



**Nunatsiavut kavamanga  
Nunatsiavut Government**

**FIFTH ASSEMBLY**

**OF**

**NUNATSIAVUT**

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**SPRING SESSION 11th Session 1st - SITTING**

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**kAVAMALIGIJET  
KAUJITITSIUTINGA  
PARLIAMENTARY REPORT**

**In Attendance:**

**Speaker and Ordinary Member for Canada, Honourable Bryan Winters**

**Deputy Speaker and Ordinary Member for Canada, Honourable Roland Saunders**

**Clerk of the Assembly, Mrs. Darlene Winters**

**President of Nunatsiavut, Honourable Johannes Lampe**

**First Minister, Acting Minister of Department of Health & Social Development and Ordinary Member for Rigolet Honourable Melva Williams**

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

**Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology and Ordinary Member for Nain Honourable David Dicker Jr.**

**Minister of Language, Culture and Tourism 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 Rigolet, Mr. Chesley Sheppard**

**AngajukKâk for Postville, Ms. Melanie Gear**

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

**AngajukKâk for Nain, Mr. Anthony Andersen**

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

**Director of Legal Services, Mr. Mark Gillette**

**Absent:**

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

**The Nunatsiavut Assembly proceedings  
were recorded in Inuktitut and English.  
January 20, 2026  
Assembly commenced at 10:21AM January 20, 2026**

- MR. WINTERS:** *Ullâkut.* Welcome to the First day of the Spring Session of the Nunatsiavut Assembly. Happy New Year. Item Number One is, "The Prayer." And I would like to call upon Mr. George Gear to deliver the prayer. Whenever you're ready, sir.
- MR. GEAR:** [Recites Prayer]
- MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* Item Two is, "The Oath of Office." I would like to welcome the newly elected AngajukKâk for Postville, Ms. Melanie Gear. I will now ask for the President and Ms. Gear to step to the podium for the Oath of Office.
- PRESIDENT LAMPE:** Okay, repeat after me, Melanie. Melanie Gear, repeat after me. In the presence of everyone assembled here...
- MS. GEAR:** In the presence of everyone assembled here...
- PRESIDENT LAMPE:** ...and in full realization of the high calling...
- MS. GEAR:** ...and in the full realization of high calling...
- PRESIDENT LAMPE:** ...I assume as a Member of the Nunatsiavut Assembly.
- MS. GEAR:** ...I assume as a Member of the Nunatsiavut Assembly...
- PRESIDENT LAMPE:** ...and that the powers entrusted to me...
- MS. GEAR:** ...and that the powers entrusted to me...

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** ...are for the benefit of all Labrador Inuit...

**MS. GEAR:** ...are for the benefit of all Labrador Inuit...

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** ...I, Melanie Gear...

**MS. GEAR:** ...Melanie Gear...

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** ...swear...

**MS. GEAR:** ...swear...

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** ..solemnly affirm...

**MS. GEAR:** ...solemnly affirm...

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** ...that I will be faithful to the Inuit...

**MS. GEAR:** ...the I will be faithful to the Inuit...

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** ...and to Nunatsiavut.

**MS. GEAR:** ...and to Nunatsiavut.

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** And will obey...

**MS. GEAR:** And will obey...

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

**MS. GEAR:** ...respect...

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

**MS. GEAR:** ...and uphold the Labrador Inuit Constitution...

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

**MS. GEAR:** ...and all Inuit laws.

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** And I solemnly promise...

**MS. GEAR:** And I solemnly promise...

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** ...to fulfill...

**MS. GEAR:** ...to fulfill...

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** ...my responsibilities as a leader...

**MS. GEAR:** ...my responsibilities as a leader...

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** ...and to perform my functions...

**MS. GEAR:** ...and to perform my functions...

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** ...as a Member of the Nunatsiavut Assembly...

**MS. GEAR:** ...as a Member of the Nunatsiavut Assembly...

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

**MS. GEAR:** ...to the best of my ability...

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

**MS. GEAR:** ...so help me, God.

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** Congratulations.

**MS. GEAR:** Thank you.

[Applause]

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*, Mr. President and welcome, Ms. Gear. I will now turn the Chair of these proceedings, the President of Nunatsiavut, the Honourable Johannes Lampe for the appointment of a Minister, when you're ready, sir.

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** *Nakummek, UKatti.* On recommendation of the First Minister, it has been determined that there will be a new appointment to the Executive Council. We will now proceed in the selection of Minister of Department of Health and Social Development. First Minister, are you ready to nominate an Ordinary Member for the portfolio of the Department of Health and Social Development?

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

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** *Nakummek,* Honourable First Minister. Member Barbour, do you accept the nomination?

**MS. BARBOUR:** *Ahailah,* I accept.

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** I will now ask the Assembly if there's consensus on the nomination of Ms. Roxanne Barbour, the Ordinary Member for Nain as the Minister of Department of Health and Social Development.

**MR. WINTERS:** Sorry, can you repeat the last part of what you just said?

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** *UKatti.* I will now ask the Assembly if there is consensus on the nomination of Ms. Roxanne Barbour, the Ordinary Member for Nain as the Minister of Department of Health and Social Development.

*Nakummek, UKatti.*

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* The President is asking if he has consensus with this nomination. Yes, recognizing the AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen.

**MR. B. ANDERSEN:** Sorry, Mr. Speaker, I just raised my hand in consensus.

**MR. WINTERS:** By show of hands, do we have consensus? We do not. As we do not have consensus, we're moving into the Committee of the Whole to see if consensus among the Members can be achieved. If ultimately there is no consensus, the Assembly will have to vote on the appointment. As per the regular rules of debate, every Member may speak once unless it is to close debate. I will now ask if anybody wishes to speak. Yes, recognizing First Minister, Melva Williams. When you're ready, Ms. Williams.

**MS. WILLIAMS:** Just to confirm we are in the Committee of the Whole? I don't think...

**MR. WINTERS:** We are now in the Committee of the Whole.

**MS. WILLIAMS:** Thank you. As First Minister of Nunatsiavut Government as President Lampe has just read, I have recommended that Roxanne be reinstated in the role. If the House can recall, it was about a year ago that I took on the role in the interim basis on behalf of Ordinary Member Barbour to hold the position until some requirements that were requested of the individual were met. At this stage, these requirements, I feel have met and I have full confidence in Ordinary Member coming back into the role of Minister of Health and Social Development. And I hope that others around the Table will feel the same. Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* Mr. Tony Andersen.

**MR. T. ANDERSEN:** Thank you, Chair. (Inaudible), I was first elected in this Assembly. My colleague, Ordinary Member from Nain, Roxanne. And Mr. Speaker, she's a very capable person and works so hard. She asked me questions that I

should have known, given how many years I've been with the LIA and the Nunatsiavut Government. She found the answers herself and then educated me. She's a very hard worker. Often outspoken, but I tell you something, Ministers in this Government are often accused of being ruled and dominated by Deputy Ministers and officials in the department. Not this one here. She's a leader, a natural leader and has all the capabilities to fill the role of Minister of Health and Social Development. I have no doubt and every confidence in her. And perhaps she has made mistakes. But Mr. Chair, young people - not only young people, all of us make mistakes. And this is not an easy job that we have. It certainly isn't, eh? But, you know, our responsibility here in this Assembly, perhaps our greatest responsibility is to help one another. And if we see somebody making a wrong choice, it should be up to us to help them find a path, the right path, and to coach and to help and to assist. And perhaps I have not done enough of that, given that I'm a - one of the political leaders from Nain. And I will certainly try harder if the Assembly will accept my good friend as the Minister of Health and Social Development. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Mr. Andersen. Would anyone else like to speak? Seeing none, yes, Ms. Flowers.

**MS. FLOWERS:**

Thank you. I, myself find that the - Ms. Barbour is a very hard-working woman as well. I've seen her at this Table fight and even outside, so I would like to hear from the people who are saying that they're not agreeing with her being Minister. I, for one, support her.

**MR. WINTERS:** Yes, Mr. Barry Andersen.

**MR. B. ANDERSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree. In my position as AngajukKâk, I realize that we don't have the same authority as the Ordinary Members. But as an AngajukKâk looking in and seeing Ordinary Members with multiple roles, multiple portfolios, for long periods of time, I've had questions asked to me of, in my community of, "Why is the First Minister carrying so many files?" And all I can say is, "I don't know. I'm not being informed by the NEC." So I will support Ordinary Member Barbour if the Assembly will - and like I said, I don't know the ins and outs of what's going on in the NEC. But we are a consensus Government. We're not a party Government. Working together I think would be something that's a desire of all of us, I think. I think I'll leave it there.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*, Mr. Andersen. Would anyone else around the Table like to speak at this time? Recognizing Johannes Lampe. Mr. Lampe.

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** *Nakummek, Itsivautaaq.* I don't normally speak at the Committee of the Whole. But certainly as President I, you know, as an Inuk serving Labrador Inuit, we have what other Governments around the world don't have. And we're exercising that right now, consensus. And I believe all that, you know, comes to unity. And we have to look at unity, you know, as Labrador Inuit to look at resolving issues that are breaking us apart. And as Inuit, you know, we are not many, especially Labrador Inuit. And we have to work together to make life better for Labrador Inuit in Nunatsiavut communities, Upper Lake Melville and Canadian Constituency. And we have to find, you know, the more capable, you know, or knowledgeable

individuals within our communities and constituencies. Most certainly outspoken and I know that, you know, without making mistakes, we don't learn anything. And we learn from those mistakes. And we have to support each other no matter what path that we take. And the roads are not easy to journey. But certainly, you know, when we journey together, you know, it can be easier. I'm not speaking to vote yes or no, but just to speak to what concerns that I have as Labrador Inuit. And most certainly appreciating the opportunity to voice my concerns. *Nakummek, Itsivauta.*

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Mr. Lampe. I appreciate you putting all of this into perspective. We have so far only heard from people who are in favour of. Would anyone else like to speak or shall we ask for consensus once more? Would anyone else like to speak? Yes, recognizing Mr. Evans.

**MR. EVANS:**

Yeah, I wasn't going to speak or whatever, but I support the First Minister, and hearing from my colleagues, especially our AngajukKâk from Nain. I have a lot respect for him, experience in the Government, our AngajukKâk from Makkovik. Oftentimes we don't always agree on things but the burden that the - not burden, sorry, the workload that the First Minister has carried with another department especially the Department of Health and Social Development, like that is a big, a big portfolio. And so, like myself and AngajukKâk Andersen, and AngajukKâk Andersen from Makkovik too. Like we're not getting any younger. And it's good to see young people coming in. Sometimes they'll slip and stumble but as President Lampe said, like it's important for the older ones too, the experienced ones too, to assist them too. So I just want - I

wasn't going to speak but I just wanted to speak that I support the nomination.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* Are there any other comments around the Table at this time? Seeing none, I will ask for a show of hands of whether we have consensus. We do not have consensus. As a result, we will have to go to a vote by show of hands. Mr. Roland Saunders, how do you vote? Mr. Wally Andersen.

**MR. W. ANDERSEN:** Nay.

**MR. WINTERS:** Mr. George Gear.

**MR. GEAR:** Nay.

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

**MS. BARBOUR:** *Ahailah.*

**MR. WINTERS:** Mr. Terry Vincent.

**MR. VINCENT:** Nay.

**MR. WINTERS:** Mr. Tom Evans.

**MR. EVANS:** Yay.

**MR. WINTERS:** Mr. David Dicker Junior.

**MR. DICKER JR.:** Nay.

**MR. WINTERS:** Ms. Williams.

**MS. WILLIAMS:** Yay.

**MR. WINTERS:** Mr. Gerald Asivak. Mr. Tony Andersen.

**MR. T. ANDERSEN:** Yay.

**MR. WINTERS:** Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

**MS. FLOWERS:** Yay.

**MR. WINTERS:** Mr. Chesley Sheppard.

**MR. SHEPPARD:** Yay.

**MR. WINTERS:** Ms. Melanie Gear.

**MS. GEAR:** Yay.

**MR. WINTERS:** Mr. Barry Andersen.

**MR. B. ANDERSEN:** Yay.

**MR. WINTERS:** Mr. Jeff Montague.

**MR. MONTAGUE:** Nay.

**MR. WINTERS:** We will need a few moments to figure this out. *Nakummek.*

*Nakummek.* Apologies for the delay. Mr. Lampe, how do you vote?

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** *Ahailah.*

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* Thank you, for voting. Since it is your will, I wish to appoint Ms. Roxanne Barbour, the Ordinary Member for Nain as the Minister of the Department of Health and Social Development. Congratulations.

And I invite Ms. Barbour to come to the podium so that the President can administer the Oath of Office.

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** Repeat after me, Roxanne.

Administers the Oath of Office in Inuttitut.

Congratulations.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* This brings us to Item Three, "The Opening Address." I will now ask the President, when he's ready, to give his opening address.

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:**

*Nakummek, UKatti.* [Speaks Inuttitut]

Mr. Speaker, during the same week Senator Don Andersen of the North West Territories rose in the Senate to acknowledge Nunatsiavut's importance and MP Philip Earle recognize our anniversary in the House of Commons. These gestures remind us that our journey of self-Government is respected and valued across Canada. I also want to take this moment to thank all Assembly Members and staff for their continued hard work and commitment. The progress we celebrate today is built on your dedication and service to Labrador Inuit. Mr. Speaker, I also want to extend my congratulations to Melanie Gear on her recent election as AngajukKâk of Postville, and to thank Diane Gear the former AngajukKâk for her years of service and leadership to her community. As we look back on 20 years of self-government Mr. Speaker, we must also look ahead. The work is not finished. We must continue to strengthen our institutions, protect our language and culture and ensure that Labrador Inuit thrive for generations to come. Together we have shown what is possible when Inuit govern themselves. Let us carry forward the spirit of this anniversary into the next 20 years with confidence, with unity and with hope. *Nakummek, UKatti.*

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Mr. President. This brings us to Item Four, "Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery." I can see Mr. Mark Gillette, Director of Legal Services, Isabella Pain from the Secretariat and our driver, April Lucy. Welcome. *Nakummek*. The pages for this sitting are Neil Boase and Sam Winters. The interpreter translators are Katie Winters and Boas Kairtok. Chesley Evans is the IT staff assisting this Assembly. As well, we would like to recognize the OKâlaKatiget Society staff, Tabea Suarak and Johansi Tuglavina. If there are any questions around travel and logistics, please see the assistant to the clerk of the Assembly, Ms. Tabea Onalik. Please note the Chair of the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak, has been properly excused from this sitting. Beyond that, welcome, everyone to Hopedale. It was certainly beautiful when we flew in yesterday. A little less so today but we're not going anywhere. That brings us to Item Five, "Ministers' Statements." Recognizing Minister of Language, Culture and Tourism, Mr. Gerald Asivak.

**MR. ASIVAK:**

*Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker. Division of Language and Culture.

Work on the Division's five-year Language Strategy, for 2027 to 2032, continues. A report based on the May 2025 Language Summit, which will inform the development of the Strategy, has been translated and now is available in both English and Inuttitut and will be posted on the Nunatsiavut Government Facebook and website in the coming days.

Community engagement sessions and an online survey will provide additional opportunities for community members to provide input on the development of the Language Strategy. Community engagement sessions

have already been held in Hopedale in November, Happy Valley-Goose Bay in December, and Rigolet, yesterday. Upcoming engagement dates are today, Postville, January 22nd, Makkovik, January 28th, Nain A social media campaign to promote the Language Strategy and community engagement sessions is underway. Mr. Speaker, Civil Service Inuttitut Classes will be offered again this Winter, starting on February 2nd and ending April 27th, with a break during the Easter holidays. This will be the second pilot course that builds on the first pilot course held in the fall of 2024. It will follow a similar format – 12 weeks of classes, one class per week, one hour per week. Inotsiavik will be returning to offer the course through a combination of their learning materials and Language, Culture and Tourism- developed resources, such as Tusâlanga. Applications to attend the course closed on December 22nd - 27 applications were received. There are 20 seats available. An order of priority was established. Selected applicants will be notified this week and next week.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Minister, I'll have to interrupt. Is your fan on? I'm getting some feedback on the mics.

**MR. ASIVAK:**

Sorry.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.*

**MR. ASIVAK:**

After the second pilot is complete, feedback will be incorporated to strengthen the course. LCT continues to work with Finance and Human Resources on permanently offering Inuttitut classes to the entire NG Civil Service. I am proud to announce that the recipients of the annual

Language and Culture Recognition Awards have been selected. Andrew Andersen, Kelly McLean and family, of Nain are the recipients of the Culture Recognition Award. Matthew Jararuse, a youth located in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, originally from Hopedale, is the recipient of the Language Recognition Award. Congratulations to all the recipients and my deepest thanks for their continued work to strengthening our language and culture in their communities.

This winter, LCT staff will be participating in an exchange with staff from the Piqqusilirivvik Centre. This is an Inuit cultural learning facility located in Clyde River, Nunavut. Staff will visit Nain at the end of January to learn from Language and Culture staff about the programs offered by LCT. They will also participate in on-the-land and community activities and workshops. Expressions of Interest seeking translators, drivers, and workshop facilitators have been posted. LCT staff will visit their centre at the end of March to learn from their staff.

In May, LCT awarded a contract to the Pirurvik Centre to develop a Nunatsiavut Language Development and Training Program. Two language specialists, Katie Winters and Darlene Howell, were selected to observe courses and shadow program instructors in order to adapt teaching materials. Upon completion of their training, Katie and Darlene will return to Nunatsiavut to deliver pilot Inuttitut courses in mid- to late 2026.

The Aullâsimapvet Program continues to support families reconnecting with the land through seasonal camps and environmental monitoring. Applications for the Winter 2026 program closed on January 5th. Ten

families have been selected to participate and will spend time on the land between the end of January and the end of March. Funding for the program sunsets on March 31st, 2026. LCT is exploring opportunities to continue the program through the Hunters Support Program.

Cultural Programming continues to be offered in all communities. In October, Crystal Allen, Cultural Program Manager, assisted with the 20th anniversary celebrations in Nain. Four sealskins were cleaned with the community members at the Nain Community Shed.

A five-day tupik- making workshop was held in Hopedale from November. A grass work workshop was held in Rigolet in November. Mitt-making programs have also been held in Makkovik, Hopedale, and Nain, as well as tree decorating in Rigolet. This winter, Winifred Designs will facilitate parka-making workshops in Postville and Hopedale.

Mr. Speaker, Tourism.

The Division of Tourism is planning to continue our Traditional Inuit Games workshop with Danny Jararuse in Hopedale soon. We are finalizing a contract to have the Games documented. Our Tourism Development Officer will offer a cultural experience workshop in one of our communities. The goal is to support community members offering experiences to visitors. Staff gathered feedback from community members during the Nunatsiavut Heritage Forum and Rigolet community visit, to determine what workshops communities would like to see.

We are finalizing the Nunatsiavut Visitor Guide. The Guide will be available online, in communities and at all Visitor Information Centers across the Province.

We are finalizing a guidebook for the White Elephant Museum in Makkovik. The guidebook will help Museum members by offering tours to visitors.

Arts.

The Arts team is helping with the 20th NG exhibition at the Government House in St. John's. We will be supporting two Cultural Performers attending the Arctic Winter Games. This is the first time that Nunatsiavut will have Performers at the Games.

We are planning the launch of the Nunatsiavut Pattern Library for each community in Nunatsiavut. Phase 2 of the library will include Upper Lake Melville. We are beginning to plan for a Nunatsiavut Art Summit in 2027. Currently we are working to secure external funding.

We are organizing a Duffle Vamp Workshop in April and May.

And lastly, Mr. Speaker, under Archaeology and Heritage, one archaeology position remains vacant but has been advertised. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*. We will now hear the statement from the First Minister, when you're ready.

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

*Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

### Membership and enrolment.

There are vacancies on the Hopedale, Makkovik and Postville and Rigolet and Upper Lake Melville Membership Committees. There are two vacancies on the Membership Appeal Board. Nunatsiavut Government will release an expression of interest seeking beneficiaries who are interested in sitting on these membership committees and the Appeal Board. Interested beneficiaries should contact the Membership office in Nain if they need any clarification on the duties and responsibilities of the committees and the Appeal Board. I encourage individuals who are interested, to respond to the expression of interest. The work that the committees and the Appeal Board does is incredibly important for all beneficiaries and for Nunatsiavut Government.

The Nunatsiavut Government continues to thank the Membership Committee and Appeal Board for all the hard work they do on these membership applications. The members are appointed based on the ancestry expertise they have around each Inuit community.

### Housing.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission is preparing for another busy year of completing repairs in the five Inuit communities. NHC is looking to complete repairs that have been backlogged and to ensure those who have applied, that they will continue to address the badly needed repairs. Applicants who have applied should contact the NHC office in your community to get information on the status of your

application, or if you have questions regarding any of the housing programs that they currently offer.

#### Housing Construction.

NG is developing a five-year housing construction plan for all five Inuit communities starting this year in 2026. This plan will include multiplex construction, duplex construction and single-family home construction, and the completion of housing projects already started. Smaller homes, alternative construction methods and new single-family home designs are some of the innovative ways that the Nunatsiavut Affairs has committed to addressing the housing needs in our communities. Not only are we committed to constructing as many homes as we can over the next few years, but to ensuring that these homes are energy efficient, easy to maintain, affordable and are equipped with reliable and affordable heat sources.

#### Infrastructure and public property.

Housing and Land. Securing land has been a critical priority. Nunatsiavut Affairs has successfully secured numerous lots from Inuit Community Governments, public land holdings, Crown lands, completed a pilot project to identify requirements to claim some vacant land titles and condemned homes to support with housing developments. Advanced housing plans using varied and innovative construction types. These actions will allow us to respond to immediate housing pressures while laying the foundation for future development. Planned Housing Projects for 2026.

The following projects represent the current priority projects for the coming year that have gone through or are working through final approval processes and funding allocations. As planning, land acquisition, funding, and approvals continue to advance, additional projects will be brought forward and added to the list.

Makkovik.

Six-plex residential building tendered for construction. Women's shelter/assisted living facility. Detailed design is underway and it's a pilot project funded through the CMHC, Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation.

