But those are active discussions within the Government as a whole, and very critical conversations within the Nunatsiavut Executive Council.

MR. WINTERS:

Are there other questions at this time? Ms. Barbour.

MS. BARBOUR:

I just have a question of curiosity. How many human resource staff is there in total? And then the other part to that was, "What is the acceptable ratio of Human Resource to number of staff? And I know this is just a question of curiosity. So I don't need a response right now, but-, and you can probably take it back or whatever. But, I just wanted to know.

MR. WINTERS:

Ms. Crawford.

MS. BARBOUR:

Well, since you asked, I do have to answer. We have, I believe, seven, not including myself, and we are within ratios of other organizations of similar type and size. However, again, as I mentioned earlier, we are undergoing a complete review of the organizational structure of the Government including the way roles and responsibilities are assigned

between positions to make sure that the workloads, and we have the right positions, the right numbers of positions and people doing the right types of work in order to offer very efficient and effective programs, services and operations. *Naku.*

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Are there any other questions at this time? You may continue, Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD:

On page nine, "Lands and Natural Resources." Lands and Natural Resources is responsible for Labrador Inuit Lands and all natural resources within, both renewable and non-renewable. The management and regulation of Inuit harvesting, protection of the environment, establishment of exploration standards and the approval of workplans. The establishment and management of protected areas in LIL and the implementation and administration of Impacts and Benefits Agreements. There are no significant changes planned within the programs, services and operations of the Non-Renewable and Lands Division. The Renewable Resources Division reflects an appropriation related to the Fishery Fund. So as Ms. Barbour pointed out earlier in the Departmental Budget for Lands and Natural Resources their total expenditures is over \$17 million, of which \$12.3 million, I believe, is attached to the Fisheries Fund. And in order to be able to action a purchase of a fishing licence, a quota, you have to have the revenue and you have to have that expenditure budgeted. So the entire revenue for the Fishery Fund is budgeted under Own-source Revenues and that exact balance is budgeted under the program area of this department. The Renewable

Resources Division will be participating in research projects such as those related to moose. And of course, the annual Fisheries Workshop. They continue to implement their Capital Asset Replacement Plan. And there is an allocation for the purchase of boat and trailer and one new snowmobile, as well as always, the appropriate safety gear as required under Transport Canada. The Environment Division has no significant changes in their current program plans. They have appropriated for the Northern Contaminants Program, the continuation of the Lake Melville Baseline Study, Sustainable Communities, Imappivut and other research projects. And they have a new technical position specific for environmental assessments to help manage the increase in the environmental assessment demands. *Naku.*

MR. WINTERS:

Are there any questions at this time? Mr. Dicker.

MR. J. DICKER:

I've always put forward that the studies that go as far north as Nain, they should go further. And in Imappivut right now is as far as Nain. I mean, there's so much potential up north. It should be looked at more closely and you should look at maybe hiring more people, yeah for projects north of Nain, like ducks and geese are whatever, they only get banded farthest no farther than Rigolet, you know? We've got a lot of ducks that go and people would know where it come from. They think they come from way up north but maybe they're just coming from our area. So we don't know. But I think with these-, I think that more considerations and money should be put into the new, in the area north of Nain. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD: *Nakummek*, Mr. Dicker. I do understand that there are a number of research projects up in the Torngat Mountain region which is-, and some being conducted especially on Marine. However, I'm not well-versed in that area such as-, like the Lands and Natural Resources Department would be. And I will take your comment back to the appropriate department officials.

MR. WINTERS: Are there further questions at this time? Ms. Barbour.

MS. BARBOUR: We know that there's, that Nunatsiavut Climate Change Strategy and I just wondered why it's not highlighted in this?

MR. WINTERS: Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD: At this time they haven't requested the funds through this particular budget area. My understanding is that there's *Contribution Agreement* funding to help assist with some of the implementation for any new items that they currently would not have to consider.

MR. WINTERS: Are there other questions on this section at this time? Seeing none, Ms. Crawford, you may continue.

