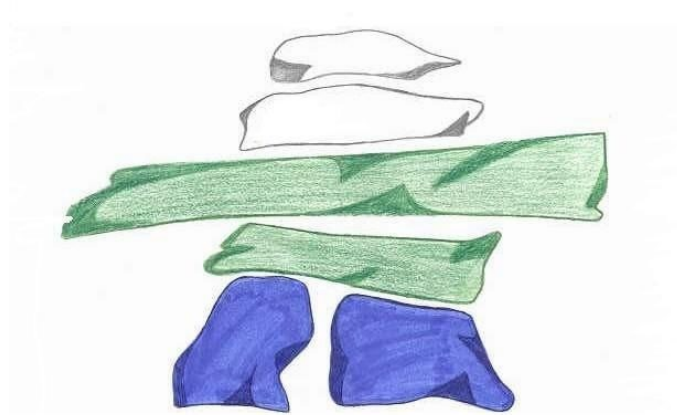




Nunatsiavut kavamanga
Nunatsiavut Government

FIFTH ASSEMBLY

OF

NUNATSIAVUT

SPRING SESSION 11th Session 2nd - SITTING

kAVAMALIGIJET

KAUJITITSIUTINGA

PARLIAMENTARY REPORT

In Attendance:

Speaker and Ordinary Member for Canada, Honourable Bryan Winters

Deputy Speaker and Ordinary Member for Canada, Honourable Roland Saunders

Clerk of the Assembly, Darlene Winters

President of Nunatsiavut, Honourable Johannes Lampe

First Minister and Ordinary Member for Rigolet Honourable Melva Williams

Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology and Acting Minister of Language, Culture and Tourism and Ordinary Member for Nain, Honourable David Dicker Jr.

Minister of Lands & Natural Resources and Ordinary Member for Postville, Honourable George Gear

Minister of Health and Social Development and Ordinary Member for Nain, Roxanne Barbour

Minister of Education & Economic Development and Ordinary Member for Makkovik, Tom Evans

Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Wally Andersen

AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Barry Andersen

AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Chesley Sheppard

AngajukKâk for Postville, Melanie Gear

AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Marjorie Flowers

AngajukKâk for Nain, Anthony Andersen

Chair Person of the Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation, Jeffrey Montague

Chair Person for the NunaKâtiget Inuit Community Corporation, Patricia Kemuksigak

Director of Legal Services, Mark Gillette

Deputy Minister of Finance, Human resources & Information Technology, Rexanne Crawford

**The Nunatsiavut Assembly proceedings
were recorded in Inuktitut and English.
March 3, 2026
Assembly commenced at 2PM**

MR. WINTERS: *Ullasiak.* I would like to call to order the Second Sitting of the 2026 Spring Session of the Fifth Nunatsiavut Assembly. And I ask Roland Saunders to say the opening prayer, whenever you're ready.

MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. [Recites prayer]

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Item Two is the, "Opening Address." I'll now ask for the President's opening address, when you're ready, sir.

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

Nakummek, UKattik.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek,* Mr. President. That brings us to Item Three, "Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery." I can see community member, Mr. McKinley Winters, and our new Tourism Development Officer. Thank you, for coming by and thank you, to everyone listening online. Welcome everyone back to beautiful Hopedale for the final sitting of the Fifth Assembly. It's been a great four years and the wind finally let us back in today. The pages for this sitting are Jasmine Winters and Tabea Onalik Junior. The interpreter translators are Sarah Townley and Angus Andersen. We also have an additional translator who's shadowing our proceedings, Ms. Selma Suarak. Welcome. Harry Dicker is the IT staff assisting the Assembly. As well, we would like to recognize OKâlaKatiget

Society staff, Mitch White and Johansi Tuglavina. If you have any questions around travel or logistics, please see the Assistant to the Clerk, Tabea Onalik. This brings us to Item Four, "Ministers' Statements." Are there any ministers' statements at this time? Recognizing the fastest hand in the room, Ms. Melva Williams, First Minister. *Nakummek*.

MS. WILLIAMS:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. I'll be doing the report from the Nunatsiavut Affairs.

Membership and Enrollment. Mr. Speaker, as of February 27, 2026 there was a total of 6,888 beneficiaries to the LILCA on the Register of Beneficiaries. The Membership Department has started travelling to the Inuit communities and Upper Lake Melville. The office will be assisting with applications to be enrolled as a Nunatsiavut Beneficiary of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement* for individuals or their child, or if you are a reapplying 19-year-old. They can also help with name change on your beneficiary card, address change. If your card is lost, faded, or cracked or if you have the Labrador Inuit Association version of card we can help you get a new card. Staff travelling will be Olivia Edmunds, Assistant Registrar of Beneficiaries or Pauline Angnatok, Membership Clerk.

The Ancestry Database projects is continuing and is scheduled to be complete this year.

NG continues to look at ways to ensure that the application process is reviewed with a goal to make the process more simplified for new

applicants and reapplying applicants. Nunatsiavut Government
Infrastructure Five-Year Plan.

Mr. Speaker, NG's five-year Capital Infrastructure plan includes a combined 50 infrastructure and housing projects. These projects include multiplexes, multipurpose buildings, single-family homes, warehouses, Language Nest, to name a few. This plan will allow NG to plan accordingly to meet the growing infrastructure needs of the government. And this plan, coupled with the work NG does with the Inuit Community Governments. NG is taking a more leadership role with ICG infrastructure projects and building capacity to support the ICG's in ensuring projects are sustainable and delivered in a timely manner. As NG continues to develop its infrastructure plans there is a heavy reliance on external expertise to move these files along. Nunatsiavut Affairs understands the importance of building our own internal capacity to lead these projects and ensure our beneficiaries are provided with the opportunities and skillsets to take on these leadership roles by working closely with this external expertise.

Housing. Mr. Speaker, Nunatsiavut Affairs is preparing for a substantial housing construction period starting in 2026 and continuing into following years. A total of 77 homes will begin design and or construction across all Inuit communities. There are thirty-seven housing units to begin design, construction in Nain. This includes seniors' units, smaller homes for single individuals or small families, transition houses, six-plexes and modular homes. There are 31 housing units set to begin

design, construction in Hopedale. This includes seniors' units, smaller homes and a new apartment-style complex for the most needy and vulnerable in the community. There are 10 housing units set for construction in Makkovik. This includes a six-plex, duplex and single-family homes. There are seven units scheduled to begin construction in Postville, a six-plex and a single-family home. And finally, there are 10 housing units to begin construction in Rigolet, a six-plex and four single-family homes. Once housing units are complete, they will be assigned to the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission for allocation to Labrador Inuit under the Affordable Rental Program. As per the policy these units must be advertised for one month prior to allocation to give all individuals time to apply for housing.

Infrastructure Construction. Mr. Speaker, the construction of NG Infrastructure is a key part of attracting and maintaining a skilled workforce in our communities. NG is finalizing the addition to the NG head office in Nain. Majority of construction is due to be completed in April, but the project requires shipment of the HVAC system via Kamutik W to finalize the project. This will mean an additional 30 offices for staff as well as a vault to store documents. NG has acquired a 6,000 square-foot office building in Hopedale for additional office space and to serve as the new homeless shelter. NG has completed the construction of an addition to the Postville Office Building, bringing eight new offices into that community. The Makkovik Office Building is nearing completion. This building will include the Education Regional Office as well as other

offices. The Rigolet DHSD building is nearing completion. The building is 12,000 square feet and will represent a large upgrade over the current office. These office spaces are filling up very quickly and Nunatsiavut Affairs are already planning for the next phase of office space construction to meet this growing demand and to offer space to attract new employees to our communities. Nunatsiavut Government and Inuit Community Government Infrastructure. As you are aware, Nunatsiavut Affairs has taken on the lead role of supporting the Inuit Community Governments in developing their infrastructure projects. Adequate ICG infrastructure is required for our communities to offer services to the residents and to grow our communities. We have been very engaged with the ICGs and through their leadership, are building capacity to support the ICG's in ensuring projects are sustainable and delivered in a timely manner. Nunatsiavut Affairs is currently leading or involved in 95 projects with the ICGs and in the last couple of years have invested approximately \$12 million in support of ICG's infrastructure projects. This includes direct investment to the JMC for capital project investment. Also, the management team lead by the director and key staff have invested a significant amount of time to support projects and involve the ICG's in the development of the housing and growth strategies. This includes \$2 million invested in last three years on support planning.

Basecamp Maintenance. In 2025, Nunatsiavut Affairs completed preventative and critical repair, renovations to the basecamp to ensure essential services and facilities are kept up and the basecamp can

continue to be functional. - Additional repairs are required for 2026 and Nunatsiavut Affairs is intending to complete these repairs within the season window. If repairs are not completed, it could mean that the cost to keep up the facilities at basecamp will grow. Ministers' Meetings. Mr. Speaker, myself and Deputy Minister Pain met with Minister Petten and his staff on February 26, 2026. We discussed transportation and infrastructure issues of importance to Nunatsiavut.

Major items discussed were the Nain Airport, road connections, other airports, the cost of travelling within Nunatsiavut, the cost to ship goods by air, and community infrastructure as well as the ferry service. While the meeting covered many areas of mutual interest it is clear that NG will need to continue to engage the provincial government on these issues. NG will continue to demonstrate that there are substantial gaps in infrastructure and transportation that adds to the cost of living we face in Nunatsiavut.

Mr. Speaker, I had a meeting scheduled with Minister Wall last week as well, to discuss housing issues. This meeting has to be rescheduled due to weather. *Nakummek, UKattik.*

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, First Minister. We will now hear from the Honourable David Dicker Jr., the Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology, as well as the Acting Minister of Language, Culture and Tourism. *Nakummek.*

MR. DICKER JR.:

Nakummek, UKattik. Mr. Speaker, I will be delivering the budget speech.

MR. WINTERS: One moment. interpreters' Booth, we can't hear you.

MR. DICKER JR.: Just starting, Sarah.

MR. WINTERS: Take your time. No rush, interpreters' booth.

MR. DICKER JR.: Mr. Speaker, I will be delivering the Budget speech and tabling the Nunatsiavut Government's Financial Plan at this sitting. There is a lot of work that was completed behind the scenes to bring this budget together, from Finance staff developing provisional budgets, to management reviewing them, updating them based on their plans for the upcoming year and lastly, the compilation of the final Budget. *Nakummek* to all involved. In addition, Mr. Speaker, the Nunatsiavut Executive Council is also responsible for reviewing the budgets for each Inuit Community Government and approving them. I am pleased that all Inuit Community Government budgets for the 2026 fiscal year have been approved.

Rates for the chairs and members of the Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-Management Board and the Torngat Joint Fisheries Board were established under the Implementation Plan, agreed upon by the three Parties to the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement* (LILCA) and came into effect on Effective Date, December 1, 2005. These rates were also applied for members of the Membership Committees and the Inuit Membership Appeal Board. Concerns were raised to the Government of Canada as the rates have not kept pace with the significant rise in the cost of living over the past 20-plus years and has contributed to

recruitment and retention challenges for board members. The Government of Canada did a review of the rates and proposed an increase to the parties. Mr. Speaker, the Nunatsiavut Government has agreed to the increased rates. There will be no financial impact related to the increased rates for the Co-Management Boards as the Government of Canada has agreed to fund the increased rates. The new rates for the Membership Committees and the Inuit Membership Appeal Board will be effective on April 1, 2026. *Nakummek, UKattik.*

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. The next Ministers' Statement we'll hear is from the Honourable Roxanne Barbour, Minister of the Department of Health and Social Development, whenever you're ready.

MS. BARBOUR:

Naku. I actually, only have three pages. Okay. DHSD is hosting a men's healing gathering in Nain from March 2 to 6. Participants start arriving today, actually, while we were leaving. And they're focusing on land-based activities and healing. There will be approximately 40 participants.

Clinical Therapist Lito Libres continues to provide in-person EMDR and Clinical Hypnosis sessions. His rotation includes two weeks in Nain, two weeks in Hopedale, and one week alternating between Makkovik, Rigolet, and Postville, and several days in Goose Bay. Lito will begin his next six-week travel rotation, today, March 2, 2026, starting in Nain.

Under the Data Management System for Mental Wellness.

Mental Wellness and Healing and Family Services, with support from IT, have awarded an RFP, Request for Proposals to identify and

recommended Data Management System for Mental Health and Wellness and Family Services staff. The contract is now being reviewed by Legal and Finance before signing.

Mental Health and Addictions staff in Hopedale and Nain are collaborating with Tina Davies, Founder of the Richard Legacy Project, to develop suicide-loss support groups. The project is being piloted in both communities, and this project has been a continuation from our work in 2025. Residential School Survivor Committee, led by Emiliann Gear and Vyann Andersen Goudie, met face-to-face in Goose Bay from February 17th to the 19th and has developed recommendations for ongoing work. Kristin Eddy, Harm Reduction Specialist, will depart her role on February 27, 2026. And I just wanted to extend and say thank you, to Kristin. She's been very vital in our Mental Wellness and Healing Division, and congratulate her on her new role to be teaching Mental Health within the Collage of the North Atlantic.

Funding has been secured to establish a Healing Hub in Nain, or a Harm Reduction Hub, including hiring a peer support worker and re-hiring a team lead. A temporary site has been secured, which would be the old emergency shelter because that one is being moved into a new property.

Child & Youth Mental Health team became fully staffed in December of 2025 and completed a face-to-face planning meeting here in Hopedale during the week of January 26. Grant Gear is the Clinical Lead, Allison Broomfield, Child and Youth Mental Health Specialist, Denika Lyall, Masters of Social Work Student, Georgia Abel, Neurodivergence

Coordinator, Samira Kohlmeister, Child and Youth Mental Health Worker, and Jade Howell, Child and Youth Mental Health Worker.

Trauma & Addictions are in the process of rebuilding this team. The Team Lead position is vacant. Our peer support worker on leave. The Trauma and Addictions Support Coordinator on leave. Hilary Blake, who is the Trauma and Addictions Counsellor - she's a new hire since - as of December. We also have a vacancy for another trauma and addiction counsellor, but it's been reposted on February 24th. Hilary is building her caseload and developing a regional presentation on substance use, types of drugs, and supportive approaches.

The Youth Hope Fund has been approved for '26, '27 school year.

Planning is underway for the Hebron North Trip, and the Youth Symposium will take place in May in Rigolet.

Under Justice Services, Jenny Oliver has been employed as the new Victim Services and will travel to Nain and Hopedale to introduce her role and engage with elders.

The Inuit Prison Liaison competition has closed, and hiring will proceed.

For Community Health Planning, Happy Valley-Goose Bay and North West River Community Health Planning sessions were held the week of February 9th. It was the continuation of regional support for communities in their planning process. Nain's and Hopedale's were completed in 2025. This process was a little different in that a facilitator, Kristeen McTavish, was contracted to lead the planning session. That

allowed for full participation from all regional staff. Both planning sessions were very successful.

We are pleased that a decision has been made to extend the ICFI for the '26, '27 year which is great news. We do not have actual funding amounts for NG at this time.

The Nain shelter has moved, and again, has moved into their new home and have settled in. The building they vacated will become the Harm Reduction Hub in the short term until a more permanent location can be found. Myself and my staff met with the Minister Justice and Public Safety, Women and Gender Equity, Minister Conway Ottenheimer in Happy Valley-Goose Bay on February 6th. It was an initial meeting, but productive and set the stage for future meetings and work together.

The new CEO of Newfoundland Health Services, Ron Johnson and COO Labrador Region...

MR. WINTERS:

I'll ask you to slow down a little bit, Member. *Nakummek*. And thank you, interpreters for letting us know that you needed a minute. Whenever you're ready, Minister.

MS. BARBOUR:

Naku. Tell me to slow down if I got to. Okay. Now, the new CEO, NLHS, Ron Johnson and COO, Labrador Region, Cassie Chisholm - I think that's how you say her last name, were in Labrador February 17th to the 20th. We had a joint planning day with NLHS and Innu Nation which was very productive. Lots of issues were raised and a plan developed for addressing them.

A meeting of the Labrador Task Force co – chaired by DHSD and NLHS CEO was held. Priority areas being addressed includes diversions, expanded long-term care, personal care or transitional beds, mental health, clinics , X-ray, point of care testing, Medevac and Schedevac, recruitment and retention of health staff, et cetera.

The portable x-ray, Fuji Xair, which was purchased with End TB Regional Action Plan funds, was delivered to the Labrador Health Center yesterday. The machine still needs to be commissioned, and staff require training before it can be used, but we are hopeful that it will be ready for use in the near future.

The community health aides are in Goose Bay together this week for position-specific training. The highlight will be reviewing the Community Health Aide TB manual which was revised to reflect best practices, current standards and new language related to TB.

We still have vacant nursing positions in Nain, specifically, the Public Health nurse for TB, in Hopedale for Homecare, despite multiple postings and changing the job description for the TB nurse position.

We are engaging with NLHS and Labrador Grenfell Zone on the implementation of CorCare which is a new provincial electronic medical record in Nunatsiavut. And that's everything for now from DHSD.

Nakummek.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. As per Standing Order 29(3), I'm looking for the approval of the Assembly to continue beyond 35 minutes of Ministers' Statements.

Members, may I see hands for approval? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, we have two ministers left. Who would like to give a statement?

Yes, recognizing the Honourable Tom Evans the Minister of the Department of Education and Economic Development. Whenever you're ready, sir.

MR. EVANS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be doing the Education Division update for the Department of Education and Economic Development.

Our current post-secondary students. We currently have approximately 235 students enrolled in post-secondary studies and being supported by the Nunatsiavut Government Education Division Funding Program. A hundred and sixty-eight are receiving fulltime support and 68 are receiving part-time support. We are currently supporting six Adult Basic Education students at our Learning Centers in Nain and Hopedale. Also, 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 one beneficiary under the Work Experience Program with the Makkovik Inuit Community Government. We also have two beneficiaries currently doing their fourth block training. One is doing his journeyman block in electrical and one is doing the journeyman block in millwright. We also have one doing a Fishing Master 4 Captains ticket, short-term program.

Our Grade 11 Career Trip. The participants have been selected and notified, and the trip is scheduled to take place from March 16th to March 20th, 2026.

Twelve students and two chaperones will travel to St. John's Newfoundland, and visit different post-secondary institutions such as the College of the North Atlantic and Memorial University. They will also participate in other activities to orient them to life in the city. The Inuit UKâlalautta Event (IUE), Formerly known as the Inuktitut Speak-Off, the Inuktitut UKâlalautta Event, took place in Nain from February 16th to February 20th. Students from all Nunatsiavut schools presented their speeches to the public, and during the week-long event celebrated our language and culture with many different activities, such as ulu making, taluk making, storytelling with Elders, also making school banners. There was a lot of coverage on Facebook and the students all did well with their presentations. It is always so good to see so many participants at this event. It shows our students' continued interest and love for Inuktitut.

We call this, Big Land Lego. The Big Land Lego competition took place in Nain alongside the IUE. Teams from all five of the Nunatsiavut communities sent teams to participate. This was to showcase their coding and problem-solving skills. Students were presented with various tasks to complete. Using these skills, their goal was to complete as many missions as possible during a match. Students built their robots, along with various attachments to accomplish specific missions, and coded their robots for each mission. At the end of the competition, the team from J.C. Erhardt Memorial of Makkovik, Gracie Jararuse and Sasha Mitchell-Rumbolt, came out on top, winning this year's challenge. And we send congratulations to all participants.

Also, Mr. Speaker, the Pan Labrador Choir. The annual Pan Lab Choir gathering took place in Hopedale from February 4th to the 6th. Students from all five communities gathered at Amos Comenius Memorial school to share and learn from each other. The event welcomed artistic director Kellie Walsh, and our special guest Ben Candow. Students spent their time working with these artists and preparing for the evening public showcase that took place on February 6th. And Mr. Speaker, our students performed beautifully, showing a lot of talent in Nunatsiavut.

Labrador Indigenous Teacher Education Program - we call it the Labrador ITEP. The Labrador ITEP is a partnership between the Nunatsiavut Government, the Innu Nation, and Memorial University. Together we applied for a \$1 million grant from the Rideau Hall Foundation and were one of the successful recipients. This money will cover the delivery costs of this indigenous-focused teacher education program that will be offered at the Labrador Campus of Memorial University, located in Goose Bay. Staff are working on the recruitment process now and the information will soon be available on how to put your name forward.

I'd just like to mention Early Childhood Education In-community Delivery. In partnership with the Department of Health and Social Development, the Education Division will be covering the delivery costs of the hybrid Early Childhood Education Program that will run over the next two years. This will help us train beneficiaries to fill the vacant childcare positions in our communities and ensure our daycare centers continue running smoothly.