Rigolet. A six-plex residential building is tendered for construction. Single family homes, a tender package is in development as well.

Postville. A six-plex residential building tendered for construction. Single-family homes, a tender package is in development.

Nain. New six-plex for women's transitional housing. The funding has been secured. The RFP is in development. New single-family homes, multiple tender package is in development. Alternative lands apartments. Concepts are complete. Working through approvals for the next step and funding. Seniors' housing. Duplex and fourplex units to be completed summer 2026. The project team continues to explore additional housing development options as land acquisition and approvals are completed, these projects will be added to the infrastructure priority list.

Hopedale. Small family homes which are subject to land availability, and projects are currently in planning and approval. Seniors' housing. Fourplex and single-unit dwellings to be completed summer of 2026. Alternative Land Departments. Concepts completed. Working through approvals for next steps and funding. In relation to the scale of investment, this represents one of the largest annual housing development efforts ever undertaken by the Nunatsiavut Government. In addition to Housing, several major non-housing capital projects will continue or begin in 2026. Sorry. Improving capital project delivery and accountability.

Nunatsiavut Affairs has implemented a strengthened approach to capital project management and contractor accountability. Contractors are expected to meet all contractual requirements, including project schedules, quality of workmanship and safety standards. While we continue to support contractors and avoid unnecessary delays, we will not compromise on quality or safety. Contractors who fail to meet expectations are being addressed within the terms of their contracts. This approach protects Nunatsiavut's investments and ensures fairness, consistency and safe project delivery moving forward.

Current capital projects update.

Nain administration building. This project is ahead of schedule. Substantial completion anticipated spring, summer of 2026. Minor upgrades to the existing building will continue through 2026 without impacting operations. Rigolet DHSD Building. Commissioning is underway and transitioning towards substantial completion. Civil work, daycare,

yard development and demolition of the existing facility is planned for summer 2026. Makkovik Education Regional Office. Commissioning completed December 2025. Deficiencies addressed and moving towards substantial completion. Postville Office Additions. Project completed.

Illusuak Cultural Centre. Remediation update. Progress on repairs has been slower than expected. Some issues were not addressed, and others were not completed to the standard expected for a facility of this importance. As a result, the Nunatsiavut Government has taken a more direct role in overseeing the repairs. NG has a project engineer with significant experience to be onsite full-time overseeing the project. The insurance adjuster has also engaged a new contractor to complete the remaining work. NG is actively working to ensure all remaining materials are fully removed from the facility. A recent expression of interest was issued to identify individuals willing to assist, allowing contractors to complete their work without interference. To support long-term operations, water and sewer upgrades were completed this past summer. A new camera and security system has been installed. While we are disappointed with the pace to date, we are confident that increased oversight and revised planning will allow the remaining work to move forward more quickly. Our goal is to have the Illusuak fully repaired, operational and ready for re-opening by summer of 2026. And we remain committed to achieving that.

Planning and Strategic Initiatives. Mr. Speaker, with several major planning initiatives under way, a three-day planning workshop was held in

Goose Bay with Nunatsiavut Government project teams, consultants, Inuit Community Government representatives. The goal was to streamline, review, gather feedback and strengthen collaboration. The session was very successful. It provided clear direction to project teams, helping to finalize strategies and ensure efforts are aligned and collaborative. Seven key initiatives were reviewed. Wildfire preparedness, land titles initiative, quarry strategy, infrastructure growth strategy, waste management strategy, energy strategy update, economic development strategy construction sector.

Housing and Land Initiatives. Work continues on the Nunatsiavut Housing Strategy which sets clear targets for housing construction, repairs, program delivery. Recent updates to community housing data required adjustments to baseline information to ensure accuracy. A pilot lands titles initiative was completed with the Nain Inuit Community Government. Vacant and condemned properties were assessed to resolve title issues. Approximately 170 vacant or condemned lots have been identified across Nunatsiavut. These lands could support new housing once title issues are resolved, supporting private and public housing development in our communities. Planning is underway to expand this initiative to all communities. Supporting Inuit Community Government projects.

Nunatsiavut Affairs continues to provide strong support to Inuit Community Governments in advancing their infrastructure projects. We are also working to expand internal capacity to further support ICG-led

projects as demand and complexity continue to grow. Across Nunatsiavut, ICG projects are progressing with active planning underway for many future initiatives. These projects span multiple areas of infrastructure including facilities, services, and systems that support future development. This work is essential, not only for growth but for the overall health, safety and well-being of our communities.

Strengthening collaboration and capacity with Inuit Community Governments remains a key priority moving forward. With a strong and growing team, improved project management practices and an ambitious capital portfolio, Nunatsiavut Affairs is well-positioned for a successful 2026 construction season.

Ministers' Meeting. Mr. Speaker, I'm waiting for the Provincial Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure and Minister responsible for Housing, on when they can meet to discuss common issues and issues of concern. And in fact, as of yesterday, I think we've confirmed the date of February 5th I will be meeting with the Ministers.

And finally, Implementation Committee. With changes to the representative from the Federal Government and the results of the fall Provincial election, the Implementation Committee looks to get back on track in dealing with *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement* implementation issues. These issues, including new migratory bird harvesting zone outside of LISA and the Upper Lake Melville Area. The identification of this area is largely dependent upon current Indigenous Land Claim negotiations that are ongoing for that region. Once identified,

then all three parties set a course of action to move this issue forward. Another issue that needs to be resolved is the amendments to Chapter 21 of LILCA. This is a dispute resolution chapter, and I'm happy to say that this amendment is progressing. *Nakummek, UKatti.*

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* I'm looking for approval of the Assembly to extend beyond 35 minutes for the Ministers' Statements under Standing Order 29(3). And we have it. Would another Minister like to give a Ministers' Statement at this time? Recognizing Mr. David Dicker Jr. of the Department of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology. *Nakummek.*

**MR. DICKER JR.:**

Mr. Speaker, the Finance Division is undergoing a transformation. The Government currently used Sage 300 and is upgrading this system to Sage Intacct. This system is cloud-based and offers more advanced technology. A significant amount of time has been required by the team to implement a new chart of accounts, new project and departmental codes as well as new documentation. On the system side, the Finance division will soon begin user-training for the new system. With new systems comes an opportunity to review financial operations, processes and staffing models. These are all essential steps with any financial transformation, Mr. Speaker. The team has been developing standard operating procedures, with a focus on the expenditures processes and procedures. Any processes that affect all employees will be uploaded to Atukatigevik under the Policies and Procedures page of the Knowledge Centre. I encourage all employees to review this page on a regular basis. Mr. Speaker, there have been no changes to the current organizational structure of the Finance

Division. However, as the Government moves from the legacy systems, with three separate financial management systems to one, there will be changes in the roles and responsibilities. The Finance Division teams are currently reviewing potential staffing models. This is at a very preliminary stage and updates will be provided in the future. I want to publicly thank the team for their outstanding work and dedication to this financial transformation. It is on top of their regular duties and workload. Your work does not go unnoticed. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SAUNDERS:**

Thank you, Minister Dicker. Are there any other Ministers that would like to make their first statement? I see Tom Evans. Minister Evans, go ahead, sir.

**MR. EVANS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be doing our Economic Division statement. It's a brief update from our November sitting. As a reminder, our annual plan for the Division focuses on business development, community development, policy and data collection and offering supports.

Business Development. As of January 9th, our Inuit Business Registry has 270 certified businesses. We have three businesses listed under Industrial & Commercial, Retail and Logistics & Expedition and Tourism. Two new business applications are under review. Regarding procurement, seven packages were received from Vale with our Division nominating 18 Inuit businesses and one Qualified Business Entity nomination. There are a total of 15 business clients, 11 in start-up, four in growth.

The Business Development Committee - or BDC - met for our Fourth Quarter, Q4 meeting on January 14th, virtually, as weather prevented travel to Rigolet. We continue to address business concerns, specifically the open-book negotiation process and Inuit benefits, related to Voisey's Bay IBA implementation. We have formally expanded the internal NG BDC team to include the IBA Coordinator, Trent Pottle, to assist in follow-up, information-sharing and expanded expertise related to the IBA. We are exploring training for 2026 including expanded instructor options and incubator modules. A training schedule will be promoted for 2026-2027 fiscal year as of April 2026. On January 16th our department met with ISC, Indigenous Services Canada, ACOA, Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Hydro Quebec and Newfoundland Hydro, along with Nunatsiavut Group of Companies NGC, the Inuit Development Limited Partnership IDLP and Innu Nation representatives to discuss funding options to prepare for the Gull Island development. A proposal is being drafted for the ISC Strategic Partnerships Initiative - SPI program to help ensure the Innu and Inuit workforce and businesses to take advantage of this opportunity. Proposal submission is expected for February 13th, 2026.

Under Community Development we have two funding programs - the Community Economic Development Fund CEDP and the Fiscal Finance Agreement, FFA. We have approved \$18,000 to the Makkovik Inuit Community Government for their Arena Assistant Position.

Our new Community Capacity Program has completed a second round of updates, and was sent to Legal and Finance Review on December 18th. It

will be presented to NEC once approved back from Legal and Finance. A consultant, BurnaCove Consulting, has been hired to prepare NG's proposal to the \$1.73 million Northern Isolated Communities Fund (NICI) program. We anticipate submitting a proposal to ACOA as of February 2026.

Policy and Data Collection. We will finalize the draft updates of our Compliance Policies and Procedures in February. The procedures dictate how our Inuit Business Registry is managed. We will prepare a public engagement campaign was drafting complete to get beneficiary feedback.

Under NG's Recruitment and Retention Initiative, the Labour Market Assessment RFP is expected to be released before end of January 2026. As of January 13, we have submitted a request to meet with Lin Paddock, the new Provincial Minister of Jobs and Growth and Minister of Rural Development. Under Self-Employment Benefits Program. This program provides EI benefits for six months to new business start-ups. We currently have two clients, in the construction and Legal Services sector. They are accessing benefits of the program. We have one application under review, and this program is open for applications.

Business Financial Support. The new Business Grant Program has received the second round of revisions from Legal on December 8th. Updating is ongoing and will be submitted by January 23, 2026. Once complete, this program will complete the required GovNL consultation under *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement* provision 7.8.7. Once Provincial feedback

received and incorporated, the program will be sent to NEC for approval.

*Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*. Would any other Minister like to give a statement at this time? Recognizing Terry Vincent, Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, when you're ready, Minister Vincent.

**MR. VINCENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to present my last quarterly report as Minister of Lands and Natural Resources as I have given notice of my resignation at the start of today. Renewable Resources, under Fisheries. Mr. Speaker, the cod fishery is ongoing, with three beneficiary fishers left to land their quotas. They will soon be fishing their cod quotas using otter trawl and have until March 31st to fish. We are hoping to land all our cod inshore. The 2026 commercial fishery applications are now available until February 28 and this is standard as per policy.

Wildlife. Mr. Speaker, the 2025-2026 moose hunting season is now open. To date, four licenses have been filled, three in Nain and one in Rigolet. The hunting season will be open until March 20. Mr. Speaker, my staff will once again be assisting both the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Province of Quebec in collaring of the GRCH which will take place during the last week in January. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately caribou from the KAF are unavailable again this year. My staff are now in the process of securing other wild meat for our project.

Lands Division. Mr. Speaker, 31 land-use applications were submitted and processed in 2025. We have yet to receive any submissions for 2026 at

this point. The Lands Division is also actively involved and supporting the Environment Division in the environmental reviews of the Nain Airport and Microgrid projects. Lastly for the Lands Division Mr. Speaker, we are pleased to welcome back James Williamson as our GIS Specialist.

Impact Benefit Agreements. Mr. Speaker, Vale has hired 11 Nunatsiavut Beneficiaries into Job Readiness Trainees to begin their 12-month training employment. The trainees will be starting in the coming weeks. Mr. Speaker, The IBA Coordinator will be attending winter shipping information sessions in Hopedale and Nain on January 20 and 21. These sessions provide information on Vale's winter shipping season. Mr. Speaker, The Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve Co-Management Board had a virtual meeting on December 12th. Discussions included updates from Parks Canada, as well as the CMB and a continued discussion on management of the Torngat Mountains Caribou Herd. Mr. Speaker, The Mealy Mountain National Park Reserve Co-Management Board did not meet since the last Assembly sitting. There is a planned virtual meeting in the coming weeks. Parks Canada is in the recruitment process in hiring key positions to support work happening in the Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve. These positions include a Park-Site Manager and a Resource Conservation Manager. They are also hiring a Program Manager Caribou Ecologist to support both Torngat Mountains Park Reserve and Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve. Non-Renewable Resources. Mr. Speaker, Vale applied to conduct mineral exploration on Labrador Inuit Lands on their mineral licenses adjacent to the mine. This year's work

includes prospecting, geochem, ground geophysics, and a seismic survey. Their workplan is still currently under review. Mr. Speaker, Aurora Energy confirmed that there will be no winter program this year, but is anticipating they will have a summer-fall program for 2026.

Environment Division Mr. Speaker, The Environment Division travelled to Postville to report back to the community on the ongoing research and monitoring work that is taking place to better understand the impacts of the Postville spill. Research results were presented, and the community was informed that the contaminant levels are low and are not a risk to those that are consuming those birds and animals in the area. It also provided a great opportunity for discussions and future research idea. The Environment Reviews for the new Nain Airport and the Nain Microgrid continue with the Environment Division and the Assembly Committee supporting the process. The Guidelines for the Environmental Impact Statement for the new Nain Airport are about to go out for public comment and the Environment Division is working with NG energy staff and Natural Forces to continue to move the Nain Microgrid project, including the additional collector line, along through the Environmental Review process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Minister Vincent. Are there any other Ministers' Statements at this time? Seeing none, we're on to Item Six, "Members' Statements." Are there any Members' Statements at this time? Recognizing the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers, when you're ready.

**MS. FLOWERS:**

*Nakummek, UKalittik.* On behalf of HICG, I wish everyone a Happy New Year. This year will be a shortened year for those Members not seeking re-election in May, Ordinary Members and September for AngajukKâks. And Chairs from Upper Lake Melville and North West River. I am looking forward to working with everyone and the challenges we may face this year. Let us work through each one with clear vision, integrity, positivity and the determination to make our Government work for the betterment of all our people. I have a brief report from HICG. The Christmas and New Year season is over, and I want to thank you staff Cindy and Samantha Aggek, after school workers Nadine and MacKenzie Frieda, and our janitor Manna Tuglavina at Sukie Aggek Memorial Centre, for their hard work and dedication. This is the second year that we partnered with other agencies in town to host the Family Community Christmas party. It was a huge success and enjoyed by all. I also thank staff at NDHSD for their willingness to partner and their awesome teamwork. The saying, "It takes a community to raise a child," is so true, and was very evident in all our events we hosted. A couple of our capital works projects were finished up this season with the exception of the storm water upgrades. This project will resume in the summer, and is expected to be completed by fall of 2026. HICG is very grateful to the major funder NG Joint Management Committee for all our capital works projects. We have grown in leaps and bounds over the years and have gained much through the capital works projects. To the Infrastructure Team, Dave Johnson, Rory McNeil and Renee, thank you, for your guidance and direction over this past year. HICG

received donations from the food bank, from Hunts River Lodge, All North Consultants, Altius and food donations from Nunatsiavut Marine. This is a huge help for our food bank and to help with food insecurity in our town. We also received food donations from NDHSD. Thank you for the generous donation. Also, many thanks to Nunatsiavut Group of Companies for the cash donation for the foodbank and to purchase wood for our residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, AngajukKâk. You're right on five minutes, Marjorie. That was excellent. We will now hear from AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen.

**MR. B. ANDERSEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And a Happy New Year to everyone, all the Ordinary Members and community AngajukKâk. I rise this morning first to give - offer my condolences on behalf of MICG to the family of the late Mickey Fox, of Makkovik who passed away suddenly early - or late this year. And also, to the family of Myrtle Groves, the Winters family in Makkovik. Myrtle passed away peacefully last week. So I'd like to offer my condolences to those families at this time. Also, Mr. Speaker, continuing, I would like to congratulate young Jacob Dyson on his award for the Youth Premiers Atlantic Award. It was just a small blurb that I got from his mother. And also, Ian Dicker and the young girl from Sheshatshiu, I believe. Great to see our young people being role models. And Ordinary Member Evans attended the function in St. John's with his grandchildren last week, I believe, Tom? Sorry, Minister Evans? So that said, I'd like to pass on, on behalf of the community, my congratulations to all those three

young people from Nunatsiavut Area and Sheshatshiu. Mr. Speaker, I was a little bit taken aback this morning from the late start. And the reasons why, I think, not sure what goes on behind the scenes between Nunatsiavut Executive Council. But I would like to say as an Ordinary Member, as an elected Member, AngajukKâk for Makkovik, that the upcoming elections in May, our Ordinary Members who has put their names forward for candidates should all be made aware, fully aware, that Ordinary Members of the Nunatsiavut Government should be and can be appointed as Ministers. I, as an AngajukKâk see elected Ordinary Members with multiple portfolios and I'm not sure how effective that is. There's a possibility that everybody can run for an Ordinary Member and get elected and nobody want the position. They just want the Ordinary Member status. That's a good possibility. So, I just want to make it clear that we should make it clear to potential candidates that this is what's expected of an Ordinary Member being elected to his Chamber. Thank you, very much, to the translators. I think the Standing Orders may be or should be reviewed for the time limits that we speak, due to the fact that it is translated. We spend a lot of times on translation very, very lucky to have translators here right now, I believe. Also, Mr. Speaker, on another topic, my last one for this statement is that on March 26th and 27th of this year, there is a meeting in Goose Bay for the professional administrators Association and the mayors, AngajukKât for Northern Labrador. I would encourage the First Minister to delegate somebody, a policy analyst to come to that meeting and sit at the table so that we as AngajukKât can

address our concerns that we have for core funding to operate our communities in this region because without the ICG's, as I said earlier, and before that the Inuit Community Governments are the heartbeat of Nunatsiavut. So, I don't want to be sitting at that meeting talking to an empty chair from the Nunatsiavut Government side. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, AngajukKâk Andersen. The next Members' Statement will be from Mr. Gerald Asivak of the Upper Lake Melville. Apologies, Ordinary Member of the Upper Lake Melville, when you're ready.

**MR. ASIVAK:**

Mr. Speaker, I will not be seeking re-election for Upper Lake Melville in the General Election May 2026. I will not be attending the March 2026 Assembly. This sitting will be my last. I want to thank my family and friends first, for their great support and confidence over the last seven years and eight months. There were challenging times during COVID-19 for five and a half years. The passing of my beloved father in April 2025 who was my biggest supporter and proud of what I did, seeing changes in Governments and the hard demands of an elected official, being away from home with a lot of travel, I want to thank the constituents of Upper Lake Melville for voting me in twice to represent you since May 2018. I listened and learned, heard your concerns and brought the issues - I brought many of these issues forward to the Nunatsiavut Executive Council for improvements in programs and services and general information sometimes to see where we can improve as a Government. I've always said, if we don't hear from you, how can we fix things? Please continue to reach out. I thank the

Nunatsiavut Executive Council for your hard work day in and day out. Long, busy days demanding travel, hard-pressed issues, working for the betterment of the Labrador Inuit. *Nakummek*, to the Nunatsiavut Assembly. Showing up prepared, for bringing concerns forward, updates in your community, showing care and compassion for all that happens for our people. Great questions are in oral and written questions, showing respect for all. I thank the Fourth and Fifth Assembly that I was proud to be part of. Hats off to Nunatsiavut Civil Service. I've seen first-hand, the dedication of the employees of NG. Keep up the hard work and be proud of the work you do. In closing, Mr. Speaker, I wish everyone all the best in the future. I'm proud of the hard work I did working as an elected official of Nunatsiavut Government. *Nakummek*.

[Applause]

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Ordinary Member, Asivak. We will now hear from the Chairperson of the NunaKatiget - Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation, Mr. Jeff Montague. Apologies for the memory lapse, when you're ready.