MS. CRAWFORD: The Health and Social Development Department is responsible for establishing and administering health and social policies, programs and services for the NG, and for promoting the health and social wellbeing of Inuit. The majority of the funding is flowed through under the Fiscal Financing Agreement. There are no significant changes to highlight in those areas at this time. They have budgeted for the replacement of one snowmobile and three vehicles in the upcoming fiscal year. As well,

under the own-source revenue stream of funding, the Government does support Family Services, Youth, Elders, the Status of Women and Food Security, and there are no significant changes in the plans for their program areas and the budget considerations under this budget for the upcoming year.

MR. WINTERS: Are there any questions? Ms. Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: I was just wanting some clarification. Is Family Services paid out of NG funds or is that, like, given through another contribution agreement or the Province or something?

MR. WINTERS: Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD: There are some positions such as the Director and the Indigenous representative that are funded through own-source revenue under Family Services. Other positions that are related to the Family Connections programs are funded through other streams of funding. *Nakummek.*

MR. WINTERS: Are there other questions at this time? Ms. Barbour.

MS. BARBOUR: You mentioned that there's no significant changes. But I know that work was being done to try and get youth centre similar to the model in Nain, here in Hopedale. So with that would come for a new building and new staff. And I was just wondering why that isn't reflected in the Budget?

MR. WINTERS: Ms. Crawford?

MS. BARBOUR: At this time there were, I would assume, since the request did not come into this budget process, that they're not at that stage for actioning the

funds or looking for additional funding to be able to move to that stage. I would assume that they're in planning stages but I will take the question and ask the department.

MR. WINTERS: Are there further questions at this time? Seeing none, you may continue.
Ms. Barbour.

MS. BARBOUR: I just wonder if that means now that if that's not budgeted for-, I mean, I know we have to spend our money for what it's budgeted for. But if it's not budgeted for here, does that mean that Hopedale will not get a youth centre in the upcoming fiscal year?

MR. WINTERS: Ms. Crawford?

MS. CRAWFORD: That doesn't mean that that may not happen. It's just that, that wasn't a highlighted item for the Budget preparation . But if you go back to Schedule One under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*, if those are the funds that would be considered to be used, all the FFA funding that is received previously and currently for the Department of Health is budgeted as a revenue and expenditure, which then does allow us to action plans as they come forward.

MR. WINTERS: Are there any other questions? Ms. Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: As we were talking about the Inuit Child First Initiative, if the funding is cut, will that mean the Inuit Child First Initiative staff will be laid off?

MR. WINTERS: Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD: I believe that the resolution that was passed yesterday spoke to the Inuit Child First Initiative and the continuation. So I think there's work that the

Executive Council has to do. I will say that the Government of Canada is not asking us to pay back any funds that they had sent to us under the ICFI, the Inuit Child First Initiative, that are not expended by March 31st, 2025. Those funds are being used into the next fiscal year. And there have been discussions to ensure that those staff remain on and do the valuable work they're doing in that program. So there is continuation of funds. I can even say last week we got notice that, I think it was, it might've been \$200,000 was transferred over to us for that program. So they are continuing to-, funds up to March 31st, '25.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Are there further questions right now? Seeing none, you may continue.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Education and Economic Development is 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 in relation to education, capacity building and the development of economic opportunities. There are significant funds received to support post secondary programs and education has \$6.4 million budgeted for student supports for the upcoming year. They require a new position to assist with the coordination of these student supports. They also plan to continue to deliver summer literacy camps in Nunatsiavut, support for the participation of students on ice and a career fair directed at the Grade 9 students, to name a few of their programs. The Government also

financially supports NL schools for supplemental programs and positions that are not provided under the Department of Education with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. And there's \$3.7 million budgeted for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. 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. And as the Minister spoke in his Budget Speech today, the Economic Development, in conjunction with the Tourism Division are in the early stages of a plan to collaborate with the Inuit Community Governments to have longer term Community Development Officers in each community employed by the Inuit Community Government. These positions would focus on Community Tourism and Economic Development priorities of the communities and support regional priorities of Nunatsiavut. Taima.