I'll just briefly mention the Inuit Nunangat University. On February 11th, ITK announced that Arviat, Nunavut has been selected as the location of the main campus for the university. Nunavut has announced \$50 million in funding, in addition to the \$2 million already committed by Nunavut. And just recently the Government of Canada had announced that they too, will be providing \$50 million in funding for the creation of the university. Our Nunatsiavut Government has approved a \$250,000 contribution to date. The locations of the three satellite campuses that will be located in Nunatsiavut, Nunavik, and the Inuvialuit Settlement Region will be determined through a similar search process as the main campus.

And just briefly, changes to Student Funding. At the February 11th NEC meeting, the decision was made to increase student living allowance by 30 percent, and make changes to the commuting support so that more students are able to access it. And just briefly for information, the living allowance rates have been the same since 2016 and this increase is meant to address the rising costs of living, especially the cost of food and other essential items. We sent a memo out to all current students that included the new living allowance and commuting rates. This is a welcome change and will positively impact our students. And also, the change was effective immediately and students saw this reflected on their last support payments.

And finally, just briefly, just what Minister Williams had just mentioned, the Regional Nunatsiavut Building, which includes the Education Division

staff and other departmental staff from other departments, the construction is complete and our maintenance staff, the Nunatsiavut Government maintenance staff have undergone some training on the various systems in the building. However, there is still a list of deficiencies that has delayed staff from moving in. We're working on it. And once we get substantial completion on these deficiencies, we should be able to move staff in and therefore free up office space at the other Nunatsiavut Government main building. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

We will now hear the final Ministers' Statement from the Honourable George Gear, from the Department of Lands and Natural Resources. Whenever you're ready, Minister. George Gear, interpreters' booth. *Nakummek*.

MR. GEAR:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to present my first and hopefully not my last quarterly report as Minister of Lands and Natural Resources. This update highlights key developments since my last statement. Renewable Resources, Fisheries.

The NG Cod Fishery is ongoing with two designates remaining. We anticipate landing a hundred percent of our inshore cod quota and will allow the designates until March 31 to complete their landing.

The DFO stock assessment and advisories are ongoing. And the department is actively participating in those discussions. Applications for the 2026 Commercial Fishery are available until February 28th in accordance with policy guidelines.

Wildlife. Mr. Speaker, the polar bear hunting season is open until June 30 or until all licences are filled, whichever comes first. To date, four licences have been filled, three in Nain, one in Hopedale. We have 12 licences available within the Nunatsiavut communities and one in ULM. The Province of Newfoundland and Labrador conducted collaring of the George River Caribou Herd in early February with our staff assisting in the field work. The moose hunting season is ongoing. To date, five licences have been filled, four in Nain, one in Rigolet. The season will remain open until March 20. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that only - not only will we have elk, boar and bison again this year, but we have also been able to source caribou and muskox once again from the KAF. This was unexpected, but greatly appreciated. My staff are now working on logistics. We anticipate a shipment of elk, boar and bison into communities soon with caribou and muskox arriving later in spring.

Lands Division. Mr. Speaker, three land-use applications have been submitted to date and are at various of processing. The department is pleased to welcome back James Williamson as the GIS specialist, who resumed his position in early December following a departure in June 2024. The GIS specialist has completed the backlog of land-use documents and processed two applications. They have also undertaken two mapping projects, one supporting Hebron's land-use applications and one involving the development of community map for Nain. The Hebron Project is under review and the Nain community map has processed its second draft. The Lands Division along with other department staff

participated in meetings last month in Nain regarding updates to the Regional Land-use plan for the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area.

Impact Benefits Agreements. Mr. Speaker, Vale has hired 11 Nunatsiavut beneficiaries as job readiness trainees. Ten of these trainees have already begun work in the mill, mine and warehouse. The IBA Coordinator also, along with Vale attended winter shipping information sessions in Hopedale and Nain on February 4 and 5. These sessions provided information on Vale's winter shipping operations. Vale will be hosting high school visits for Grade 12 students from each school in Nunatsiavut. Each group will participate in an overnight trip to site during the weeks of March 16 to 20 and 23 to 27. This will allow students to experience potential career opportunities at Voisey's Bay.

Mr. Speaker, the Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve Co-Management Board held a virtual meeting on February 11 after weather prevented an in-person session. Discussions included updates from Parks Canada and the CMB, ongoing research, and management of the Torngat Mountains Caribou Herd.

The Mealy Mountain National Park Reserve Co-Management Board has not met since the last Assembly sitting, but a virtual meeting is planned.

Parks Canada has hired Holly Lightfoot as Program Manager-Caribou Ecologist. Recruitment continues for a park site manager and a resource conservation manager.

Non-Renewable Resources. Mr. Speaker, the Non-Renewable Resources Division has been working on several mineral exploration files within the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area. Vale has been approved to conduct exploration adjacent to the Voisey's Bay Mine, including prospecting, geochemical sampling, ground geophysics, and seismic survey activities. All work complies with provincial legislation and Nunatsiavut Government standards. Azincourt Energy has applied to conduct mineral exploration in the Central Mineral Belt. Their proposed summer and fall program includes prospecting, ground geophysics, IP and magnetics, and UAV surveys. The work plan is under review.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, staff from the Non-Renewable Resources and Lands will attend the PDAC Conference from March 1 to 4 in Toronto. The Nunatsiavut Government will maintain a booth promoting mineral exploration opportunities.

Environment Division. Mr. Speaker, the Environment Division continues implementing Adapt Nunatsiavut, the Nunatsiavut Climate Change Strategy. The strategy is being updated to reflect progress since 2025, to expand its scope. The updated version will be released in late spring 2026 pending Executive Council approval. The Division is also completing a winter research tour throughout Nunatsiavut. Community meetings have been held, along with discussions with Inuit Community Governments.

Weather prevented visits to Hopedale and Postville, but these will be rescheduled. *Nakummek, UKattik.*

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. I have to apologize. I was counting Ministers and not departments. We will now hear a Ministers' Statement from the Honourable David Dicker Jr., the Acting Minister of Language, Culture and Tourism. When you're ready, sir.

MR. DICKER JR.:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to highlight key developments in the Department of Language, Culture and Tourism.

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 is now available in both English and Inuttitut. Community Engagement Sessions had concluded.

Engagements were held November 28th in Hopedale, December 10th in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, January 19th in Rigolet, January 20th in Postville, January 22nd in Makkovik, January 28th in Nain and February 25th for the Canadian Constituency. An online survey launched on February 25th and is open to beneficiaries who wish to provide feedback who were unable to attend the Community Engagement Sessions. A social media campaign to promote the survey and the language strategy is underway.

Civil Service Inuttitut classes are being offered again this winter. They began on February 2nd and will end on April 27th, with a break during the Easter Holidays. This is the second pilot course that builds on the first pilot course held in fall of 2024. It follows a similar format, 12 weeks of classes with one class per week for 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, and there were more applicants than seats available. An order of priority was established to select 20 applicants to attend the course. After the second pilot is complete, feedback will be incorporated to strengthen the course. Language, Culture and Tourism continues to work with Finance and Human Resources on permanently offering Inuttitut classes to the entire Nunatsiavut Government Civil Service. I am proud to announce that the recipients of the annual Language and Culture recognition awards have been selected. Andrew Andersen, Kelly McClean and family, of Nain are the recipients of the Culture Recognition Award. Matthew Jararuse, a youth located in Goose Bay and originally from Hopedale is the recipient of the Language Recognition Award. Congratulations to all recipients and my deepest thanks for their continued work to strengthen our language and culture in their communities. This spring, Language, Culture and Tourism staff will be participating in an exchange with staff from the Piqqusilirivvik Centre. Piqqusilirivvik is an Inuit cultural learning facility located in Clyde River, Nunavut. Staff from Piqqusilirivvik will visit Nain later this year to learn from Language and Culture staff about the programs offered by Language, Culture and Tourism. They will also participate in On-the-Land and community activities and workshops. Expressions of Interest seeking translators, drivers, and workshop facilitators will be posted. Language,

Culture and Tourism staff will be visiting the Piqusilirivvik Centre at the end of April to learn from their staff.

Mr. Speaker, I will now highlight ongoing projects within the Division of Tourism.

We would like to welcome Bill McElree. Bill began work with us earlier this month in the Tourism Development Officer position. He is based here in Hopedale. The Division of Tourism captured footage of

Traditional Inuit Games in Hopedale this weekend with Danny Jararuse.

A short video of instruction will be developed to help with tourism experience offerings.

We are finalizing the Nunatsiavut Visitor Guide. The Guide will be available online, in communities and at all Visitor Information Centers across the Province. Our team is also finalizing a Guidebook for the White Elephant Museum in Makkovik. The Guidebook will help Museum members by offering tours to visitors.

We are finalizing a Request for Proposals to develop a Refreshed Nunatsiavut Tourism Strategy. A steering committee will be developed comprised of community tourism partners as well as support organizations. An Expression of Interest for the steering committee will be released soon.

We will be launching a new funding program with the Division of Economic Development. This program was created specifically to provide funding to Inuit Community Governments for Economic Development,

Tourism positions. The new program will allow Inuit Community Governments to apply for multi-year funding for these positions, instead of annual funding. This will allow for consistency and growth in our communities.

We are working with the Provincial Government to identify opportunities for trail development improvements for Nain and hope to work with other Inuit Community Governments soon.

Staff will be travelling to Postville and Rigolet in March with a joint project with the Division of Human Resources and JAC Photography to capture photographs and videos of our Nunatsiavut communities.

We are continuing to work on experience development projects for the Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve. We have hired Samantha Newman on contract to conduct interviews of the Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve to help gather stories of the surrounding area.

Staff attended the International Indigenous Tourism Conference and the Hospitality Newfoundland and Labrador Conference last month. Our Tourism Division presented along with Rigolet Inuit Community Government's Tourism Manager at the Hospitality Newfoundland and Labrador conference in St. John's last week, highlighting festivals in Nunatsiavut.

Staff are continuing online training with Parks Canada offered by the Tourism Cafe based in British Columbia. The training will provide a foundation of understanding Nunatsiavut's ideal guest.

We are working on a five-year contract with Arctic Kingdom to operate the Torngat Mountains Base Camp and Research Station and hope to have it finalized soon.

In the area of arts, Instructor parka making workshops took place last month. In Hopedale we had eight participants and in Postville we had nine. We hope that the participants will instruct parka making workshops in their respective communities.

Artwork has been selected to be displayed on the HMCS Margaret Brooke Navy Ship. The contract should be finalized soon.

Registration and logistics have been confirmed to attend the Arctic Winter Games. We will have five special guests, two youth cultural performers and a chaperone. This will be the first time that we have cultural performers at the Arctic Winter Games.

We are planning to attend the Arctic Arts Summit in Sweden in June. Expression of Interest for artists will be released this month.

Mr. Speaker, I will have a quick update on the work with Archaeology and Heritage.

We have consulted with the Moravian Church Newfoundland and Labrador, regarding a grave marker that was sent to Nain after it was found in the Hudson's Bay Company building in Davis Inlet in 2024. In summer of 2025 it was sent to Nain. We are currently researching the Moravian Archives to find out as much information about the burial of the child and plan to visit Zoar in 2026 to return the grave marker. It is a

grave marker for a child of the Missionary Friedrich Wilhelm Rinderknecht who died in Zoar in 1882. It is not known how this grave marker ended up in Davis Inlet.

Our team is also participating in a four-part virtual training opportunity with the Museums Association of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Nakummek, UKattik.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Minister. We will now take a recess until the top of the hour, until 4:00 p.m. *Nakummek.*

[Recess]

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. We are now on to Item Five, "Members' Statements." Are there any Members' Statements around the Table? Recognizing the Ordinary Member for Nain, Mr. David Dicker Junior.

MR. DICKER JR.:

Nakummek, UKattik. During this quarter, Mr. Speaker, I have assisted 45 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; completed application forms with beneficiaries of their survivor benefit and supporting documents; exemption forms from the Nain Inuit Community Government with beneficiaries for exemption of their poll tax

from prior years; set up appointments for beneficiaries with the Department of Health and Social Development; got beneficiaries new post office box keys with the help of the Department of Health and Social Development; got beneficiaries new membership cards from the Membership Department; aided beneficiaries with their Sun Life accounts to withdraw their funds; completed application to set up locked-in retirement account from their own from the employer to personal; helped beneficiaries in collaboration with the Justice Team of the Department of Health and Social Development in attaining required documents from the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador; attained record of employment for beneficiaries; worked with the Community Volunteer Income Tax program and beneficiaries to complete their income tax returns for the tax year 2025, and for them to get their Notice of Assessments from the Canada Revenue Agency to avail of programs and services if required; assisted beneficiaries with vital statistics to obtain birth certificates application and was approved for this from the Department of Health and Social Development for beneficiaries; worked with beneficiaries and their lawyers of documentation of purchase of property to the Nunatsiavut Government. We held our Winter Nain constituency meeting at the Nain administration building on February 25, 2026 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. We had seven beneficiaries in attendance along with Ordinary Member Roxanne Barbour, President of the Nunatsiavut Government, Johannes Lampe, Deputy Minister of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Jim Goudie, and AngajukKâk

of the Nain Inuit Community Government, Anthony Andersen. Katie Winters was our interpreter translator. I am pleased to inform the public of the Labrador Heritage Dog Team Race that will be held in the community of Nain, scheduled for March 28, 2026. *Nakummek* to the Heritage Dog Team Race Committee. I'd like to acknowledge and wish the team Nain Amaguit the best of luck in the Labrador Winter Games taking place in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, March 8 to 14, 2026. Great week of competition, friendship and fun. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I want to highlight, that I have unwaveringly and continually 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, UKattik.*

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member. Are there any other Members Statements around the Table at this time? Recognizing the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers, when you're ready.

MS. FLOWERS:

Nakummek Ukkalatik. With elections coming up in May for Ordinary Member of this great Assembly, I rise to acknowledge and thank our elected Members around this Table who have worked so hard over the past four years for their constituencies and our communities. Oftentimes, we do not see all the work that goes on behind the scenes and how much time spent away from family and important events. I wish all the Members who will not be running in the May election, all the best in their endeavours. To those that are running, good luck, and we will see you

back here in June if elected. I also want to acknowledge and welcome William McElree to Hopedale. William's mother hails from Hopedale, so we're happy to see you here William, and we really hope that you will find your roots here and stay with us. Don't forget to spend some money in our wonderful town. Thankyou, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk. We will now hear a Members' Statement from the AngajukKâk for Postville, Ms. Melanie Gear, when you're ready.

MS. GEAR:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to have a few words of acknowledgement for all the racers, volunteers and organizers of Cain's Quest that was held last week. There's been lots of time and effort put in my all, to run a clean and organized race, from what I've seen. Everything seemed to run smoothly with no major accidents or - with the racers, and lots of coverage by Cain's Quest showing our beautiful land in each of the communities. I also want to mention our teams traveling to the Labrador Winter Games this weekend and wish all the communities the best of luck. Our communities may be smaller than most of the other communities involved, but the North Coast has many great athletes and they always put out a good showing. I'd like to thank all of those in Assembly for the help and guidance that you've given me since being sworn in, from just discussions on how things work during the Assembly, to giving me a bit of guidance for within my community. Thank you, all and thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk. We will now hear from the AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen, when you're ready.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Excuse me. I rise this afternoon.

MR. WINTERS:

interpreters' booth, you may not receive papers from all Members. They will take their time as they're speaking but it'll have to be simultaneous as opposed to reading. *Nakummek*. Whenever you're ready, AngajukKâk.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you, to the translators. I rise, this afternoon, to congratulate the Makkovik Apvit, the Wolverines who won their regional high school sports meet in Rigolet this past week. I thank Rigolet for hosting, and by all accounts, everybody had a really good time there. Lots of new friendships made as in the past, leading into the future and hopefully long-term relationships overall. As my AngajukKâk friend from Postville mentioned, the Labrador Winter Games teams are already set to go. So Makkovik has a team ready and willing and they're hopefully going to participate and do well next week. I'd also like to congratulate Kyle Gear on winning. He participated in the provincial dart tournament in Goose Bay this past week and he managed to make the national team. As for the Junior dart competition, Kyle's son Hunter also made the national team for the youth. On another note, Mr. Speaker, the local Housing Committee elections is set for the 15th of April in Makkovik. This will be the first election for the new Housing Commission Committees. And we're hoping that with these committees in place, the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission will swing into action with the participation of the local Housing Committees providing local knowledge. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

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

MR. W. ANDERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's hard to understand how four years has passed so quickly. And today the only Ordinary Member who has indicated to me who won't be seeking re-election is the Honourable Roland Saunders for the Canadian Constituency. Mr. Speaker, many of us has come to know him over the last years. Many people call him a real jinx for bad weather. I would never say that, but why am I the only one sitting close to him? Mr. Speaker, he's been caught in airports and hotels more than anyone else that I've ever known. Last Thursday, he text - he was in St. John's. It was his third night being caught out. I sent him an email saying I was in St. John's. I will be returning to Goose mid-afternoon, and when I travel, the weather is usually fine. He indicated he was leaving at eleven o'clock. When I got there at 12, here he was just as proud as a peacock in the waiting area. And Mr. Speaker, I watched as he got on board his plane, the right-hand engine started. It ran for about a minute, and then it shut down. Anyway, we boarded my plane. When I got to Gander, he sent me an email saying that he had been bumped off the flight twice. My flight, by the way, landed in Goose Bay right on schedule. The next morning at ten o'clock in the morning, he called me, "Guess where I am?" Mr. Speaker, he was still in St. John's. I hope that you make it home for Easter. However, if you're caught in a airport or in a hotel, I will personally contact the airport or the hotel and have Easter

chocolate arranged for you. But seriously, Mr. Speaker, he's represented his people well. Many times he came here with a question and a Members' statement that to some people might have seemed controversial. But what he was doing was bringing forward the views and the concerns of his constituents. And being an elected official representing people outside the Land Claims Area sometimes can be very difficult. You're always being asked why or why not? And you brought there concerns as they tell them to you. And that's the greatest thing that any Member can do in the world is to bring forward the concerns of their people. I wish you all the best in the future. And just on a little footnote, that come Easter Sunday if you're caught in the airport or the hotel I will have chocolate arranged. But please indicate to me before you leave as to whether you like light or dark chocolate.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member and *Nakummek*, interpreters' booth for keeping up with that. Are there any other Members Statements around the Table at this time? Recognizing the Ordinary Member for Nain, Ms. Roxanne Barbour, when you're ready.

MS. BARBOUR:

Nakummek, UKattik. I just wanted to start with our constituency meeting as my colleague mentioned, this was our last one. So since I've been in office, I've been very dedicated...

MR. WINTERS:

Member, I'm just wondering if you handed in a statement or no?

MS. BARBOUR:

No.

MR. WINTERS:

Okay.

MS. BARBOUR:

I have a prepared one here, but this one is...

MR. WINTERS:

Okay. I think the interpreters are looking for it. So, whenever the interpreters are ready to get started, we'll go again. *Nakummek.*

MS. BARBOUR:

Okay. So, our constituency meeting, this was our last one, preparing for before going into the election, and I feel very accomplished being able to hold these public forums in my community where they were very minimal before and we've even come to know regulars as like when we showed up there it was like, "Where's this person? Strange this person is not here yet." So, it's been, it's been really a hell of a ride and a lot of discussions happen throughout these. A lot of discussions that turned into action items and action that come to fruition. So I'm very proud that we've been able to do that and have those public forums and really hear the issues we understand, but also allowing it to come from our community and not just from an elected official who also understands those issues. So, I feel really accomplished in that aspect. I was going to bring up the issues that were discussed, but it pertains to my department so I'm going to get called on, what do you call it again? Anyways, moving on, I wanted to mention the Mark Dicker Memorial Hockey Tournament that was hosted just last week. Yeah, and we had a youth division for the minor hockey, and there was two teams and they had really good skill - what do you call them - acknowledgements there and it was really good to watch. I'd also like to acknowledge those who came to our community for the Melody Lampe Memorial Volleyball Tournament. That was a really well-received tournament and it turned out really well. I really love

seeing people coming to our communities and coming to participate in friendly competition, especially in spirit of young men and woman who've been gone too soon from this earth. So, for the Mark Memorial Tournament, I was the MC and just knowing his parents personally, it was a really special thing to be able to do for them in memory of a very kind and gentle young man. I'd also like to congratulate the JHMS Huskies who were actually just arriving back in Nain when we were getting on the charter to here today, coming from the Winter Sports meet in Rigolet. That's really - I always like to acknowledge them because recreation and sports within our communities are so important and it's important to always remember that sometimes this is all that our youth have to look forward to. And they travel and they put their whole-hearted dedication and efforts into sports and participating in sports and doing well in school. And it also helps to set them up for success being a student athlete. So, congratulations not just to the JHMS Huskies but everybody who was involved. I'd also like to acknowledge the Moravian Church celebrations we had since our last sitting. February 19 marked - is a Moravian Church holiday and it marks the date the first Inuk converted to Christianity. His name was Kimmingosi and baptized as Peter. Just the other day was also Married Couples Day and I think it's next week we celebrate Young Women's Day. So, congratulations to all those who were involved, and *Nakummek* to our Nain Moravian Church who are aging, but also try really hard to keep our traditions alive. So *Nakummek*. *Nakummek, UKattik*.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*, Ordinary Member. The next Members' Statement will be from the Chairperson of the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak, whenever you're ready.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker. We started sending items for audit earlier and we have an earlier date.