**MR. MONTAGUE:**

*Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker. Happy New Year, everyone. Nice to see you all here and welcome, Ms. Melanie Gear. Mr. Speaker, I have just a brief update from our last sitting as 2025 came to a close, Sivunivut has been fortunate with our funding from outside agencies and our HST rebate, to be able to provide a chicken for beneficiary households in North West River and Sheshatshiu. Folks in our communities were very pleased and appreciative. Just a couple of weeks before Christmas, we offered a seal skin brooch-making workshop which went as well as you could expect. Our

Winter Supports for Seniors program is in full-swing with semi-monthly bingos and art sessions with artist Heather Campbell happening every other Tuesday afternoon. Also, Joann Hibbs, our program coordinator opens the community centre every Monday for indoor walking and socializing. Folks can come by to walk, have a coffee, tea, chat or just say hello as they come by. I would also like to mention too that while Joann has the community centre open, she is preparing bottled foods such partridge and rabbit for our Community Freezer program. Our Community Freezer has been more busy than normal lately and we also have more beneficiaries utilizing the freezer program. Lately we have been offering moose, partridge, rabbit, beaver, porcupine and cod. While mentioning cod, thanks go out to the community of Makkovik and the Department of Lands and Natural Resources for the kind donation of cod from their facilities test. So far, Mr. Speaker, 2026 is off to a good start. *Nakummek.*

**MR. WINTERS:**

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

**MR. W. ANDERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and before I get into some activities I would like to say to my colleague the Honourable Gerald Asivak that it's been more than an honour to serve with you, to represent over 2,000 people in the Upper Lake Melville Area is very demanding and my true expression was the Upper Lake Melville Area should have one Minister and a Member fulltime to address the needs and concerns for those who live outside the Claim Area because there are different things that apply. You mentioned your late father who was an inspiration to you. And I know that me and

my brother, the AngajukKâk from Nain, felt the same way when our mom passed away as well. That these people with little or no education yet was held in the highest esteem because of their wisdom. And again, sir, I can say to you, it was a pleasure to work with you. And I don't know if I should say it but I'm looking forward to seeing your name on the ballot. Mr. Speaker, I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It was a busy month in December for Nunatsiavut with the Nunatsiavut Day. Over, well-over 200 people turned out to a function in Happy Valley. The day started at nine o'clock, and I finished at nine o'clock in the night because we had a function which we prepared for started at one in Happy Valley, Goose Bay. Then I traveled to North West Rive for their celebration starting at five o'clock. And again, it showed how me and my colleague, the Honourable Gerald Asivak worked together. That one Christmas he would attend functions in Goose Bay, I would do it in North West River. And when we had the functions for Nunatsiavut Day in his role as Minister, he was in Ottawa. So Mr. Speaker it was a day that we celebrated and we took the day for what it was and in the Upper Lake Melville Area I told the people that we may not receive the same benefits as those that live in the Land Claims Area, but it was a day to be grateful for the benefits that we do get, like free education, a chance to travel to hospitals accompanied by an escort where everything is paid for. And that, in itself is a Godsend. Mr. Speaker, it brought back many memories to me as I was the MHA when the Land Claims deal was achieved, and I was there when the negotiations quite often broke down. And Toby Andersen and

Isabella Pain would tell me as their Member in no uncertain terms of what they thought of the Government and the way negotiations were going. And then I'd be going to a meeting with our Government and they would lay it into me about your people not doing this and not doing that. But Mr. Speaker, I think the greatest joy of all was the night we reached the agreement that the Premier told me I was sit in his chair in the conference room on the 9th floor. And he told me, "Don't call me unless you have an agreement." And I think it was after twelve o'clock that night that I made the call to him that all three parties have come to an agreement. And that was a great day for all of us. And then to be in Nain to be surrounded by, I think it was 10 RCMP officers in their scarlet who were all beneficiaries of Nunatsiavut to be there for that signing was a day that I will always remember. And Mr. Speaker, I know we've come a long way. And yes, we have concerns from those who live outside the claim area, but I think over the past four years I think somehow, we've bridged the gap a bit, that today I think that there is a better feeling among a lot of beneficiaries in the Upper Lake Melville Area. And also, that beneficiaries on the coast, they tell me as well that, you know, we seem to have brought the gap a little closer together. I know my time is up, so I'll sit down.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* I always appreciate it when you say it, so I don't have to. Are there any other Members' Statements around the Table at this time? Recognizing the Ordinary Member for Nain, Ms. Roxanne Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:**

*Nakummek,* Mr. Speaker First of all, I want to thank you for properly excusing me in the last two sittings in September and November while I've

dealt with health scares for my child. Thankfully my little Panik is okay now and living her life like her TB didn't even happen. She's healthy and well. First of all, Happy New Year. It's good to see everybody again. Things don't stop at our office in Nain. Nainimiut always come by seeking support for different things, particularly around employment insurance and income support, applications and inquiries as well as banking support to navigate those areas. I lost how many people has come to our office. My drawer of files is full. I have to get a new, to locate a new one for my files. But I want to say this. I'm not an employee of Service Canada or the Provincial Government or BMO Bank of Montreal or any other bank for that matter. However, that's not to say that I won't, like I'll turn people away. In Nain there's a Service Canada Office, but that position was vacant for months. I know that they're hiring somebody. Somebody has been offered the position, but they have to do training before Nainimiut can start getting that support again for Service Canada Programs. But I want to say the Service Canada Aboriginal is also really helpful for us. They've been really helpful. But I again would like took out that I'm not an agent of Service Canada or Income Support Program or a bank teller. So, there's - these gaps in services that we've been seeing in our community, particularly around these areas that Inuit need in my community. I've also seen an increase in supports for navigating through the process of dealing with affairs after death. According to the Nain Moravian Church records, in 2025 there have been 20 deaths in my community. People who come to me for this support don't now who to call or where to turn to during this

difficult time in their life, which led me to understand that there's a requirement to support Inuit, navigate and understand that process. Because currently as a Government, we don't have one. In my community, when someone passes away, there is a lot of individual fundraisers to support the cost of the funeral or essentially the cost of death. It's evident, through social media, that this also occurs in other Inuit communities. And as Inuit we are a helping people. In our communities, we come together through times of grief and sorry. However, this is a gap in programs and services where there is minimal Government supports or information on dealing with affairs after death. Death is an inevitable part of life, and our people need somewhere to turn to when there is minimal knowledge of how to settle the affairs of their loved ones. For those listening, especially to my community, I want to say this. This is our second-last sitting as the Fifth Assembly. 2026 is election year for Ordinary Members. Right now, I feel like I'm running out of time when there's so much left to do. There is much work that needs to be done, many ways to improve programs and services that reflect Inuit values, traditions, language and beliefs. In stating so, I want to reassure that I remain committed to my office, remain committed to my oath, and remain committed to my community. Through personal challenges, hardships, grief and struggles, my community has continued to show their support for me as their elected Member. And I want to say thank you. Thank you to my community, my Nainimiut, my Nunatsiavimiut. I stand here because of my community. I stand here as a

proud and resilient Nainimiut because of your support. Thank you, for your continued support, encouragement and believe in me. *Nakummek.*

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* As a reminder to Members, you do have two opportunities to speak. But, thank you. Are there any other Members statements around the Table? Recognizing the Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Mr. Roland Saunders, when you're ready.

**MR. SAUNDERS:**

*Nakummek,* Mr. Speaker. Good evening. Good afternoon, Members and staff and guests. It's great to be back here in Hopedale. A belated Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to each and everyone of you. It's good to see you again, sort of. Canadian Constituency has lost quite a few members over the last year. Condolences to all family members of deceased Nunatsiavut members. It's extremely hard to lose members and even to have them in hospital or away in the nursing homes. It's really hard because we can't get to see them. During the month of December, the Speaker and I attended winter gatherings in Halifax and Edmonton. Both gatherings were well-attended with plenty of food, treats and gifts. It was good to see so many Nunatsiavut members and their families enjoying festive times, especially the children. They had great times. They were having so much fun interrupted by having to eat or line up for gifts and pictures with Santa. We all loved every moment of all the celebrations. It was good. It was really good. Each of those events had Inuit from all parts of Canada. We don't just cater to our own members because they're few and far between in each and every town or city. So when they have gatherings, they come from all over Canada. We don't

kick them out. Their Inuit, so we share our culture and our language and our food. Mr. Speaker, during the weekend of December 19th and 20th, and a very eventful one, the Speaker and I attempted to attend the Christmas Inuit choir performance in St. John's. Thank you, Nunatsiavut for funding that event. And thank you, for Minister Evans and Isabella Pain and Minister - I messed up - Minister Asivak and Minister Williams for attending. Thank you for taking care of our duties. We were both stuck in Toronto for much too long a time. Then finally, when we did arrive in windy, rainy, miserable St. John's weather, it was too late. Couldn't even attend. But we did receive great reviews about the performance, about the speeches and about everything that happened after. And thanks, for the food. And thank you, Deantha Edmunds-Ramsay for spearheading the event and for performing as well. Apparently, there was over a hundred people in total that either performed or stayed over for the event after that. And all of them were Nunatsiavut members, which we once again, accept. Deantha did an excellent job and her efforts are very much appreciated. Mr. Speaker, I must give thanks to you Nunatsiavut for sponsoring a 20th Anniversary for Nunatsiavut, Anniversary and a St. John's (inaudible) 1:56:03 performance for supplying food and much appreciated event. Thank you. Have a good day.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Are there any other first Members' Statements around the Table? Yes, recognizing the Ordinary Member for the community of Postville, Mr. George Gear, whenever you're ready.

**MR. GEAR:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I'd like to wish all Nunatsiavut elected members, civil service and whoever's listening on the airways a Merry - a Happy New Year and a prosperous 2026. And congratulations to Melanie Gear for her election for AngajukKâk. And I know that she'll do a good job because - not only because I know you so well, but you helped me a lot along the way with - when I was heading one business and doing my books and accounting for me. So, I know she will be good. And also, congratulations to Welfred Lane for putting his name forward. It takes a lot of courage to do that, and to show that there is still interest to run the community of Postville and for the voters to vote for who they want to run the day-to-day operations in Postville. Thank you. Excuse me.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Are there any other first Members' statements around the Table? Seeing none, are there any - oh, recognizing Ordinary Member David Dicker Junior of the community of Nain, whenever you're ready.

**MR. DICKER JR.:**

*Nakummek,* Mr. Speaker. During this quarter, Mr. Speaker, I have assisted 28 Nunatsiavut beneficiaries of the constituency of Nain, to complete the following: Signed beneficiaries up for My Service Canada account and applied for employment insurance benefits with the Aboriginal Service Canada line, assisted beneficiaries in applying for income support and required documents to submit to income support for beneficiaries, setting them up for direct deposit, updating their information on their files. Followed up with Nunatsiavut Housing Commission and worked with the Energy Efficiency Program for repairs for beneficiaries on their woodstoves, collaborated with the Department of Health and Social

Development for assistance of a one-time payment for stove oil and disconnection notices of their hydro bills for a one-time payment who are approved for beneficiaries; helped beneficiaries in attaining lawyers for the purchase of their land to the Nunatsiavut Government, aided beneficiaries with their Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro bills, updating their information on their file, application form and supporting documents for Home Heat Supplement 2025 for beneficiaries; applied for new BMO bank cards with beneficiaries, assisted beneficiaries in changing their PINS, obtaining required documents upon request of beneficiaries, applied for the Nain Food Security Voucher program applications with the Department of Health and Social Development with beneficiaries; applied for Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement with beneficiaries with Service Canada Aboriginal line. I have attended the annual *Nalujit* Night hosted by the Nain Care Incorporated in Nain on January 6, 2026 at the Nain Jens Haven Memorial School Gym. We had a great turnout for this event. The beneficiaries enjoyed the *Nalujit* Night in the community of Nain. I'd like to acknowledge Ian Dicker, beneficiary of Nain who received the 2025 Premier's Athletic Award. The award recognizes athletic excellence and provides financial support to offset costs incurrent through training and competition. Based on Ian's athletic success in 2024, he was a deserving recipient of this award. Congratulations on receiving a Premier's Athletic Award. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I want to highlight, I have unwaveringly supported beneficiaries by addressing their questions, guiding them to the appropriate

departments and doing everything within my power as Ordinary Member for Nain to assist and benefit the constituents of Nain. *Nakummek.*

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Are there any other first Members' Statements around the Table? Seeing none, are there any second Members' Statements around the Table? Recognizing the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Gear *[sic]*. Flowers. I'm so sorry. There are so many Gears now. You have to understand.

**MS. FLOWERS:**

*Nakummek, UKalittik.* ACMS is one of the focal points of our community. And here are some events that are taking place there this term. The library staff are working on bringing the Olympics to life with activities and fun events. Pan Labrador Choir will be hosted by ACMS February 4th to the 6th. This is a beautiful event and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attend. We wish all the participants fun and good fellowship. Nain will be hosting the Big Land Lego contest February 16th to the 20th. Good luck to all participants. Big high fives to ACMS team. Winter Sports Meet will be hosted in Rigolet February 26th to the 28th. Good luck to ACMS and all other communities. Play hard. Above all, have fun. ACMS will be attending Table Tennis Provincials and High School Theatre in March again. Good luck to all. ACMS school development goals this year include personal wellness relationships as well as improving literacy. A special thank you are extended to members of NG and the Education Division for their support in approving staff housing. The efforts and interest have led to many repairs and improvements. A big thank you, also, to the workers of NGC in getting those tasks completed. A huge thank you, to the

community's support over the fall of a number of events and initiatives from sport to family nights and the arts and music. The vision of ACMS hold strong that they want to be a community partner where every child who has a passion and interest is supported, not only in the classroom but throughout the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, AngajukKâk. We will next hear from the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Gerald Asivak.

**MR. ASIVAK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Condolences to the family of the late Ms. Alvina Blake of Happy Valley-Goose Bay. Condolences to the family of the late Ms. Carol Matthews of North West River. Congratulations to Mary Winters of Happy Valley, Goose Bay who will be invested into the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador in late January at Government House in St. John's. Ms. Winters is being recognized for her 50 plus years volunteering in sport and recreation field in Labrador. Thank you, for making our communities better and stronger with your dedicated volunteerism. I was part of the planning committee of the Nunatsiavut Government 20th Anniversary celebrations in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. I was glad to attend the meetings, pick up supplies and prizes to make sure this event was celebrated on December 1st. I want to thank my colleague, Ordinary Member Wally Andersen for gladly stepping up and doing his great job as always. Also, to the Nunatsiavut Government Civil Service staff volunteering to work on this date and the Planning Committee. Great job by all. There was soup, food trays, drinks, door prizes and music. Here's to many more years of growth and success, Nunatsiavut Government. And I

want to thank Wally for his dedication to the beneficiaries in Upper Lake Melville. He's there day-in and day-out over the weekend, flying nights, flying days. He's at the funerals, at the celebrations. He works very hard, and I wish him all the best in the next election in which I'm sure he'll run in. All the best, Wally. *Nakummek*.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*. We will now receive the second Members' Statement from the Ordinary Member for Nain, Ms. Roxanne Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:**

Thank you. *Nakummek*. I always learn new things about myself throughout the last four years and I've learned that I have also become a good teacher, because I just wanted to make a comment that, you know, my colleague's statement, he's able to provide the supports he identified because of my guidance and leadership. So I've learned that I've become a good teacher as well. I want to wish all the youth preparing for the upcoming Winter Sports Meets good luck, and I hope whoever makes the teams in each community they have a fun-filled winter meet made with life-long memories and friendships. And I always like to reflect on the sports meet because it brings so much positivity within our communities. And a sense of belonging I find, togetherness, friendships and stating that like just having those experiences, they're forever. So I always want to reflect on the importance of the sports meets within our regions. Good luck. Congratulations to Ian Dicker who had the Premier's Athletic Award. You know, he's been a rising star in our community playing volleyball with the Holland Hurricanes at the Holland College. And he's continued to pursue his path in achieving excellence in athleticism and is a role model

for our youth who wish to pursue that career path as well. And to do or achieve those types of achievements. So, congratulations to him. It says a lot about him and the opportunities that are out there now, particularly around recreation and sport. It's a part of our community. It always has been. It brings together our people. It brings together the sense of community in friendly competition, even if it's hard-core competition too. But having those supports within our Government, having places for our youth and our Nunatsiavimiut to turn to is so important in terms of sport and recreation. *Nakummek.*

**MR. WINTERS:**

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

**MR. W. ANDERSON:**

Thank you, Minister Speaker, and Minister Asivak, thank you, for your kind words. It goes a long way when the - when we reach out to each other and give credit and praise people for the work they do. And certainly, you've done tremendous work. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Patricia Kemuksigak from the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation for a wonderful Christmas dinner they put off for the seniors in Goose Bay. I want to thank Chairperson Jeff Montague from Sivunivut, and the staff at DHSD in North West River for a wonderful Christmas dinner they had for seniors as well. Mr. Speaker, I also want to say a very special thank you, to Minister Vincent. Minister Vincent, I brought question after question to you. There was a time when we never got enough caribou to give our seniors a meal. And I questioned you and asked if you could provide enough for a meal for

each person in Happy Valley, Goose Bay, and with the help of Minister Asivak and the Executive Council, you brought that about. And as I mentioned, that's a way of bridging the gap and the people in the Upper Lake Melville Area were so thankful for it. I remember on a Friday evening, Minister Vincent, a captain on a fishing vessel had to be Medivac air lifted, Friday evening. There were so many changes had to be made through DFO and all that. And with Deputy Minister Jim Goudie and Todd Broomfield, that you and your staff had everything arranged by Monday morning. And had DFO been open on the weekend, it would've been done right away. But it was a tremendous response. And the questions I've asked you, you and your staff have always got back to me. And if I had further question that you'd answer that as well. Mr. Speaker, I spent New Years with our oldest daughter and her husband and granddaughter in Paradise, outside of St. John's. They lived in Edmonton for 18 years until he got transferred. And it was a blessing. While I was there, Mr. Speaker, we had many of our seniors who were in different homes and I visited as many as I could, and to a point where I got the van and I brought three or four together from different places and they started telling stories and it was just like children on Christmas morning. And I happened to have my little notebook with me. And I call some of our elders in other Provinces, and I would pass the phone over to them. And they really, really appreciated that. First Minister, I know you've raised a part and talked about you're working on housing for seniors and so on. But I just want to say again that when I talked to these people, they were saying they wish they were in Labrador

closer to family and relatives. And I know that you're working as hard as you can. Keep up the good work and again, on behalf of the seniors because our time will come. And I hope that we will be able to provide good accommodations to bring many of our seniors back home where they will have an opportunity for family to visit them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Are there any other second statements around the table? Seeing none, we will take a hour-long recess for lunch. *Nakummek.*

[Recess]

**MR. WINTERS:**

...the First Minister would like to address the Assembly and those listening at home. *Nakummek.*

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

*Nakummek, UKattik.* Today I announce that I have accepted the resignation of Terry Vincent as Minister of Lands and Natural Resources. Mr. Vincent will continue to serve as Ordinary Member for Hopedale until the Nunatsiavut Assembly is dissolved. I express my gratitude to Mr. Vincent for his service and dedication to the Nunatsiavut Government and to the people of Hopedale. So on behalf of the Nunatsiavut Government, I want to sincerely thank you, Mr. Vincent for your commitment and contributions to our Lands and Natural Resources portfolio. Your work has been instrumental in advancing important initiatives and ensuring that our resources are managed responsibly for the benefit of all Labrador Inuit. We wish you every success in your future endeavours.

[Applause]

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* It was important to address that prior to Item Seven and Eight, "Returns to Oral Questions," and "Oral Questions." Under Standing Order 32(12) a Minister of the President has the option of reading the response to an oral question. The Ministers have elected not to read their responses, but they are in your binders. This brings us to Item Eight, "Oral Questions." Are there any oral questions at this time? Recognizing the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen.

**MR. W. ANDERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as we near, nears the end of our four-year term on several occasions have asked First Minister regarding the Spring Hunt for Goose Bay. I know that her and her staff is working on it, but Minister on behalf of the members in the Upper Lake Melville Area, I ask you again, do you have any update on a spring goose hunt for the Upper Lake Melville Area?

**MR. WINTERS:**

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

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you, Ordinary Member for your question. As you may recall, today when I presented my First Minister's notes, I had mentioned that there was a change at the Federal Government level for the Implementation Committee that is dealing with this issue. And the migratory bird harvesting outside of LISA in the Upper Lake Melville Area is one of the priorities. In addition, when I was in Ottawa, and I was meeting with officials at the Federal Government, I had the opportunity to speak with individuals on this committee and I re-emphasize the need to treat this as a priority and I have been assured that

they will address this issue and bring - ensure that it's a priority level.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Ordinary Member.

**MR. WINTERS:**

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

**MR. W. ANDERSON:**

No, Mr. Speaker, and on behalf of the members in the Upper Lake Melville Area, I thank the Minister for what she's doing.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Ordinary Member. Even a brief statement, please stand to address the Assembly. *Nakummek*. Are there other oral questions around the Table at this time? Recognizing the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

**MS. FLOWERS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Honourable Member, First Minister. I think this is probably going into the fourth year now that the senior complexes have been - supposed to be constructed in Hopedale. They're down at the lower end of the village. My question is, what is the hold-up as they seemed to be working at it all summer, but there don't seem to be very much work done? Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, AngajukKâk. First Minister, when you're ready.

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, AngajukKâk for your question. And I'm not sure if AngajukKâk Flowers was at the last Assembly, but I did update at that time that the contract that we had in place was canceled with that contractor. As noted in my - again, as noted in my statement today, the Ministerial Statement, I advised that the fourplex and the single-

unit dwellings are to be completed this summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, AngajukKâk for the question.

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

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

**MR. WINTERS:** First Minister, AngajukKâk. *Nakummek*. Are there other questions around the Table at this time? Yes, apologies, you'd already waved at me. AngajukKâk Andersen, whenever you're ready.

**MR. T. ANDERSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just over a week ago, Assembly Members were sent a letter from former Appeals Committee Chair. It was addressed to the President. But my question is to the First Minister, who is responsible for the Member Registrar as well. There were many concerning and troublesome things in that letter, I guess, and it was sent to each and every Member of the Assembly. So I suppose it would be fair to ask a question. My question to the First Minister is that, does the First Minister agree that a review of the Register was never complete?

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

**MS. WILLIAMS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, AngajukKâk for your question. Since I took on the role as First Minister, I haven't been advised that there's been a total review of the entire registry. I do know that the Membership Committees are reviewing applications and on a continuous basis, they are meeting and reviewing applications. Whether they are triggered, or whether they're the 19-plus, et cetera. So in relation to the question of

whether or not this total review has been done, I would have to take that question under notice and try to get the information for you, 'cause I don't have that specific information. Thank you, for your question, and thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* The First Minister has taken his question under notice and will respond within the allotted timeframe. Does the AngajukKâk have a supplemental question at this time?

**MR. T. ANDERSEN:**

No, I don't but I don't at this time, but I believe that I will when I get a response for my first question.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek,* AngajukKâk Andersen. Are there further oral questions around the Table at this time? Are there any second questions around the Table at this time? Recognizing AngajukKâk Tony Andersen, from Nain, when you're ready, sir.

**MR. T. ANDERSEN:**

My question is to the Acting Minister or whoever's responsible now for the Department of Lands and Natural Resources. And I realize that I might not be able to get...

**MR. WINTERS:**

AngajukKâk.

**MR. ANDERSEN:**

...an answer at this time.

**MR. WINTERS:**

All questions of Lands and Natural Resources will be taken under notice.

**MR. T. ANDERSEN:**

Okay.

**MR. WINTERS:** I believe that there might be an opportunity to ask someone in the role tomorrow, but you may ask your question, under notice if you would rather.

**MR. T. ANDERSEN:** Thank you, very much, Mr. Speaker. And I agree with your response that perhaps my question is better asked tomorrow. Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk. Yes, do you have a point of order?

**MS. BARBOUR:** I have a question or something of a concern. So, in the Standing Orders a Member can...

**MR. WINTERS:** Please stand.

**MS. BARBOUR:** ...in the Standing Orders, a Member can ask two questions per day. So tomorrow the AngajukKâk can only ask two questions. And if he wants to add an additional two questions tomorrow his question today is being taken from him tomorrow. So that's just kinda my question - my concern. I don't know if that would have to be - what do you call it?