MR. WINTERS:

Are there any other questions at this time? Seeing none.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Language, Culture and Tourism. Language, Culture and Tourism is responsible for administering the cultural and linguistic affairs of the Inuit and the Nunatsiavut Government which includes policies, programs and services for the preservation, use and development of Inuit, the protection and management of archaeological and historic resources and protecting and developing the cultural heritage of the Inuit and fostering Inuit creativity through the arts. The department administers policies, programs 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. Their plan is guided by their three strategies related to language, tourism and arts. The department has required funds for three new positions, for Language Program Community Workers, one of each in Makkovik, Postville and Rigolet. There are currently positions providing language programs in Nain and Hopedale. They've also budgeted for the creation of three trainee positions, a permanent interpreter translator trainee and two childcare worker trainee positions at the Language Nest. These positions will provide opportunities for individuals to grow their fluency and provide valuable programs and services to Labrador Inuit. The Archaeology Office will continue with projects that have been ongoing, such as the Digital Outreach and Oral History Initiative, the Heritage Forum, Place Names Project. And they'll continue the next steps for a repository. The Tourism Division is the lead for tourism in Nunatsiavut, Hebron, the Torngat Mountains Base Camp and Research Centre and Arts. They've planned for the continuation of the Hebron Ambassador and Restoration Program in 2025. They've committed to the operations and a youth leadership program at the Torngat Mountains. And as I noted before, they're working with the Economic Development Division on the long-term Community Development Officers. And again, the Minister spoke about this new recreation program in his budget speech. This is a very early concept stage and it is aimed at providing support for travel, capacity development, participation in events and competitions. And the initial amount for this new program is \$125,000.

But again, it is in a very early stage. I can't give you guidelines, terms. I know that the department is working on that as we speak. And as I noted, there is an Art Strategy and it is-, the budget plan for the Arts is building on the strategy with plans for artist participation and trade shows, tool kits, skills development, et cetera. *Nakummek*.

MR. WINTERS: Are there any questions at this time? Yes, Ms. Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS: I just had a question on the new recreation program for participants. Is this the same funding as the TRC funding?

MR. WINTERS: Ms. Crawford?

MS. CRAWFORD: It will be instead of what was the TRC funding. So currently all the Inuit Community Governments have funds from previous years including this year for recreational activities. And the department has looked at doing a regional program. The money and administering a standard set of guidelines and policies. One of the things that we've gotten questions in at the Government through Finance as well as in LCT, is that the TRC is not acting or operating the same way it did a number of years ago. And we get questions on the applications of whether the funding can be used for certain items. And because it was supposed to be under the umbrella of the TRRC, I can't answer those questions and neither can other department officials. So this new program, it has more money allocated to it than what was \$75,000 in previous years. There are, I believe, gonna be consistent-, it's funding some of the similar things under the TRC and I

believe it will expand. But again it's very new. I believe the department will reach out to talk to you about this new program.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Before we go to Ms. Barbour, Mr. Saunders, will you take over as Chair? I'll be back shortly.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Okay, are there further questions?

MS. BARBOUR:

My question is around salaries for the interpreter translators, interpreter translator trainees, essentially Inuttitut workers. You know, when are they expected to be increased? Because I know that there is ongoing work to try and increase the salaries of interpreter translators. The other aspect to that is that-, and it's been very evident at the terminology workshop last week, outside of the less than a handful of youth in Nunatsiavut, that is beginning to become more fluent in Inuttitut or learning Inuttitut, a lot of our unilingual and fluent speakers are seniors or elders. I've said this at a number of tables, but we are on a time crunch. There's also the situation where the Interpretation Translation department has experienced seven years of backlog on documents for the Government. So I recognize that the human resource capacity is increasing. But again the hiring pool to have these positions filled is very minimal because even, you know, with expert fluent speakers, they have trouble translating. And they have trouble interpreting. So I wondered what the timeline would be to increase their salaries? And it doesn't appear to me that it's reflected in this budget. But again, I recognize that Human Resource capacity is increasing, which I think is wonderful. But I feel like they're not paid enough. Another aspect to this is that our

Inuttitut teachers in the schools, I know that within this-, within the monies budgeted to provide to the Province for education, includes the salaries of our And they're working on Inuttitut in our schools. So until we see an increase with our own interpreter translators, the Inuttitut staff in that curriculum centre, won't see an increase either. So what is the timeline? When will it happen, are my two questions.