MR. WINTERS: One moment, Member.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Oh.

MR. WINTERS: Interpreters' booth, we can't hear you right now. *Nakummek*. Let's go again. *Nakummek*, Member.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: We started sending items earlier for our audit as we had a March 31st deadline. But our - the Minister of Finance, Minister Dicker agreed to extend our deadline from March 31st to June the 30th. So, thank you, very much. Deloitte will start reviewing our records mid-May and our audit should be complete by mid-June. We are hoping we can have our AGM at the end of June due to this is an election year.

Funding, financial proposals. We received \$2,500 from Maison Canada Grocery Grants and a proposal to the Ittajuttek Board has been submitted. And we submitted a proposal to the *Labrador Inuit Settlement Trust* for another summer literacy camp this summer. Last year's camp was a huge success.

Mr. Speaker, Community Freezer. We received the last of our 40 cases of arctic char from Nunatsiavut Department of Lands and Natural Resources. And we still have a small bit of moose still remaining. As we

had an increase in moose allocation, seven percent as opposed to 3.5, we had enough moose for two months and a little in March. We would like to thank the former Minister, Terry Vincent for increasing our allocation and for increasing our char. More younger Nunatsiavut beneficiaries are moving to Happy Valley-Goose Bay from Nunatsiavut. We have beneficiaries stopping by to find out how they can access our Community Freezer. Unfortunately, our Community Freezer is only for beneficiaries 60 and over. So, they are unable to provide food items for the younger beneficiaries. They find it hard to understand how they are treated differently here as opposed to Nunatsiavut, and I explained it is our funding wouldn't allow it to be for everyone. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

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

MR. SAUNDERS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, I would like to thank each and every Member in this Chamber, including the translators and IT staff and OKâlaKatiget Society. It has been a pleasure to represent the Canadian Constituency for the last eight years. During the COVID period, I don't know if many of you remember, but NG developed a good program and I was part of that, and it was a good experience. It was developed by the NEC and thank you, Nunatsiavut for helping all NG members that applied and were approved. It's an honour to work with all Members in this Assembly and to get to know each and every one of you personally. I've made some good friends here and I met a cousin. There you go. I wish you all the best on your future endeavours, especially all Members that

plan on running, and hopefully get re-elected. (Background noise.) That was a bad one. My travel over the past years from Edmonton to here has been a challenge. I'm not jinxed, Wally, just unlucky. Thank you, to the wonderful Deputy Ministers, IT staff and the staff here in Hopedale in this building and also at the hotel. Good luck in the future to each and every one of you.

MR. WINTERS:

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

MS. FLOWERS:

Nakummek, UKattik. Saturday, March 7th, teams from Nain, Natuashish, Hopedale, Postville and Rigolet will travel to Goose Bay along with teams from South Coast, Lab West, Upper Lake Melville, and North West River to participate in the 43rd Labrador Winter Games. It is highly anticipated by all communities large and small. For one full week, participants from each community will show their talent in the different sport events. It also brings communities together in fellowship and great sportsmanship. I commend and thank everyone from the funders, Board of Directors to volunteers. And most of all, the athletes who train and try their best at their prospective sport to make this event possible. It is truly an event of the Big Land. Let's go Team Hopedale. In closing, I want to extend congratulations and thank you, to all involved with the school events that took place since this last sitting. Events included Pan Labrador Choir, robotics competition, Inuttitut, Ukkalautta , table tennis provincials and

Winter Sports Meet. All these events took huge commitment by teachers, chaperones, students, volunteers and communities who welcomed their students. Thank you to all. It certainly takes a community to raise a child. And when we all work together, great things can be achieved. Also, a big thank you to McKinley and Darlene Winters for applying to a first-ever Inuit Games coaching event that was held here last weekend as well as table tennis coaching which has been going on for part of this winter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk. The next Members' Statement will be from the Ordinary Member for Nain, Ms. Roxanne Barbour, when you're ready.

MS. BARBOUR:

Nakummek. I want to start this statement by saying what a ride it has been. It's been a pleasure working with you. Some of you are leaving. Some have already left. And others are eager for the call for the election. And there are those of us who don't know if they will return. I learned so much from everyone here throughout these last four years. I've been saying that it's been the biggest learning curve of my life so far. This experience is far beyond what any school can teach and prepare you for. All the things that I have learned has been because of the burning desire I have to understand our systems, to understand and work with the system for the betterment of our people. I'd also like to take the time to acknowledge those who have tolerated me and my fire. My burning desire to work hard and do right by our people, especially during the first two years of our term, and especially to the Deputy Ministers who work tirelessly and passionately. When the questions were tough, frustrations

were high and timelines were tight, they were there and ready with a steady hand. So, thank you. Thank you, for helping me to learn and understand. I would especially like to thank - and I'm trying not to cry - and acknowledge the President and the First Minister, for their unwavering support, for seeing and believing in my, what my colleague here calls fiery passion and supporting me even after all my trials and errors. Your unwavering non-judgmental support will stay with me for the rest of my life. Your leadership and guidance have shaped me for the better, especially when I was struggling and fighting my own battles. I will never forget your kindness. A lot of the time it felt like I wasn't working. I know for a long time that this is the line of work that I want to do. I started with my colleague and mentor, AngajukKâk from Nain and finishing with my colleague, Member Dicker. It's been one roller-coaster of a ride. I will say that I did struggle a lot in public office. I questioned myself and felt challenged many times. I'm not a flawless person. I always thought of myself as a simple Nainimiuk and after being in office I wasn't a simple Nainimiuk anymore. I was a human. I was not a human, I was not even an Inuk anymore to some. I was only my job title. That was the hardest pill to swallow for me because I'm just a small-town girl, proud, simple Nainimiuk. I wear my heart on my sleeve and I care deeply. Tom here, calls it compassionate fatigue. I cried a lot and I continue to cry a lot sometimes. But that never stopped me, never. It made me stronger and was fuel for my fire. And even though there are some of you around this Table who have doubted my ability, I want to

say, "Thank you," to you too because you have also fueled my fire and gave me a reason to try harder and rise to the occasion. And thank you. To my knowledge, I'm the first Ordinary Member to introduce an urgent matter to the Assembly that calls on the Government to take knowledge, produce a productive and comprehensive report of a committee that lays the foundation for future work, plan and host regular constituency meetings in Nain, work closely with an ICG to create programming that benefits our community and those who are most vulnerable, and go beyond the scope of work as an Ordinary Member representing Nain out of courtesy and respect for Nainimiut coming into my office seeking help, guidance and support. So much so, I helped my colleague lay his foundation of work, enabling him to support Nainimiut at the same level. I've always supported and guided Nainimiut through an open-door policy and Nainimiut have always felt welcome and supported in my office, a hundred and fifteen, to be exact. One thing I am most proud of is Nainimiut never left my office feeling conflicted, but left feeling the sense of understanding and sometimes relief after being able to support and navigate through their issues. Most of all, I want to thank my Nainimiukattit (ph) 2:23:48, my people, my community, my home. Thank you, for believing in me, putting your faith in me, asking me the hard questions coming to me, and most importantly, allowing me to represent you. I like to think I do a good job, and I still feel unfinished. Lastly, and most importantly, I want to thank my husband, my children and my support system, particularly my sisters. Without you, I could not have

accomplished all that I have. As a mom and as a wife, this line of work requires a lot of sacrificing and although we may not always see eye-to-eye, we have weathered this storm together. Thank you. *Nakummek*.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member. Are there any other second Members' Statements around the Table, for anyone who's already given one? Yes, recognizing the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen, when you're ready.

MR. W. ANDERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I realize that the AngajukKâks, their elections is not until this fall and they'll be attending several more sittings. I'm not sure if I'm going to be here after May the 5th. That will be up to the constituents in the Upper Lake Melville Area. But Mr. Speaker, one AngajukKâk has indicated that she will not be running again, and the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Marjorie Flowers. And I would like to say to AngajukKâk Flowers that you stood the test. You put people first and foremost. Many, many times you were so short on staff that you couldn't take time off and you lost leave. You done that day-in and day-out to serve the people who put their trust in you. And further to that, as a lay minister, many times you were called to other communities to perform a funeral service, a wedding, a baptism, and you went willingly because that's the roots that was taught to you by your mom and dad. And over the years since I've known you since you were a little girl, you were always pleasant. And the thing that stands out to me was the nicknames that your family had on you like the word, "Locker" or better still, "Cooty," but the best one of all that I really enjoyed was,

Ishymonger. So, Marge - I'm sorry, AngajukKâk Flowers, thank you, for a lifetime of reaching out and helping people. And I'm sure that you will continue to do so, and you're not finished in life yet. I'm sure that there's jobs that you're going to fulfill. But certainly, on behalf of a lot of people, thank you, for your time, for your patience, and most important of all, your open heart that you gave to everyone who come and ask for your help. God Bless you, and we'll see you again.

[Applause]

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member. Pretty soon everyone will shed a tear and we haven't even started the Budget. Are there any other statements around the Table at this time? Seeing none, that brings us to Item Six, "Returns to Oral Questions." Under Standing Order 34(3) a Minister has the option of reading their response to a written question. Would any of the Ministers like to read their responses today? Recognizing Minister Roxanne Barbour of the Department of Health and Social Development, whenever you're ready.

MS. BARBOUR:

Nakummek, *UKattik* and *Nakummek*, for the question previously, AngajukKâk Sheppard and I do this out of a recommendation made from AngajukKâk Andersen, for those who are listening. So the question was, "Are there going to be Family Connections transportations in all of Nunatsiavut?" And the response that we have is that we can provide transportation for any family on the Family Connections caseload as required. However, the number of families accessing services in Makkovik, Postville and Rigolet.

MR. WINTERS: One moment, Minister. Need the interpreters' booth to catch up. Yeah, Return to Oral Questions, number five - or sorry, under Tab 5(2). This still means five though, and that's the sign that came to me from the clerk. You can go ahead when ready, Minister.

MS. BARBOUR: *Nakummek.* The number of families accessing services in Makkovik, Postville and Rigolet are very low. So, they don't - they would not warrant the purchase of a vehicle or a budget to hire a driver. But again, if the numbers increase, we're glad to have that conversation.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Would any of the other Ministers like to read their returns? Recognizing the Honourable Tom Evans, Minister of the Department of Education and Economic Development, when you're ready.

MR. EVANS: *Nakummek,* Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS: Minister, I'll just ask you to give the interpreters' booth a moment to find it. When you're ready.

MR. EVANS: *Nakummek.* So, can I read the question first? Okay, the question was from the Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Bryan Winters. The question was, "You and I have spoke about this a few times offline regarding communication 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 the situation?" And I thank the Ordinary Member for the question. And so, the response to the question, I'll just read it out even though we have read it. I wanted to read it out so people listening could hear the

response. While we strive to be reachable at all times, there may have been instances in the past where an email was not responded to as promptly as expected. So, I would like to provide some context and background to help capture the broader picture of how the post-secondary area of the Education Department operates. Over the past five years, the Department's Education Funding Program has expanded considerably. We have added a new funding stream. This new funding stream increased student supports from approximately 10 to 30 supports, and we now serve a consistent student population of between 240 to 280 students throughout the year. With the exception of basic travel support at the beginning and end of each semester and our bi-weekly living allowance, all other supports require direct communication between students and staff. This includes requests for things such as receipts and supporting documentation as well as general inquiries related to applications and other programming, career opportunities, both short programs and community-based training. As a result, the volume of emails and phone calls received daily is significant. And occasional delays in response times may occur. This is reflected in the disclaimer included in our automatic email response. So, I'd just like to point out prior to December 2025, the General Education email account had been monitored by multiple staff members. This at times resulted in emails being inadvertently missed. However, since filling the permanent secretary reception position in December, this email account is now monitored by one individual and this change has significantly improved

consistency and follow-up. With respect to phone calls, all staff members have voicemail that are checked daily. We have some concerns raised regarding unreturned messages, however, we have not identified missed voicemails and we continue to monitor this closely. So, in closing, I'd just like to mention overall the majority of our students express appreciation for the supports they receive. However, we do have like a small number of communications concerns raised among an average caseload of approximately 250 students. So we believe the system is functioning well. Having said that, we remain committed to continuing to improve our communication process and like we're - right now we're still operating without a full complement of staff and we're working into rectifying that. *Nakummek*.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Minister. Before we move on to Item Seven, "Oral Questions," I'll acknowledge that as per Standing Order 5(2) I do require the consensus of the Assembly to move on past 5:00 p.m. However, the President is not in the room currently. We'll wait until he is, and then we will have a vote. *Nakummek*. Rather than wait in silence, we are on to Item Seven, "Oral Questions." And never mind. Here's the President. Do I have the consensus of the Assembly to continue work beyond 5:00 p.m.? Any, "Nays?" Seeing none, we're on to Item Seven, "Oral Questions." Are there any oral questions at this time? Recognizing the Chairperson of the Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation, Mr. Jeff Montague.

MR. MONTAGUE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the First Minister. First Minister, are there any progress on the photo ID's? I understand that I think there was a ongoing thing that was something related to ITK that we learned of back, some time back. Is there any updates on the progress of that?

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

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Actually, that's a file for the President and I'll defer to him to answer your question. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: Whenever you're ready, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: *Nakummek, UKattik*. Thank you, Chairperson for the Sivunivut Corporation for the question on the ID cards. The Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami has been pursuing the ID cards for Inuit across Inuit Nunangat including Nunatsiavut. But this work is still ongoing and most certainly when the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami Board of Directors meet on the 18th and 19th of March, we certainly, again, we'll discuss this issue. And I will certainly report back to the Assembly and to the Chairperson of Sivunivut of what it is that the outcome will be from the discussions related to the ID cards for Inuit. *Nakummek, UKattik*.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*, Mr. President. Does the Chairperson have a supplemental question?

MR. MONTAGUE: No, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, President.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Are there any other first oral questions around the Table?
Recognizing the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen.

MR. W. ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources. Two years ago, many of our fish harvesters lost their shrimp quota. Some lost it in total. Some had their quota cut back. For the second year in a row, a large amount of shrimp has been left in the water and after I asked the question at the last meeting, the answer came back there was 902 ton left in the water. Minister, I asked the question two years in a row with such a large amount of shrimp left in the water, would your department now reconsider going back and offering the quota back to our beneficiaries, our fish harvesters who had lost their shrimp quota?

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

MR. GEAR: Thank you, Mr. Wally Andersen, Ordinary Member for ULM.

MR. WINTERS: Ordinary Member will do.

MR. GEAR: Yeah, okay. Yes, I recognize your question from the last time. And we did, you're right about the 902 that's there. But our - as I stated this morning, the applications is available 'til I think February the - no, March 30th, and then the shrimp quotas will be allocated as per policy. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: There's no need of that Minister. Ordinary Member, do you have a supplemental question?

MR. W. ANDERSON: Yes, I do. Didn't mean to get you upset sir (laughs). Minister, I do believe that those who are re-applying are re-applying for the quota that they've managed to keep for the last two years. The question that I'm asking is that those who lost their quota all together would your department reconsider offering back the amount the quota that was - that they had lost?

MS. BARBOUR: Point of order.

MR. WINTERS: What is your point of order?

MS. BARBOUR: In Oral Questions it can't be the same question as the initial question. That's the same question. It has to be related to, but can't be the same question.

MR. WINTERS: I'll ask the Minister to address specifically what the point of order is next.

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

MR. WINTERS: But I'm in agreement and the...

MR. W. ANDERSON: Point of Order.

MR. WINTERS: ...Ordinary Member can ask a different...

MR. W. ANDERSON: Yeah.

MR. WINTERS: ...supplemental question, not a repeat of the same...

MR. W. ANDERSON: No.

MR. WINTERS: ...regardless of the response.

MR. W. ANDERSON: Mr. Speaker, I asked the question and the Minister responded that the deadline is out for those to re-apply. But that's for the quota that they had for the last two years.

MR. WINTERS: I understand.

MR. W. ANDERSON: Now can they...

MR. WINTERS: Ordinary Member, you still can't ask the same question again. You can come up with a different question as your supplemental, but you can't repeat your question. Does the Ordinary Member have a supplemental question at this time? *Nakummek*, Ordinary Member. Are there any 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 Honourable Melva Williams, the First Minister. We're hearing that the Nunatsiavut Construction has now folded. My question is what will happen to all the houses that are supposed to be built, in particularly the Seniors' Housing that was supposed to have been built about three years ago, and is still not completed? Thank you.

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

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you, AngajukKâk for your question. I think this is along the lines of the answers I have provided for the last two Assembly sittings. The contract with NCI was already canceled, so they would not have been finishing the seniors' units at all. Right now we are still working with the Surety Company to figure out how we'll be able to

go through the process to get another construction company to complete the work. As mentioned in my statement, the seniors' complexes are a part of the plan to be completed this year. That's more than the answer was requested but I thought I'd provide as much information as I could. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MS. FLOWERS: No, she answered my supplementary question. So, thank you, Honourable Williams for your answer.

MR. WINTERS: Love to see it. Are there any other oral questions around the table, first oral questions around the Table? 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. regarding the Torngat Recreational Funding that was administered through the Inuit Community Government over the last, I don't know, quite a few years. I think Nunatsiavut Government has taken it over and is going to be administering it now from now on. I'm just wondering when this is going to begin? Because I don't think there was any funding receive for the last fiscal year. Thank you

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

MR. DICKER JR.: *Nakummek,* AngajukKâk of Postville Inuit Community Government. I acknowledge the question and I'll take it under advisement. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: The Minister has taken the question under notice. Does the AngajukKâk have a supplemental question?

MS. GEAR: No, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health and Social Development, the Honourable Roxanne Barbour. It is in reference to Non-Insured Health Benefits. When someone is very sick and has to check out of their hotel by 11:00 a.m., and their flight is example 7:25 p.m., is there a possibility that there could be late checkouts in such cases? And also if the people - can the people be reimbursed for their meals if they had to stay at the airport all day due to early checkout at the hotel?

MR. WINTERS: Chairperson that's very clearly two different questions. Would you like her to answer the first and you can ask the second as supplemental?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Yes, please, Mr. Speaker.

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

MS. BARBOUR: *Nakummek,* Mr. Speaker, and *Nakummek* Chair for your question. Regarding the late checkouts, this is a policy from the hotels that people are staying in. So, for example, if the checkout is at 11, and you don't request a late checkout, and you checkout say at 3:00 p.m., the hotel then again bills NIHB for an additional night even though you're not staying there. For further clarity I will take this under notice and get back to you within the required timeframe. *Nakummek.*

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

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could people be reimbursed for their meals that they had to eat at the airport due to the early checkout from the hotel?

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*, Chairperson. Minister, whenever you're ready. Take your time.

MS. BARBOUR: *Nakummek*, and *Nakummek*, again. Just to be clear the supplemental was reimburse for meals when they have to eat at airport because of the early checkout? Okay. I'll take this under notice and get back to you within the required timeframe. *Nakummek*.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*, Minister. The Minister is also taking the supplemental question under notice. Does the Chairperson have a second supplemental question related to this?

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

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*. Are there other oral questions around the Table at this time? Seeing none, we will take a recess until quarter past the next hour. Oh, sorry, I shouldn't have said seeing none. Either way, we're taking a recess for the next hour. *Nakummek*.

[Recess]

MR. WINTERS: Interpreters' booth, can you hear us? I think Sarah's headset is on, but I can see that you hear us. We are still on, "Oral Questions." Are there any more first oral questions around the Table at this time? Seeing none, are there any second oral questions around the Table? Yes, recognizing

the Chairperson for the Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation, Mr. Jeff Montague, when you're ready.

MR. MONTAGUE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've got a question for the Minister responsible for the Department of Lands and Natural Resources. Minister, I know, I can certainly take this under advisement. Can you please provide any up-to-date information for our members regarding methylmercury in Lake Melville?

MR. WINTERS:

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

MR. GEAR:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Sivunivut Member. And I'll take that under advisement and get back to you with - in a timely manner.

MR. WINTERS:

The Minister will take the question under notice. Does the Chairperson have a supplemental question?

MR. MONTAGUE:

Yes, thank you. To go along with that, where could members find this information?

MR. WINTERS:

Minister?

MR. GEAR:

Thank you, and thank you, for your supplement. I didn't get, quite get your question. Would you be able to say it again, please?