**MR. WINTERS:** The AngajukKâk was given the opportunity to ask his question today and have it taken under notice or to ask it tomorrow. And he elected to take it tomorrow by his own volition.

**MS. BARBOUR:** Sorry, I misunderstood that part. Thanks.

**MR. WINTERS:** No problem. *Nakummek*. Are there any further questions around the Table at this time? Seeing none, that brings us to Item Nine, "Written Questions." Are there any written questions around the Table? Yes, recognizing the Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Mr. Roland Saunders.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Ordinary Member. Both of these submitted written questions make allusions to things without clarifying what specifically those things are. These can potentially be resubmitted as written questions at a later time with editing, but as they stand right now, they are out of order. *Nakummek*. Are there any other written questions around the Table at this time? Seeing none, that brings us to Item 10, "Returns to Written Questions." There are no returns to written questions at this time. We're not on Item 11, "Petitions." Are there any petitions today? Seeing none, we will move on to Item 12, "Responses to Petitions." There are no responses to petitions. Item 13 is, "Reports of Standing in Special Committees." And there are no reports today. Item 14 is the, "Tabling of Documents." I would like to recognize the Ordinary Member of the Canadian Constituency, Mr. Roland Saunders.

**MR. SAUNDERS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to table Document 2025 Consultation Letter to Beneficiaries, Member's Salaries and Benefits.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Mr. Saunders. The Tabled Document will be numbered 01-5(11). We will now move on to Item 15, "Notices of Motion." I would like to recognize the Ordinary Member of the Canadian Constituency, Mr. Roland Saunders.

**MR. SAUNDERS:**

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, I will move as follows: Whereas the Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen and the AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen have resigned from the Standing Committee of Alcohol and Drugs, and whereas the Rules and Procedures Committee has the

Striking Committee under the Standing Orders, has met to recommend replacement members to the Standing Committee of Alcohol and Drugs; now therefore, I move, seconded by the Chairperson of the Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation, Mr. Jeffrey Montague, that Mr. Anthony Andersen, AngajukKâk of Nain, and Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak, Chairperson of the NunaKuvut [*sic*] Inuit Community Corporation, be appointed...

**MR. WINTERS:**

NunaKatiget.

**MR. SAUNDERS:**

NunaKatiget, sorry - that's a bad one - NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation be appointed to the Standing Committee on Drugs and Alcohol. And, Mr. Speaker, I am seeking unanimous consent of the Assembly - I see you laughing, Wally - to waive Standing Order 37(1) to deal with the motion today.

**MR. WINTERS:**

The Member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with his motion today. All those in favour? Any opposed? Seeing none, Member Saunders you have consent to bring your motion today at the appropriate time. I would like to once again recognize the Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Mr. Roland Saunders.

**MR. SAUNDERS:**

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, I will move as follows: Whereas the Elected Officials Policy Manual sets out among other things, Employment Benefits and other such financial allowances available to the Members of the Nunatsiavut Assembly, and whereas changes in benefits and allowances for Members of the Assembly requires public consultation with Inuit for each proposed

change; and whereas the Members Services Committee of the Nunatsiavut Assembly consulted the Inuit public between February 20th, 2025 and March 3rd 2025, on proposed alterations to salaries for Assembly Members, bereavement leave and constituency allowance; and whereas the Member Services Committee after review of the Inuit Public Responses approved amendments - proposed amendments. And whereas on January 20th, 2026 the Members Services Committee tabled a concentration letter as Tabled Document 01-5(11). And whereas the Nunatsiavut Assembly must approve amendments to the Elected Officials Policy Manual, now therefore I move seconded by Ordinary Member from Postville, Mr. George Gear, the Elected Officials Policy Manual be amended as follows: Section 3 of the Elected Officials Policy Manual be deleted and replaced with the following: 3) An elected official is entitled to paid bereavement leave from work to attend the funeral upon the death of a family member in accordance with the following:

(a) In the event of death of an elected official's spouse or common law partner, mother or father, the spouse or common-law partner of their mother or father, legal guardian, child, step-child or foster child, daughter-in-law or son-in-law, grandchild, sister or brother, great-uncle or aunt, grandfather or grandmother, the spouse or common-law partner of the grandfather or grandmother or great-mother or great-grandfather, five paid working days. In the event of the death of an elected official's aunt or uncle, niece or nephew, first cousin, sister-in-law or brother-in-law, grandfather-in-law or grand-mother-in-law, or including great-

grandmother-in-law, and great-grandfather-in-law, three paid working days.

(c) If the death of a relative referred to in (a) above occurs inside the elected official's home community, the elected official may be granted two paid additional days for the purpose of attending the funeral. And

(d) for the purpose of attending the funeral of a relative, other than a relative referred to in above, one paid day. If this occurred outside the elected official's home community, the elected official may be granted two additional paid days for attending the funeral.

(e) Elected officials are excused from work to attend funerals in the community. But officials will remain - the offices will remain open unless all staff are attending the funeral.

2) Section 6(2) of the Elected Officials Policy Manual be deleted and replaced with the following: Constituency allowances are to be paid to use to offset the cost of discharging the Ordinary Member's duties. Eligibility expenditures are as follows. Public Meetings including room rental, advertising, interpretation, translation service and refreshments. Air travel. Travel for all Ordinary Members...

**MR. WINTERS:**

Member, it is important that you mention the asterisk, where they are. *Nakummek.*

**MR. SAUNDERS:**

Travel for all Ordinary Members (boat, skidoo, buses and taxis, newsletters, website, \*mileage, \*advertising.

**MR. WINTERS:** Apologies, Member. No, no, I don't mean the bullet points. I mean the asterisk besides air travel and other similar items. The superscript...

**MR. SAUNDERS:** Okay.

**MR. WINTERS:** ...at the top right of the word.

**MR. SAUNDERS:** Yeah, yeah.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.*

**MR. SAUNDERS:** Website, mileage, advertising (public newspapers, magazines, television, radio), administrative support, telephone, postage, office supplies, software\* with approval and assistance from the IT Department, event tickets, memberships\*. To organizations in the official's constituency, recognition items, cards and certificates, et cetera. Professional development\* fees for courses and materials. Asterix denotes prior approval from the Speaker's Office is required.

**MR. WINTERS:** I believe you have one last thing to say there, Ordinary Member Saunders.

**MR. SAUNDERS:** And, Mr. Speaker, I am seeking unanimous consent of the Assembly to waive Standing Order 31(1) to deal with this motion today.

**MR. WINTERS:** The Member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with his motion today. All those in favour? Oh, apologize, the President is not in the room. We'll have to wait for him to return. *Nakummek.* Welcome back, Mr. President. I hadn't noticed you left. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with his motion today. All those in favour? Any opposed? Seeing none, Member Saunders, you have consent to bring your motion today at the appropriate time. I'd like to take a brief moment to

acknowledge all of the students that just came into the gallery . I was wondering if any of the representatives from Hopedale might want to recognize the visitors in the gallery?

**MS. FLOWERS:**

Yeah, I'd just like to welcome the students, high school students, I'm assuming. They - I'm not quite sure what grade they are in. But they look like they're in Level 2. Am I right? So thank you, for coming over.

**MR. WINTERS:**

And *Nakummek* to the graduating class of Amos Cornelius School for providing our snacks during this Assembly. I would like to now recognize the Chairperson of the Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation, Mr. Jeffrey Montague.

**MR. MONTAGUE:**

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, I will move as follows: Whereas the Nunatsiavut Assembly Act provides for the appointment of staff of, for Nunatsiavut Assembly, and whereas at the September 2024 sitting of the Nunatsiavut Assembly, the Nunatsiavut Assembly appointed a ad hoc committee of the Assembly to review and recommend candidates for the position of clerk and deputy clerk of the Assembly (the ad hoc committee) and whereas the position of clerk has been filled, but the position of Deputy Clerk of the Assembly is currently vacant, and whereas it is desirable for the Clerk of the Assembly to be a member of the hiring committee for the position of Deputy Clerk, and whereas Standing Order 68(2) sets out that the maximum number of members of a committee is five, I move, seconded by the Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Mr. Roland Saunders that 1) the Clerk of the Assembly be appointed as a member of the ad hoc committee

and 2) The Clerk of the Assembly replaces Mr. Gerald Asivak Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville as a member of the ad hoc committee. And, Mr. Speaker, I am seeking unanimous consent of the Assembly to waive Standing Order 37(1) to deal with this motion today.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Chairperson. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with his motion today. All those in favour? Any opposed? Seeing none, you have consent to bring your motion today at the appropriate time. This brings us to Item 16, "Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills." I would like to recognize the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers. Whenever you're ready, AngajukKâk.

**MS. FLOWERS:**

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, January 21st, 2026, I will move, seconded by the Chair of the Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation, Mr. Jeff Montague the first reading of Bill 2026-01, "The Nunatsiavut Election Amendment (Act) 2026. And Mr. Speaker, I am seeking the unanimous consent of the Assembly to waive Standing Order 37(1) to proceed to first reading of the Bill today.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*. The Member is asking for unanimous consent to proceed with first reading today. All those in favour? Any opposed? There are none. Member, you have consent from the Assembly to proceed with first reading at the appropriate time. This now brings us to Item 17, "Motions." I would like to again recognize the Ordinary Member of the Canadian Constituency, Mr. Roland Saunders.

**MR. SAUNDERS:**

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, I will move as follows: Whereas the Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen and AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen have resigned from the Standing Committee of Alcohol and Drugs and whereas the Rules and Procedures Committee has striking committee under the Standing Orders has met to recommend replacement members of the Standing Committee of Alcohol and Drugs, now, therefore I move, seconded by the Chairperson of the Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation, Mr. Jeffrey Montague that Mr. Anthony Andersen, AngajukKâk of Nain and Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak, Chairperson of the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, be appointed to the Standing Committee of Drugs and Alcohol. I almost said it again.

**MR. WINTERS:**

I appreciate the occasional flubs from my colleagues in the Assembly. Is not as easy as it looks, is it? Thank you, Member. Do you wish to speak to the motion?

**MR. SAUNDERS:**

Yes, Mr. Speaker, actually I would. This is a very important committee and I'm glad that two people stepped up and I can't wait for them to be part of the committee and thank you to Mr. Andersens, plural, for your work in the past.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Do any other Members wish to speak to the motion? Yes, Ms. Roxanne Barbour, when you're ready.

**MS. BARBOUR:** *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to say as Chair of the Committee, I'd like to extend my thanks and gratitude to Mr. Wally Andersen and Barry Andersen as well. *Naku*.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*. Do any other Members wish to speak to the motion? If no other Member wishes to speak, does the Member wish to make final remarks and close debate?

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

**MR. WINTERS:** By show of hands, all those in favour? Any opposed? Seeing none. The motion has passed. I would like to recognize the Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Mr. Roland Saunders.

**MR. SAUNDERS:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I move as follows: Whereas the Elected Officials Policy manual sets out among other things, employment benefits and other such financial allowances available to Members of the Nunatsiavut Assembly, and whereas changes in benefits and allowances for Members of the Assembly requires public consultation within it for each proposed change, and whereas the Members Services Committee of the Nunatsiavut Assembly consulted with the Inuit public between February 20, 2025 and March 3, 2025, on proposed alterations to salaries and Assembly Members bereavement leave and constituency allowances, and whereas the Members Services Committee after review of Inuit public responses approved proposed amendments, and whereas on January 20, 2026 the Members Services Committee Tabled a consultation letter as Tabled Document 01-5(11) and whereas the Nunatsiavut Assembly must

approve amendments to the Elected officials Policy Manual, now therefore I move, seconded by the Ordinary Member for Postville, Mr. George Gear that the Elected Officials Policy Manual be amended as follows:

3) Section 3 of the Elected Officials Policy Manual be deleted and replaced with the following:

4) An elected official is entitled to paid bereavement leave or for to attend to the funeral upon the death of a family member in accordance with the following:

(a) In the event of the death of an elected official's spouse or common-law partner, mother or father, the spouse or common-law partner of the mother or father, legal guardian, child, step-child or foster child, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, grandchild, sister or brother, great aunt or uncle, grandfather or grandmother, the spouse or common-law partner of the grandfather or grandmother, or great-grandmother or great-grandfather, five paid working days.

(b) In the event of the death of the elected official's aunt or uncle, niece or nephew, first cousin, sister-in-law or brother-in-law, grandfather-in-law or grandmother-in-law or including great-grandmother -in-law and great-grandfather-in-law, three paid working days.

(c) In the death of a relative referred to in (a) above occurs outside the elected official's home community, the elected official may be granted two paid additional days for the purpose of attending the funeral and

(d) For the purpose of attending a funeral of a relative other than a relative referred to above, one paid day. If this occurs outside the elected official's home community, the elected official may be granted two additional paid days for attending the funeral.

(e) Elected officials are excused from work to attend funerals in the community, but offices will remain open unless all staff are attending the funeral.

4) Section 6(2) of the Elected Official's Policy Manual be deleted and replaced with the following:

(2) Constituency allowances are to be used to offset the cost of discharging the public member's - Ordinary Member's duties. Eligible expenditures are as follows: Public meetings including room rental, advertising, interpretation, translation service and refreshments. Air travel: Travel for all Ordinary Members - sorry.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Ordinary Member, please mention the asterisk on Air Travel.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Yes, sorry. Air Travel\*, travel for all Ordinary Member (Boat, skidoo, bus and taxis.) Newsletters, website, mileage, advertising (public newspapers, magazines, television and radio, administrative support, telephone, postage, office supplies, software\* with approval and assistance from the IT Department, event tickets\*, memberships\*) to organizations in the official's constituency, recognition items, cards and certificates, et cetera. Professional development\* (fees for courses and materials Asterix denotes prior approval from the Speaker's Office is required.

**MR. WINTERS:** Thank you, Ordinary Member. Do you wish to speak to the motion?

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

**MR. WINTERS:** Do any other Members wish to speak to the motion? Yes, recognizing Ordinary Member for Nain, Roxanne Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:** *Nakummek.* Mr. Speaker, I'd like to go to the first section under 3(a) in the bereavement leave. And those ports. I, in my opinion, bereavement leave should - like it's for family members, eh, and our friends and that but it's not in - I feel like Inuit kinship is not defined properly in here. For example, I guess a personal example and it's not to benefit me or anything like that but I guess all the Members here I have first cousins who are more like brothers and sisters to me. And I feel like that should be reflected in this. And I know a lot of families, not just me, but a lot of families in my community have those types of Inuit kinship within their families as well. So, I wondered if that can be put up there. And also, I have aunts and I'm just using this as reference, not for me to gain personally, but as reference. But I know families and I know in my own family I have aunts and uncles who are like second mothers and second fathers to me. And I feel like that is not reflected properly in this proposed amendment. And I would like to have it reflected. There's another one on the Section 2 but I'll stay on this one for now if anybody else wanted to comment on that part.

**MR. WINTERS:** So as is explained in the motion, this was a document that was approved for consultation for the Labrador Inuit public as all changes to salaries and benefits of elected officials are required to be. And the Member was part

of the Members Services Committee when we recommended these changes be made. And the difficulty without getting into the weeds on this is that we all have different relationships with different people in our lives. But a policy cannot be created that is going to be so effective in every single situation. The best that the Members Services Committee agreed is that the context of your familial relationship is what we will approve for elected officials. Does that satisfy the Member's inquiry?

**MS. BARBOUR:**

Do I need to stand up still? I remember that specifically but I still feel like it doesn't reflect that. And I know the process that it took, but I'm just wondering if it can be changed around? Like I feel like aunt or uncle should be in five paid working days and great aunt or great uncle should be in three. Like that's kinda opposite to me. You're more closer to your aunt than you are your great aunt or - in my opinion anyways.

**MR. WINTERS:**

As this does require consultation of the Labrador Inuit public, if we were to make or recommend any changes to this at this time, that means that these changes will not happen to the Elected Official's Benefits Policy and instead they would have to go back out to the Labrador Inuit public for an additional consultation to be revisited in March. Yes, recognizing Ordinary Member Melva Williams of Rigolet.

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and when I reviewed this I didn't review it at the detail that Minister reviewed it at and I actually agree. I think that an aunt or uncle should be granted more bereavement leave for an elected official than a great aunt or uncle. And I agree that there may be - I don't know if there's an error in this document or if the consultation and anyone had

picked up on that. But I would agree that it should be reversed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek* to both of you. We will take a 10-minute recess to review.

[Recess]

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* Thank you, for your patience. Distributed to you is an amendment being moved by the First Minister. First Minister, whenever you're ready.

**MR. W. ANDERSON:** Point of Order, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:** Yes, Ordinary Member Wally Andersen, of the Upper Lake Melville, when you're ready.

**MR. W. ANDERSON:** Mr. Speaker, the Government Service's Committee was bringing forward a motion. So if there's gonna be changes made, shouldn't the motion to make a change be brought forward by Members of the Government Services Committee?

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek,* Ordinary Member. Because this change is not substantive it is not a significant change of what was consulted on nor what the Members Services Committee put forward, it is moving one familial relationship from three days of bereavement leave to five, and one familial relationship from five days to three. An amendment can be proposed by any Member of the Assembly, which has happened. It is being moved by the First Minister and she has a seconder. Does the Member have further questions at this time?

**MR. W. ANDERSON:** No, Mr. Speaker, but the reason why I asked because it reads the motion not the amendment. It says, "Motion." And it goes on to say, "I second by." So that's the only reason why I...

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* The motion is to amend. So, it is an add-on to the existing legislation that's been put forward. Are there further questions or remarks around the Table at this time? Seeing none, First Minister, you may proceed.

**MS. WILLIAMS:** *Nakummek, UKattik.* I move, seconded by Ordinary Member for Nain, Mr. David Dicker Jr. That Motion 025(11) be amended by 1) Replacing the phrase great-uncle or aunt and the proposed amendment to Section 3(a) of the Elected Officials Policy Manual to read, uncle or aunt. And 2) replacing the phrase uncle or aunt in the proposed amendment to Section 3(b) of the Elected Officials Policy Manual to read great uncle or great aunt.

**MR. WINTERS:** Does any other Member wish to make final remarks or any remarks related to the original motion that we are considering? Yes, recognizing Roxanne Barbour, Ordinary Member for Nain.

**MS. BARBOUR:** *Nakummek,* Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:** And Minister for the Department of Health and Social Development. My apologies.

**MS. BARBOUR:** *Naku.* So, when I first got up and started talking about the concerns I had it was this one and then there was the one in Section 2. So, with the asterisks around event tickets and one was the memberships. Event tickets and memberships. I just wanted to confirm, I guess, here and with

you, that it says here - it denotes prior approval from the Speaker's office. I just wanted to confirm or ask if there's an internal process, either at the Speaker's office or at the office of the clerk to ensure that, you know, if members are getting event tickets or purchasing memberships, that they are for benefit of the constituency and benefit to Inuit. And I wondered if it's because they want - like for an event is it because they want to go, or if it's because they're invited?

**MR. WINTERS:**

There are many different functions that fall to the discretion of the Speaker. It would be entirely on the Speaker's discretion what events or memberships to approve. I can't make assumptions about what the next speaker of the Nunatsiavut Assembly might choose to do with this, but it will be to their discretion as this is written now, to determine whether Members of the Assembly shall attend events or have membership to different groups. Does that satisfy your question or do you have a follow-up?

**MS. BARBOUR:**

I have a follow-up, please, *Naku*. I just - so just to confirm, there's no internal process to determine if this benefits the Member's constituency or how to identify that these Inuit dollars will benefit Inuit whether through event tickets or memberships? *Naku*.

**MR. WINTERS:**

I would personally say in response to that, that we have all taken an Oath of Office that the work that we do and that the money that we spend is to the benefit of beneficiaries of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement*. And if someone is found to be operating outside of that oath, they can be removed. And I think that the possibility of termination from an elected

position should be enough to keep a Speaker in line to make sure that the decisions that they are making are to the benefit of our constituents. Does that response satisfy the Member?

**MS. BARBOUR:** *Ahali kanuigituk naku.*

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* Are there further questions or remarks around the Table at this time? Recognizing the AngajukKâk from Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen.

**MR. B. ANDERSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is, is this amendment and this new elected official's policy consistent with the Civil Service Policy? Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** I would have to direct that response to the Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology if we wanted a real answer. I am not familiar with the Nunatsiavut Civil Service Policies. The Nunatsiavut Assembly and Nunatsiavut Government as you know, as a representative of the ICG are two different entities and we do have different policies within. *Nakummek.* Do you have a follow-up question or remark, AngajukKâk?

**MR. B. ANDERSEN:** No, I don't, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* Are there other comments or questions around the Table at this time? Do any other Members wish to speak to the motion? If no other Member wishes to speak, does the Member wish to make final remarks and close debate?

**MR. B. ANDERSEN:** Thankyou, Mr. Speaker. No, I do not wish to make any final remarks. I wish to close debate.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Yes, recognizing AngajukKâk Barry Andersen. Sorry, I thought you had another point, AngajukKâk. For the motion to make amendments to the original motion, moved by First Minister Melva Williams and seconded by Minister David Dicker Jr., do we have consensus? Any opposed? Seeing none. It is moved. All those in favour of this motion? I've lost my number. Sorry, motion 02-5(11). Do we have consensus? And any opposed? Seeing none, the motion has passed. I would like to recognize the Chairperson of the Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation, Mr. Jeffrey Montague.

**MR. MONTAGUE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move as follows: Whereas the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act* provides for the appointment of staff of, for Nunatsiavut Assembly, and whereas at the September 2024 sitting of the Nunatsiavut Assembly, the Nunatsiavut Assembly appointed an ad hoc committee of the Assembly to review and recommend candidates for the position of clerk and deputy clerk of the Assembly (the Ad Hoc Committee), and whereas the position of clerk has been filled, but the position of deputy clerk of the Assembly is currently vacant, and whereas is it desirable for the clerk of the Assembly to be a member of the hiring committee for the position of deputy clerk, and whereas Standing Order 68(2) sets out that the maximum number of members of a committee is five, I move, seconded by the Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Mr. Roland Saunders, that the clerk of the Assembly be appointed as a member of the Ad Hoc Committee and the clerk of the Assembly replaces Mr. Gerald Asivak, Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, as a member of the Ad Hoc Committee.