MS. CRAWFORD:

You did have a number of questions in there. I think what I can say in terms of the details is that those are active files within both departments, one related to LCT and one related to the Department of Education and Economic Development. In terms of your comment on the hiring pool being very minimal, I think what you are seeing with the trainees being budgeted and put into this file is actioning items that are in the Language Strategy. So how do we go about increasing Inuttitut speakers in our communities? We've now got three trainee positions budgeted under LCT that will actively be working with people who are fluent in Inuttitut, which should increase their fluency. And then we will have more fluent Inuttitut speakers. But those are items that are-, were planned for under the Language Strategy. I believe your final question was on what is the timeline, when is this happening? Again, these are active files within those departments.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Thank you, Ms. Crawford. Are there any further questions?

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Thank you, Deputy Chair. Are there any further questions right now? Ms. Barbour.

MS. BARBOUR:

Thank you. And thank you, for being patient with me. The next question is around Culture. I know before, that, you know, there has been for good reason, lots of focus on language programming within the department. And we're now seeing the department expand in terms of Human Resources. Because there's been so much focus on language, some aspects of the cultural pieces and the responsibility to culture within Nunatsiavut has kinda fallen through the cracks. And so they created the cultural programs position. And I'm just wondering, you know, we're expanding in other communities for language, why isn't it reflected to expand to other communities for cultural programming as well?

MR. WINTERS:

Ms. Crawford?

MS. CRAWFORD:

I believe your question would probably be best directed to the Department at that time. It's not in their budget request at this time. That's not saying it's not an active discussion within the department, and one of their active files. I do know it is. And again, when it comes down to additional HR capacity, I will continue to remind people around the Table that the NG is currently in a review of its organizational structure, programs, roles and responsibilities of positions, looking at what our needs are in terms of an organization. *Nakummek*.

MR. WINTERS:

Are there any other questions at this time? Seeing none, you may continue.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Finally, on the departmental side in the administration, we strive to keep our administrative costs at a minimum. We actively will review things such as our phone costs, hydro costs, insurance with the eye of, "Is this necessary and needed?" And making reductions where necessary, where things aren't required. And also there are some plans in the administration budget particular related to capital assets where we will have to buy new furniture for some of the new buildings that are coming on. So we've got a small amount budgeted for that item. Everything else is fairly consistent year-over-year, slight reductions in telephone costs and rent and maintenance. *Nakummek.*

MR. WINTERS:

Are there any other questions at this time? You may continue when you're ready, Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Page 12, I won't spend any time on, other than to highlight this is the Assembly Budget that was discussed and approved yesterday with just the information provided from the report that the MCS tabled yesterday. So we'll move to page 13. Under the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement, the NG has an obligation, along with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Government of Canada to fund the operations of the Torngat Joint Fisheries Board and the Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-Management Board. The budget in this table reflects the commitments for the Nunatsiavut Government for these items-, these (inaudible)

MR. WINTERS:

Are there questions at this time? Seeing none, you may continue, Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD: That brings us to the end of the Financial Plan. The next part of the document is the Annex to the Budget Bill. So I'm not sure we're doing a clause-by-clause review now of the Budget along with the Annex, or?

MR. WINTERS: It's really up to you how you want to approach it. Would you like to do the annex first?

MS. CRAWFORD: Sure.

MR. WINTERS: Okay.

MS. CRAWFORD: So the next page after you see the wording on the Implementation Plan, the attachment that's there is the Annex A, which is the exact Annex to the Budget Bill. It will say, "Annex A, page seven." This is a summary of the funds and the expenditures related to both what we call administration and the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. It reflects that the Consolidated Financial Plan for the upcoming year has a total of \$433,845,500. These numbers tie out to subsequent schedules so I'll continue to move along. Page eight reflects that Section One and Section Two are balanced. We have balanced revenues and balanced expenditures. And it is a requirement under Inuit Law to have a balanced budget. Page nine. This is Section One. So if you recall, as I presented the Financial Plan, we went over the Fiscal Financing Agreement, the revenues and the highlights of the major expenditures under this agreement. I don't want to go and read through all the numbers, but I'll just take a moment and allow questions or time to review the numbers and if there are questions on it. *Nakummek*.