MR. WINTERS:

Chairperson.

MR. MONTAGUE:

Sure, and sorry about that. Once you are able to find that information, where could our members get this information from or where could they - or how could they obtain it?

MR. WINTERS:

Minister, when you're ready.

MR. GEAR: Thank you, I'll get that question too under notice and I'll get the information for you. Thanks.

MR. WINTERS: Just for clarification, the Minister said he will respond to you within the allotted time frame. So, your member - your constituents would be able to get that information from you at that point. Do you have a second supplemental question?

MR. MONTAGUE: Perhaps I can get some clarity of what I was asking. Perhaps like as an ongoing thing, you know, you can provide ongoing updates, you know, where can they go to for information? I guess I'd like to rephrase that question.

MR. WINTERS: Minister.

MR. GEAR: Thank you, for your question and thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yeah, I'll get that also under advisement and you can be, if it'll be the answer that you're looking for at that time. Thanks.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* And thank you, for clarifying your original supplemental question. Do you have a second, Chairperson?

MR. MONTAGUE: No, I don't. And thank you, for letting me, you know, clear that up, thanks.

MR. WINTERS: Are there any other second questions around the Table or first questions if you haven't already asked one. Yes, recognizing the Chairperson of the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology, the Honourable David

Dicker. Beneficiaries have been approaching me as they're concerned about the number of non-beneficiaries and foreign workers working with Nunatsiavut Government. Could you be able to give us some statistics on that and is there a plan in to get more beneficiaries hired?

MR. WINTERS: I'll point out again, that, that is two distinct questions. Chairperson, shall he respond to the first before he answers the - before you ask the supplemental?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Yes

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

MR. DICKER JR.: *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker, and *Nakummek*, Chairperson for the question. I'll take this question under notice and I'll get back to you in the timeframe. *Nakummek*.

MR. WINTERS: Would you like to ask a supplemental question Chairperson?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Yes, Mr. Speaker. And also, is there a plan on how we'd be able to hire more beneficiaries for those positions?

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

MR. DICKER JR.: *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker, and *Nakummek*, Chairperson for the question. I'll take this question under notice. *Nakummek*.

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

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: No, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. I appreciate the Minister taking those questions under notice. I do want to remind everyone that Oral Question period is supposed to be a time when you're asking questions that you can reasonably expect the Minister to have responses to. So questions of statistics and very detailed questions involving numbers like that are probably better served as a written question. Are there any other oral questions around the Table at this time? Seeing none, that brings us to Item Eight, "Written Questions." Are there any written questions around the Table at this time? Seeing none, that brings us to Item Nine, "Returns to Written Questions." There are no returns to written questions. Item 10, "Petitions." Are there any petitions today? Seeing none, Item 11 is, "Responses to Petitions." There are no responses to petitions today. Item 12 is, "Reports of Standing in Special Committees." I would like to recognize the Ordinary Member for Nain, Roxanne Barbour to provide a report from the Standing Committee of the Nunatsiavut Assembly on Drugs and Alcohol.

MS. BARBOUR:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. So, this is the first and...

MR. WINTERS:

One moment. They are looking for it in the interpreters' booth. When you're ready, Minister.

MS. BARBOUR:

Again, Nakummek. So, this report is the first and final report of the Standing Committee of the Assembly on Drugs and Alcohol however, it captures years from 2022 to 2026. So in accordance with Standing Order 72(2), I move, seconded by the AngajukKâk for Nain, Mr. Tony Andersen,

that the Standing Committee of the Nunatsiavut Assembly on Drugs and Alcohol report to the Fifth Nunatsiavut Assembly be received.

MR. WINTERS:

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

MS. BARBOUR:

Sorry, Mr. Speaker. No, thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Does anyone else wish to speak to the motion? Seeing none, does the Ordinary Member for Nain wish to make final comments and close debate?

MS. BARBOUR:

I would like to close debate.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. It is getting late. If no other Members wish to speak - oh, apologies, that concludes debate. Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none. We move on to...

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

(Inaudible), Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Yes, Chairperson?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

I understood we were doing reports on Standing in Special Committees where just a report be submitted - 14 is where Notices of Motions. Am I correct?

MR. WINTERS:

Yes, but the report of the Standing on Special Committee is a motion to receive it. Thank you, for asking for clarification though. It is confusing and it is getting late. We are on Item 13, "The Tabling of Documents." I would like to recognize the Minister of Finance, Human Resources and

Information Technology, the Honourable David Dicker Jr. When you're ready, sir. Whenever you're ready, Minister.

MR. DICKER JR.:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I am pleased to table the following document, "Financial Statements of the *Labrador Inuit Settlement Trust*, December 31, 2024. *Nakummek*.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. The document presented is tabled and numbered as follows: 02-5(11). I would like to recognize the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen.

MR. W. ANDERSON:

Honourable Speaker, I'm pleased to table the following document, "Nunatsiavut Assembly Budget 2026-2027."

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member Andersen. The document presented is tabled and numbered as follows: 03-5(11). There are no more documents to be tabled today, so we'll move on to Item 14. Item 14 is, "Notices of Motion." I would like to recognize the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen.

MR. W. ANDERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, March the 4th, 2026, I will move, seconded by Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Roland Saunders as follows: Whereas the Members Services Committee has tabled it's Consolidated Budget recommendations for the approval of the Assembly as required by Section 81 of the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act*, and whereas the Assembly should consider the recommendations to allow the Members Services Committee to finalize consolidated estimates of the Assembly Budget for

transmittal to the treasurer for the inclusion in the Consolidated Financial Plan for 2026-2027, now, I therefore move, seconded by the Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Roland Saunders that the tabled document, Document 03-5(11) the Assembly Budget recommends for the 2026-2027 be referred to the Committee of the Whole for consideration with Ms. Roxanne Barbour *[sic]* the comptroller of the Nunatsiavut Government as a witness.

MR. WINTERS: I think you mean...

MR. W. ANDERSON: I'm sorry.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.*

MR. W. ANDERSON: I apologize, Mr. Speaker. This is the first time in my life that I've ever read a speech or a document in my life. And Mr. Speaker, I am seeking unanimous consent of the Assembly to waive Standing Order 37(1) to deal with this matter today.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*, Ordinary Member. I will just point out that you referred to Roxanne Barbour as opposed to Rexanne Crawford in the Committee of the Whole but it's an easy mistake to Rexannes and Roxannes in the same building. Members of the Assembly...

MR. W. ANDERSON: Mr. Speaker, for the record, I will add, "To be referred to the Committee of the Whole for consideration with Rexanne Crawford the comptroller of Nunatsiavut Government as a witness.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* The Member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with his motion today. All those in favour? Any opposed? Seeing none, we

have consensus. Member Andersen you can bring your motion today at the appropriate time. I would like to again recognize the Ordinary Member for Nain, Roxanne Barbour.

MS. BARBOUR:

Nakummek, UKattik. I give notice that on Wednesday, March 4th, 2026, I will move, seconded by the AngajukKâk for Nain, Mr. Tony Andersen as follows: Whereas in February 2006, the Nunatsiavut Government established a committee of Ministers and officials to hold public hearings regarding the impacts of alcohol and drugs within Labrador Inuit communities. The hearings were held in the communities of Rigolet, Postville, Makkovik, Hopedale, Nain, North West River and Happy Valley-Goose Bay during May and June of 2006. Whereas in December 2006 a Nunatsiavut Government Alcohol and Drug Abuse Hearings Report was tabled in the Nunatsiavut Assembly. At this time a special committee of the Nunatsiavut Assembly was appointed to review the recommendations contained in the report, to priorities those requiring immediate action recommending actions to be taken and by whom. And whereas the Standing Committee are mandated to provide a verbal update at each sitting of the Nunatsiavut Assembly and submit a written report to the Nunatsiavut Assembly annually, now therefore, I move, seconded by the AngajukKâk for Nain, Mr. Tony Andersen that the Standing Committee of the Nunatsiavut Assembly on Drugs and Alcohol report to the Fifth Nunatsiavut Assembly, be referred to the Committee of the Whole for consideration with the Ordinary Member for Nain, Ms. Roxanne Barbour and the AngajukKâk for Nain, Mr. Tony Andersen as

presenters. And at conclusion of the discussion in the Committee of the Whole. I will move, that the Assembly adopt the report. And Mr. Speaker, I am seeking unanimous consent of the Assembly to waive Standing Order 37(1) to deal with this matter today.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with the motion today. All those in favour? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none. Member, you have the consent to bring your motion today at the appropriate time. I would like to recognize the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Mr. George Gear, when you're ready.

MR. GEAR:

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give notice on Wednesday, March the 4th, 2026 that I will move, seconded by the Minister of Education and Economic Development, the Honourable Tom Evans as follows: Whereas the Nunatsiavut Clean Energy Corporation has made a request to the Nunatsiavut Government for an interest in a 2.11 hectare portion of Labrador Inuit Lands, within parcels LIL-2C and LIL-03C which is located within the Inuit Community of Nain, for the purpose of establishing a collector line associated with the Nain Wind Microgrid Project in the community. Whereas the Department of Lands and Natural Resources has demanded that an easement would be the appropriate interest to be created for the use intended.

MR. WINTERS:

Minister, I just want to point out the motion says, "Determined," not, "Demanded."

MR. GEAR:

Okay, sorry. Whereas Section 2.11 1(b) of the Labrador Inuit Lands Act states that the Minister cannot issue an interest in Labrador Inuit Lands within an Inuit community without written approval of the Nunatsiavut Assembly. Be it resolved that under the authority of Section 2.11, 1(b) of the *Labrador Inuit Lands Act*, and subject to the requirements of the applications registry and any conditions the Minister is entitled to impose under authority of the *Labrador Inuit Lands Act*, the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources is hereby authorized to issue an easement over a 2.11 hectare portion of Labrador Inuit Lands within parcels LIL-02C and LIL-03C located within the Inuit Community of Nain, to the Nunatsiavut Clean Energy Corporation of the - for the purpose of establishing a collector line for the Nain Wind Microgrid project.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. The motion is in order. That brings us to Item 15, "Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills." There are no notices for first reading of bills today. Item 16 is, "Motions." I recognize the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen, when you're ready.

MR. W. ANDERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whereas the Members Services Committee has tabled its consolidated budget recommendations for approval of the Assembly as required by Section 81 of the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act*, and whereas the Assembly should consider the recommendations to allow the Members Services Committee to finalize consolidated estimates of the Assembly Budget for transmittal to the treasurer for inclusion in the Consolidated Financial Plan for 2026-2027, and now, therefore I move,

seconded by the Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Roland Saunders, that the Tabled Document 02-5(11) The Assembly Budget Recommendations for 2026-2027 be referred to the Committee of the Whole for consideration with Rexanne Crawford, the Comptroller of the Nunatsiavut Government as a witness.

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

MR. W. ANDERSON: (Audio cuts out.)

MR. WINTERS: Does anyone else wish to speak to the motion? If no one else wishes to speak, does the Member wish to make final comments and close debate? That concludes debate. All those in favour of the motion? Are there any, "Nays"? Seeing none, the motion is carried. That brings us into the Committee of the Whole. We'll now take a moment while Ms. Rexanne Crawford joins us in the Chambers. *Nakummek*. We're now in the Committee of the Whole. Ms. Crawford, would you like to make remarks?

MS. CRAWFORD: Sure. Today we're going to go over a document about the Assembly Budget for the 2026-2027 year. We'll move to page 3. On page 3, Table 1 gives the proposed budget for the Nunatsiavut Assembly. Should I wait for the President?

MR. WINTERS: That's okay. You can continue with the presentation.

MS. CRAWFORD:

So you shall see, which is consistent with prior years, the table for the budget is broken down with seven line items. The total budget proposed for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is \$4,566,500. There is an overall variance of \$278,500. An increase for the 2026-2027 fiscal year from the previous fiscal year. I'm just going to pause. I want to make sure everyone has page 3 open on the proposed budget.

MR. WINTERS:

For anyone having trouble, it's the last two pages of the entire budget document. Thank you, Ms. Crawford. You may continue

MS. CRAWFORD:

You will see that there is a hundred and fifty-two-thousand-dollar increased proposed for salaries and benefits. The Nunatsiavut Assembly approved the escalator for the elected officials based on the Consumer Price Index for the preceding calendar year. The Consumer Price Index for 2025 is 1.97 percent. This means the base salary for elected officials increases to \$96,871.50. Since this is an election year for Ordinary Members, AngajukKâk and Chairs of the Inuit Community Corporations, it is unknown if the Members will have dependents. As such, the Budget is based on the assumption that all elected officials will have dependents, and this make sure make sure we have enough money budgeted. So as an example, Labrador allowance in Nunatsiavut 7,780 if you have dependents. If you're single it's half of that. So, the budget is based that everybody has a dependent and you get the maximum amount for Labrador allowance. Just making sure that our budget has adequate funds in there. Travel increased by \$38,000. During the fiscal year, there was an increase improved for meal per-diems of a hundred and ten

dollars, for the meals. Incidentals remain the same. So, all the assumptions for travel for the Assembly, for committees had to build that increase into it as well as there were some minor adjustments into the budgets for planning of the Assemblies. As you notice tonight, meals were brought in. And meals were brought in for all the support staff as well . it's not as if we're going to the hotel and people are going home. So, there are a small number of increases in the number of people for meals we're providing in the Sittings, based on as if we were able to go back to the hotel and people were going home for their lunch breaks. There are no - Nunatsiavut Assembly committees, there is an increase of 5,500, again, purely driven by the increase of the meal per diems using the assumptions we had based for the number of meetings during the year for each of the standing committees of the Assembly and a reserve for any committee struck during the year for the Assembly. There were no changes in constituency allowance and professional fees. The election budget is developed by the Nunatsiavut Electoral Officer and I met with her in preparation for the Assembly Budget. As you know, the budget for the election will fluctuate every second year. This year is the election for Ordinary Members. Last year there was not. It was a small amount for the preparation, getting ready for the Ordinary Members elections. And so the increase is driven by the fact that we have an election happening in April and May. And that's why there's such a large increase in there from the year previous. There is an increase of \$32,500 for operating costs. This includes funds to replace the audio-visual system for

Nunatsiavut Assembly. The request for proposals was issued in February 2026. The Assembly has also budgeted to replace an aging snow mobile. And then all other costs are consistent with each other year for the operating costs of the Assembly. [Speaks Inuttitut]

MR. WINTERS: Yes, Ms. Kemuksigak, you have a question?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Thank you. Mr. Chair. I was just wondering what professional fees entailed?

MR. WINTERS: Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD: So, each year for the Budget, there is an allocation for professional development for Members of the Nunatsiavut Assembly as well as an amount for professional fees in case there's a requirement for someone to help with archiving materials, if there's a legal questions that require an external legal counsel versus the Director of Legal. I mean years ago there would've been funds used to bring in a consultant to help with the Standing Orders. We no longer need those type of fees, but each year we make allocation for professional fees, for the unknown sometimes, but just to make sure we have funds available.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Are there other questions around the Table? Seeing none, does that conclude your presentation, Ms. Crawford?

MS. CRAWFORD: Yes, it does.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* If there are no more questions for Ms. Crawford, I would like to thank the witness and we will move back into the Assembly.

We are now back in the Assembly. Given that the budget recommendations for 2026-2027 have been considered in the Committee of the Whole - I'm just waiting for the interpreters' booth - given that the Budget Recommendations for 2026 to 2027 have been considered in the Committee of the Whole, is the Assembly in favour of approving the Assembly Budget Recommendations for 2026? *Nakummek*. I'll repeat. Given that the Budget Recommendations for 2026-2027 have been considered in the Committee of the Whole, is the Assembly in favour of approving the Assembly Budget Recommendations for 2026-2027? By show of hands. Any opposed? Seeing none, the motion passes. *Nakummek*. I would like to recognize the Ordinary Member for Nain, Ms. Barbour, when you're ready.

MS. BARBOUR:

Nakumesuak Ukattik. I move, seconded by the AngajukKâk for Nain, Mr. Tony Andersen, as follows: Whereas in February 2006, the Nunatsiavut Government established a committee of Ministers and officials to hold public hearings regarding the impacts of alcohol and drugs within Labrador Inuit communities. The hearings were held in the communities of Rigolet, Postville, Makkovik, Hopedale, Nain, North West River and Happy Valley-Goose Bay during May and June of 2006. Whereas, in December 2006, a Nunatsiavut Government Alcohol and Drug Abuse Hearings report was tabled in the Nunatsiavut Assembly, at this time a special committee of the Nunatsiavut Assembly was appointed to review the recommendations contained in the report, to prioritize those requiring immediate action, recommending actions to be taken and by

whom. And whereas the Standing Committee are mandated to provide a verbal update at each sitting of the Nunatsiavut Assembly and submit a written report to the Nunatsiavut Assembly annually, now, therefore, I move, seconded by the AngajukKâk for Nain, Mr. Tony Andersen, that the Standing Committee of the Nunatsiavut Assembly on Drugs and Alcohol report to the Fifth Nunatsiavut Assembly be referred to the Committee of the Whole for consideration with the Ordinary Member for Nain, Roxanne Barbour and the AngajukKâk for Nain, Tony Andersen as presenters. And at conclusion of the discussion in the Committee of the Whole, I will move that the Assembly adopt the report.

MR. WINTERS:

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

MS. BARBOUR:

[Speaks Inuttitut] *Nakummek*.

MR. WINTERS:

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

MS. BARBOUR:

I wish to close debate.

MR. WINTERS:

That concludes debate. All those in favour of the motion? Any opposed? Seeing none, we are now moving into the Committee of the Whole. I will ask Ordinary Member Barbour and AngajukKâk Andersen to proceed with your presentation.

MS. BARBOUR:

Naku. Can we stay here, or do we have to go over there?

MR. WINTERS: Stay where you're at.

MS. BARBOUR: Okay. So, this is the - I was appointed Committee Chair in June 2025. And this is a very comprehensive report and the reason why we wanted to go in the Committee of the Whole to discuss its contents, and so that you can fully understand what it means to adopt the report. So, this has been ongoing for a while. It was meant to be tabled in September and then I had to be away. And then it was meant to be tabled in November, then my daughter was sick. And in January we had some vacancies. So, we're finally here now in our final Assembly. We've called this, "The Foundational Report of the Standing Committee." And it sets the precedence for future work of the committee. So, we'll go right through it. It was reviewed and approved by the Committee for presentation to the Assembly earlier in February. And I'll just take you guys right through it.

MR. WINTERS: I will encourage brevity from the Ordinary Member. It is a 19-page document. So please...

MS. BARBOUR: Okay.

MR. WINTERS: ...cover what you feel needs to be covered.

MS. BARBOUR: Yeah, okay. So, we already went over the history of it and then the previous work. So, in - I'll start in 2013 on page 3, I guess, because the work was done, and we had the report. And then in 2013 the Special Committee turned into a Standing Committee. So special committees were just special committees of that present committee but it's now a

standing committee and therefore it's permanent. And then 2013 to 2022 when we were elected into this Assembly, various committees have been - or various individuals have been appointed to this committee. And they're attached as well under Number 5, along with this report. And you can see them there. And I created - I went over these reports and I did an overview. So, I'll just capture that. Um, but it's important to note that the overview of the reports are based on what the current Clerk of the Assembly could find within the files here in the building. And again like Ms. Darlene Winters, she was appointed as clerk in 2025 and as one of her first tasks was to organize and arrange the Assembly files due to the unorganized nature of the files. So please keep in mind that there may be reports and, or resolutions of the Assembly that are excluded from this overview because they have not yet been found or identified. And if ever the Clerk of the Assembly identifies reports not summarized in this section, they will be added in subsequent reports from this committee. So, the reviews are there of what the previous committees had done. Overall, in review of these reports, it is evident that the intentions of the previous committees were sincere, however, it is in the view of the Committee Chair that the terms of reference has been incomplete to date. So, I'll just quickly go over the work that we've done over the last four years leading up to today. So, in 2022 it was myself, Barry Andersen, Chesley Shepperd and Bryan was first on this committee, and April Andersen from DHSD and at the time, Marlene Winters-Wheeler who was the Clerk of the Assembly as support staff and we did

not meet throughout the year, same as 2023. So, in 2024 we met to properly understand the work we were mandated to do and the history of the committee. And then later that year Bryan resigned from the committee and the Assembly appointed Wally in his place. In 2025 we did not meet throughout the year until June where Roxanne was appointed Chair and Wally was appointed Vice-Chair. In November, both Barry and Wally resigned their seats and in January Mr. Tony Andersen and Patricia Kemuksigak were appointed to the committee replacing Barry and Wally. June 2025 forward - during the 2025 Assembly sitting, the Committee met and we discussed the recent tragedies in Nain and Hopedale that included alcohol-related murder and suicides and drug-induced psychosis. These issues are still adamant and visible issues within our communities and particularly in Nain and Hopedale. During this discussion, we have determined that the Nunatsiavut Government Department of Health and Social Development has been making strides in attempting to address the ongoing issue in relation to mental health, wellness, trauma and addictions. We have also determined as a committee that it is not the intention to prevent alcohol from coming into our communities because we feel this will only make matters worse. Other topics of conversations included educating the public, encouraging Inuit to report and submit police statements, and understanding legislative authorities of the NG in relation to health, alcohol and mental wellness.