**MR. WINTERS:** Thank you, Member. Do you wish to speak to the motion?

**MR. MONTAGUE:** No, thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** Do any other Members wish to speak to the motion? Recognizing Minister of Department of Health and Social Development and Ordinary Member for Nain, Ms. Roxanne Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:** *Naku.* I just wanted to ask - it's more of a grammar thing for in the first, "Whereas," is that the typo? It says, "For the appointment of staff of for." Is it supposed to say, "Or for?" Is that a typo? Like - and then the other one I notice is in the one, two, three, fourth paragraph down it says, "Is it desirable?" It sounds like it's asking a question. I want - I just wondered if it's supposed to say, "It is desirable for the clerk"? So just a couple of grammar things, not particularly questioning the motion.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* The first whereas there is an error. It says, "Whereas the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act* provides for the appointment of staff of for Nunatsiavut Assembly." Please make the correction on your documents that it should say, "Whereas the Nunatsiavut Assembly Act provides for the appointment of staff of the Nunatsiavut Assembly." It's a for instead of a, "The." This correction will be made. You're also correct. I identified to the clerk moments ago, the second-last, "Whereas," "And whereas it is desirable," as opposed to, "Is it desirable," "For the clerk of the Assembly to be a member of the hiring committee for the position of deputy clerk. This change has been made. Would any other Member like to speak to the

motion? If no other Member wishes to speak, does the Member wish to make final remarks and close debate?

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

**MR. WINTERS:** All those in favour of the motion? Any opposed? Seeing none, the motion is passed. We'll move on to Item 18, "The First Reading of Bills." First reading of Bill 2026-01, A Bill for an Act to amend the Nunatsiavut Elections Act 2026. I would like to recognize the AngajukKâk of Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers, when you're ready.

**MS. FLOWERS:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I move, seconded by the Chair of the Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation, Mr. Jeff Montague that Bill 2026-01 a Bill for an Act to amend the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act (2026)* now be introduced and read for the first time.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk. Would you like to introduce the Bill?

**MS. FLOWERS:** No, I don't, sir. It's just there's a - in Section 6 there is an explanatory note regarding the Bill and to say that we worked very hard to get this Bill here today. Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*. The motion is in order. Does anyone wish to speak to the principal of the bill? If no other Member wish to speak, does the Member wish to conclude the debate?

**MS. FLOWERS:** I wish to conclude the debate.

**MR. WINTERS:** Thank you, Member. That concludes debate on first reading. Is the Assembly in favour of approving Bill 2026-01 on first reading? All those in

favour? You may stand, Minister of the Department of Health and Social Development, Roxanne Barbour. What is your question?

**MS. BARBOUR:**

*Naku.* I know there was a public consultation on this, but in Standing Order 54(1)(b) it said - it says, "The Assembly shall vote to refer the Bill to public hearing by a committee." Oh, sorry, I was misunderstanding it. Never mind.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* No problem. All those in favour? Any opposed? Seeing none, the motion is carried. And accordingly, Bill 2026-01, *Nunatsiavut Elections Amendment Act 2026* has had first reading. This moves us to Item 19, "The Second Reading of Bills." There are no bills for second reading today. Item 20 is, "The Assent to Bills." There are no bills set for assent today. Item 21 is, "Adjournment." The Assembly is now adjourned until 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning, Wednesday, January 21st, 2026. *Nakummek.*

[Adjourned]

## **Day 2, January 21, 2026**

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Ullâkut.* I would like to call to order the Second Day of the Sitting of the Fifth Nunatsiavut Assembly. Item One is, "Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery." And I would like to welcome those seated in the gallery, Director of Legal Services, Mark Gillette and Isabella Pain from the Secretariat. Item Two, is the, "Oath of Office." I will now turn the Chair of these proceedings to the President of Nunatsiavut, the Honourable

Johannes Lampe, for the appointment of a Minister. Whenever you're ready, sir.

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:**

*Nakummek, UKatti.* On recommendation of the First Minister, it has been determined that there will be a new appointment to the Executive Council. We will now proceed in the selection of Minister of Lands and Natural Resources. First Minister, are you ready to nominate an Ordinary Member for the Portfolio of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources?

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

*Nakummek, Mr. President.* Yes, Honourable President, I wish to nominate Mr. George Gear the Ordinary Member for Postville as the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources.

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:**

*Nakummek, First Minister.* Mr. Gear, do you accept the nomination?

**MR. GEAR:**

Yes, thank you, President and First Minister, I do accept.

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:**

*Nakummek, UKattik, First Minister and Mr. Gear.* I will now ask the Assembly if there is consensus on the nomination of Mr. George Gear, the Ordinary Member for Postville as the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek, Mr. President.* The President is asking if there is consensus. By show of hands, all in favour? There are none opposed. President, you have consensus.

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:**

*Nakummek, UKattik.* I will now ask Mr. Gear to proceed to the podium for Oath of Office. *Nakummek, UKattik.*

Repeat after me. I, George Gear...

**MR. GEAR:** I, George Gear...

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** ...swear...

**MR. GEAR:** ...swear...

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** ...solemnly affirm...

**MR. GEAR:** ...solemnly affirm...

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

**MR. GEAR:** ...that I will be faithful...

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** ...to Nunatsiavut...

**MR. GEAR:** ...to Nunatsiavut...

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

**MR. GEAR:** ...and the Inuit of Labrador...

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

**MR. GEAR:** ...and the Nunatsiavut Assembly.

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

**MR. GEAR:** I will obey...

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

**MR. GEAR:** ...respect...

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

**MR. GEAR:** ...and uphold the *Labrador Inuit Constitution*...

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

**MR. GEAR:** ...all Inuit laws...

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

**MR. GEAR:** ...and the Standing Orders of the Nunatsiavut Assembly.

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

**MR. GEAR:** I will hold my office...

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** ...as Minister...

**MR. GEAR:** ...as Minister...

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

**MR. GEAR:** ...with honour and dignity.

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** I will be a true...

**MR. GEAR:** I will be a true...

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** ...and faithful counsellor...

**MR. GEAR:** ...and faithful counsellor...

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

**MR. GEAR:** ...to the President.

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** I will not divulge...

**MR. GEAR:** I will not divulge...

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** ...directly...

**MR. GEAR:** ...directly...

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** ...or indirectly...

**MR. GEAR:** ...or indirectly...

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** ...any secret matter...

**MR. GEAR:** ...any secret matter...

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** ...entrusted to me.

**MR. GEAR:** ...entrusted to me.

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

**MR. GEAR:** I will fulfill...

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** ...my responsibilities...

**MR. GEAR:** ...my responsibilities...

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** ...as a leader...

**MR. GEAR:** ...as a leader...

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** ...in accordance...

**MR. GEAR:** ...in accordance...

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** ...with all applicable standards...

**MR. GEAR:** ...with all applicable standards...

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

**MR. GEAR:** ...and *Codes of Conduct*.

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** And I will perform...

**MR. GEAR:** And I will perform...

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** ...the functions...

**MR. GEAR:** ...the functions...

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** ...of my office...

**MR. GEAR:** ...of my office...

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** ...conscientiously...

**MR. GEAR:** ...conscientiously...

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

**MR. GEAR:** ...and to the best of my ability...

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

**MR. GEAR:** ...so help me, God.

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** Congratulations.

[Applause]

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* We are now on to Item Three, "Ministers' Statements." Are there any Ministers' Statements at this time? Recognizing first, the Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology, Mr. David Dicker Jr. When you're ready, sir.

**MR. DICKER JR.:** *Nakummek,* Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have been giving updates at each Assembly on the videography and photography project. The team will be in Postville and Rigolet in February to gather videos and photographs. Pictures are beginning to be incorporated into current job ads instead of using generic stock pictures. Risk Assessments are being conducted in all of the Nunatsiavut Government buildings. As for the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety, the definition of a

risk assessment is through a look at the workplace to identify those things, situations, processes, et cetera that may cause harm, particularly to people. Risk assessment are very important. They identify potential and real hazards and risks. Then a plan is to put in place to remove the risk or mitigate the risk. The ultimate goal is to create and maintain a safe work environment. Mr. Speaker, the Occupational Health and Safety Team has been organizing training for employees. First Aid training has been offered in all the communities to date except for Makkovik. Upcoming training offerings include Fall Arrest, Powerline Safety, Confined Spaces and Transportation of Dangerous Goods. If there is space available, the training will be opened up to community members.

*Nakummek, UKattik.*

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek, Minister.* The next Ministers' Statement will be from the Minister of the Department of Health and Social Development, Ms. Roxanne Barbour, when you're ready.

**MS. BARBOUR:**

*Nakummek, Mr. Speaker.* DHSD, in collaboration with Education and Economic Development are working with College of the North Atlantic to deliver an Early Childhood Level One course. This two-year course will be a virtual delivery with students, staff in class in the mornings and in daycare programming in the afternoon. There are eight students and staff in the course. It's a great partnership with staff and students, one from Nain, three from Hopedale, one from Makkovik, and there's two or three reserved for Rigolet as we continue to build capacity for the daycares.

Under Food Security, milk program delivery seems to be going smoothly. Most communities are working with local stores to supply the food. Nain has been working with Frank's and delivering from Frank's which seems to have improved the process in Nain. Frank's is a central location there. Households in Nunatsiavut received a Christmas hamper. Interviews to fill the new school food coordinator are taking place this week. Nain, Hopedale and Rigolet are part of the Provincial sample to help determine the cost of food in NL. Food costing occurred in the fall.

DHSD has purchased six sea cans which have been built for us with wiring and heaters so we can store the food items. Two arrived in Nain and the other four will be arriving in Goose Bay in the next couple weeks and will be shipped to Nunatsiavut once the shipping season opens.

The Status of Women held a community engagement session in Nain and received much feedback. There was a lot of good conversations about what Nain women want for the community. A lot of them spoke about how they are not a lot going on for women in programs or services. Here are some of the responses that we heard:

Healthcare - judgement within programs, lack of supports, housing crisis, out-dated supports, alcohol and drug use, suicide, lack of programming and trauma. These discussions will help inform future programs.

Under Nursing, we currently have two vacant nursing positions, one in Nain and one in Hopedale, with another position on extended sick leave in the Upper Lake Melville Home Support Program. We have been trying

to recruit with no success to date. The Home Support Program Staff in Upper Lake Melville has been relocated to 436 Hamilton River Road due to the fire in the Corte Real building.

Under TB Elimination, through - under Funding and the Inuit Crown Partnership Committee, TB Elimination has now been added to the ICPC agenda and Tina Buckle is sitting on this group for the NG. A briefing is in the process of being developed for the Prime Minister to advocate for continued funding. The TB outbreak is progressing smoothly. The team, NG and Newfoundland Labrador Health Services meet twice per week to ensure tight oversight and clear communication. The NG Epi shares a outbreak report on a weekly basis with the team. There's another chest x-ray clinic in the process of being planned for Nain. The date is yet to be determined. In addition there are four TB follow-up clinics booked with Dr.. Woollam for the week of - for this week.

- Chest x-rays. The equipment was ordered September 2025. Delivery is expected towards the end of January or early February, and it will be delivered directly to Lab Grenfell Zone.

- *Qanuippitaa?* National Inuit Health Survey Coordinator is currently on extended sick leave, and we're unsure of the date of return. We're hoping for an update soon, then the plan is to consult with HR for next steps.

We completed the Food Security Report fall of 2025. The team is currently waiting on a draft of the report from the Resource Centre, which is expected in the coming weeks.

The team is beginning work with Mental Health team to begin writing the Mental Wellness report.

Under Health Promotion, Tobacco and Vaping Project, being lead by Health Promotion and Wellness Manager, received approvals for implementation during the fall 2025. This project is being funded by the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer, or CPAC, and the NG and CPAC MOU has been signed.

Under NIHB, accommodation contracts have been reviewed and finalized for a one-year renewal, beginning in January 2026.

Expressions of Interest are in the process of being posted for a Dentist for Nain and Hopedale, and a hygienist is gone out for second posting. Dr. Toor has agreed to run a clinic in Nain while the dentist position is waiting to be filled.

New ground transportation van arrived on January 12th, and it's a replacement.

Medical Transportation. NL Health Services Paramedicine and Medical Transport Program has been changing over the past two years to improve services. In June 2024, private and community ambulance operators were brought together into a single program, Paramedicine and Medical Transport, or PMT. Since that time, a Clinical Chief role has been established, and most recently, Medavie Health Newfoundland and Labrador has been contracted to manage day-to-day operations, including Medevac and Schedevac for coastal Labrador air services. Medavie senior

staff will be in Labrador this week to meet with DHSD and NIHB, Labrador Grenfell Health senior leadership, physicians, Innu Nation, Air Borealis, among other partners. They will be meeting with all members of the Assembly in Hopedale on Thursday and then participating in a patient tracer at the Hopedale clinic to get a view from on the ground as to how Schedevacs Medivacs roll out.

Under Family Services, the ICFI, or Inuit Child First Initiative.

In February 2025, ISC or Indigenous Services Canada released a public operational bulletin that is found on the Government of Canada's website. Inuit regions were not a part of the development of the sudden change in operations for ICFI and these have been prescribed to Inuit by ISC. There is uncertainty on what ICFI will look like beyond March 31st. And to date we do not have promise from Canada that this program will continue. However, we remain committed to co-developing a long-term equivalent and continue to support ITK in lobbying the federal government which remains high on our priority list.

The NG are staying the course and remain committed to a co-developed program or initiative that will bridge the gaps in relation to the health and social inequities faced by Inuit children in Nunatsiavut and Canada.

There are still many delays ongoing with application approval. We urge beneficiaries to reach out to Indigenous Services Canada directly. And if you have questions or concerns about your child's application that may be before the ICFI.

## Family Connections Program

The NG approved the purchase of three new vehicles for the family connections program to support the supervised access of children in care and families in general. We have two new side-by-sides and one skidoo in the community of Nain to support growing transportation demand for Inuit families.

We have a new Family Connections Driver in the community of Nain. Daniel Barbour began his permanent full-time role in December 2025, congratulations Daniel, and welcome to the DHSD.

Our Indigenous Representative was hired in Nain, Daniel N. Webb began this role permanently in September 2025 and has traveled to all Nunatsiavut communities to meet with foster parents and engage in community events.

Under the Caring for our Children Project, we have had one vacancy for the foster home recruitment and retention social work position since April 2025. The position is re-advertised and we hope to fill soon so we can increase our capacity to support Inuit foster homes, and recruit new foster homes.

The NG released an RFP for a Data Management System Review and we are in the process of awarding the contract. The NG continues to increasing services and supports to Beneficiaries and in doing so we require an improved centralized information system. This requires professional specialization and expertise in information technology to assist us in

determining what product would best fit our needs. This work also supports our path to devolution of provincial services to the Nunatsiavut Government.

#### Mental Health & Addictions:

The Mental Health and Addictions manager has been working with Tina Davies and recently travelled to Nain and Hopedale for initial visits focused on relationship-building, community engagement, and informing communities about the Grief Support Group initiative. The sessions were very well received. Vyann and Tina are scheduled to return to Nain and Hopedale during this week to continue this work.

Two interviews were conducted on the 12th for the vacant MHA positions in Makkovik and Hopedale. It's anticipated that these vacancies will soon be filled.

A decision was made to move away from Bell Let's Talk Day and Pink Shirt Day, as these are externally led, single-day awareness initiatives. In place of these events, communities will host Inuit-led Community Connection events.

Under Trauma and Addictions, Hilary Blake started in the counsellor position, and is based out of Goose Bay. She travelled to Nain in Dec to offer Mental Health Supports, with plans to return in February for grief programming and supports.

#### Child & Youth Mental Health.

Jade Howell, and Samira Kohlmeister were hired in the Child and Youth Mental Health Worker positions in Nain. Allison Broomfield is hired in the Child and Youth Mental Health Specialist position. In February the Child and Youth Mental Health Team will be meeting face-to-face to organize priority areas and supports.

Youth Programming.

- 

Nain Mommy & Me Group, every Wednesday starting January 21st; Nain Silapaak-Making with Young Men who are celebrating Young Men's Day in January; Nain Akulik Making with Young Women who are celebrating Young Women's Day in March. Regional Youth North Trip and Caribou Hunt planned for April 2026; Youth Symposium is being planned for Rigolet in May 2026.

Under Harm Reduction, planning for infrastructure of the Wellness Hub in Nain for Harm Reduction, mental health and addiction supports. Preliminary planning for the Hub includes: staffing, programming, Naloxone distribution, among other things. We are seeing increased referrals for substance use support - treatment applications, addictions counselling, harm reduction case management - which is very positive in that people are reaching out. Unfortunately, substance use issues in our communities seem to be increasing.

Moving forward with the Justice Services Strategy work

with NVision, with plans to meet face to face.

Under Indigenous Health, we are pleased to welcome Vanessa Webb to the Inuit Health Manager role. She will be working out of the Nain NG office. This role provides culturally safe, client-centered case management to Inuit patients, families, and communities. With 13 years nursing experience, Vanessa is here to assist with the coordination of health services, advocate for patients and families, working collaboratively with interdisciplinary health care teams across NG, NLHS, and at provincial and federal levels. Vanessa will also be leading the Anti-Racism Indigenous Framework across health care, working collaboratively to identify systemic barriers to access healthcare.

For the 2026, '27 fiscal year the Regional Elder's Coordinator is planning open houses for each community and Upper Lake Melville. We are also working on ways to include and ensure beneficiaries residing in the rest of Canada are heard. Excuse me. In between years of the Biennial Seniors Gathering Beverly would normally travel into communities and consult with seniors through community gatherings, inviting seniors and elders living in their community. The goal this year is to reach other age groups that are related to, or have ties with seniors and elders of the region. This is where an open house would benefit. It would not only give the time and space for community members of all ages to come and talk about anything relevant to seniors and elders but it also is a great way to connect with the Elders Coordinator, what her roles are, where her direction comes from and bridge some gaps where possible. The first session was held in

Hopedale on the 14th, and dates for other areas are yet to be set up but they'll be happening throughout the 2026, '27 fiscal year. *Naku.*

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Are there any other Ministers' Statements at this time?

Recognizing the Minister of the Department of Education and Economic Development, Mr. Tom Evans, when you're ready, sir.

**MR. EVANS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll just do a brief update from our November sitting. I'll be doing my Education Division update. Our current post-secondary students - we have approximately 249 students enrolled in post-secondary studies, and are being supported by the NG Education Division Funding Program. A hundred and seventy-seven are receiving full-time support, and 72 are receiving part-time support. We are currently supporting five Adult Basic Education students at our learning centres in Nain and Hopedale, with one additional student having graduated, and one more discontinuing in December. We have one beneficiary supported under the Self-Employment Benefits Program starting this week, and one beneficiary just finished receiving supports from this program. We have two beneficiaries in apprenticeship training, both currently doing their fourth blocks. One in electrical and one in millwright. Under Staff News, June Winters has been hired as our permanent secretary receptionist in Makkovik. June is familiar with the funding side of the Division as she worked in the same role under the Inuit Pathways Funding Program in the past. June started on December 8th and is a welcome addition to our team. Also, Michelle Dyson and Marina Andersen will be travelling to Ottawa this week to participate in

the National ISEP, Indigenous Skills Employment Training gathering from January 23rd to January 26th.

Under Student Engagement, Kailey Webb our Post-Secondary Student Counsellor and Meagan Green, our Student Liaison, recently visited the students attending studies in St. Johns. Kailey organized various activities such as bowling, movie night, a visit to The Rooms, campus visits and suppers together with students and their families. As a part of her position as Post-Secondary Student Counsellor, Kailey organizes visits to areas where we have a high concentration of funded students. These visits provide students with a bit of a break from studies, opportunity to participate in fun activities with other funded students. They meet with Education Division staff and feel supported. Kailey hopes to do two more trips this year, possibly to Ontario and the Maritimes. Just to update on our Inuit Nunangat University, there's a meeting scheduled for yesterday, Tuesday, January 20th with the Provincial Department of Education and Early Learning to present information about the Inuit Nunangat University. The Inuit Nunangat University Task Force is aiming for Federal jurisdiction for this university. However, provinces and territories are being informed, and we are requesting their support as well. We are hoping that there will be announcement in February identifying the location of the main campus for the university, and possibly the locations of the three satellite campuses. I'll just briefly mention what Minister Barbour had mentioned about the DHSD with some help from Economic, Education Division are partnering with the College of the North Atlantic

to deliver the training with childcare staff in order to get them certified to ensure the continuation of the daycares in Nunatsiavut.

Just briefly on the Nunatsiavut Regional Education Division Building.

Construction is complete and the maintenance staff have undergone some training on the various systems in the building. However, there's still a list of deficiencies that has delayed staff from moving in. Once we get a substantial completion, we should be able to move staff in, and therefore free up more space in the NG main building. But lastly, I'll just mention as of January 13th we have submitted a request to meet with Paul Vin. He's the new Provincial Minister of Education, Minister of Early Childhood Development and Minister of Advanced Education Skills.

*Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*. Are there any other Ministers' Statements at this time?

Seeing none, that brings us to Item Four, "Members' Statements." Are there any Members' Statements around the Table at this time? Yes, recognizing the Ordinary Member for Rigolet, Ms. Melva Williams, when you're ready.

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

*Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to speak to some of the things that were going on in my community during the holiday season. I hope everybody in Rigolet or in fact across our whole beneficiary population have had a good holiday season. There were many activities held in my community during the holiday season, although I was away with family at the time, but I know there was a lot of events on the go. The Department of Health and Social Development held their annual Christmas meal that

was enjoyed by the entire community. They had a number of prizes. The recreation had their usual array of different activities that for the community. Other groups in our community who had events and activities that the community enjoyed such as the seniors' group and the fire brigade held bingos and card games and those kind of things. RCMP staff and family supported almost every event in the community. We really appreciate that.