MR. WINTERS: Ms. Barbour.

MS. BARBOUR: This less amount that says, "Allocated," in Section Two, is that carried over or deferred revenue?

MS. WILLIAMS: Ms. Crawford?

MS. CRAWFORD: No, there are two sections to the Annex. And so as I went through the Financial Plan I highlighted that Section One of the plan related to the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. And that there was an amount allocated of the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* to the operations and programs of the NG, and that's Section Two of the Annex.

MR. WINTERS: Are there more questions? Ms. Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I was just looking at the line-by-line items and I'm not sure if I'm lining it up right, but it looks like total *Fiscal Financing Agreement*-, oh, no, is \$35,000-, \$35 million, I mean, like in the negative. What does that mean?

MR. WINTERS: Ms. Crawford?

MS. CRAWFORD: So the total amount (inaudible).

MR. WINTERS: Your microphone did not engage.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Oh, sorry.

MR. WINTERS: Ms. Kemuksigak, thank you.

MS. CRAWFORD: That is-, so the total amount for the Fiscal Financing Agreement is \$399 million. It's less 35.8 million which is brought over to Section Two. We'll get to that on page 12, where you'll see that number flow to.

MR. WINTERS: Are there any further questions on this specific page? Yes, Ms. Barbour.

MS. BARBOUR: Thank you. I'm trying to refresh my memory from the last Budget Bills that we did since this Assembly. But I don't recall-, I know this is under the FFA. But a gap closing fund, can you explain that to me again please?

MR. WINTERS: Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD: A few years ago, the Nunatsiavut Government received an allocation under the Gap Closing Fund through the Government of Canada. And this money is to be used for multi-purpose buildings in Nain and Hopedale. It was under a proposal and the funds were flowed through the Fiscal Financing Agreement. There has been delays in this project due to various reasons such as securing land or land that was looked at not being suitable.

MR. WINTERS: Are there any other questions? You may continue, Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD: Page 10 is a schedule of the breakdown of funds by each Inuit Community Government for a total of \$8,920,000 budgeted for all five Inuit Community Governments for their operations.

MR. WINTERS: Are there questions? Seeing none, you may continue, Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD: Ms. Barbour.

MS. BARBOUR: Thank you. Again, just trying to refresh my memory. The allocations, there's percentages here and is that based on the population within the community or is it, like, the number of buildings or what?

MR. WINTERS: Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD: The allocation just simply shows the amount of the total revenue of the total amounts by community. So Nain is getting allocated 32 percent of the total amount.

MR. WINTERS: Are there any other questions around the Table? Seeing none, you may continue.

MS. CRAWFORD: During the discussion through the Financial Plan, we did discuss the capital infrastructure and highlights related to that. The Budget Act simply provides a high-level summary allocation. So \$21.4 million for office buildings and renovations and \$13.85 million for Housing which relate to staff and other types of housing.

MR. WINTERS: Are there any questions on this page? Seeing none, you may continue.

MS. CRAWFORD: Page 13 lines up with the page that in the Financial Plan that talks about the sources of revenue for financing the operations programs and services of the Government itself. The first item I will point out is the \$25,843,000 that comes over from Schedule One. The remaining items we've had discussions and questions on the sources of the types of revenue. So it has a total of \$70,169,500.

MR. WINTERS: Are there any questions about this? Ms. Barbour.