MR. WINTERS:

Ms. Barbour.

MS. BARBOUR: I know that was (inaudible).

MR. WINTERS: As you can imagine, going through all 19 pages word-by-word is not going to be a reasonable ask. It's also not reasonable to expect that from our interpreters' booth, right? So, if you can hit the points instead of reading to us all of the documentation that we have in front of us, I'd really appreciate it.

MS. BARBOUR: I will go under the assumption then, that everybody has read the report, okay? So, we wanted to understand the legislative authorities of the NG in terms of mental wellness and healing in Chapter 17. If it was feasible even to consider a mental wellness board. There were many conversations that I've had with Michelle Kinney, Deputy Minister of Health and Social Development as well as Legal Services, sorry, as well as the Director of Legal Services, Mr. Mark Gillette. When I spoke with Michelle regarding a mental wellness board or commission, this is what we've determined. So, in order for the NG to do any takedown of service, we would first have to negotiate an agreement with the Province on any takedown of mental health and we need to understand the community's needs. And even before going into community consultation, we had to understand - have to be clear in what we're asking the communities. There was also a conversation around funding, so this requires stable funding, and what that looks like. The DHSD is really supportive in going back into the communities. I do want to highlight that although a mental wellness and healing falls to the mandate of the DHSD, healing within our communities must be a whole of Government approach. And all aspects

of Inuit life must be encompassed when we think about Government approaches to healing. And the DHSD cannot be the only department incorporating healing and wellness into their programs and services. Further conversations happened and particularly with Kevin Maher who is also legal counsel. And he really clarified it for us when we wanted to know and envision what this would look like, what is our mandate, what are the steps we need to take - those types of questions. And then we were reminded of our mandate as per Motion Number 04-2(9). It was advised to us that the initial report that was completed in 2006, the Mobile Trauma and Addictions Team was the preferred form of treatment at that time. And we're questioned if a health board or commission model was a way to approach healing and wellness within our communities. There was comments about re-inventing the wheel. But in my opinion, the current approach to healing is a colonial approach, and we need an Inuit approach with an Inuit lens that prioritizes and emphasizes our Inuit ways, values, traditions, language, heritage and customs. As Inuit, we've always been natural healers, so how do we define them? How do we certify them? How do we incorporate them into our programs? The next page on page 8, outlines the Nunatsiavut Government Department of Health and Social Development Division of Mental Wellness and Healing, and it's extracted directly from the executive order. And you'll see there in the column to the right, it's extracted from the Org Chart on Atukatigevik and those are all the positions that we have within Mental Wellness and Healing. There are

some vacancies but those are the positions that are there, as well as a few additional ones that have been created since this report was written. On page 9, is word-for-word extracted from Motion 04-2(9). So following the clear understanding of our terms of reference, as well as the mandate of the committee, we reviewed the first five recommendations of the Drug Alcohol Hearings Report 2006. It has been determined then that we will review five recommendations during each meeting to identify the following:

1. If it has been implemented
2. If they are still relevant.
3. Priority of the recommendation, whether it was low, moderate or high;

Recommended actions to be taken to implement the recommendations and who is responsible for the implementation of the recommendation?

So, on page 10 to page 17, is the list of recommended actions to be taken by the Government or other responsible parties such as the ICG's, which is basically asking the Government and the ICG's to incorporate healing or promoting healing, wellness, strength and resilience into their programs and services and to provide written reports to the Standing Committee when they have been completed. I do want to highlight on - which one was it? Recommendation number 3 on page number 12 because this recommendation basically asks the Government to understand the needs of a rehabilitation facility within Nunatsiavut, if any. And if we can

understand them, we can act on them. And that's basically, a lot of the recommended actions that we're suggesting is that, you know, these are actionable items that lays out the foundation of future work and ongoing work. It provides clear direction and understanding as to what decisions or future decisions need to be made. And that will be on the work of the future committees because again, we're in election year. But also want to highlight that it lays out the foundation for future committees because...

MR. WINTERS:

I think we have a question. Mr. Andersen?

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 11, for recommendation number 2, in the middle of the page, ICG's recommended actions to be taken, I just want to point out that the Inuit Community Governments have very little resources. We are a unionized environment and if any employees of any ICG may be suffering from any alcohol or any substance abuse issues, that's all available under the union for treatment and that kind of thing. But the Inuit Community Governments are not set up for treatment. We don't have counsellors on staff et cetera. We use those that are available through DHSD or the unions that represent the workers in our communities. As for us as the ICGs, I mean, when I speak I - we don't have a health department or mental health division within the ICGs. That would be a totally other, a new set-up, I guess, within the ICG. So with the funding we have from the Nunatsiavut Government to operate our core funding, that would be a big ask for the Inuit Community Governments at this time. The only real controls or whatever that might

be in place with regard to alcohol is under the *Liquor Control Act* of the Province for ICGs, which we have the authority to say, "Yes," or, "No," to alcohol sales in our communities. And with the community-consulted committee if we can get one in place, which is very difficult to do, under the Act. The committees would determine who's (inaudible) 3:54:32 and that kinda thing. So, nobody wants to sit on that board, committee to determine if a certain person, Inuk within our communities should not be accessing alcohol. So, I just wanted to point out that, that section would be very difficult to attain for an ICG without the proper support in place. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Mr. Barry Andersen. Are there any further comments or questions at this time? Okay, Ms. Barbour, you may continue.

MS. BARBOUR:

Naku. And in response to that, if you just look above under, "DHSD Recommended Actions to be Taken to Implement," number 5 is that we're recommending to the DHSD to provide the ICGs and ICCs with wellness, healing, strength and resilience resources, so the ICGs and ICCs can promote these resources in their recreational programs and facilities within the communities. We are not asking that the ICGs or ICCs create employment opportunities or have one-on-one counselling or anything like that. That's not what we're asking. We're asking that you guys promote these in the areas that you already have, just as little reminders to people, like, you know, even just seeing a poster on the wall that has an encouraging phrase of your strength and resilience and hope and wellness is a good reminder. So that's what we're encouraging. We're

not trying to ask for the ICGs or ICCs to do any of the counseling or anything like that, but to promote the resources within their current recreational programs.

MR. WINTERS:

Yes, Barry Andersen, go ahead.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to just point out that the Makkovik Inuit Community Government - I can't speak for the others, but Makkovik Inuit Community Government is doing our - and we do exactly that, promoting non-alcohol use within our facilities. I sign off - anybody who's been in our facilities, arena, multi-purpose room, youth centre, community hall - it's only on special occasions that alcohol is permitted. You will not see any beer, alcohol, vaping or smoking weed or marijuana within any of our facilities in Makkovik. That's, I think, our part, as a community, trying to encourage the youth who use our facilities very much. And I think that's where I'm coming from when I say that ICG and Makkovik are doing our part the best we can to encourage and promote alcohol and drug-free facilities so that our youth can have a safe place, no different than school to play, and develop their skills as athletes or as drama team members, musicians, artists and that kind of thing. So I just wanted to point that out that it's not as if - we're not doing nothing. As an ICG I think we're doing quite a bit in partnership with the Nunatsiavut Government Department of Health and Social Development and others. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*, Mr. Barry Andersen. I don't think anyone is in disagreement here. AngajukKâk, for - or sorry, Mr. Tony Andersen of Nain, whenever you're ready.

MR. T. ANDERSEN: I certainly agree with everything that the AngajukKâk from Makkovik has said, Mr. Chair and I want you to understand that like some of the stuff here as ICGs we're already doing. That's correct. But I also feel that we should be open to advice from such as the DHSD and from our members within the communities to ensure that we are providing healthy programming for our youth, for our elders, for men, for women and that perhaps is why we put this here. It gives assurance that this committee is doing what was asked of us to provide that framework. And I couldn't more agree with Barry and I'm sure that the others would agree that as ICGs healthy programming is what we try to provide. And I think that the communities have proven that they are doing a great job.

MR. WINTERS: Barry Andersen, go ahead, when you're ready.

MR. B. ANDERSEN: Thank you, for your patience, Mr. Chairman. I'd just like to make - my comment would be to the Minister of Finance of the Nunatsiavut Government to the President, and to the First Minister, is to support ICGs in their efforts to get the proper employees to keep our facility running at full strength. Right now, Makkovik is struggling. We might not be able to operate the arena if things go the way they are next year. So if we've got no places for our youth to attend, then I'm sure we're going to see more alcoholism. Thank you, very much, Mr. Chair.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Are there further comments or questions at this time? Yes, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT LAMPE:

Nakummek, [Speaks Inuttitut]

I'd like to go back to page 5, under June 2025 forward and in the middle of that there's a sentence that says, "We have also determined as a committee that it is not the intention to prevent alcohol from coming into our communities because we feel this will only make matters worse." And so that is something that has been said, that stopping alcohol will only create more problems. And so myself, as an alcoholic and 31 years sober, I know that. And I know that it is the responsibility of the Nunatsiavut Government to look at all of the areas that will help Labrador Inuit to be able to make choices or decisions, not only on their lives, but on the lives of Labrador Inuit, which the communities, the families, the children, the grandchildren. And so we, as elected Members and most certainly decision makers of what it is that we have to do to make life, you know, better for Labrador Inuit is a great responsibility. But at the same time as Minister Barbour said and Anthony Andersen, the AngajukKâk for Nain has said, we have to come together. We have to work together, and it does not matter whether we argue about issues or to complement solutions to the issues that we are facing. And losing family to fires or murder, suicide is becoming too much. And so I'm saying this because I'm not the only one hurting, you know? A lot of people are hurting so much that what is being done? What is

Nunatsiavut Government doing to help? And I believe we have to have that courage to come up with those answers. *Nakummek, UKattik.*

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Mr. Lampe. Are there any further questions or comments around the Table at this time? Seeing none, Ms. Barbour or Mr. Andersen, you can continue.

MS. BARBOUR:

Nakummek. We'll go back towards the end of the report again on page number 12 to recommendation number three because this is a focus area for the standing committee which was to move Sapujavik to Nunatsiavut, and it's been incomplete. It's still a high priority and the determined responsibilities, the Nunatsiavut Executive Council, the Standing Committee in partnership with the Nunatsiavut Executive Council, and the Provincial Government. So, we were recommending that there be a committee struck, composed of Deputy Ministers from each department whose responsibility will be to understand and identify the following. And there are things there from A to M. So, it basically identifies - we want them to help us identify the needs of a rehabilitation centre or a facility within Nunatsiavut, whether that's Human Resource capacity requirement, professional capacity requirements, training, cultural programming, language programming, and those types of things. So that's basically what it's asking. We're asking to - for them to identify a best practice approach for a take-down from the Province, and we're asking to begin advocacy for funding for a facility if it's determined that this is what the communities want. And to ensure that's happening, we're asking that the President put in writing to the standing committee

when a committee has been struck to carry out the recommendations and the best practice approach. It is also recommended that the NEC, in partnership with the standing committee work together when advocating around the take-down. And so the next one is the standing committee in partnership, collaboration with the NEC recommended actions to be taken. So this basically outlines on page 13 going into page 14, outlines the need for a second round of community consultations because the work that we are relaying is 20 years old. So that's a long time ago. Even though they're very important recommendations and the work is really meaningful, the issues still prevail within our communities. And we live with it and we see it every day. It may not be as visible or adamant or necessary within other communities, but I know for a fact in Nain and Hopedale, it is required because our people are suffering, and a lot of them in silence. We're asking that the NEC identify two ministers of the Government to support the standing committee, begin preparations for a second round of community consultations and we're asking that the President also be involved in the second round of community consultations. And this is so because Ministers and the President of the Nunatsiavut Government demonstrates Government and Assembly commitment. It also signifies importance of this work and the emphasis of importance of this work. And one other thing I wanted to highlight and put focus and emphasis on is in recommendation number 4 on page 15. There are two different terms that we use, "Rehabilitation," and, "Treatment." Rehabilitation focuses on alcohol and drug detox and

abstinence. So cold turkey, basically. Treatment focuses on a harm reduction approach. And it's not wise to confuse the two. They are two very distinct terms within the committee, and I wanted the Assembly to be aware of that. Okay. And if there's no further questions on the recommended actions to be taken or ensuring accountability on the recommended actions to be taken, I'll just move over to conclusion. But I'll wait if there's any further questions. I do want to read this part, and I will read it word-for-word.

Although there have been work done in the past from the effective date leading up to today, there is work that is outstanding and incomplete. It is in the view of the standing committee to continue to prioritize healing, resilience, strength and hope through Labrador Inuit language, culture, traditions, customs and values, where years of intergenerational trauma is replaced with intergenerational healing. It is visibly evident, particularly in the communities of Nain and Hopedale that the lingering effects of historical oppression and dislocation or relocation of Labrador Inuit continue to play a key role in the substance use and abuse of drugs and alcohol. To be able to understand intergenerational trauma, we must understand what the oppressors tried to assimilate and remove from Labrador Inuit, which was our language, our customs, our cultural and traditional practices. In order to understand, promote and create intergenerational healing, we must now encourage, promote, protect, advance and celebrate all of who we are as a proud people and all of what was meant to be erased. Healing who we are as a people,

moreover, healing what was meant to be assimilated and erased of Labrador Inuit is the path towards the improved overall health and well-being of Labrador Inuit. Alcoholism and drug addiction is a symptom of trauma and trauma is a result of what happened to an individual. The review of the first five recommendations and recommended actions to take to implement provides a path for the Nunatsiavut Government, Inuit Community Governments, Inuit Community Corporations, and the Provincial Government for a whole of Government approach to healing and wellness within the Inuit Communities. It is a path that focuses on who we are as a people, who we have always been and who we will always be, which is Labrador Inuit. *Nakummek*.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Are there any comments or questions around the Table at this time? Yes, Ms. Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS:

Thank you. I thought that the report was a good report. It was very comprehensive, and I support Barry with the - in regards to...

MR. WINTERS:

One moment, please, Member. The - I think the wrong mic has been selected in the interpreters' booth. There it is, yeah, continue.

MS. FLOWERS:

I support Barry in regards to what he was saying, with some of the things that ICGs can and cannot do. And we do try our best to lead healthy programs with the little staff that we do have. And I think that if we are meant to do more or support more, then we need the staff and the resources to go along with it. So, I'm hoping that the Membership here will take that into consideration as well. But overall, I do agree. I think

that, I think it's a good report. It seemed like you did a lot of work. You worked hard and I think if we all work together, we will get there, because we need - we really need to do something for our communities, especially for Nain and Hopedale where the most serious traumas are affecting our people the most, and I, for one, I find it very difficult doing as a lay pastor too, doing funerals for suicides and there's so many. Like our graveyards are just filling up with our young people and we as Members need to do something to try and change that. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Ms. Flowers. Are there further comments or questions around the Table? Yes, recognizing Mr. Wally Andersen.

MR. W. ANDERSON:

Mr. Speaker, it touches the heart of when we see what is happening to some of our people. And as a little boy growing up in Makkovik, I can remember when the Inuit People was relocated, and my mom was probably one of the very few people who spoke the Inuttitut language. And on the way down to church on a Sunday morning, they would come in with their meal and they would ask her. And we saw the neglect by the Provincial and Federal Government of the houses that they built and promised a better way of life. Mr. Speaker, my entire life, I've dealt with, basically, with the North Coast. And the report speaks to the heart and what the President said we need. We need to do something, because there's people out there right now that are hurting so bad we don't even know about. And I got off the committee for my own personal reasons, but I can say this, something needs to be done. And we as a Government

should back the committee and work with them because, Mr. Speaker, something needs to be done to help these people who need help.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Mr. Anderson. Are there any other questions or comments? Recognizing, Mr. Evans.

MR. EVANS:

Yes, I don't want to take any more time, but I just want to say, *Nakummek* Rox. All of us have been touched by the cursed alcohol and drugs and I'd like the line alcohol and drug addiction is a symptom of trauma and trauma is a result of what happened. So, it's some good to see this. Like we, moving forwards, we gotta do something, and it's good to see, and all the support from NG, the ICGs. Together we can do it. *Nakummek*.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Mr. Evans. Are there any other comments or questions around the Table at this time? Seeing none, we are now back in the Assembly. Ordinary Member Barbour, do you wish to make the motion you referred to previously?

MS. BARBOUR:

Nakumesuak UKattik. I move, seconded by the AngajukKâk for Nain, Mr. Tony Andersen, that the Assembly adopt this report.

MR. WINTERS:

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

MS. BARBOUR:

I would just like to make one more comment. Again, this is a foundational report. It lays out the path. It provides a path forward for future Assemblies and future governments to fall back on. And I'm really

glad that it's finally here. Two Assembly sittings late, but it's here.

Nakummek.

MR. WINTERS:

Does anyone else wish to speak to the motion? Seeing no one, would the Ordinary Member like to make final comments and close debate?

MS. BARBOUR:

I wish to close debate.

MR. WINTERS:

That concludes the debate. All those in favour of this motion? Seeing none opposed, the motion is carried. This brings us to Item 17, "The First Reading of Bills." There are no bills for first reading today. Item 18 is, "The Second Reading of Bills." There are no bills for second reading today. Item 19 is, "The Assent to Bills." There are no bills for assent today. Item 20 is, "Adjournment." The Assembly is now adjourned until 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning, Wednesday, March 4th, 2026. *Nakummek.*

[Adjourned]

Day two March 4, 2026

MR. WINTERS:

I would like to call to order the Second Day of this Sitting of the Fifth Nunatsiavut Assembly. Item One is, "The Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery." This morning, we're lucky enough to have members of the Hopedale Moravian Church choir to sing a hymn for us. I would like to recognize Ketura Abel, Emily Abel, Georgia Abel, Nicole Shuglo, Rosie Percy, Martha Winters-Abel, Agnes Abel and guests Walter Percy and Harmony. I'll ask everyone to stand while the choir performs for us.

[Choir performance] [Applause]

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummesuak.* That was beautiful. *Nakummek.* We're on to Item Two, "Ministers' Statements." I will now open the floor to Ministers' Statements. Recognizing the First Minister if Nunatsiavut, Melva Williams, when you're ready.

MS. WILLIAMS: *Nakummek.* Mr. Speaker, I wish to provide a second Ministers' Statement to the Assembly today.

MR. WINTERS: Hold on, one moment, First Minister, for the interpreters' booth. Whenever you're ready, First Minister.

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you. Due to the uncertainty of election results in my community, I felt it important to speak to the dedication and commitment of employees within the departments I've had the honour of being Minister to since being elected. There were four departments that I have been Minister to, either in a posting to the department or as an acting capacity. Department of Education and Economic Development, Language, Culture and Tourism, Department of Health and Social Development and of course Nunatsiavut Affairs. I have learned that the staff that work in those departments are hard-working, competent, and dedicated to doing their very best to advance the lives of Labrador Inuit. Employees in all roles dig in and support the priorities of the Government diligently. Of course, the closest group that I worked with outside of my department are members of the Nunatsiavut Executive Council. The Deputy Ministers, directors and support staff are among the hardest-working folks, which has been my privilege to work with. They give tirelessly and go above and beyond whenever called upon. I would like to also pass along thanks and

appreciation to Edna Asivak and Sylvie Ikkusek, who do an awesome job coordinating and arranging travel in a professional, friendly and prompt manner that is a joy to work with them. As mentioned previously, the departments that I was fortunate to work with DEED, LCT, DHSD and Nunatsiavut Affairs as well as the Secretariat to some degree have awesome Deputy Ministers. Tim MacNeil, Jenna Gilbride, Michelle Kinney, Isabella Pain and of course Darryl Shiwak. I wish to thank each and every one of them for their assistance to me in my role as Minister. The staff in Nunatsiavut Affairs are capable, hard-working and focused on addressing the needs of Nunatsiavut. Under the direction of Daryl Shiwak and Colin Gilbride, we are seeing major strides forward as advised in my statement yesterday. The staff in the registrar's office, under Sheila Angnatok's direction is professional, responsible and committed to assisting members in such a respectful manner, that I am pleased that they are in their roles. We, Labrador Inuit, are fortunate that each of you are employed with our Government. Thank you, all, very much. I would also like to take a moment to recognize the dedication and commitment of the AngajukKât, Ordinary Members, Ministers and President. I appreciate the respect that has been shown to all, including each other. I believe our Government has made a great deal of headway in this Fifth Assembly and will continue in the future. *Nakummek, UKattik.*

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, First Minister. Our next Ministers' Statement will be from the Honourable Roxanne Barbour, Minister of the Department of Health and Social Development.