I'd also like to recognize the partners that we had during our 20th anniversary celebration in Rigolet. It was a phenomenal event. One of the key partners, actually was the Rigolet Inuit Community Government. Thank you, Chesley. Yourself, and your council gave freely and made our event very successful with things like a bingo and fireworks, which was enjoyed tremendously, as well as hot chocolate and muffins supported by the AngajukKâk and Ordinary Member. So, we took those two pieces on.

I'd also like to speak to the sports meet that's going to be planned for our community. I hope that the Rigolet students enjoy the sports meet and have fun and participate and gets lots of experience, especially the newer ones. I know seeing in the community those who are practising, there's a lot of newer younger students. I hope they have a ball. I know our community should - will host your communities and everyone should hopefully have a wonderful time in Rigolet. I also know that there's some of the Labrador Winter Games athletes or, if not all, have been selected, and practices are started in our community. I wish that team all the success when they travel to Goose Bay to be at the Labrador Winter

Games. I'm going to be attending as President Lampe isn't available, and we are sponsor for some of the events, so I'm going to be attending. So, I hope to see students from Nunatsiavut - athletes, sorry, from the Nunatsiavut attending and representing our people quite well.

Lastly, I did want to speak about the CVITP, that's the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program. As Ordinary Member in Rigolet, I am a volunteer through the Nunatsiavut Government Registry for that program. And I hope to be able to offer the free clinic to residents of Rigolet who would like to have their assistance getting their income taxes done if it's a simple income tax application. And I can assist when I am in the community. So, for Rigolet residents I welcome you guys when I'm available in the community to help you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Ordinary Member. We will now hear from the Chairperson for the Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation, Mr. Jeff Montague, when you're ready.

**MR. MONTAGUE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Carol Matthews. Carol was on both the Sivunivut Board of Directors and the Iliget Community Partnership's Board. She also sat on the Nunatsiavut Seniors Advisory Committee. As Chairperson, I got to know Carol quite well, and we became good friends. She will be remembered for her sharp wits, her gardening, her independence and her exceptionally good tarts and pies. Good-bye, Carol. Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* We will now hear from the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

**MS. FLOWERS:** *Nakummek, UKalittik.* Once again, since our last sitting, we have had another death in our community. On behalf of HICG I extend deepest condolences to the family of Sarah Onalik. Sarah was a young, single mom of three beautiful children. Although very quiet, she was always pleasant and willing to help in any way. We will miss her beautiful smile and her caring ways. Mr. Speaker, it breaks my heart to see so many youth taking their own life. What is it that we are missing? What do we, as a Government need to change to reach out and help our people? My prayer for 2026 is that we can look deep into this topic to find solutions to this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek, AngajukKâk.* We will now hear from the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen.

**MR. W. ANDERSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over the years we have people who make personal sacrifices for the wellbeing of other people and many times I've spoke on our elders and the knowledge that they've brought to all of us and their hope for a better way of life for the future generations. Mr. Speaker, today I want to pay tribute to the AngajukKâk from Makkovik, the Honourable Barry Andersen and his wife Kimberley. They've been involved in the community for many years. But Mr. Speaker, the AngajukKâk for Makkovik, his father had a stroke. He spent time in St. John's and his goal was to move back to his home in Makkovik. AngajukKâk Barry Andersen and his wife Kimberley moved out of their

house and moved into his father's house so they could look after him. Many times, we all see a post where AngajukKâk Barry Andersen puts in for leave because homecare is not available, and he does that to look after his father. Mr. Speaker, our seniors have given so much, and they deserve a lot. And when you see a lot of our elders who are forced to live outside of their home communities and outside of Labrador, that sometimes it's difficult when we realize all the work that they've done. But today, AngajukKâk Barry Andersen, as you know I call our seniors every two or three months, and I do call your father and other people in other communities, but certainly, for what you're doing to look after your father, you and your wife, that, all I can say that it means so much. And for that I thank you and your wife from the bottom of my heart. Thank you.

[Applause]

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Ordinary Member. Are there other Members statements around the Table at this time? Recognizing the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Gerald Asivak.

**MR. ASIVAK:**

*Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker. Today is my last day as part of the Fifth Assembly. It has been a true honour and privilege serving Labrador Inuit, specifically, Upper Lake Melville. Good luck to those seeking re-election in the general election in May 2026. Those of you who are not seeking re-election, I wish you nothing but happiness, health, joy in whatever you desire to pursue. Those who are seeking re-election do not take your beneficiaries or voters for granted. Work hard or extra hard to ensure

that you deserve that seat at the Assembly Table. The voters will have their chance on May 5th. I especially encourage more women and youth to seek politics. I will be lobbying people I know to run. I will continue to follow what is happening closely within Nunatsiavut Government and when I do leave, expect some emails on the other side of the Table for some time. So, take care, everyone. *Nakummek*.

[Applause]

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Ordinary Member. The next Members' Statement will be from the AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen, when you're ready.

**MR. B. ANDERSEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My statement for this morning as per the Standing Orders, Section 32 and 34, regarding the returns to oral questions, Mr. Speaker, and Mr. President, it is my wish that these answers to the oral questions and written questions be read at the Assembly so that those listening to us can hear the answers and the questions that were asked of the Assembly Members. I know it says, "May," in the Standing Orders, "May be read." But I think out of courtesy to the people who may be listening, that the answers be read allowed and not have to wait until Hansard. That's part of my statement for this morning. My next bit is to congratulate George Gear, Ordinary Member for Postville, on his new position - portfolio, I'm sorry - within the Nunatsiavut Government as the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources. I think that's the correct term. So, congratulations to my friend, George Gear. I have a hard time calling him George. It's always Bud. So,

congratulations on that post. Also, to my friend Mr. Gerald Asivak, Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville Area on his service, eight years - and I think he's the longest serving Member of the Department of Health and Social Development within the development of - or since the formation of the Nunatsiavut Government. Congratulations, Mr. Asivak on your well-deserved break from the Assembly. And also, I'd like to congratulate the AngajukKâk for Postville, Melanie Gear on her election. I think she'll be a welcome addition to our Assembly as the AngajukKâk Team. Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, AngajukKâk. Are there any other...

**MR. B. ANDERSEN:**

I'd just like to thank Wally for his comments there as well.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*. Are there any other first Members' Statements around the Table? Recognizing the Ordinary Member for Nain, Mr. David Dicker, when you're ready - Junior - sorry.

**MR. DICKER JR.:**

*Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker. I'd like just to allude to what Ordinary Member from Rigolet, Melva Williams had mentioned as well in terms of Community Volunteer Income Tax program. I also will be volunteering my time to commit to the beneficiaries who would like to get their income tax returns complete with the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program. The program is completely free. Just to advise the beneficiaries who are listening know. Pretty basic program, pretty basic client information sheet to fill out and to be completed by the Community Volunteer Income Tax program. And it's also beneficial for

beneficiaries to understand that you can receive your Notice of Assessments for programs as well as other Government services that are required. *Nakummek.*

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Are there any other first Members' Statements around the Table? Yes, recognizing the AngajukKâk for Postville, Ms. Melanie Gear, when you're ready.

**MS. GEAR:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanna congratulate George Gear on his appointment to Minister of Lands and Natural Resources. I think it's a good fit. I just also wanted to acknowledge our out-going AngajukKâk, Diane Gear. She was always very helpful to me. She was my, I guess she mentored me when I started working with the Town Council of Postville. And then Postville Inuit Community Government. So, I spent a lot of years working with her and she was always very helpful. So, I just wanted to acknowledge her. Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek,* AngajukKâk. Are there any more - yes, recognizing the Ordinary Member for Postville, Mr. George Gear.

**MR. GEAR:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say thank you, to the President Lampe and First Minister and all Members around the Table for putting your trust in me, and I know it is a big portfolio to do, but with the great staff that we got Deputy Minister, directors and all other civil service and all, I can try to get up to speed and to it as - and if I can get up to speed and do as good job as our last Minister, Mr. Terry Vincent, I'll be, I think I,

I could do - be good for the Government and the people that we represent, the Nunatsiavut beneficiaries. Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Ordinary Member. Are there any other - yes, recognizing the Ordinary Member for Nain, Ms. Roxanne Barbour, when you're ready.

**MS. BARBOUR:**

*Naku*. My statement is for those who may be listening. Like I mentioned in my statement yesterday, our offices don't stop in Nain. There's always somebody coming in. But for those who might have not come in yet, or who might not know my colleague, Minister Dicker and I are always very open to helping people or helping Nainimiut navigate through the different services and programs that they may be entitled to, whether it's through the NG or the Government of Newfoundland or Canada, or different agencies within our communities, and organizations. Just wanted to say to those listening that, you know, we're always a call away, or email, or just pop by the office. We try really hard to support those who are coming through our offices to ensure that their concerns or questions or seek is, like their seeking for help is addressed. And like to help - we don't know if we need to help you if you don't come in. So again, for those listening, always reach out. We're always open and want to guide and support those who may be coming through our offices.

*Naku*.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*. Are there any more first Members' Statements around the Table? Yes, recognizing the AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Mr. Chesley Sheppard, whenever you're ready.

**MR. SHEPPARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to wish everyone a happy new year. My colleague said pretty much a lot of what I was going to say today. But we had a good turnout for our 20th celebrations and I'd like to thank all the volunteers that helped put that together. And I also would like to welcome all the sports meet students when they show up. Hope they have a good time in our small town. I would also like to thank all the volunteers and the billets to take in our students to make this a success. Our rink is now flooded and is being used, which is great, early this year, strange. And we do have Andre coming in again this year. He's an ex-NHL player. He's doing skating skills and hockey skills which would be January 4th - February 1st to the 4th. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Are there further first Members' Statements around the Table? Seeing none, I will ask the Deputy Speaker to take my Chair.

**MR. SAUNDERS:**

Do you have a statement to make, Mr. Winters?

**MR. WINTERS:**

Yes. As my colleague in Edmonton, Roland Saunders, Ordinary Member for Canada referred to yesterday, we managed to make it to two out of three holiday events this year. I'd like to thank Guda Demoray and her staff for putting on an amazing event in Edmonton, including Maude Campbell from Nunatsiavut who always does a great job of keeping us in line. I would also like to thank Frances Palliser-Nicholas and her staff at Atelihai Inuit in Halifax for an incredible event. And Frances and her staff had us working in the kitchen as well, which was a nice change of pace. The event that we didn't make it to seemed like the biggest and most impressive of all and that was put on by Deantha Edmunds Ramsay and

Sharon Harvey from The Rooms. I would also like to thank Kate Wolforth, from The Rooms for securing us funding to make this happen. And for - and to thank Isabella Pain who was able to secure us funding from the Department of Communications for this 20th anniversary event. I'd also like to thank Melva Williams and Gerald Asivak for opening the event and doing everything that Roland and I should've been doing had we been able to make it there. Finally, I would like to thank the outgoing Minister, Gerald Asivak for always being a responsive, respectful colleague as long as he hasn't gone too long without a snack. And I look forward to seeing what he does in the future. *Nakummek.*

**MR. SAUNDERS:**

Thank you, Ordinary Member Winters. Are there any further questions or statements? Thank you. I'll return the Chair.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Are there any second Members' Statements around the Table at this time? Yes, recognizing the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

**MS. FLOWERS:**

*Nakummek,* Mr. Speaker. I too would like to congratulate Melanie Gear on AngajukKâk position. I think that she's a perfect fit for Postville and that she will serve her community well. So welcome to our team, Melanie. It's good to see you here. Also, I would like to thank Mr. Terry Vincent for his term as Minister of Lands and Natural Resources. Terry, it's been a pleasure working with you and we will miss you once you leave. But we have you around for another month yet as Ordinary Member or a couple of months. And to Mr. George Gear, congratulations on your appointment. You too will be a good fit. I know you will. And I

know that your parents would be very proud of you today as they worked so hard for their communities as well. And to Gerald Asivak, the outgoing Minister of Health [*sic*], it's been a pleasure working with you, Gerald. And I'm sorry for all the questions but you're a good sport. And we thank you for your long-term service. It was good to work with you. And congratulations to Roxanne Barbour who is now the Minister of Health. We look forward to working with you as well, and we know that you will do wonderful. It's good to see younger people coming in and just wanting to be involved with our Government. So, congratulations to all. Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:**

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

**MR. B. ANDERSEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was remiss in my first statement. So, I'd like to congratulate Terry Vincent, Ordinary Member for Hopedale, on his service to the Department of Lands and Natural Resources. And also, congratulations to Ms. Roxanne Barbour, Ordinary Member for Nain on her recent post yesterday to the Department of Health and Social Development. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Are there any other second Members' Statements around the Table at this time? Recognizing Ordinary Member for Nain, Ms. Roxanne Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:**

*Nakummek.* As - so, how am I trying - as we end off today, you know, we have one more Assembly sitting after this and I was saying yesterday, I

feel so unfinished. But I just wanted to rise today and let everybody around the Table know that, you know, if you're running again, it's good for you. I hope to see you back here again too. And that, you know, even though the election is on the horizon, I feel like I need to say that we can't act like it's, you know? Like we can't act like, okay, the election is coming, we can't do nothing. And I want to say that I'm here too. It's been so good collaborating with those who have reached out. But I'm always open to deliberating on conversations or anything like - or just having a simple conversation. And I just wanted to stand here today and say that my experience has been so challenging but so rewarding. And for those who are new coming in or even those who have been here before, I'm more than open to having conversations whether it's within my portfolio or just about regular day-to-day stuff. And I just wanted to say that openly and publicly. *Nakku\_*

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Are there any other second Members' Statements around the Table at this time? Seeing none, we will take a 15-minute recess.

*Nakummek.*

[Recess]

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Welcome back. We are now on to Item 5, "Returns to Oral Questions." Are there any returns to oral questions today? Recognizing the First Minister, Melva Williams when you're ready.

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize that the suggestion from the AngajukKâk for Makkovik, I had every intention of reading my return

because it was a question that was asked yesterday, so I thought it was - because I have the answer, I could provide it verbally as well. So the question from AngajukKâk Anthony Andersen was, "Was there a complete review of the Registry since we became a Government? There is no requirement under the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement* or Inuit Law for a review of all beneficiaries on the register. Reviews are conducted by committees on a case-by-case basis. And only where there are grounds to believe an individual's status should be reviewed. Membership Committees have been conducting reviews and they have to be satisfied that there's a valid reason to conduct a review before commencing a review on any particular person. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*. Are there any more returns at this time? Seeing none, that brings us to Item Six, "Oral Questions." Do any Assembly Members have oral questions? Recognizing the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen, when you're ready.

**MR. W. ANDERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources. Minister, roughly two years ago, many of our harvesters lost their shrimp quota, the only source of employment they had. A huge quota was given to an individual and in the first year the majority of the quota wasn't caught. It was sold to the offshore. Minister, can you tell us, this year, how much of the allowable catch for the shrimp quota was caught, and also can you answer as to what will happen with the remaining...

**MR. WINTERS:** Ordinary Member, you can ask a supplemental question but please leave it at the one for now. How would you like - what would your question be at this time?

**MR. W. ANDERSON:** My question would be, how much of the allowable shrimp q quota for this past year was not caught by our harvesters?

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

**MR. GEAR:** Thank you, sir for your question. And I don't have the answer for your right now as I just started, as you know, but I'll take that under notice. Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*, Minister. The Minister is taking his question under notice. Does the Ordinary Member have a supplemental question?

**MR. W. ANDERSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and my supplemental question to the Minister would be with the quota that was not caught, can you let the House know as to how you plan to distribute or to sell that quota? Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*. The Minister is taking the question under notice.

**MR. GEAR:** Yes, sir. Thank you, for your question again, or your supplementary. And I will take that also as notice, under notice.

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

**MR. W. ANDERSON:** No, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*. Are there - oh, apologies. The next question is from the Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Mr. Roland Saunders.

**MR. SAUNDERS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is for the President. Mr. President, with regards to Strange Lake, what is Nunatsiavut doing with regards to consultations with Torngat Metals, the Province of Quebec and the proposed road to NG lands?

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*, Ordinary Member. Mr. President, whenever you're ready.

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** *Nakummek, UKattik.* [Speaks in Inuttitut] Yes, there are meetings that we've had with Torngat Metals over the last recent years, have been ongoing and so we are continuing to meet with the Torngat Metals and I did not attend the last meeting that Torngat Metals had the Nunatsiavut Government which happened in Montreal. Our technical staff did attend that meeting, but I can share that information with the Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency. *Nakummek, UKatti.*

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*, Mr. President. The President has let us know he will share that information. Does the Ordinary Member have a supplemental question?

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

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* Are there any other oral questions around the Table at this time? Yes, recognizing the AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Mr. Chesley Sheppard.

**MR. SHEPPARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is for Minister Barbour, Department of Health and Social Development. Are there going to Family Connection transportations in all of Nunatsiavut?

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

**MS. BARBOUR:** I know that it's the ultimate goal of the DHSD to have family connections in all communities. However, for a more detailed answer I'll take it under notice and get back to you.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* The Minister is taking the question under notice. Does the AngajukKâk have a supplemental question?

**MR. SHEPPARD:** No, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* Are there any other first oral questions around the Table at this time? Yes, recognizing the AngajukKâk for Postville, Ms. Melanie Gear, when you're ready.

**MS. GEAR:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for Minister David Dicker Jr. You mentioned yesterday that there's new software going to be introduced or upgrade program to Sage 300. I'm just wondering, are your staff that's going to be using the program, are they aware or were they involved in this decision making? Thank you.

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

**MR. DICKER JR.:** *Nakummek,* for the question, AngajukKâk for Postville. Like I mentioned in my Ministers' Statement yesterday, this is new technology, Sage 300. That's - and it's going to be uploaded to AtukKatigevik on the NG website. And if staff I guess requires assistance on moving forward in terms of learning about the new program or getting an idea of - or who require assistance and support, should reach out to the Department as well.

*Nakummek.*

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

**MS. GEAR:** No, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MS. FLOWERS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister Barbour, Minister of Health and Social Development. I understand that traveling on the hospital plane sometimes dental and eye appointment people are bumped off. My question is can you negotiate something with Labrador Grenfell Health to ensure that this doesn't happen, 'cause it affects, a lot of times, people's treatment in eye care and dental care. Thank you.

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

**MS. BARBOUR:** *Nakummek*, for your question. For NIH or the Schedevacs, I know that is operated by the Grenfell Zone. So regional transportation under LGH, NIHB doesn't have authority over who gets on or off the flights. Just from community and previous knowledge, people are added onto those flights based on health priority. Like I know dental and vision is important, and that's why we try to have - we have an expression of interest out for visiting doctors and visiting eye doctors. That's why the DHSD has those professionals come into our communities, because of this problem. In terms of negotiating with Grenfell Health, I will take this back and try to

come up with a game plan with my department and get back to you.

*Naku.*

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* The Minister has committed to working towards this. Does the AngajukKâk have a supplemental question?

**MS. FLOWERS:**

No, I don't, Mr. Speaker, and I thank Minister Barbour for her answer. Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Are there any other first questions around the Table at this time? Seeing none, do any Members have a second question? There are none. I'll now as the Deputy Speaker to take my Chair.

**MR. SAUNDERS:**

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

**MR. WINTERS:**

I do. My question is for the Honourable Tom Evans, Minister of Education and Economic Development. Minister Evans, you and I have spoke about this a few times offline regarding communications with the Department of Education being missed or having an extended delay in response time. I'm asking the Minister if you have any plans moving forward in how to remedy this situation? *Nakummek.*

**MR. SAUNDERS:**

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

**MR. EVANS:**

Yes. Thank you, for the question, Ordinary Member. We've had conversations about this. And I'll take your question under notice and - but I expect a response to be read in the Assembly if that's okay. Thank you.

**MR. SAUNDERS:** Minister Evans, your mic. Thank you, Minister Evans. Mr. Winters, Minister Evans is taking it under notice. Do you have a supplemental question?

**MR. WINTERS:** No, I do not. But I would like to thank the Minister for his commitment to this. Our students are our future. *Nakummek*.

**MR. SAUNDERS:** Thank you, Ordinary Member Winters. The Chair is yours again.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*. Are there any other questions around the Table at this time? Seeing none, we are on to Item Seven, "Written Questions." Are there any written questions around the Table at this time? Seeing none, Item Eight is, "Returns to Written Questions." We have no returns to written questions today. Item Nine is, "Petitions." Are there any petitions today? Seeing none, brings us to Item 10, "Responses to Petitions." There are no responses to petitions today. Item 11 is, "Reports of Standing in Special Committees." There are no reports today. Item 12 is, "The Tabling of Documents." There are no documents to be tabled today. Item 13 is the, "Notices of Motion." There are no notices of motion today. Item 14, "Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills." There are no notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 15, "Motions." There are no motions today. Item 16, "First Reading of Bills." There are no first reading of bills today. Item 17 is, "The Second Reading of Bills." Second reading of Bill 2026-01, A bill for an act to amend the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act 2026*. I would like to recognize the AngajukKâk of Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers for the second reading of bills.

**MS. FLOWERS:**

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Chair of Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation, Mr. Jeff Montague that Bill 2026-01 be referred to the Committee of the Whole for consideration with Mr. Mark Gillette, Director of Legal Services as a witness and that the Bill be now read for the second time.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* We will now move into the Committee of the Whole to consider Bill 2026-01 and I invite Mr. Mark Gillette, the Director of Legal Services to join us as a witness in the Committee of the Whole. Welcome to the Committee of the Whole, Mr. Gillette. As the Members are aware, the procedure for second reading debate will be a page-by-page and clause-by-clause review. Mr. Gillette, will you please present the Bill.