MS. BARBOUR: It was-, it's more so of a request. You know, we see how much money we're receiving, and we see what we're spending it on in terms of the departments. What I've been hearing a lot in my community through constituency meetings or just regular conversations, bumping into Nainimiut on the road and things like that was questions about how this

money is being spent. And I wondered, I wanted to ask if, you know, as a part of this or for in the future or moving forward, if a dollar amount can be identified as to what's spent on programs and services versus other things? You know what I mean? Like we-, like for example, we know we have this much in our revenue. How much of that is spent on programs and services? For example, that programs and directly benefit Inuit, for example, the ICFI or Education, things like that.

MR. WINTERS:

Whenever you're ready, Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD:

We'll take that under consideration, although I will point out that it's probably not as simple as you would think it is because we have positions that deliver programming; we have buildings that we require in order to deliver programming. So the question could be quite broad. So if Inuit are asking how much money are we spending on purchasing supplies for a program, or are they looking at the total amount of what a particular program may cost? And then we also have staff that work on multiple programs. So it's not a simple answer, but we'll take it back for consideration.

MR. WINTERS:

Are there further questions on this page? Ms. Crawford, you may continue.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Page 13. As you recall in the plan, there was one page that spoke about the projected budget. And as noted on the next page, the, you know, look forward into the next couple of years. So it breaks down the total for the departmental budgets, the amount for the contingency fund. It

reflects that there is no claw back in the current year. The amount of cash that will be outlaid to the Inuit Community Corporations, the amount for the Nunatsiavut Assembly and the amount for the Implementation Plan for a total budget requested of \$70,169,500. I'll move along to the next page, page 14. And as I noted in our earlier discussion, this table summarizes a five-year period. And the fluctuations are primarily driven by capital projects. Assembly budget fluctuates up and down depending on the election cycle. But that's really an insignificant amount when you look at the costs of capital projects. I'll pause now if there's any questions on those two pages.

MR. WINTERS:

Seeing no questions, you can continue.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Page 15 provides the numerical breakdown of each department. And it will break down by salaries, programs, professional fees, travel, et cetera. Earlier in this discussion in the Committee of the Whole, I highlighted the either changes or new items. And I also highlighted some of the continuation of programs and projects that each department will be ongoing. I'll just give you a moment to have a look at this departmental budget if there are any questions on the numbers.

MR. WINTERS:

Does anyone have any questions at this time? Ms. Barbour.

MS. BARBOUR:

I was just saying that, I know I asked for the total number highlighted for programs. I didn't realize it was a line item on this page. It is there for each departmental program.

MR. WINTERS:

Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD: But as I noted, the salaries for those particular programs may not be included in that amount 'cause positions are included in salaries amount. So it's far more complicated than just saying, "Oh, we spend \$25 million on programs." That's not a real reflection of what we actually spend on programs.

MR. WINTERS: Are there any other questions at this time? Seeing none, Ms. Crawford, you may continue.

MS. CRAWFORD: Page 16, again, is the Assembly Budget that was approved at yesterday's sitting. And the last page, page 17, breaks down the amounts that are commitments under the Implementation Plan. So, and these reflect over the Nunatsiavut Government's commitment. The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Government of Canada would fund and appropriate their own amounts in the own budgets. *Nakummek.*

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* That brings us to the end of the Financial Plan and Budget Act. We'll now go to the Budget Bill itself. And in reviewing the Bill, we'll begin by voting on the substantive sections first, starting with Section Two and then once the substantive sections are finished, we'll go back to the beginning to consider the pre-amble and the title of the Bill. Clause 2, one moment. Is everyone at the Bill itself? Apologies that it's under the wrong tab this time around. The top of your page should say, "*Nunatsiavut Assembly Budget Act 2025.*" Oh, page one. Yeah, sorry. I should've said that. We're starting at-, it's-, we're all tired and warm and dealing with numbers. So we're looking at Clause 2 on pages two to three. So this is, "Interpretation." "In this act, unless the context

otherwise requires, a) Act means the *Budget Act 2025*, b) Budget means the Consolidated Financial Plan referred to in Section Three of this Act and annexed to this Act; 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.