MS. BARBOUR:

Nakummek. I'll just give a brief update for NIHB. So for our interpreter translator interviews for two applicants have been completed. And we're waiting for the Language Division to complete testing.

For medical transportation, a medical transportation analyst, part-time position was re-posed on February 6th and it closed on February 20th.

Under, "Vision," Dr. MacIntosh is scheduled - was scheduled for visits in Nain, Hopedale for March 6 to the 9th, Makkovik for June 1st to the 5th.

She will be back in Nain on August 17th to the 20th. Back in Hopedale

September 12th to the 15th. Postville, November 2nd to the 5th, and

Rigolet May 4th to the 7th. Yeah. Under, "Pharmacy," the PLA Drug

Rebate for the fiscal year '25-'26 quarter three, so October 1st to

December 31st, is \$709,997.59. These rebates are scheduled to be

transferred to the NG on March 1st.

Under the, "Dental Hygienist visits," there's currently no dental hygienist

for Nunatsiavut. We have completed interviews with five dental

hygienists and in the process of contracting to. Community dental visits.

Dr. Power resigned. We are in the process of recruiting another dentist.

And Dr. Toor is scheduled for Nain. She just left Nain February 26th to

the 2nd. Makkovik, March 2nd to the 6th and Rigolet March 6 to the

11th. A contract is being developed for a denturist to travel to

Nunatsiavut communities. And electronic software and digital x-rays are

purchased for all five dental suites and ITA is still setting them up.

Nakummek, UKattik.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Minister. We will now receive the Ministers' Statement from the Honourable David Dicker from the Department of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology. And I just want to make sure that the interpreters' booth has your statement. Whenever you're ready, Minister.

MR. DICKER JR.:

Nakummek, UKattik. Mr. Speaker, the Nunatsiavut Government has engaged Firelight Incorporated to catalogue all existing policies, protocols and practices within the Department of Health and Social Development related to health and social data, identify gaps related to privacy, consent, documentation, confidentiality, digital access controls, to name a few areas and provide recommendations for policy development. In February, the Information Technology Division organized a three-day, in-person workshop, co-facilitated by Firelight Incorporated. This workshop had approximately 25 participants from the Department of Health and Social Development. Mr. Speaker, the key objectives and outcomes of the engagement session included: Gathering insights on current health-related policies, protocols, and practices; collaboratively identifying gaps in existing Department of Health and Social Development health and social policies, protocols and practices; developing a roadmap outlining priority policy needs and actionable recommendations. Mr. Speaker, participants provided valuable feedback and diverse perspectives to strengthen policy alignment and inform the development of a comprehensive policy roadmap. *Nakummek, UKattik.*

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Minister. The next statement will come from the Honourable Tom Evans, Minister of the Department of Education and Economic Development.

MR. EVANS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll just do a brief update from our last Sitting on our Economic Development Division. So as a reminder, our annual plan for the Division focuses on business development, community development, policy, data collection and offering supports.

For business development, as of February the 18th, our Inuit Business Registry has 272 certified businesses. And we now have two new businesses listed under "Fisheries" and "Retail". Regarding procurement, two packages were received from Vale with our Division nominating 10 Inuit businesses and one Qualified Business Entity nomination. The Business Development Committee, or BDC, met with the Innu Nation and Innu Development Limited Partnership, the IDLP on February 17th to discuss a recent failed Qualified Business Entity and the need to clarify the open-book negotiation process and Inuit benefits, related to Voisey's Bay IBA implementation. We are drafting a letter for the President's office, and we will collaborate with the Innu Nation, to request a formal meeting to address these issues. Our 2026-2027 training schedule will be promoted in April 2026. This is like training basic accounting, computerized accounting, et cetera.

Under Community Development, we have two funding programs, the Community Economic Development Fund, the CEDP and our *Fiscal Financing Agreement*, FFA. We are consulting with NG departments on

two applications from the Rigolet Inuit Community Government for traditional craft producers and a floating dock application. The review will be finalized in March 2026.

Our new Community Capacity Program, which will provide stable funding and support for Community Development Officer positions at the ICGs. This has been approved by NEC on February 11th. The program will run for five years valued at \$1,500,000 cost shared between the Divisions of Economic Development and Tourism. We are prepping job descriptions and workplans to be sent for feedback from ICGs prior to the program launch on April 1, 2026. We have secured \$988,012 under the Northern Isolated Communities Funding, NICI program. This project will buy new or upgrade existing Community Freezers in each Nunatsiavut community. We are preparing to submit a second proposal by March 6th valued at \$784,988 for greenhouse upgrades, industrial vacuum sealers and purchase community freezer stock like char and cod. The NICI program was expanded on February 19th. Once further funding details are provided, we will submit a third proposal to the program for this additional funding by summer 2026. Sorry.

Policy & Data Collection. We are finalizing contract details to 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 to get beneficiary feedback.

Mr. Speaker, under Nunatsiavut Government's Recruitment and Retention initiative, the Labour Market Assessment, RFP is expected to

be released before end of March 2026. And just as a note, we have submitted a request to meet with Lin Badcock *[sic]*, who is our new Provincial Minister of Jobs and Growth and Minister of Rural Development. We are still working out the details of when we be able to meet. This is some work that we were doing for a while. Our 2023 Economic Profile series is complete. These have been publicly released on February 26, 2026 on social media and the NG website. These profiles were completed in partnership with MUN's Regional Analytics Lab, the RAN Lab, and are the first of their kind for Nunatsiavut-specific economic snapshots in Newfoundland and Labrador. The profiles provide data on industry, transportation, public service, income, employment, education, labor force, age, sex, governance, remoteness and local businesses. The 2025 series will be completed by our Divisional staff in 2027.

Our Economic Division has secured \$150,000 from ITK, through Indigenous Services Canada funding, to develop our Labour Database. We are currently confirming the contractor process and will begin the 10-month development period in late March.

Under Self-Employment Benefits Program, we are providing EI-type benefits to one client starting a legal services business and just recently completed benefits for one client who had started construction business. This program is open for applications.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, under Business Financial Support.

The new Business Grant Program has completed a second round of revisions. We are preparing the program for required Gov NL consultation under *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement* Provision 7.8.7. And once provincial feedback is received and incorporated, the program will be sent to NEC to hopefully get approval. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Minister. Are there any more Ministers' Statements at this time? Seeing none, that brings us to Item three, "Members' Statements." Are there any Members' Statements around the Table? Recognizing the Chairperson for the Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation, Mr. Jeff Montague.

MR. MONTAGUE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a brief update since our last sitting. Our Winter Supports for Seniors program is nearly concluded, and this was made possible with funding from the International Grenfell Association. Our Community Freezer is seeing higher than usual usage with 45 beneficiaries coming to get country foods such as moose, partridge, rabbit and codfish. We are continuing our programs of opening the community centre for indoor walking on Mondays and an activity for seniors on Tuesday afternoons, that are of course BINGO, but also we have well-known artist, Heather Campbell doing art instruction lessons for our seniors. These activities were made possible with funding from the International Grenfell Association and the Labrador Regional Wellness Coalition. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

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

MS. FLOWERS: *Nakummek, UKalittik.* March 9th, 2026 is International Women's Day. It is a time to rally with women and girls around the world to demand equal rights and equal justice.

MR. WINTERS: One moment, AngajukKâk. I don't know that the interpreters' booth is active yet. Okay. If you can start again. Thank you.

MS. FLOWERS: *Nakummek, UKalittik.* March 9th is International Women's Day. It's a time to rally with women and girls around the world to demand equal rights, and equal justice to enforce exercise and enjoy those rights. As we begin the second quarter of the 21st century, no nation has closed the legal gaps between men and women. Right now, in 2026, women have only 64 percent of the legal rights that men hold worldwide. In fundamental areas of life, including work, money, safety, family, property, mobility, business and retirement, the law systematically disadvantages women from harmful social norms to discriminatory laws, women and girls continue to face entrenched obstacles, even push-back to equal justice. If process continues at its current pace it will take 286 years to close legal protection gaps. It is not a timeline it surrenders. Without justice systems that work for women rights, from a promise that never arrives. International Women's Day 2026, under the theme, "Rights Justice Action for all women and girls marks a moment to amplify our collective determination. No matter how deeply rooted the sexism or how discouraging the politics, we refuse to step back or abandon our mandate. Instead, we climb together for the rights and the empowerment of all women and girls. This year, International Women's

Day 2026 calls for action to dismantle the structural barriers to equal justice, discriminatory laws, weak legal protections and harmful practices and social norms that erode the rights of women and girls. My hope for this International Women's Day is that our Nunatsiavut Government will do its share in dealing with Article 7 from Universal Declaration. It states, "All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk. The next Members' Statement will be for the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen, whenever you're ready.

MR. W. ANDERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

There won't be anything printed, interpreters' booth. Go ahead, Ordinary Member.

MR. W. ANDERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Four years ago, I went to the Beneficiaries in the Upper Lake Melville Area and I asked them for their support to represent them in the Nunatsiavut Assembly. I thank them for their support that they gave me in the election. Mr. Speaker, there's times when I'm questioned of beneficiaries who live outside the Claim Area and those who live inside the Claim Area. And I try my best to explain to them that there's reasoning for that. Mr. Speaker, I've had some people in the Upper Lake Melville Area as well beneficiaries on the North Coast who have said to me, that, "In your own little way you have somehow brought a closer relationship between the beneficiaries who live in the Claim Area

and those who live outside. Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure if that's true, and if it is I'm not the one to take credit for it. Mr. Speaker, to serve in the House is a honour and a privilege. I'm into my 56th year, almost all in public life. And there's no greater role to serve those who elected you to a position. I've held many high-profile jobs over the years, one including Minister of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs in the Provincial Government. But Mr. Speaker, I learned at a very early time in that portfolio that while you need Ministers in the Federal and Provincial Governments and in our own Government, that being a Minister, at the end of the day is not going to get you one vote from your constituents. It's how you represented them. Mr. Speaker, last night, I heard the Ordinary Member for Nain, Roxanne Barbour said that of her portfolios. But yet serving the people was her greatest ambition. And Mr. Speaker, that's so true. I want to thank every person who served in this term, Ordinary Members and AngajukKât to those who are leaving and to those who are seeking re-election, I wish you every success. And Mr. Speaker, I want to finish off this morning by quoting a line of a wonderful hymn that the Hopedale Moravian Choir sang this morning, and that is, "God Be With you 'til we Meet Again." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member. The next Members' Statement will be from the Chairperson of the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak. When you're ready.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. Today, I rise to give an overview of our community freezer for 2025. Max Winters Memorial Community Freezer

served 2,219 families in 2025. The following traditional food were purchased for distribution, 891 partridges, 24 rabbits, 5,533 pounds of potatoes, 2,085 pounds of carrots, 2,794 pounds of cabbage, 38 pounds of rhubarb, 560 pounds of seal and we could've got more but the ice got bad, corned cod, char - we had 53 cases donated by Department of Lands and Natural Resources. We had 800 pounds of cod fillets from Torngat Fisheries, 26 gallons of blueberries, 65 gallons of red berries. We had 200 salmon tags given to us from Nunatsiavut Government and trout donated by local fishers. We do support our Nunatsiavut beneficiaries, hunters and gatherers by supporting purchasing local. We would like to thank the Nunatsiavut Government Department of Lands and Natural Resources for donating the 53 cases of char, cod from Makkovik fish plant and elk, boar and bison. Each elder 60 and over were entitled to one of either elk, bison or boar. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Are there any other Members' Statements around the Table at this time? Recognizing the Ordinary Member for Rigolet, Ms. Melva Williams, when you're ready.

MS. WILLIAMS:

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, it has been my sincere honour to represent my community of Rigolet over the past four years. I've attempted to work as hard as I possibly could to ensure our community has had a voice at any and all tables that I sat at. Thank you, for your confidence in me. I have attempted to recognize the different organization and residents of our community at each Assembly sitting as I feel it is important to show appreciation and recognition who our residents who give of themselves.

For example, with the recent sports meet, the staff, community of Rigolet, the volunteers put off a very successful meet. Good job, folks. The Labrador Winter Games is upcoming, and I hope that the team has a great week in Goose Bay. I would also like to thank Rhoda Palliser, the volunteer coordinator for the sports meet - for the Winter Games. During this sitting, I would like to thank all organizations and volunteers who give of their time in our community and for our community and its people. To name a few, those staff at Northern Lights Academy, St. Timothy's Anglican Church, the Rigolet Inuit Community Government, the RCMP in Rigolet, the DHSD staff in Rigolet, staff at the local clinic, members of the Ayviktook Trust Fund Committee are some examples of people who give of their time for our community. I'd like to thank them all. *Nakummek, UKattik.*

MR. SAUNDERS:

Thank you, Ordinary Member. The next Ordinary Member to speak from Postville, Ms. Gear. Sorry, it's - my apology, Mr. Barry Andersen from Makkovik, please.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise this morning just to make a statement that all the AngajukKâk and CAOs from the respective communities will be attending Goose Bay on March 26, 27th, 2026 to the Municipalities of Newfoundland and Labrador conference Northern Region. To date, after a couple of requests to the Nunatsiavut Government we have not heard if anyone from the Nunatsiavut Government will attend that meeting to hear the concerns of the - each ICG at core operations and the struggles we are finding that we're having. Community freezer, thing that's being

put on us. We have no means of operating that. We've got no buildings. There's all kinds of other things that's coming into play that we have no knowledge of, but it's being told of us that it's coming to greenhouse. Like who's going to pay for that insurance? Where's it going to sit? On whose land? That kind of thing. So, it would've been nice to have somebody at that table at the end of this month. But I guess it is what it is. The heartbeat of Nunatsiavut are the ICGs. I'll keep saying that over and over until I get heard. So, I'll just leave that issue right there. Mr. Speaker, to our fellow AngajukKâk, I did share a message, an email message that I had from the Canadian - the Canada Post Union that the Canada Postmaster in Makkovik resigned in early January. So, there's a new - there's an application process going out for the Canada Post, Postmaster. The union says that Canada Post has a policy now that if there's a new Postmaster coming into a remote small community then the hours are going to be cut. They can't cut the hours of the present operations with the present Postmasters in place but once the new one comes in, there's a possibility as has happened in Port Hope since Labrador so that the hours are cut down to like five hours a day or whatever that email said that I sent out to my fellow AngajukKât. So that is a concern in our communities as well for Canada Post. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. The next Members' Statement will come from the AngajukKâk for the community of Postville, Ms. Melanie Gear. When you're ready.

MS. GEAR:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to bring up a couple of services that we're still lacking in Postville. Our community is the smallest in Nunatsiavut and we are - but we are still part of it. First of all, our police presence is still almost non-existent in our community. It feels like this service is getting worse and not better. Police have been coming to our community to do patrols maybe twice a year unless they need to come in and deal with something. Both of these types of visits are still only for a day with no overnight patrols. They come in the morning and are gone again before supper. This is an ongoing issue that we as a Government need to address. We need the services in our community as much as any other community. Secondly, we still only operate with one nurse in our community. Our nurses are coming to town on four-week rotations working in the station for seven hours a day and on-call for the other 17 hours a day. They have after-hour calls and emergencies that they have to deal with for 24 hours a day. We need to keep pushing for a second nurse. We appreciate so much how these nurses are able to keep going after spending days and nights at times in the hospital with emergencies and then still remain on call and working their regular days afterwards. Something needs to be done. Thankyou, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk. We will now hear a Members' Statement from the Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Mr. Roland Saunders.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I'd like to thank the organizations across Canada that I've attended meetings with and gatherings, the

people in Fort McMurray, the Inuit Edmontonmiut(ph) group, Atelihai, First Light, St. John's, the Inuit Choir in St. John's and again the people in St. Anthony, Grand Falls, Deer Lake. I've traveled quite a bit. And the people in Cartwright. But one of the most amazing things that I really enjoyed was going to see the seniors in Mary's Harbour. They've appreciated everything we've done for them. It was good for them to have visitors. And if you ever travel to the South Coast, please stop in Mary's Harbour, go see a relative. I'm sure there's relatives of yours there. I know there's some MacNeills there and a few other people. It's wonderful organizations. And thank you, for - Nunatsiavut for allowing me to do this. It took some time to get into the system, but it was worthwhile, and I really enjoyed it and it was good to have the Speaker along with me to quite a few of those organizations. We visit the Maritimes. Very poor turnout but that's to be expected, I guess. The people had to travel, whereas you folks, you can go from door-to-door. We have to go to province to province and territory - whatever. But I truly appreciate everything that's been done. I enjoyed my job tremendously and it was good to have people backing me up. And I thank you, very much, and I wish you all good fortune and good health. Thank you. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member. Are there any other first statements around the Table at this time? Recognizing the AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Mr. Chesley Sheppard, when you're ready.

MR. SHEPPARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Rigolet was honoured to host the Winter Sports Meet this year. There was a great turnout. It was nice weather. Glad everyone got in except for when they were leaving Nain got stuck an extra couple days. But it was nice weather for the athletes to participate. It was great entertainment. It was an emotional one for me. All three of my kids made it. And it was my oldest's(ph) last one and my youngest's first one. So it was pretty emotional, but it was great. And I'd also like to thank the volunteers and the billets of the community of Rigolet for taking in the athletes and to help with all the support. Without you guys we wouldn't be able to host the sports meet in our town, so greatly appreciate all the people involved. And also the Cain's Quest. That was great entertainment that passed through. And same for that, I'd like to thank all the volunteers, otherwise we would not be able to have a checkpoint in Rigolet. Thanks, for all the support and work. The Rigolet Community Government has provided funding for maintenance to our trail through the narrows, our skidoo trail which has been completed and had a lot of good feedback from the communities traveling the trail. We also have our Tasiujatsoak annual festival coming up March 20th for partnership with the Levi Pottle Memorial Dog Team race. That's March 20th. We invite all to come and especially all the dog mushers. Yeah, thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Are there any other first Members' Statements around the Table? Recognizing the Ordinary Member for Postville, Mr. George Gear, when you're ready.

MR. GEAR:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to congratulate all the dart players that played in the tournament in Goose Bay this past weekend. Three from Postville made it to the represent Labrador in the Nationals and one that's living away but he's from Postville, and one from Makkovik, who is my nephew, he made it this year. So, five related to me. And to Ethan Ford-Goudie for winning the Youth Division. And my nephew's son in Makkovik who made it as well. And I wish him all the best of luck when he goes out to the Nationals. There'll be a lot of people there, like hundreds and hundreds, so I wish him all the best of luck. And I'd like to wish all the Winter Games athletes that's going to the Winter Games now soon next week, all the best of luck and represent their communities. And I hope you do very well. And most of all is to have fun and get to know each other. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member. Are there any more first Members' Statements around the Table at this time? Seeing none, we will take a 15-minute break back at 20 minutes after the hour. *Nakummek*.

[Recess]

MR. WINTERS:

Welcome back. Are there any second Members' Statements around the Table? Recognizing the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, whenever you're ready, Ms. Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS:

Nakummek. Cain's Quest has since passed through our communities. Even though there were no teams from our Nunatsiavut communities in this world's largest snowmobile race, I want to acknowledge the huge

amount of work that our volunteers did in each community to prepare and receive such a race. Everything from lead volunteers who carefully planned and worked with the Cain's Quest chairperson to the many volunteers in our communities who prepared meals, set up checkpoints and act as timekeepers and safety controllers. In Hopedale, it was our youth who came out in droves to volunteer and learn from our seasoned volunteers to help keep the race safe and orderly while driving in our community limits to their checkpoints. Mr. Speaker, it is these very youth who will be tomorrow's leaders, racers, and workforce and I couldn't be prouder of them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk. The next Members statement will be from the AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In this statement I'd like to bring up something that I'm pretty biased about and that's the Junior Canadian Ranger Program in Makkovik and within the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Fifth Canadian Ranger Patrol Group, Junior Canadian Rangers. Junior Canadian Ranger Jamie Andersen competed in Makkovik for the National - or Provincial Marksmanship Competition along with four others from our community - four other Junior Rangers that is. Jamie Andersen qualified to go to the Provincials in St. John's leaving here on Friday coming weather permitting, to compete for the National Marksmanship Program within the Canadian Ranger Patrol Group. So I'd like to congratulate Jamie Andersen for her marksmanship skills enabling her to travel out to St. John's to have a fun meet in St. John's and

hopefully move on to the Nationals in Valcourt Quebec in May. Also, I'd like to thank all the volunteers as well as AngajukKâk friend from Hopedale mentioned with the Cain's Quest, all the volunteers that showed up and helped up for the Cain's Quest event this year. And I'd like to congratulate Mr. Malleck and his son, Sebastian on the completion of the race and winning for a second straight year, second straight time, I should say, not year. And Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the Hopedale Moravian Choir performing here this morning. It was a great show and I was happy to see that happen here this morning. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Our next Members' Statement will come from the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen.