**MR. GILLETTE:**

Thank you. It's nice to be back for the Committee of the Whole again. The Bill as per the explanatory note on the Bill, the Bill arises from a report that was accepted, adopted by the Assembly from the Special Committee on Voting Alternatives for the Canadian Constituency, which was presented earlier this year. It recommended and the Assembly, I guess, consented to in adopting a report the proposal for a certain number of legislative changes to allow for the possibility of a hybrid voting system for the Canadian Constituency. A hybrid system, meaning that there would be a possibility of implementing an electronic balloting system in addition to the required mail-in ballot system, 'cause under the *Constitution*, the voters in the Canadian Constituency can vote - may vote by main, as the *Constitution* says they may vote by mail, but they have to be given a mail ballot to exercise the right to vote. And as the Assembly's

aware, as of right now, the Canadian Constituency - voters in the Canadian Constituency can only vote by mail. So, it's the only constituency that has a remote voting option, obviously, because of the nature of the constituency. So, the propose - the Bill here, it's in two parts. The first part, Part A, deals with the amendments to - our proposed amendments to the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act* that would allow for that type of system to be implemented. What's proposed here is that the Act would be amended to essentially allow the Nunatsiavut Electoral Officer to determine if electoral - if electronic or a hybrid balloting system will be used in any given election and then make regulations as to how the specifics of that particular system will be used. And (inaudible) obviously, the Electoral Officer is the independent and arms-length body from the Assembly that controls elections. And then there's a second part of the Bill that doesn't really relate to that - this issue at all. It relates to the fact that there are - over the years we've determined a number of typographical or very technical amendments where certain words were used incorrectly or in a confusing fashion in the Act. And so, a decision was made to - since we're gonna be looking at amendments to the Act, that part B of the Act is just purely technical amendments. They don't change the effect of anything. They just make sure that the correct words or the correct capitalization of certain terms are used. So that's what Part B is. So, Part A deals with the - the voting system for the Canadian Constituency. Part B doesn't deal with that at all. It just deals

with correcting some - some technical issues or technical wording with the Act. So, I think that's where I will end this morning.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Does everyone have the Bill in front of them? Seeing nods, yes. We will now go to the Bill itself. In reviewing the Bill, we'll begin by voting on the substantive sections first as explained by Mr. Gillette, starting with Part A. And then when the substantive sections are finished, we'll go back to the beginning, sorry, to consider the preamble and title of the Bill. Part A of the Bill starts with Section 2 on pages 2 and 3. The addition of Part 2(a) in Section 19(a) to the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act*.

2) The following part, "Heading" and "Section," is added to the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act* immediately after Section 19. Part 2(a) Electronic Voting. Provisions for electronic balloting for voters in the Canadian Constituency. 19(a)(1) Subject to subsection (2), despite any other provision of this Act, the Nunatsiavut Electoral Officer may make by subordinate legislation, provisions for voters, resident in the Canadian Constituency to vote by means of an electronic balloting system.

2) In any election where subordinate legislation under subsection (1) applies,

(a) Voters in the Canadian Constituency must continue to be issued a mail ballot in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

(b) Voters in the Canadian Constituency continue to have the right to vote by mail ballot if they so choose, and

(c) The subordinate legislation must ensure that no more than one ballot cast by a voter by either means is counted.

3) Subordinate legislation under subsection (1) may apply to a specific election, plebiscite or referendum or to multiple elections, plebiscite or referenda.

4) Where expressly noted in subordinate legislation, made under subsection (1), provisions of that subordinate legislation may supersede specific provisions of this Act to give effect to the process and execution of the electronic balloting process as designated by the Nunatsiavut Electoral Officer.

5) Where the Nunatsiavut Electoral Officer makes subordinate legislation under subsection (1) the provisions of parts of this Act which are not expressly superseded by the subordinate legislation are to be read with necessary changes as the context requires, to give effect the process and execution of the electronic balloting process as designated by the Nunatsiavut Electoral Officer. Are there questions? Yes, Ms. Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:**

It's not a question, but more so grammar thing in the heading under Part 2(a). "Provisions for electronic voters for - balloting for voters in Canadian Constituency, but when you was reading it said, "In the." So...

**MR. WINTERS:**

That was a difference between my reading and what's on the page. It's still grammatically correct.

**MS. BARBOUR:**

I just wondered if you need to add, "The."

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*. I don't believe that we do. Are there any other questions or comments around the Table? Part (a) of the Bill. Ms. Barbour, do you have another question?

**MS. BARBOUR:** Yeah. So just to be clear, when there's an election - say, okay, in the event that this Bill passes and there is an election, in my understanding of 19(a)(2), Inuit in Canadian Constituency, they still go get a mail-in ballot but they got the option to vote electronically. And then in this part it talks about subordinate legislation. So, the Electoral Officer is going to make new legislation to ensure that ballots aren't double counted? Like is that - that's my interpretation of it.

**MR. WINTERS:** Witness?

**MR. GILLETTE:** Yes, that's correct.

**MS. BARBOUR:** Okay.

**MR. GILLETTE:** Yes. And there's also going to be some other amendments further along in the Bill that also talk about the double counting of ballots, but specifically the electoral officer will - so when we're talking about subordinate legislation, we're essentially talking about regulations, okay? So, the Electoral Officer can make regulations. The Electoral Officer already has power to make regulations regarding elections for a number of different things. So, the - this is just specifically gives guidance to the Electoral Officer to make sure - not only is there going to be provisions in the Act about those things that but to make sure that there's specific regulations about once they determine how the system is going to work,

the electoral system will work, the electronic system will work, that there won't be a double counting of any ballots. There won't be an opportunity to have any - more than one ballot counted - more than one vote counted by any elector.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*, Mr. Gillette. Is that clear?

**MS. BARBOUR:** Yeah, it is. I just wanted to make a note here that, that should be communicated somehow or some way because when the public, the voters read this, they're going to get, like, they'll still get a mail-in ballot, but they can vote online. Like how do we make sure that it's not a double vote? And then it, like, you know? We almost - if it's not properly communicated, we can set ourselves up for those types of comments and, you know - what do you call it? Like I don't know the expression for it, but rigging, I guess, elections. So, we just need to be sure that's communicated. I know that, that won't ever be the case. But, you know, I just wanted to make sure that that's made very clear.

**MR. WINTERS:** Mr. Gillette, would you like to add to that?

**MR. GILLETTE:** No, I think we're all on the same page with that. I don't think the Electoral Officer has any - certainly doesn't want to create any ambiguity.

**MR. WINTERS:** Are there any other questions on this section? Yes, recognizing Mr. Vincent.

**MR. VINCENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**MR. WINTERS:** We - you do not need to stand in the Committee of the Whole.  
*Nakummek*. Appreciate it.

**MR. VINCENT:**

Thank you. Yes, it just says this is going to be for the Canadian Constituency. Is there any way possible that this could be made for the whole of Nunatsiavut and not just the Canadian Constituency? 'Cause I think all our constituents should have this opportunity. Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Mr. Gillette.

**MR. GILLETTE:**

Well, the Bill is drafted based on the direction from the Assembly from the report that was adopted by the Assembly in June. So that was specific to the Canadian Constituency. The Committee, obviously, did its consultation only with the Canadian Constituency, and made recommendations specific to the issue with the Canadian Constituency 'cause there's an issue with the Canadian Constituency that doesn't exist in other constituencies, and that is their only option for voting is a remote option right now. So that's why the Bill as drafted is specific to electors in the Canadian Constituency. That's to say at some point that the Assembly could adopt legislation to adopt electronic voting for other constituencies. I would say that the public in - the Inuit public in those other constituencies haven't been asked about this or consulted about it at all at this point And so that's why this is specific to this. I would also say that if there was a desire to - the Bill, as drafted, as you can see, is pretty extensive and is specific to the Canadian Constituency. It would require a certain amount of time and work that would probably not be ready today to have this Bill specific to, or available to all constituents. So, what I will say is the Bill, as drafted, is specific to the Canadian Constituency. There's a reason why it is, because that's the direction the

Assembly gave previously. And - but that does not say that at some point that the - there couldn't be similar provisions for other constituencies. I think that's about what I can say at this point.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Are there further questions or remarks on this section of the Bill? So, for Part A of the Bill, Section 2, on pages 2 and 3, are we agreed?

We are agreed. *Nakummek.* Section 3, "Amendments to Section 21 of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act* subsection 21(2) of the *Nunatsiavut*

*Elections Act* is amended by repealing the words, in quotations, "In a polling station." Are there any questions? Seeing none, are we agreed?

We are agreed. Section 4, "Amendment to Section 23 of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act*, subsection 23(4) of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act* is

amended by replacing the words in quotations, "By Mail," with the words, in quotations, "In that constituency." Are there any questions?

Seeing none, are we agreed? We are agreed. Section 5, "Amendment to Section 25 of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act*, subsection 25(5) of the

*Nunatsiavut Elections Act* is amended by adding the words, in quotations, "Subject to subordinate legislation made under Section 19(a),

immediately after the word, "Shall." Yes, witness?

**MR. GILLETTE:**

Yeah, Members of the Committee of the Whole will note that there's a comma right after the...

**MR. WINTERS:**

Yes.

**MR. GILLETTE:**

...parenthesis and that's intentional because the comma is needed to be added to that sentence too, so that's not a typo.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* So, this is in addition to what's already in this section. Are there any questions on this? Seeing none, are we agreed? We are agreed. Section 6 on pages 3 to 4, "Amendment to Section 36 of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act.*" Subsection 36(4) of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act* is replaced by the following:

4) If a candidate withdraws, in accordance with this section or is disqualified pursuant to subsection 116(b)(3) or if a candidate dies after the close of the nominations and before the opening of the polls on polling day, and subsection 3 does not apply, on polling day,

(a) in the case of a constituency listed in paragraph 24(1)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e) or (f), the returning officer,

(i) shall prepare and post in a conspicuous place in each polling station in that constituency, a notice of every withdrawal made in accordance with this section of every candidate disqualified, pursuant to subsection 116(b)(3) and of every candidate who is deceased. And

(ii) when delivering a ballot or mail ballot to each elector, shall inform the elector of the withdrawal, disqualification or death.

(b) in the case of the constituency listed in Section 24(g), the returning officer

(i) shall prepare and cause to be posted in a conspicuous place, on the Nunatsiavut Government website, a notice of every withdrawal made in accordance with this section of every candidate disqualified, pursuant to subsection 116(b)(3), and of every candidate who is deceased.

(ii) When delivering a ballot or mail ballot to each elector shall inform the elector of the withdrawal, disqualification or death and

(iii) in the case where a system of electronic loading has been permitted by subordinate legislation, made under Section 19(a) cause the electronic voting platform to advise each elector of the withdrawal, disqualification or death before a vote is cast. Are there any questions on this section? Yes, Ms. Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:**

It's not necessarily a question, but I just want - again, thinking about the public who might be listening, so just hopefully you can share quick, what do you call it, translation to simple, more simple words as to what this part means. *Naku*.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Yes, Mr. Gillette.

**MR. GILLETTE:**

Okay. So, the section, it says it's replacing a section, but really the whole first part, like (a) already exists in the Act. So really, we're just adding Part (b). So, what this section talks about is where an election has been called, the nominations are closed. There's going to be a poll. What happens if a candidate then withdraws or dies? So, there's already rules which are in (a) as to how that's communicated when you have a normal polling station. So, in that circumstance, the returning officer for the polling station posts a notice, a paper notice, and it's put on the door or the wall or sometimes they put it at the poll or wherever it is to, "Please be advised that Mark Gillette, who is a candidate in this election, is deceased," right? So - but there's no provision for how to deal with that

if there was an electronic system. So now, when there's an electronic system, this says that obviously, there's no polling station. So how do you communicate that to your voter? So, the intention here is that it would be posted on the NG website, and also that doesn't preclude it being - this would be the minimum, I would say. Like, you know, maybe social media is also an option, kinda thing. But the minimum here is posted on the Government website. And also, that if there's an electronic system that people use, that the system would have built into it a feature that it would say, "This candidate who was nominated is deceased, or has withdrawn," or whatever, so people don't cast their ballot for those people. So that's really all this is. It's just - it's a notice provision.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Are there further comments or questions on this section? Seeing none, I will point out that there is a typo in 4(b)(i), "Shall prepare and caused to be posted." "Shall prepare and cause to be posted." This change will be made. Barring any other comments or questions, are we agreed? We are agreed.

Section 7, "Amendment to Section 39 of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act*. Section 39 of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act* is amended by adding the following immediately after paragraph C.

C(1). In the case where a system of electronic voting has been permitted by subordinate legislation made under Section 19(a), the particulars of the voting system to be used. Are there questions or comments on this section? Seeing none, are we agreed? We are agreed.

Section 8 on pages 4 and 5.

8(1). Section 43 of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act* is amended by deleting the word, "And," at the end of paragraph 1(e), and adding the following immediately after paragraph 1(e)(1). In the case of a mail ballot kit for an elector in the Canadian Constituency where a system of electronic voting has been permitted by subordinate legislation under Section 19(a), instructions with respect to the casting of the vote by electronic means and

2(43)(3) of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act* is replaced by the following:

3) On receipt of the mail ballot kit, the elector shall

(a) in the case of an elector in the Canadian Constituency

(i) mark the paper ballot with the letter X within the space on the ballot containing the names of the candidates of his or her choice and return the paper ballot in the manner set out in subsection (4) or

(ii) where a system of electronic voting has been permitted by subordinate legislation under Section 19(a) follow the instructions stated in the mail ballot kit with respect to the casting of the vote by electronic means or

(b) in the case of all other electors voting by mail, mark the ballot by printing with a pen or pencil of any colour in the space provided, the name of the candidate or where applicable, the candidates of his or her choice.

3) Subsection 43 of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act* is amended by adding the following immediately after paragraph 3.

(3)(1) No elector shall vote by both a paper mail-in ballot and by electronic means.

On Section 8, across these two pages, are there any questions? Yes, Ms. Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:**

Is it common practice to mark ballots with any colour pen or pencil? Like for things they usually require black or blue ink or just pencil?

**MR. WINTERS:**

Mr. Gillette.

**MR. GILLETTE:**

That's the rule as is, right now. There wasn't any change to that. In these elections there hasn't been any. And they don't discriminate on what you mark a ballot with. So we that's, that - we didn't make any change to that, so that's an existing provision.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Ms. Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:**

When I was reading this and I was trying to understand it, in my understanding of it, I guess, it was saying that you can only - for Inuit in Canadian Constituency, you can only vote electronically if you get a mail-in kit. Is that? Or no?

**MR. WINTERS:**

Mr. Gillette.

**MR. GILLETTE:**

No, so what this section - what Section 43 of the Act is talking about is how voters get a mail ballot and how they mark a mail ballot currently. So, all voters in the Canadian Constituency vote by mail and they get a

mail-in ballot kit. Other voters who are in any other constituencies can also vote by mail. They can apply to the Returning Officer for their election and say, "I'm not going to be around on polling day or I'm not able to get to the poll," or whatever it is. They can apply for a mail ballot. So, in those cases anybody who wants a mail ballot or is entitled to a mail ballot gets a kit. And the section talks about what's in the kit. So, there's a ballot. There's an envelope that they have to put the ballot in - all these different things. So, this section - the amendments to this section, the only amendment - and I appreciate it's in a couple different parts here but - so the first part of this section talks about - for voters in the Canadian Constituency also included in this kit if there's going to be an electronic poll for that - in any given election - also in this kit will be instructions for how to return their vote electronically if they choose to do so. So, instructions will be in the kit that they get. Then the second part is just talking about - so, like the marking of the X on the paper ballot, that's already, if they want to execute their right to execute their vote by paper, that's how they do that, marking the X on the ballot. But then if they want to execute their right to vote by electronic means, then they just follow the instructions that are in the kit. So that's what the second part talks about. And in the third part is the, again, the prohibition that we talked about earlier, that nobody is to be allowed to vote twice, basically. So....

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Ms. Barbour?

**MS. BARBOUR:** Yeah, so only when the mail ballot kits are sent out, they will receive instructions for how to vote electronically? Is that?

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

**MR. GILLETTE:** I mean, the subordinate legislation enacted by the electoral officer could include how more broadly instructions could be given, but if someone is given - the intention here is that if someone - if I'm an elector and I get the ballot, and I'm entitled - and to either mail it or file electronically, all this is saying is that in that kit there's going to be instructions to tell you how to do one way or the other, right? What - how to execute based on the kit that you're given, right? So, I'm not sure if I'm being clear or not, but....

**MR. WINTERS:** Your mic, Mr. Gillette. Ms. Barbour?

**MS. BARBOUR:** I'm sorry. Apologies. I don't mean to try and make it longer, but I think I'm being misunderstood. So, what I'm asking is, Inuit in Canadian Constituency, will only have instructions as to how or where they can vote electronically if they so choose which to, when they get the mail ballot kit, or before - that's what - this - to me, that's what this is saying. And then they can choose to vote electronically or by mail. Like is it only when they get the mail-in ballot kit they go get instruction as to how to either mail it back or vote electronically? I hope that was more clear.

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

**MR. GILLETTE:** No, I understand. Not necessarily. That - it doesn't mean - and I would expect that the regulations or the subordinate legislation passed by the

Electoral Officer, which will give more detail about the specific system, would talk about how it would inform people who are entitled to vote or able to vote electronically, how they could do so. What this specific section - or these amendments to this specific section are talking about, is that if you are an elector who is entitled to receive a mail ballot kit, then in that mail ballot kit there will be instructions in it. So that doesn't mean you can't otherwise get instructions or notice about how to do it but want to make sure that people who get the kit are - there are instructions in the kit about how to execute it, right?

**MR. WINTERS:**

Your mic, Mr. Gillette. Are there any further comments or questions?  
Yes, Mr. Barry Andersen.

**MR. B. ANDERSEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I think a lot of this discussion could be easier understood if we could understand that we're dealing with an Act and not regulations as Ordinary Members around the Table. So, we're - all I'm saying is a comment is that we're discussing an Act and not the regulations of the Electoral Officer. And I think that's where some of the misunderstanding comes in. So, I just wanted to make that comment.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Mr. Gillette, did you want to comment on that, or? You're shaking your head, no. Okay. Are there any further comments or questions on this section specifically? Then on Section 8, are we agreed? We are agreed. Section 9. Amendments to Section 44 of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act*.

9(1) Subsection 44(8) of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act* is amended by deleting the word, "Where," and replacing it with the words, "Subject to Subsection 9(1), where.

2) Section 44 of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act* is amended by adding the following, immediately after Subsection 9.

9(1) Where a system of electronic loading has been permitted by subordinate legislation under Section 19(a) and the Nunatsiavut Electoral Officer determines that a mail ballot has been received by a voter who has also cast an electronic vote in the same election, the Nunatsiavut Electoral Officer shall (a) Write, "Rejected," on the declaration envelope, and the reason for its rejection and (b) Set aside the envelope unopened. Are there any questions on this section? Seeing none, are we agreed?

We are agreed.

Section 10, "Amendment to Section 48 of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act*,

10. Section 48 of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act* is amended by adding the following subsection before Subsection 1.

0.1 This section applies to printed paper ballots only. Are there any questions on this section? Seeing none, are we agreed? We are agreed.

Section 11. Amendments to Section 49 of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act*.

11(1) Paragraph 1(a) of Section 49 of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act*, is amended by adding the word, "Paper," before the word, "Ballots."

2. Paragraph 1(b) of Section 49 of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act* is amended by adding the word, "Paper," before the word, "Ballots." Are there any questions? Seeing none, are we agreed? We are agreed.

Section 12. Amendment to Section 60 of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act*.

Section 60 of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act* is amended by adding the following subsection before Subsection 1(0.1) This section applies to ballots cast at in-person polling stations. Are there questions on this section? Seeing none, are we agreed? We are agreed.

Section 13. Amendment to Section 61 of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act*.

Section 61 of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act* is amended by adding the following subsection before Subsection 1(0.1) This section does not apply to elector's resident in the Canadian Constituency. Are there any questions? Seeing none, are we agreed? We are agreed. Section 14.

Amendments to Section 80 of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act*. Section 80 of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act* is replaced by the following. Procedure after vote counting.

80. 1) All the paper ballots not rejected by the Deputy Returning Officer, shall be counted and a record kept of the number of votes cast for each candidate and of the number of rejected ballots.

2) The paper ballots marked for each candidate, must be put in separate envelopes and the contents of each envelope shall be recorded on the outside.

3) The rejected paper ballots must be put in a special envelope and the number of ballots contained in it written on the outside.

4) All the envelopes must be endorsed so as to indicate their contents, and shall be sealed by the returning officer.

5) The Deputy Returning officer and the poll clerk shall place those signatures on those seals, and the candidates or their scrutineers or other witnesses present may place their signatures there too.

6) Where a system of electronic voting has been permitted by subordinate legislation under Section 19(a), a statement of the number of electronic votes cast and counted for each candidate shall be signed under oath by the deputy returning officer and the election clerk.

7) The deputy returning officer and the election clerk, immediately after the completion of the counting of the votes, shall each take an oath in the prescribed form. Are there any questions on Section 14 across these two pages? Yes, Ms. Williams.

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under 80(1), it says, "All the paper ballots shall - not rejected by the deputy returning officer shall be counted, and a record kept of the number of votes cast for each candidate and of the number of rejected ballots. I'm wondering if there's a need to have consistency and have, "Paper," before the word, "Ballots," in that section?

**MR. WINTERS:**

Mr. Gillette.

**MR. GILLETTE:** I think it's fine to add it. I think when it was drafted, it just - the word ballots is referring to paper ballots because it's earlier in the sentence, but it's certainly not - I have no objection to including the word, "Paper," before the word, "Ballots," at the end of that sentence. That's fine.

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

**MS. WILLIAMS:** Thank you. And I think that can apply throughout the rest in Section 3 as well, for consistency's sake, right? Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** There is one space where ballots does not have paper preceding it in 80(1). There is another in 80(3). And I believe that's it. With that change being made, are there any other comments or questions at this time? Seeing none, are we agreed? We are agreed.

Section 15, "Amendments to Section 82 of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act*."

Section 82 of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act* is amended by adding the following, immediately after paragraph 1(b). b.1 Where a system of electronic voting has been permitted by subordinate legislation under Section 19(a), the sworn statement of the electronic votes under Section 80(5.1) and." Are there questions or comments on this section? Yes, Ms. Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:** Is it supposed to say 80(5.1) or just 80(5) because in this Section 80, I don't see a 80(5.1)?

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

**MR. GILLETTE:** No, that's correct. That reference to 80(5.1) should be 80(6).

**MR. WINTERS:** So, the correction being made will now read - Mr. Gillette? So, it will now read under Section 80, what, sorry?