Are there any questions? Are we agreed? On page three, Clause 3, "Budge Approved and Adopted." The Consolidated Financial Plan of the Nunatsiavut Government for the fiscal year beginning April 1st, 2025 and ending March 31st, 2026, 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, 2025 to March 31, 2026." Are there questions? Seeing none, are we agreed? Still on page three, Clause 4, "Authorizations Respecting Revenues." Four, "The Nunatsiavut treasurer is herby authorized and 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 1st, 2025. The number is \$399, 519,000. And b) to raise and collect the following revenues and to pay the same into the Nunatsiavut Fund during the fiscal year, starting April 1st 2025. Fisheries and Environment Fund, \$12,325,000, Personal Income Tax, \$5,775,000. Labrador Land Claims Implementation Trust Fund, \$5,250,000; Interest Investment Revenue, \$8,302,500; Goods and Services Tax, \$2,424,000; Other Revenue, \$250,000 to total \$433,845,500. Questions? Ms. Barbour.

MS. BARBOUR: I don't know if it's just me looking at this wrong, but the numbers are different in the Annex on page seven and on page eight. So the total projected revenue on page eight is \$433,845 and then on this one is \$363,676. So I might be misunderstanding something somewhere, but...

MR. WINTERS: Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD: So the Total Revenue in the Budget Bill on page three is \$433 million. On the Budget Bill, Clause 4(b) in bold on the bottom...

MS. BARBOUR: Okay.

MS. CRAWFORD: ...\$433,845,500. If you go to page seven of the Annex the Total Revenue at the bottom is \$433,845,500. And on page eight, the Total Projected Revenue is \$433,845,500. They all agree.

MR. WINTERS: Do you have a question?

MS. BARBOUR: The number I was talking about was in a), \$399,000,419. But in the other numbers that we see here, like, the FFA it says a different number. Like on page eight it says, in the FFA it's to \$363 million.

MR. WINTERS: Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD: If you turn to page nine, the total amount of funds being received on the Fiscal Financing Agreement is \$399,519,000 and then there are amounts allocated between different areas.

MR. WINTERS: Do you have another question, Ms. Barbour?

MS. BARBOUR: No, thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Are there any other questions on this clause? Sorry. Seeing none, are we agreed? We're now onto page four, Clause 5, "Additional Revenues."

The amounts referred to in subsection 4(b) are estimates and nothing in Section 4 prevents or shall be construed to prevent the Nunatsiavut Government from collecting or receiving additional money, provided such money is 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. Do we have any questions? Seeing none, are we agreed?

Clause 6, same page. "Payments must be authorized." No payments may be made out of the Nunatsiavut Fund during the fiscal period April 1st 2025 to March 31st 2026 except a) in accordance with the Budget; b) with the authorization of the President and Council where the payment is made 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."

Do we have questions on Clause 6? Seeing none, are we agreed? Clause 7, "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 31st, 2026." Are there any questions on this clause? Seeing none, are we agreed? Clause 8 on pages four to six is, "Appropriations." Subject to Part Nine of the Financial Administration

Act the following persons may in accordance with the Budget requisition from and out of the Nunatsiavut Fund up to the following amounts for the fiscal year beginning on April 1st 2025 for the following purposes:

Under the heading of Nunatsiavut Assembly, a) \$4.295 million in respect of the Assembly in the Members on the requisition of the Speaker. b) Nunatsiavut Secretariat. \$6.186 million in respect of the functions, programs and services of the Nunatsiavut Secretariat on the requisition of the President, c) \$232,047,000 in respect of the functions, programs and services of the Nunatsiavut Affairs on the requisition of the First Minister, d) Department of Finance and Human Resources, \$70,622,000 in respect of the functions, programs and services of the Department of Finance and Human Resources on the requisition of the Nunatsiavut Treasurer. e) Department of Lands and Natural Resources, \$17.973 million 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 Natural Resources, f) \$73.614 million 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. g) Department of Education and Economic Development. \$41.438 million 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, h) \$5.952 million 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, i) Appropriation in respect of Inuit Community Government budgets, \$17.377 million 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 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 communities Joint Management Committee with respect to the equitable division among the Inuit Community Governments of the amount of \$17.377 million. Do we have any questions on Clause 8 (a) through (j) on pages four to six? Oh, sorry, I missed the last-, thank you. 8(j) Appropriation in respect of Inuit Community Corporation budgets, \$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 provided by the Nunatsiavut Executive Council. *Nakummek*. Are there any questions on Clause 8? Ms. Barbour.