MR. W. ANDERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanna carry on a little bit from my statement this morning because it's kinda hard to put four years into five minutes. Mr. Speaker, I wanna thank the former Ministers of Lands and Natural Resources the Honourable Terry Vincent who during question period one time I asked him if the beneficiaries in the Upper Lake Melville Area could get one meal of caribou per household. At that time we weren't getting enough to give our seniors a meal. He took it to the Executive Council, and it passed. And I wanna thank Minister Vincent and the Executive Council. And you'll never now what it meant to these people to get a meal of caribou. Expressions like, "This is like gold to me." And I thank the Minister and the Executive Council for that. I wanna thank the Chairperson of NunaKatiget. I got the name right - for

sharing and for her inviting me to any functions like having a Bingo and a meal at the assisted living or in Headlands Apartments for seniors and traveling to Mud Lake. I've enjoyed this very much and sharing this experience with our beneficiaries and our seniors is heartwarming. To the Chairperson of Sivunivut, Mr. Jeff Montague, thank you, for the invites to your seniors and your Tuesday Bingos and it's working together. It meant so much. Mr. Speaker, finally, I want to pay tribute to our civil servants. And I know sometimes it's not really right to single out a few but I wanna say a special thank you to the Deputy Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Jim Goudie and Mr. Todd Broomfield for addressing some fishery issues that came up on the weekend and it needed immediate attention. And they responded with the answer as fast as anyone could expect; to the Deputy Minister of Department of Health and Social Development, Michelle Kenney. Mr. Speaker, many times I've gone to her with urgent issues and I remember one in particular, a family had lost a child in St. John's who was Medevac'd out and the child passed away. And it was Canada Day holiday. The family called me. I went to the residence of Michelle Kenney. Here she was with her lawn mower, mowing her lawn, and I explained to her what happened. Mr. Speaker, one o'clock that afternoon the family called me thanking me and saying that everything was taken care of, to which I replied, "Don't thank me. Thank Michelle Kenney and her staff for fulfilling the problem that they encountered. Mr. Speaker, our civil servants, many times, they don't get the credit for the work they do. And many times the answer that people

is looking for is not the answer that the people asking the questions are looking for. But there are rules and regulations and it's been an honour to work with a lot of these people. So Mr. Speaker, I'll conclude now, and it's been a good four years. And the last thing I will say is I took many things away from the Assembly but I can say last night - sometimes I get a bit emotional, but I was almost brought to tears when I heard the Alcohol and Drug Committee come forward and to hear Members speak, and to hear that the willingness to address an ugly problem that faces our people, that the committee and the Assembly want to tackle it. And there's one thing, one goal is that to provide a better service and make things better for our people. And I wanna thank the Alcohol and Drug Committee for bringing forward, and I want to thank the speakers who spoke last night because, Mr. Speaker, it's the first time since I've been here that I've saw the willingness and the concern, and most important of all, the will to go ahead and to make things better. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

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

MR. SHEPPARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to say good luck and have fun to Rigolet Winter Games Team in the upcoming Winter Games. But I also would like to thank - wish the Women's Dart League of Rigolet good luck in their coming tournament coming up as our colleagues on the team,

one of the teams. I wish them the best of luck. And as they did before, do us proud. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Are there any other Members' Statements around the Table? Recognizing the Ordinary Member for the community of Makkovik, Mr. Tom Evans.

MR. EVANS:

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll just be brief. I don't have anything written down but I just want to mention because our AngajukKâk from Makkovik mentioned the Winter Games, Cain's Quest, and the JCR Program, the individuals in the dart tournament, Cal Gear, and they - but I just wanted to also mention and congratulate the athletes from Makkovik that participated in the volleyball tournament in Hopedale. And also I just wanna mention the hockey tournament in Nain and the Mary Dicker - I mean Mark Dicker Tournament. There was a lot of youth participating as well as adults. And they all enjoyed it. And it was good to see the comradery and I mentioned in my Ministers' statements about the speak-off and the Pan Labrador Choir and I just wanted to mention with the Big Land Lego, I'd like to mention Mr. - Vice Principal of our school, Mr. Dion Rideout. He puts a lot of time and not all of our fine young people are involved in sports but the - it's good that they participate in science and those events. So - and Gracie Jararuse and Sasha Mitchell-Rumbolt, they finished in first place. So I just wanted to mention them. And of course we also reflect on our last four years. We said good-bye to a lot of our fine folk in our communities. But we continue on and we continue on because we do it for them. And that's

what they would want. And so the elections coming up now, I just wanted to wish everybody all the best and to those who don't run or don't get in, thank you. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member. Are there any more Members' Statements around the Table at this time? Seeing none, I will ask the Deputy Speaker to take my Chair.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Thank you, Ordinary Member Winters. Do you have a statement?

MR. WINTERS:

I do. *Ullâkut*. At our final sitting of the Fifth Assembly, I want to thank all of the people I've worked with and learned from over this term. Everyone in this room, the President, First Minister, the rest of the Ministers, AngajukKât, Chairpeople, and Ordinary Members. Everyone in this room as well as the NG Civil Service, the Assembly building staff and especially the Clerk of the Assembly Darlene Winters, and Assistant to the Clerk of the Assembly, Tabea Onalik that really make this happen as well as the IT support and our incredible interpreters. I want to thank the people at the Amaguk Hotel and Hopedalimiut for always making us feel like our home away from home. When we were first sworn in four years ago in May, I had a short speech written but I couldn't stop my hands and voice from shaking long enough to give it. It was about my parents, my grandparents, my great-uncles, Max Winters and Bill Edmunds who were each elected officials in the Nunatsiavut Assembly and Labrador Inuit Association. Good luck to my colleagues seeking re-election in the next couple of months, as well as those who have decided to take their careers in a different direction. I also want to personally mention my

colleague in Edmonton, the man with the worst travel luck I've ever seen, the Honourable Roland Saunders. You've been an incredible ally, confident, and mentor to me in both of your roles with the Assembly, and I can't thank you enough for everything I've learned from you over this term. Thanks, Rol. I hope that I have made proud all of my family members, friends and the constituents who encouraged me and helped with my election campaign and have supported me and trusted me to do this work. It has been an absolute honour to serve our people living in the Canadian Constituency. I'm thankful for all of the people I've gotten to meet and the opportunities I've had to build relationships with incredible Labrador Inuit living all across this country, many who are also working for the benefit of all Inuit. *Nakummesuak*.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Thank you, Ordinary Member Winters. Thank you, Mr. Winters. Thank you. Have a good day.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Deputy Speaker and *Nakummek*, to the interpreters' booth. Are there any more Members' Statements around the Table at this time? Seeing none, that brings us to, "Returns to Oral Questions." We have two returns to oral questions today. Recognizing the Minister for the Department of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology, as well as the Acting Minister of Language, Culture and Tourism, the Honourable David Dicker, when you're ready. Members, these are not yet in the binders.

MR. DICKER JR.:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. Oral Question Chair for the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, Patricia Kemuksigak to Minister of Finance,

Human Resources and Information Technology, David Dicker Jr., March 3, 2026. Question, "Beneficiaries are concerned about the number of non-beneficiaries and foreign workers at the Nunatsiavut Government. Can you get statistics?"

Response: The Nunatsiavut Civil Service has 470 employees, of which 78 percent are beneficiaries to the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement*, as of March 31, 2025. These statistics can be broken down by community. March 31, 2025, Nain, total employees, 127. Number of beneficiaries, 115. Percentage beneficiaries, 91 percent. Hopedale total employees, 72. Number of beneficiaries 67. Percentage of beneficiaries, 93 percent. Makkovik, total employees 44. Number of beneficiaries, 37. Percentage of beneficiaries, 84 percent. Postville total employees, 10. Number of beneficiaries 10. Percentage of beneficiaries, 100 percent. Rigolet, total employees 29. Number of beneficiaries 28. Percentage of beneficiaries, 97 percent. Upper Lake Melville total employees 184. Number of beneficiaries 106. Percentage of beneficiaries, 58 percent. Voisey's Bay Mine site, total employees two. Number of beneficiaries, two. Percentage beneficiaries, 100 percent. Remote, total employees two, number of beneficiaries, zero. Percentage of beneficiaries, zero. Again, total employees 470. Number of beneficiaries 365. Percentage of beneficiaries, 78 percent.

Supplemental question. What plan do we have so we can hire more beneficiaries in these positions?

Response: the Nunatsiavut Government has preferential hiring for qualified beneficiaries. *Nakummek, UKattik.*

MR. WINTERS:

I'll ask the Minister to provide his second return. *Nakummek.*

MR. DICKER JR.:

Nakummek, UKattik.

Oral Question, AngajukKâk Melanie Gear to Acting Minister of Language,

Culture and Tourism, David Dicker Jr. March 3, 2026. Question:

Nunatsiavut Government will be administering the funds on behalf of the TRC. No funding was received for the last year. She heard that the Nunatsiavut Government was going to be administering and wondering when it was going to start.

Response: Torngat Recreation Commission is no longer an active commission. The Nunatsiavut Government is in the process of creating a new Nunatsiavut Recreation Fund that will support athlete travel and community capacity building and sports development. This program is still in the development phase but is near completion. The new Nunatsiavut Recreation Fund will have to go to the Nunatsiavut Executive Council for approval before it can be administered. And the Department of Language, Culture and Tourism plans to do this in the new fiscal year. There will be communication shared on the Nunatsiavut Government social media platforms and website about this program once it is open for applications. We plan to communicate with all of the Inuit Community Governments before the program is launched to help answer any

questions. We apologize for the delay in mobilizing this program.

Nakummek.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. That brings us to Item Five, "Oral Questions." Do any Assembly Members have oral questions at this time? Recognizing the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville Mr. Wally Andersen, when you're ready, sir.

MR. W. ANDERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister. Minister, do you have any update since the last Assembly meeting on the proposed road for the North Coast of Labrador?

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. First Minister, whenever you're ready.

MS. WILLIAMS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Ordinary Member for the question. I have raised this issue with Minister Petten at the Provincial Government last week. The Province is not ready to release the pre-feasibility report. However, during our meeting we emphasized the need to do that move forward with feasibility. So, the Province will take it back and consider getting the report released. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Does the Ordinary Member have a supplemental question?

Nakummek. Are there any other questions around the Table at this time? Recognizing the Chairperson for the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak, when you're ready.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is to the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, the Honourable George Gear. What is the Nunatsiavut

Government's position on the proposed Gull Island Project, as there will be more methylmercury in Lake Melville?

MR. WINTERS:

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

MR. GEAR:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, ma'am for your question. For Gull Island we don't have anything formal yet because it's not on the go and not agreed to by the different Governments. But saying that our - we got some workers that's still doing testing on methylmercury. And as the reports come in - and there's not enough yet to report because it's under the Health Canada Regulations. So, if any higher reports comes in then they've gotta be notice to the public it will be done then. So that's all I can report on now. But if you want a better answer, I can take it under notice and get you a better answer. *Nakummek*.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Minister. Does the Chairperson have a supplemental question?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

No, Mr. Speaker, but thank you for taking it under advisement.

MR. WINTERS:

Are there any further questions around the Table at this time?

Recognizing the AngajukKâk for Postville, Ms. Melanie Gear, when you're ready.

MS. GEAR:

My question is for Minister Barbour. I'm just wondering, has anything been done for - to try to secure a second nurse for Postville or is there any update on this? Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

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

MS. BARBOUR: *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker, and *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk for your question.

In my Ministers' Statement I have outlined that Deputy Minister Kinney had met with the CEO for NLHS and there's a Labrador Task Committee that outlines a lot of issues that Labrador Inuit face within Goose Bay as well as in Nunatsiavut. And staffing is one of those priority conversation lists to be able to address those concerns. Nurses are hired through the Province, and it is in the jurisdiction of the Province to hire them.

However, we have been bringing forward a number of issues with the staff in all of Nunatsiavut. But I will take this back and ensure that it's still a priority conversation with the NLHS and the CEO. *Nakummek*.

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

MS. GEAR: No, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*. We will now have a question from the Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation Chair, Mr. Jeff Montague.

MR. MONTAGUE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've got a question for the First Minister regarding area 12E. Minister, what advice could the Minister provide to members in the Upper Lake Melville and in North West River who wish to hunt ducks and geese in the spring? Now I don't mean to ruffle any feathers, but that's a fair question.

MR. WINTERS: Appreciate the pun, Chairperson. First Minister, whenever you're ready.

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Chairperson for the question.

There is no ability for 12E hunting at this time. As mentioned in the last

Assembly, we are trying to work with the Implementation Committee to move this file forward. I don't have the report from the Implementation Committee since our last Assembly meeting, but that is something that is being worked in within the Implementation Committee. Thankyou, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Chairperson for the question.

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

MR. MONTAGUE: Yes. But I don't want to make it sound like I'm repeating the question. Are you advising people not to hunt in the spring?

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

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you. That is correct. We do not have - the 12E was a nine-year term that has expired and at currently they are not permitted to hunt in 12E. Thank you, for your question.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Does the Chairperson have a second supplemental question? Shaking his head, no. Are there any other questions around the Table at this time? Seeing none, that brings us to Item Six.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: I was going to ask a second question (inaudible).

MR. WINTERS: Calling on the Chairperson of the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak. Apologies. Ask your second question, Chairperson.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure who best to answer this question, if it's the Minister of Language, Culture and Tourism or the Minister of Health and Social Development. But in regard to the Hebron Project, where families can apply to be considered to go up to Hebron in the

summer, the ones that were originally from Hebron, how do people go about applying or is there an application people fill out? Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Chairperson. I see both Ministers writing. Whenever you're ready, Minister Barbour.

MS. BARBOUR:

So, over the last few years since we've had a new regional youth manager, they've been operating a youth trip to Hebron every year, and an annual caribou-hunting trip. And a call for applications is usually put out. So, if it's not already it should be coming out in the coming days, and they have contact information there. And we try to be very inclusive of all communities, Upper Lake Melville and the Canadian Constituency. So that's - I can speak to that piece, but for the other program, that's under the direction of the Minister of LCT. *Nakummek*.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Minister Barbour. Would Minister Dicker like to provide a response on that side of things?

MR. DICKER JR.:

Nakummek, *UKattik*. And *Nakummek*, NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation Patricia Kemuksigak, for the question. In terms of programs for the Hebron programming as advised as well, there have been notices put out and application processes being considered of all the five Inuit respective communities as well as Upper Lake Melville. But at this time I can't provide any updates. I'm not sure if there's any programs coming out, but I'll definitely take that question under notice and like I said, if there's any upcoming programs, the Language and Culture Department do put out notices, and there is an application process. *Nakummek*.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*, Ministers. I appreciate the expansive response from both of you. Does the Chairperson have a supplemental question?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*. Are there any other first or second questions around the Table at this time? Recognizing the AngajukKâk for Postville, Ms. Melanie Gear.

MS. GEAR: My question is for - thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for Minister Williams. Is there any update on an increase of RCMP presence to Postville? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, AngajukKâk for your question. I want to advise the AngajukKâk that every table that I sit, that there's a conversation around policing in any community. I ensure that I raise Postville and the need to have a permanent presence in that committee - community, sorry. And as I advised previously to the Assembly in the past, throughout the term if there are issues and concerns - because I normally have conversations with RCMP about the visitation for that community - I've asked that I be advised if there are - if the RCMP are not doing regular patrols that, that community reach out to me to inform me. I haven't had any information prior to the - to your questions today. So I can follow up with the RCMP to see what the status of the patrols are and why they're not being held regularly. Thank you, AngajukKâk, and thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MS. GEAR: No, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*. Are there any other - yes, recognizing the President, Johannes Lampe?

PRESIDENT LAMPE: *Nakummek, UKattik*. Yes, the question posed by the AngajukKâk for Postville. This issue has been outstanding for a long time. And the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, ITK and also the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and girls, you know, have taken many issues seriously including the presence of RCMPs within Inuit communities, whether it's through Inuit Nunangat, and including Nunatsiavut. And Postville has for a long time, not had an RCMP member in the community of Postville. But this is listed on the ITK agenda. And will continue to be discussed and also where the MMIWG asks, there are 47. And this is very high in those numbers. And we will continue to support Postville, the Nunatsiavut community in seeking RCMP members in the community. *Nakummek, UKattik*.

MR. WINTERS: Thank you, for the additional information, Mr. President. Are there any more questions around the Table at this time, first or second? Seeing none, that brings us to Item Six, "Written Questions." Are there any written questions around the Table? Recognizing the AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Mr. Chesley Sheppard. Pages, would you be able to run this over? *Nakummek*. The written question is in order and will be

responded to in the allotted time. *Nakummek*. Are there any other written questions around the Table? Seeing none - yes, First Minister.

MS. WILLIAMS:

Mr. Speaker, will you advise the Assembly on who the question is directed to, please?

MR. WINTERS:

I appreciate you feeling the target on your back, but it's for the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, the Honourable George Gear.

Nakummek. We're on to Item Seven, "Returns to Written Questions."

There are no returns to written questions today. Item Eight is,

"Petitions." Are there any petitions today? Seeing none, Item Nine is,

"Responses to petitions." There are no responses to petitions today.

Item 10 is the, "Reports of Standing in Special Committees." And there

are no standing or special committee reports today. Item 11 is the,

"Tabling of Documents." I would like to recognize the treasurer of the

Nunatsiavut Government, the Honourable David Dicker Jr.

MR. DICKER JR.:

Thank you. Honourable Speaker. As required by the *Labrador Inuit*

Constitution, I am pleased to table the Nunatsiavut Government Financial

Plan 2026-2027. *Nakummek*.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Minister Dicker. The tabled document will be numbered as

04-5(11). There are no more documents to be tabled today which brings

us to Item 12, "Notices of Motion." I would like to again recognize the

Nunatsiavut treasurer, the Honourable David Dicker Jr.

MR. DICKER JR.:

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, March

5th, 2026, I will move seconded by the First Minister, Melva Williams as

follows: Whereas the Nunatsiavut Executive Council is required to prepare a Consolidated Financial Plan for each fiscal year and present it to the Assembly, and whereas the Financial Plan 2026-2027 has been tabled in the Assembly, and whereas the Financial Plan should be considered by the Assembly, I move, seconded by the First Minister, the Honourable Melva Williams that Tabled Document 04-5(11), the Financial Plan 2026-2027 be moved into the Committee of the Whole for discussion in conjunction with Bill 2026-02, *The Budget Act 2026* and that Ms. Rexanne Crawford, the Comptroller of the Nunatsiavut Government be called as a witness. And Mr. Speaker, I am seeking unanimous consent of the Assembly to waive SO 37(1) to deal with this motion today.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with his motion today. All those in favour? Any opposed? Seeing none, Minister, you have consent to bring your motion today at the appropriate time. There are no more notices of motions today. So, we'll move on to Item 13, "Notices of motion for First Reading of Bills." I recognize again, the Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology, The Honourable David Dicker Jr.

MR. DICKER JR.:

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, March 5th, 2026 I will move, seconded by the First Minister, the Honourable Melva Williams, the first reading of Bill 2026-02, *The Budget 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 Minister is asking for unanimous consent to proceed with first reading today. All those in favour? Any opposed? Seeing none, Minister, you have consent from the Assembly to proceed with first reading at the appropriate time, which brings us to Item 14, "Motions." I recognize the Nunatsiavut treasurer, the Honourable David Dicker Jr.

MR. DICKER JR.: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Whereas the Nunatsiavut Executive Council is required to prepare a consolidated Financial Plan for each fiscal year and present it to the Assembly, and whereas the Financial Plan 2026-2027 has been tabled in the Assembly, and whereas the Financial Plan should be considered by the Assembly, now, therefore I move seconded by the First Minister, the Honourable Melva Williams that Tabled Document 04-5(11), The Financial Plan, 2026-2027 be moved into the Committee of the Whole for discussion in conjunction with Bill 2026-02, *The Budget Act 2026* and that Ms. Rexanne Crawford, the Comptroller of the Nunatsiavut Government be called as a witness.

MR. WINTERS: The motion is in order. Would you like to speak to the motion?

MR. DICKER JR.: *Auka, Mr. Speaker. Nakummek.*

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

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

MR. WINTERS: That concludes debate. All those in favour of the motion? Any opposed? Seeing none. Financial Plan 2026-2027 will be moved into the Committee of the Whole for discussion in conjunction with Bill 2026-02, *The Budget*

Act 2026 at the appropriate time. I would like to recognize the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, the Honourable George Gear.