**MR. GILLETTE:** 80(6).

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* Please make this change on your papers.

**MS. BARBOUR:** Just to be - sorry, just to be clear, we're erasing the .1? 80(5) not 80(5.1)?

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

**MR. GILLETTE:** The reference to 80(5.1) can you change that to 80(6). So, it should be 80, bracket, 6, bracket. Yeah.

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

**MS. WILLIAMS:** Thank you. There is already a 80(6).

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

**MR. GILLETTE:** Yes, but this is a reference to the section that we just - was just above this, so just above on that page where you see subsection 6 where a system of electronic voting has been permitted. So, this section is referring to that section. So, this originally when it was going through drafting it was called 80(5.1) but we amended to change it. So, this should read 80(6), 8-0 bracket 6 bracket.

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

**MS. BARBOUR:** In light of that, should it also include (7) or no?

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

**MR. GILLETTE:** No, just six.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Are there - after these changes are there any further questions or comments on this section? Seeing none, are we agreed? We are agreed.

Section 16, "Amendment to Section 86 of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act*.

Subsection 86(1) of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act* is amended by adding the words, "And the results of any electronic voting," immediately after the words, "Subsection 45(3). Are there questions or comments on this section? Mr. Gillette.

**MR. GILLETTE:**

I think you said, "Voting." It should be, "Balloting, electronic balloting."

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*. To read it again. Subsection 86(1) of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act*, is amended by adding the words, "And the results of any electronic balloting, immediately after the words subsection 45(3)." Are there any further questions or comments on this section? Are we agreed? We are agreed.

Section 17. Subsection 94(8) of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act* is replaced by the following:

8. Upon a recount of the votes or ballots, the NEO shall open all the sealed envelopes that contain

(a) the used ballots that have been counted,

(b) the rejected ballots,

(c) the canceled ballots,

(d) the unused ballots and

(e) where a system of electronic voting had been permitted by subordinate legislation, under Section 19(a), documents containing the result of electronic voting. Are there any questions or comments on this section? Seeing none, are we agreed? We are agreed.

Section 18, "Amendment to Section 98 of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act*. Subsection 98 of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act* is amended by adding the following immediately after subsection 1.

1.1 Where a system of electronic voting had been permitted for the election by subordinate legislation under Section 19(a), subsection 1 applies to electronic data concerning the results of votes cast by an electronic means. Are there any questions or comments on this section? Seeing none, are we agreed? We are agreed.

Section 19. Amendment to Section 114 of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act*. Subsection 114 of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act* is amended by adding the following immediately after subsection 4.

5) For purposes of subsection 4, the application of parts 1 and 4 of this act is subject to and includes any modification or substitution of provisions in those parts as a result of subordinate legislation made by the Nunatsiavut Electoral Officer under Section 19(a). Do we have any questions or comments on this section? Seeing none, are we agreed? We are agreed.

Section 20. "Amendment to Section 126 of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act*.

Section 126 of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act* is replaced with the

following: "Where electors may vote."

126.

1. An elector other than an elector to whom a mail ballot kit has been issued, under Section 125 may after first making an oath in the prescribed form, vote at any polling station in an election for President, regardless of his or her place of ordinary residence.

2. Subject to subsection 3, an elector who is sent a mail ballot kit may not vote except by mail.

3. In the case of electors who are eligible to vote by mail under Subsection 125, if a system of electronic voting has been permitted by subordinate legislation under Section 19(a), electors may vote electronically in accordance with instructions stated in the mail ballot kit.

Are there questions on Section 20? Seeing none, are we agreed? We are agreed.

On the following page, Section 21, "Amendments to Section 130 of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act*. Subsection 130(2) of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act* is replaced with the following: 2) The official addition of the polls shall be carried out in the presence of the election clerk and the candidates or their scrutineers by the Nunatsiavut Electoral Officer who after opening the ballot boxes shall add together the number of votes given for each candidate from the official statements of the polls contained in the ballot

boxes. The statements of the results of the voting by mail and if a system of electronic voting has been permitted, by subordinate legislation under Section 19(a) votes cast by electronic means. Are there any questions or comments regarding Section 21? Seeing none, are we agreed? We are agreed.

Section 22. "Amendment to Section 202 of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act*.

Section 202 of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act* is replaced with the

following, "Personation and multiple voting." 202. A person is guilty of an offence who at an election,

(a) applies for a ballot in the name of some other person whether that name is that of a person living or dead or of a fictitious person,

(b) votes or attempts to vote by means of an electronic voting system in the name of some other person, whether that name is of a person living or dead or of a fictitious person,

(c) having already voted once at that election,

(i) applies at the same election for another ballot or

(ii) votes or attempts to vote in the same election by means of an electronic voting system,

(d) votes in more than one constituency or in more than one community or on more than one voter's roll or

(e) aids, abets, counsels procures or endeavours to procure the commission by person of an act described in paragraph (a), (b), (c), or (d).

I'll point out that in 202(d) we used the number 1 and the word, "One." I assume that we should be consistent with using the word, "One." Mr. Gillette?

**MR. GILLETTE:** Yeah, that actually, that's a carry-over from the existing Act but I'd appreciate that. We can go with - let's use the word, "One," as opposed to the number one.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* Are there any questions or comments on this section? Yes, Ms. Williams.

**MS. WILLIAMS:** Thank you. And I'm not sure how to ask this question, and if it applies. I'm wondering, is there something here that applies to individuals who may live outside of Nunatsiavut but still has an address in, within Nunatsiavut and comes back and votes within that constituency? Is that addressed within this Act that?

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

**MR. GILLETTE:** That's more of a question about who is entitled to vote at any particular poll. And this section is dealing - and there are rules in the Act about who's entitled to be on a voters' list and who's entitled to vote in any particular poll. And if somebody is entitled to be on a poll and if they're entitled to be there and they don't show up on the list, how they can get on the list, and things like that. And also, there's also provisions in the Act to - for the returning officers to not give a ballot to anybody who's not entitled to vote, like on the voters' list kinda thing. So that will be covered under, generally, under voter eligibility as opposed to this

section, which is more about offences of people trying to, you know, trying to do something improper, right? So I'm not sure if I answered your question or not.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Ms. Williams?

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

Yeah, I'm - I - that's why that popped into my head because I'm wondering if that was a proper process is if an individual is living in one constituency, outside of Nunatsiavut, as an example, and comes back to Nunatsiavut and votes in that constituency.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Mr. Gillette.

**MR. GILLETTE:**

They would only be permitted to vote if they're entitled to be on the - so either they're on the voter's list - so, let's say you had someone, you know, who lives in Calgary, and they wanted to come to Rigolet and cast a vote, the - at the polling station in Rigolet, they're only allowed to vote if they show up on a voters' list or if the returning officer is satisfied that this person is entitled to be on the voters' list for Rigolet which would normally involve being resident in the period of - period of time showing proof of residence, and all those types of things, which is the same for other types of elections in other levels of Government as well. So that's where that would come into play there.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Ms. Williams?

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

Again, I do not wanna beleaguer this but would the returning officers within each of the constituencies be trained in how to apply that piece?

**MR. WINTERS:**

Mr. Gillette.

**MR. GILLETTE:**

Oh, yes. And there's also specific provision of the Act to tell them when they're allowed to issue a ballot and when they're not allowed to issue a ballot. I mean if someone shows up at a polling station, if they're not on the list or provide proof that they should be on the list, and when does that normally happen? It normally happens when you have somebody who's moved there recently since the list has been done, right? If they're not on the list or entitled to not be on the list they're not allowed to give them a ballot. So....

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Ms. Williams? *Nakummek.* Are there any other questions or comments around the Table? Seeing none, are we agreed? We are agreed. Across the next, the bottom of this page and the next page, Section 23. Addition of Section 205(a) to the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act*. The following section is added to the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act* immediately after Section 205, "Offences, electronic voting." 205(a) A person is guilty of an offence, who

(a) uses another elector's personal information, identity or credentials to vote or access an electronic voting system, unless the person is a friend of the elector as may be designated under Section 64.

(b) Takes, seizes or deprives an elector of the elector's information or credentials required by the elector to vote or access an electronic voting system.

(c) Sells, gifts, transfers, assigns or purchases information or credentials required for an elector to vote or access an electronic voting system.

(d) Interferes with an elector who is casting a vote using an electronic voting system.

(e) Interferes with an electronic voting system or

(f) attempts to do any of the things listed in this section. Are there questions on Section 23? Are we agreed? We are agreed. As discussed previously, part (b) - yes, Ms. Williams.

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

I'm sorry. I apologize. Prior to moving past part (a), can I return to one of the sections? Under Section 17 it's - and from my understanding in the rest of the language within the whole Act is proper language. In Section 8 it says, "Upon recount of the votes (inaudible) by the *NEO*, should that say, *Nunatsiavut Election Officer* as opposed to *NEO*?"

**MR. WINTERS:**

Mr. Gillette?

**MR. GILLETTE:**

That wording is carried over from the other Act. And actually, in the Act, the words *NEO* and *Electoral officer* are used interchangeably so I don't see it being an issue here.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*. So, for Part B, as explained, in the interest of time, and considering that Part B of the Bill contains a series of purely technical, typographical amendments, I would like to ask the Assembly if there will be approval for a single vote on the approval of Sections 24 through 33 of the Bill. You'll see that the majority of this is capitalization, replacing the word, "Section," with, "Division." This is not substantive. Does the Assembly approve - oh, sorry, is there consent to proceed with a single vote on this group section of the Bill? Yes, Mr. Gear, your mic.

**MR. GEAR:** You said on the section up to 33 and there's only 32 on mine.

**MR. WINTERS:** You've been a Minister for one hour and you're already poking holes in my day. *Nakummek*. You are correct. So, are we able to use a single vote on this group of sections of the Bill? This is Sections 24 through 32. Do we have consent? Yes, Ms. Barbour?

**MS. BARBOUR:** I know me, anyways, I like to be sure there's no typos or something, so I was just wondering if we can have like a minute or two just to quickly skim?

**MR. WINTERS:** You can take your time.

**MS. BARBOUR:** Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** Yes, Mr. Barry Andersen.

**MR. B. ANDERSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wasn't going to consent. I would rather see this entered into Hansard.

**MR. WINTERS:** Can you repeat yourself? I apologize.

**MR. B. ANDERSEN:** Oh, sorry. I would rather just as my personal preference have this read and entered into Hansard so that it can be due noted.

**MR. WINTERS:** If we don't have your consent, we don't have your consent. Section 25. Amendment to - apologies, 24. Ms. Williams was that?

**MS. WILLIAMS:** (Inaudible.)

**MR. WINTERS:** Section grouping titles, Amended, 24, "The *Nunatsiavut Elections Act* is amended by replacing headings of portions of the Act as follows:

(a) The portion of the Act labeled as Section 1, "The Election Organization and Elections, sections 1 through 113," is amended to be labeled as, "Division I."

(b) The portion of the Act labeled as Section 2, "The Elections for the President of the Nunatsiavut Government, Sections 114 through 134," is amended to be labeled as "Division II." Note division is using Roman Numerals.

(c) The portion of the Act labeled as Section 3, "Referenda and Plebiscites, sections 135 through 137," is amended to be labeled as, "Division III."

(d) The portion of the Act labeled as, Section 4, "Controverted Elections, sections 138 through 168," is amended to be labeled as, "Division IV."

(e) The portion of the Act labeled as, Section 5, "Election Financing, sections 169 through 197," is amended to be labeled as, "Division V."

(f) The portion of the Act labeled as, Section 6, "Corrupt Practices and Election Offences, sections 198 through 215," is amended to be labeled as, "Division VI."

(g) The portion of the Act labeled as, Section 3, "Miscellaneous, section 216," is amended to be labeled as, "Division VII."

Are there any questions or comments? Yes, Mr. Dicker.

**MR. DICKER JR.:**

Under (g) The portion of the Act labeled as Section 3 - so, we've got Section 3 under (c), so....

**MR. WINTERS:** Good eye. section 7. The portion of the Act labeled as, "Section 7, Miscellaneous, section 216," is amended to be labeled as, "Division VII." And again, seven is in Roman Numerals. Are there - yes, Ms. Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:** In the brackets of each of these (a) through (g), in the bracket is the title of the sections or the divisions, I guess. Should the word, "Section," be capitalized, or no? No, so...

**MR. WINTERS:** No, this is consistent.

**MS. BARBOUR:** ...yeah, so in the brackets it says, sections, like for example in (a) it says, "sections 1 through 113." And then in (b) it says 114 through 134, et cetera throughout all of the like (a) through (g). I'm just wondering if that, the section in each of these brackets should be capitalized.

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

**MR. GILLETTE:** No, they shouldn't be. And that's part of the reason that we're doing this exercise...

**MS. BARBOUR:** Yeah.

**MR. GILLETTE:** ...'cause there's things that are - words that are capitalized that shouldn't be capitalized and parts of the Act - like in this particular instance, we can have a reference in the Act to section 1 of Section 1, or Section 2 doesn't apply to this section. And then there's a mismatch in the capitalization.

**MS. BARBOUR:** Yeah, yeah.

**MR. GILLETTE:** So, are we talking about section 1 or are we talking about Section 1 of the Act? When that - part of the Act shouldn't be called Section 1. It should be called Division I. So, yeah. Generally, when we're talking about sections it's a lower case, S, yeah.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* Are there any other comments or questions? Considering we're doing this to make grammatical corrections and capitalize things, I appreciate the attention to detail. On Section 24, capitalized Section 24.

**UNKNOWN:** (Inaudible.) 2:32:01

**MR. WINTERS:** No, 24.

**UNKNOWN:** (Inaudible.)

**MR. WINTERS:** Yeah. You're getting ahead of us. I wish.

**UNKNOWN:** (Inaudible.)

**MR. WINTERS:** Are we agreed? We are agreed. Now, on Section 25, "Amendment to Section 2 of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act*, the definition of the term, "Election," in subsection 2(1) of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act*, is amended by:

(a) In paragraph (c), replacing the words, "Part 2," with the words, "Division II," and

(b) In paragraph (d) replacing the words, "Part 3," with the words, "Division III." Are there questions or comments? Yes, Mr. Dicker.

**MR. DICKER JR.:** In 25(a) in paragraph (c), replacing the words, "Part 2," with the words, "Division II." So, in part (c) of 24, I'm referencing to 24(c), it's labeled as Division III, and you've got where it's Division II in 25(a).

**MS. BARBOUR:** Two, it's talking about Subsection 2, not this one.

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

**MR. GILLETTE:** Yeah, it's not a reference to the last section. It's just talking about in - currently, in the definition of election, in paragraph (c) of that definition, it currently says, "When applied for the purposes of part 2, when we're making the last revisions, and the changing of the words parts to divisions, it should say now, "When applied for purposes of Division II." So, it doesn't necessarily reflect - it's not dependent on the last section if that makes any sense.

**MR. WINTERS:** Mr. Dicker, does the clarify?

**MR. DICKER JR.:** Yes, thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* Are there further comments or questions on this section? Seeing none, are we agreed? We are agreed. Section 26, "Amendments regarding term, "Part." The *Nunatsiavut Elections Act* is amended by replacing the word, "Part," or "Parts," with the words, capital P, "Part," or capital P, "Parts," as the context requires in the following provisions.

(a) section 5, 4(b).

(b) section 5(9).

(c) section 5(10).

(d) section 25(5).

(e) section 139(3).

(f) section 173 and

(g) section 196(3)(b).

Mr. Gillette, should the (g) section be lowercase in line with the rest?

**MR. GILLETTE:**

Oh, yes, that should be lowercase, sorry.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Are there any other questions or comments on this section? I'm not going to say section for months after this. Are we agreed? We are agreed.

Section 27, "Amendments to Section 21 of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act*."

(1) Section 21(3) of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act* is amended by replacing the word, "Part," with the word, "Division."

(2) Section 21(4) of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act* is amended by replacing the word, "Part," with the words, "Polling division."

Are there any questions on this section? Yes, Ms. Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:**

In Section 24 we use Division I with a capital D, and like Division III with a capital D, et cetera. I'm just wondering if this word Division should be capitalized as well?

**MR. WINTERS:**

Mr. Gillette.

**MR. GILLETTE:**

No and that's because Section 21(3) - so in the previous section that was titles for groups of section of the Act. what the word, "Division," is referring to - and this is part of the confusion, and why we're going through this exercise. What Section 27 - or 21 of the Act is dealing with is

portions of a constituency for which there is a poll, which is also called a division, but that's a small D division. So...

**MR. WINTERS:**

Are there any other questions or comments on this section? Seeing none, are we agreed? We are agreed. Section 28, "Amendments to *Nunatsiavut Elections Act*." Unless indicated otherwise in this section, the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act* is amended by replacing the word, capitalized P, "Part," where it occurs with the word, "Division," in the following provisions:

(a) subsections 22(1)(c), 22(3)(b) and 22(6).

(b) subsection 23(3).

(c) subsection 34(2)

(d) subsection 40(3).

(e) subsections 42(9)(a) and 42(10)

(f) subsection 46(1) only after the phrase, "In a polling."

(g) subsections 61(1) and 61(2).

(h) subsection 70(1)

(i) section 72

(j) section 73 only after the phrase, "In a polling."

(k) subsection 75(1).

(l) subsection 81(3)

(m) subsection 83(1) and

(n) subsection 210(b)

Are there any questions or comments on Section 28? Seeing none, are we agreed? 29. Amendment to part 4 of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act*.

The heading of part 4 of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act* is amended by replacing the word, "Parts," with the word, "Divisions." Are there any questions or comments on this section? Seeing none, are we agreed? We are agreed. Amendments to section 39 - sorry, section 30, amendment to Section 39 of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act*. Section 39(d) of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act* is amended by replacing the word, "Parts," with the word, "divisions." Are there questions or comments on this section? Yes, Ms. Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:**

Divisions isn't capitalized as in the previous - in number 29? Just wondering if it has to.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Mr. Gillette, whenever you're ready.

**MR. GILLETTE:**

Yes, no, the amendment is correct. It should be a lowercase d in that instance.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Are there other questions or comments at this time? Seeing none, are we agreed? We are agreed. Section 31, "Amendments to Section 169 of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act*.

(1) Section 169 (c) of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act*, is amended by replacing the words, "Part 1," with the words, "Division 1," and the words, "Part 2," with the words, "Division II." Again, if it comes after Division, it is in Roman Numerals.

(2) Section 16(e) of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act* is amended by replacing the words, "Part 1," or "2" with the words, "Division I," or, "Division II," and replacing the words, "Part 3," with the words, "Division III."

(3) Section 169(j) of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act* is amended by replacing the words, "Part 1," or, "Part 2," with the words, "Division I," or, "Division II." Are there questions or comments on this section? Seeing none, are we agreed? We are agreed. Mr. Gillette, your mic is on.

Part 3, "Miscellaneous." Section 32, "Coming into Force." This Act is to be taken for all purposes to come into force on the day it receives assent. Are there questions? Yes, Ms. Barbour.

**MS. BARBOUR:**

Just remembering other amendments throughout these last four years, "Coming into force," I don't ever recall it being categorized as miscellaneous. It as just into effect or coming into force or something. Just wondering for the consistency of Inuit law and amendments, should it be categorized as, "Miscellaneous?" Like should that part 3 even be there?

**MR. WINTERS:**

Mr. Gillette.

**MR. GILLETTE:**

We've had other bills where it - that's - this just an organization for the understanding of people who are reading the Bill. So part 1 was the amendments that dealt with the electronic voting. part 2 is the technical amendments. And then there's a part 3 which is anything else, which is what miscellaneous means, and that's where the, "Coming into Force," -

this is very common device for identifying a part, and even when there's only one section and we've done this in other bills as well.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Are there further comments or questions? Seeing none, are we agreed?

We are agreed. Let's go back to page 2. The Short Title:

1) This Act may be cited as the *Nunatsiavut Elections Amendment Act*

2026. Are there any questions or comments on the Short Title? Seeing

none, are we agreed? We are agreed. Finally, the Long Title, "*An Act to*

*Amend the Nunatsiavut Elections Act 2026.*" Are there questions or

comments? Seeing none, are we agreed? We are agreed. That

concludes the page-by-page, clause-by-clause review of the Bill. Ms.

Flowers, does the Member wish to conclude debate?

**MS. FLOWERS:**

(Audio muted)

**MR. WINTERS:**

Thank you. That concludes the debate. Mr. Gillette, you may be

excused. *Nakummek*. That concludes the Committee of the Whole. We

are now back in the Assembly. All those in favour of second reading of

Bill 2026-01, "A Bill for an Act to amend the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act,*

2026." Show of hands. Any opposed? Seeing none, accordingly, Bill

2026-01, A Bill for an Act to amend the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act-2026*

has had second reading. The motion is carried. I would like to thank the

Member. We will move on to Item 17. Apologies, 18, before anybody

says anything. Item 18 is the Assent to Bills. Honourable President, the

Assembly has given second reading to Bill 2026-01, A Bill for an Act to

amend the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act, 2026*, and wish to present them for assent.

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:**

*Nakummek, UKattik.* Honourable Speaker and Members, as President of Nunatsiavut, I wish to assent to Bill 2026-01, a Bill for an Act to amend the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act 2026* and hereby sign them into law.

*Nakummek, UKattik.*

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek, Mr. President.* This brings us to Item 19. Item 19 is, "Adjournment." The Assembly is now adjourned, and the next sitting is in the first week of March. I would like to thank all Members of the Assembly for their diligence this week, as well as all Assembly support staff for their excellent work that made this possible. I would like to thank our interpreter translators, Katie Winters and Boas Kairtok. I would like to, at this time, also acknowledge the absence of Toby Kojak who had been a wonderful contributor to our Assembly in 2025. I would also like to thank our OKâlaKatiget Society support, Tabea Suarak and Johansi Tuglavina and her IT support has been Chesley Evans. Our fantastic pages have been Neil Boase and Sam Winters. While our drivers have been Rodney Gear and April Lucy. *Nakummesuak.* Please take care, everyone. Safe travels home.

[Adjourned]