MS. BARBOUR:

It's more so nit-picky under the Section (i), I wondered if it had to be that little (i) instead of (a). You know what I mean?

MR. WINTERS:

So it's specifically, like, a clerical question about how they're being bulleted and numbered?

MS. BARBOUR:

Yes, if we're referencing appropriations in this, it would-, we would reference it 8, what? 8(i)(a). So would it have to be a number instead of a-, okay.

MR. WINTERS:

It would not. *Nakummek*. Are there any other questions on Clause 8? I know it's a lot. Seeing none, are we agreed? *Nakummek*. Clause 9, still on page six. "Other requisitions must be budgeted for and be authorized by Executive Council. Any requisition for a payment from and out of the Nunatsiavut Fund that is not specifically authorized in Sections 6, 7 and 8 of this Act, but that has been provided for in the budget must first be authorized by order of the Nunatsiavut Executive Council. Are there any questions on this clause? Seeing none, are we agreed? Clause 10, "Transfers between funds or departmental budgets." 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 Clause 10? Seeing none, are we agreed? Clause 11, "Effective Date." This Act has effect on April 1st, 2025. Are there any questions on Clause 11? Are we agreed? This brings us to the Annex, which we've just looked at, page 7 through 17 of the Financial Plan. This is the reason that we went over it first. I was hoping to get the questions out of the way before all of this. Are there any questions on the Annex beyond what's already been asked and answered? Seeing none, are we agreed? That will bring us back to page two, Clause 1, "The Short Title." Budget Act, 2025. Are there any questions? Seeing none, are we agreed? Finally, the Long Title, "An Act

to Implement the Consolidated Financial Plan of the Nunatsiavut Government for the Fiscal year Beginning April 1st, 2025 and Ending March 31st, 2026." Are we agreed? Oh, apologies, are there any questions? Seeing none, are we agreed? *Nakummek*. That concludes the page-by-page, clause-by-clause review of the Bill. Does the Minister wish to conclude debate?

MR. DICKER JR.:

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

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. That concludes debate. That also concludes the Committee of the Whole and I will thank the witness. You may exit. We are now back in the Assembly. All those in favour of second reading of Bill 2025-01, "*The Budget Act, 2025*," show of hands. Any opposed? The motion is carried. Accordingly, Bill 2025-01, "*The Budget Act 2025*," has had second reading, and I would like to thank the Minister. This brings us to Item 17, "Assent to Bills." Honourable President, the Assembly has given second reading to Bill 2025-01, "*The Budget Act, 2025*," and wish to present them to you for assent.

PRESIDENT LAMPE:

...*UKatti*. So I don't need to say anything before signing the assent?

MR. WINTERS:

One moment. Apologies, whenever you're ready, sir.

PRESIDENT LAMPE:

Nakummek, Uhattik. Honourable Speaker and Members, as President of Nunatsiavut I wish to assent to Bill 2025-01, "*The Budget Act 2025*," and hereby sign them into Law.

[Applause]

Do I initial the next page? No seal?

MR. WINTERS: We'll get the seal. *Nakummek.*

[Applause]

MR. WINTERS: This brings us to Item 18, "Adjournment." The Assembly is now adjourned, and the next sitting will be in the first week of June. I would like to thank all Members of the Assembly for their diligence this week as well as the Assembly support staff for their excellent work that made this possible. I would like to thank our interpreter translators Katie Winters and Nicholas Flowers. I would also like to thank our OKâlaKatiget Society supports, Nancy and Caroline Nochasak. And our IT support has been Harry Dicker. Our fantastic pages have been Samuel Boas and Joedean Winters, while our drivers have been Richard Harris and Tommy Tuglavina. *Nakummesuak.* Please take care and safe travels home everyone. And the restaurant is closing in, like 40 minutes. So get ready and let's get over there. *Nakummek.*

Adjourned.