MR. GEAR:

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I move, seconded by Minister of Education and Economic Development, the Honourable Tom Evans as follows: Whereas the Nunatsiavut Clean Energy Corporation has made a request to the Nunatsiavut Government for an interest in a 2.11 hectare portion of Labrador Inuit lands within parcels, LIL-02C and LIL-03C, which is located within the Inuit Community of Nain, for the purpose of establishing a collector line associated with the Nain Wind Microgrid project in the community. Whereas the Department of Lands and Natural Resources has determined that an easement would be the appropriate interest to be created for the use intended; whereas Section 2.11(1)(b) of the *Labrador Inuit Lands Act* states that the Minister cannot issue an interest in Labrador Inuit lands within an Inuit community without written approval of the Nunatsiavut Assembly. Be it resolved that under the authority of Section 2.11(1)(b) of the *Labrador Inuit Lands Act*, and subject to the requirements of the application registry, and any conditions the Minister is entitled to impose under authority of the *Labrador Inuit Lands Act*, the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources is hereby authorized to issue an easement over a 2.11 hectare portion of Labrador Inuit Lands, within Parcel LIL-02C and LIL-03C located within the Inuit community of Nain to the Nunatsiavut Clean Energy Corporation for the purposes of establishing a collector line for the Nain Wind Microgrid project. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

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

MR. GEAR:

Yes, sir, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, thank you. There are Labrador Inuit lands within all of our Inuit communities. And therefore, any development must follow the requirements of the *Labrador Inuit Lands Act*. The easement is required in order to advance the development of Nain Wind Microgrid project. I am seeking the Assembly's support on this motion for the Nunatsiavut Clean Energy Corporation. The *Labrador Inuit Lands Act* states that the Minister cannot issue an interest in Labrador Inuit lands within a Inuit community without written approval of the Nunatsiavut Assembly. The department has determined that an easement is the appropriate interest for the intended use. Mr. Speaker, we as an Inuit Government continue to make progress on the road to self-governance including in relation to the management of our own resources. Renewable resource projects such as the Nain Wind Microgrid project are of tremendous importance for the expansion and growth of our communities, and to reduce pollution in the environment. In 2020, the Nunatsiavut Government selected the renewable energy firm, Natural Forces, to provide technical expertise while being a project partner for a wind microgrid project in Nain. It took a few years to access project funding partners, complete the engineering and design work, and to undertake the environmental assessment processes leading up to this request for an easement. In basic terms, the project consists of a three-megawatt wind turbine microgrid system, two turbines. Included in

construction of an access road and collector line or power line intersecting two Labrador Inuit land parcels to a battery energy storage system, all directly tied into the Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro's current community diesel power supply. The collector line power line will connect the turbines to the battery system, then to the Nain diesel plant. Once commissioned it is estimated the project will supply a significant amount of annual renewable energy, and offset over 1.2 million litres of diesel annually. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, contingent on these critical approvals including all associated permits, civil construction of the road to the wind turbine site and laydown paths will begin in June 2026. This will lead to the operations in late 2027 or early 2028. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Would anyone else like to speak to the motion? If no other member wishes to peak, does the Minister wish to make final comments and close debate? *Nakummek.* That concludes debate. All those in favour of the motion? Any opposed? Seeing none, we will move on to Item 15, "The First Reading of Bills." First reading of Bill 2026-02, *The Budget Act 2026*, I would like to recognize the Minister of Finance, the Honourable David Dicker Jr.

MR. DICKER JR.:

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I move, seconded by the First Minister that Bill 2026-02, *The Budget Act 2026* now be introduced and read for the first time.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Would you like to introduce the Bill?

MR. DICKER JR.:

Yes, Mr. Speaker. Introduction. Mr. Speaker, it is my honour as Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology to present the 2026-2027 Budget of the Nunatsiavut Government. The Nunatsiavut Government prides itself on being transparent and accountable to Labrador Inuit and indeed to all of our partners. We have listened to feedback from Labrador Inuit and built solutions to everyday issues into the strategies and plans of the Nunatsiavut Government. This Financial Plan focuses on strengthening our Inuit communities through strategic infrastructure and housing investments, increasing resiliency and wellbeing of Labrador Inuit through language, culture, community and mental wellness projects, programs and services, all with the goal of building a strong and resilient Nunatsiavut. Strategic infrastructure and housing investments. Mr. Speaker, the Nunatsiavut Government will receive \$33 million from the Government of Canada in 2026-2027 to address housing in Nunatsiavut. These funds as well as funds not expended in prior years will assist housing initiatives in the 2026-2027 fiscal year. It will fund the current year's commitment to the Nunatsiavut Housing Commissions, operations and programs of \$9.2 million, with an additional \$13 million to deliver the Nunatsiavut Government's Emergency Repair and Affordable Warmth Home Repair programs. The Nunatsiavut Government heard through community engagement sessions, the smaller homes are seen as more affordable and ideal for youth and those facing hidden homelessness. With this feedback, the Nunatsiavut Government has committed \$23 million to begin the

Illukuluk project in Nain and Hopedale with plans to develop 20 units.

The Nunatsiavut Growth Land Development and Housing Strategy will be finalized in the upcoming year. Mr. Speaker, its objectives will guide the future allocation of financial resources to address the housing crisis in Nunatsiavut and improve the lives of Labrador Inuit. There are many infrastructure needs in our communities, driven by aging assets, growing populations and the expanding responsibilities of the Nunatsiavut Government. Mr. Speaker, the Nunatsiavut Government cannot address all these needs alone. The Inuit Community Governments are allocated \$8.6 million for the community capital projects for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. Of these funds there is \$2.3 million dedicated specifically to water and wastewater projects. Under the Indigenous Community Infrastructure Fund the Nunatsiavut Government received \$61 million from the Government of Canada to address gaps in infrastructure. Mr. Speaker, in the 2026-2027 fiscal year, funds are committed to the Wildfire Resiliency Plan, improvements in broadband, new facilities for the Inuagguait Language Nest Programs in Nain and Hopedale as well as waste management and other capital projects.

Stronger Communities. The Inuit Community Governments play a vital role in the success of each community. This Financial Plan appropriates \$9.13 million for their operations and services. In addition, beginning in the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the Nunatsiavut Government has committed an extra \$100,000 per community to help address their ongoing needs. Mr. Speaker, there are commitments to continue to support the

Nunatsiavut Energy Security Plan with funding for positions, and to action items including being able to leverage other funds, to address energy insecurity in Nunatsiavut. As a Government we need to be able to respond to emergencies in Nunatsiavut with a clear plan. The Nunatsiavut Secretariat has engaged a consultant to assist with developing an emergency response plan with the goal for completion in the upcoming fiscal year and begin its implementation; to foster economic growth in Nunatsiavut. There are funds appropriated to support Community economic development, tourism officers employed by the Inuit Community Governments. In addition, Mr. Speaker, the Nunatsiavut Government will support initiatives to foster economic growth with \$275,000 for community projects, programs for artists and craftspeople and funds for tourism. The Fishery Fund has grown to \$12.7 million. All funds have been budgeted to allow the Nunatsiavut Government to avail of fishing opportunities as they arise. Resiliency and well-being of Labrador Inuit. Labrador Inuit are stronger when we are connected to our way of life, our language and our culture, Mr. Speaker. This year's Financial Plan recognizes it and commits funds to practising our unique culture and traditions. The Department of Language, Culture and Tourism currently has one division with the responsibility of Language and Culture. The department plans to create a stand-alone division dedicated to the preservation, use and development of Inuttitut. And the other division focusing on culture and heritage. This reorganization requires the additional of two new positions, a director

and a program manager. There are funds allocated for the Inuagguait Language Nest Programs. The terminology workshop Inuttitut classes for the Nunatsiavut Civil Service, as well as to develop an Inuttitut immersion program. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education and Economic Development will receive \$12.5 million for education initiatives. \$3.8 million has been committed to Newfoundland and Labrador schools to support Inuttitut teachers and teacher aides, curriculum development, enhance numeracy and literacy initiatives and events such as sports meets, choir, drama and other student leadership activities. There is \$43.7 million under the Fiscal Financing Agreement for programs and services under the Department of Health and Social Development. These funds, Mr. Speaker are used to support Labrador Inuit in accessing primary health care to address substance abuse and addictions, suicide prevention, mental wellness and Tuberculosis elimination, to name a few programs, all critical to the well-being of Labrador Inuit. Supporting Nunatsiavut Government. Mr. Speaker, our Government continues to grow in both its scope and responsibilities. Each department is advancing important work that strengthens programs, modernizes operations and supports the well-being of Labrador Inuit and our communities. There are ongoing efforts to protect land and treaty rights, advance the Inuit Ancestry database, modernize the financial human resource management and information technology and data systems, and support the Nunatsiavut Civil Service, with professional development, recognition of their service to the Nunatsiavut

Government and most importantly a three percent salary increase for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. The Nunatsiavut Government is in a strong fiscal position supported by funding received from the Government of Canada through the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*, \$5.775 million in personal income tax revenue, \$2.1 million in goods and services taxes, and \$12.8 million received from the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Implementation Trust*.

Conclusion, Mr. Speaker, this Financial Plan is more than a budget. It is a statement of our belief in the strength and potential of all beneficiaries of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement*:. The value and strengthening our communities and preserving our Inuit way of life, with a total budget of \$440 million, we continue the important work of building a strong, vibrant, sustainable and prosperous Nunatsiavut. *Nakummek, UKattik*.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Minster, and *Nakummek* to the interpreters' booth. That was impressive. The motion is in order. I'd like to remind everyone before I ask, that at first reading each Member may speak to the motion once. It's not the time for questions. That's during second reading and the Committee of the Whole. Would anyone else like to speak to the motion at this time? Seeing none, does the Minister wish to conclude the debate?

MR. DICKER JR.:

Nakummek, UKattik. I wish to conclude debate.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. That concludes the debate on first reading. Is the Assembly in favour of approving Bill 2026-02 on first reading? All those in favour?

Any opposed? Seeing none, the motion is carried and accordingly, Bill 2026-02, *The Budget Act 2026*, has had first reading. I would like to again like to recognize the Minister of Finance, the Honourable David Dicker Jr.

MR. DICKER JR.:

Nakummek, UKattik. Honourable Speaker, in accordance with Standing Order 54(3), I seek unanimous consent to waive Standing Order 54(1)(d) to have the Assembly proceed to second reading of Bill 2026-02 *The Budget Act 2026* today. *Nakummek.*

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. In accordance with Standing Order 54(3) the Minister is seeking unanimous consent to waive Standing Order 54(1)(d) to proceed with second reading of Bill 2026-02 *The Budget Act 2026* today. All those in favour? Are there any opposed? Seeing none, Minister, you have unanimous consent so the Bill can proceed to second reading today which will begin at 1:30 Labrador time as we will now break to head to the hotel for lunch. Dress warm. *Nakummek.*

[Recess]

(2:28:07) (11:56:15)

Recording one of two ends.

0:00:00 (1:23:43)

Recording two of two begins.

MR. WINTERS:

...2026. I would like to recognize the Minister of Finance, the Honourable David Dicker Jr. for the second reading of bills.

MR. DICKER JR.:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. Honourable Speaker, in accordance with the motion passed previously by the Assembly, I now ask we move to the Committee of the Whole to consider the Financial Plan 2026-'27 in

conjunction with Bill 2026-02, and that the Bill be now read for a second time.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member, Minister. And thank you, for picking up on the correct bill number which I got wrong. We will now move into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Financial Plan along with the Budget Bill and I invite Rexanne Crawford, the NG Comptroller, to join us as a witness in the Committee of the Whole. As the Members are aware, the procedure for second reading debate will be a page-by-page and clause-by-clause review of the Budget. The Financial Plan is important for our discussions today. It will be reviewed during this Committee of the Whole discussion. After a review of the Financial Plan, we'll move to the annex of the Bill, the *Budget Act*, Annex A, then onto the clauses of the Bill, the Budget Bill. Ms. Crawford will review each page of the Financial Plan page-by-page before we get to the Budget Bill. The comptroller will explain the Financial Plan page-by-page. Please proceed when you're ready, Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Naku. Does everyone have the Financial Plan with the Nunatsiavut Government logo 2026-2027? We'll move to page 3. For purposes of the interpreters, I will not be reading this word-by-word. I'm going to highlight the key points under each section. The document has been out to all the Members for a number of days. And I'll pause after each section and take questions as we go through. Page 3, are the highlights from Section One in Annex A. This section is about the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. The main source of revenue for the Nunatsiavut

Government operations, programs and services, and fund we flow to the Inuit Community Governments, come under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* from the Government of Canada. Because of our Government-to-Government relationship, there are additional funds now being flown through this grant that we have negotiated through the Inuit Crown Partnership Committee as well as through Fiscal Financing Negotiations. So current year revenues is significant. It's \$127.3 million. There are prior year revenues budgeted under cut Schedule One. And these relate to funds that were not expended in prior years. And we are allowed to carry them forward into future years. But we have to budget them in order for us to be able to expend them. There are two - three reasons for the significant carry-forward amounts. 1. If plans or funds were not expended in that year for various reasons just in operational or we had other sources of funding to use, they would be rolled forward. There were also multiple years where funds were not received until the end of the fiscal year. It's actually been quite common that in the month of March, we'll get an amendment to our Fiscal Financing Agreement for certain funds. As an example, one year we got the funding for the Indigenous Community Infrastructure Fund. The first-year's payment was made in March. Secondly - or, sorry, secondly, the Government of Canada remitted funds on a schedule that did not match the planned expenditures as I noted about the infrastructure and housing. And even though we are now in 2026, we're still feeling some of the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic where we were not able to expend funds back in

those years. We're still carrying forward some of those funds and plans for this current year. Are there any questions on the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* revenues? Okay. So under Section One, there's also the expenditures are noted for the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. \$38.7 million is allocated to the general operations and regular programs and services of the Nunatsiavut Government. There is a significant amount for Housing. There's a commitment for \$33 million in the current year to be remitted to the Nunatsiavut Government. The Housing Commission was approved \$9.2 million for their upcoming operations.

MR. WINTERS:

Mr. Tony Andersen, did you have a question?

MR. T. ANDERSEN:

Just to clarity, that Nunatsiavut Housing Commission budget of \$9.2 million towards operations and programs, I just wonder in this sentence, what does program stand for?

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Ms. Crawford?

MS. CRAWFORD:

So, under their current plan for the 2026-'27 year, they have their Critical Repair Program will be ongoing as well as the Affordable Rental Program where they have rental properties and they're doing some maintenance and ongoing items for that. They also have plans to do - I'm going by memory - work on office space and upgrading of the warehouses in each community. They have their staffing as one of the items. But for programs, it's critical repair, it's their affordable rental program. It's continuing to advance their operations with the warehouse's improvements. And in addition to the 9.2, there's \$13 million where

they'll be advancing the Emergency Repair Program and the Affordable Warmth Program that was transferred by the Nunatsiavut Government to them to deliver.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Are there any other questions or comments at this time?

Seeing none, you may continue.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Sorry, there are other housing plans from Nunatsiavut Affairs to construct housing units. And the Minister spoke about that during her Ministerial Statements. As we all know, the Government received \$61 million on the Indigenous Communities Infrastructure Fund. Funds have been budgeted to advance many of these priorities including the Nunatsiavut Growth, Land Development and Housing Strategy, Waste Management, Fire Breaks and a number of capital projects for the Government and for the Inuit Community Governments. There are no significant changes in the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* funds received in the other program areas. Inuit Community Governments have been allocated \$9,130,500 for their operations. This includes the additional \$100,000 that was committed to each Inuit Community Government starting last fiscal year. In addition to - oh...

MR. WINTERS:

Mr. Tony Andersen, when you're ready.

MR. T. ANDERSEN:

I'm curious - it seems like you just pulled that hundred grand out vague. I was just wondering about fairness and we all want to see fairness, but a hundred grand is just allotted to each and every community it would seem that our increase per community is the same. And that's why we

receive the hundred grand. I just - I should ask the question - I wonder how you arrived at pulling this hundred-grand out of somewhere? What kind of formula? Was there a formula or it was just someone's good idea, or I don't know how to word it properly, but I think you understand what I'm trying to say here.

MR. WINTERS:

I appreciate the question, Mr. Andersen. When you're ready, Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD:

So, if you recall when the formula was changed for the allocation of funds to Inuit Community Governments, there are two components. One is on the governance side of Community Government, that regardless of the size of your community, you still have the same types of governance that you have to do. You're going to have a CAO. You're going to have a town clerk, et cetera. And then the other is a service allocation where the other amount is allocated based on the size of the community. The last year, when we reviewed the governance money that came under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* from the Government of Canada, we were able to appropriate half a million dollars. And we did a straight allocation as if it was part of the governance part, that core part of the governance. And then it is the decision of the ICGs, each one of you individually of how you want to expend that money. So I understand your question from the fairness allocation, coming from the community with the largest population, but when we looked at it, it was looking at that core operational piece. And we had been hearing that from all the, like from ICGs about the core operations.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Are there further comments or questions at this time?

Seeing none, you can continue.

MS. CRAWFORD: The second part of...

MR. WINTERS: Apologies. Mr. Barry Andersen, when you're ready.

MR. B. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And just for clarity, I think for AngajukKâk Tony Andersen from Nain there too, this is not new money. This was here, introduced last year, right? So ICG's in Makkovik, we used some of that funds for upgrading our computer systems. But we have no IT, as you know. So, we rely on outside source for development and installation of our IT services. So, I just wanted to let you know where some of our money went from the hundred K that was allocated last year.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* You may continue, Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD: The second part for Inuit communities under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* relates to capital infrastructure. And there is \$8.6 million allocated for Inuit Communities Capital Works Project of which 2.3 million is specifically received by the Nunatsiavut Government for waste-water and water projects. For Capital Infrastructure, the Nunatsiavut Government has been reviewing its office and - current office and storage requirements in each community, extensions to the Nain Administrative Building will be completed in the upcoming year, spring of 2026. And the Government is planning for potential new facilities for the Language Nest in both Nain and Hopedale; a multipurpose building and a new shelter in

Nain. And they will take the lead on construction of social housing units in Nunatsiavut. I'll just pause here for any questions. We go to page 5, Section Two of Annex A looks at the own-source revenues for the Nunatsiavut Government. We have consistent Own Source Revenues of personal income tax and an annual allocation of \$5.775 million. An estimate for the goods and services tax of \$2.1 million. We've budgeted interest and investment income. We budgeted 50 percent of the investment income earned from the previous year under the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Implementation Trust*. And this is as per a clause in their trust deed and they've had an exceptional year, so this is budgeted at \$12.791 million. We budget a Fisheries Fund and Environment Fund currently valued at just over \$13 million. The Nunatsiavut Government collects access fees from fishers for use of the fishing licences, and this is in accordance with the Commercial Fishery Policy as well as revenues earned when fish is left in the water and we sell it to be fished by another entity. And the reason we budget the entire amount as an expenditure is so that we can access fishing opportunities as they arise. There's one other point that I always like - I feel obligated to make each year, is that we did not receive any mining taxes under Part 7.5 of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement* for the 2025 and 2026 fiscal year. And this has been consistent for a number of years now. Are there any questions on the sources of our revenues? Page 6. There is a contingency fund that the Government has to maintain as per the *Labrador Inuit Constitution*. \$614,000 has been budgeted to be added to this fund bringing its total to

\$10,109,000.000. The budgets for the Inuit Community Corporations were submitted to the Executive Council and approved for a total of \$263,000 for the upcoming year. And again, just as to note, which is consistent with prior years, the Government of Canada has suspended our *Own-source Revenue Capacity Agreement* which means we do not have to make any payments under that agreement to the Government of Canada. And in the five-year plan, fluctuations occur due to capital infrastructure plans, and a small amount as we know, like elections fluctuate every second year. But mostly due to our capital infrastructure plans. Are there any questions on the projected budget and five-year plan? Go to page 7. Oh, sorry.

MR. WINTERS:

Yes, Mr. Barry Andersen, when you're ready.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Yeah, for the ICG operations, I know we've been struggling in Makkovik to keep the core operations going with the demands and expectations of the communities. Is there any plans to - with the budgets, the five-year plan to I guess bring our communities up to speed and before we lose the capacity within our communities to hire local people or just fulltime or seasonal jobs before it's too late? We have submitted a formal budget last year and it's - our budgets came back. We waited 'til late because we were waiting to see if we get extra funding for extra workers. People are demanding that the arena in our Makkovik operate. People are demanding that the youth centre operate for non-sports activities and sports activities. So, we need consistent workers, trained workers to operate the arena especially. It's just not throwing water on the arena

and hoping for it to freeze. That's not the way it works. We could lose ice overnight if we're not careful. We're seeing that happen in Newfoundland yesterday, in Port aux Basques again. They got hit with another whammy. So, I just want to make sure that the ICGs are listened to when we are asking. We are the people that's providing those services to our communities, and if we don't have the funds, we just can't do it, to get the capacity to hire on seasonal workers year after year without having to train them over - new people over and over and over with external money, that's harder and harder to come by. I just wanted to point that out.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Mr. Barry Andersen. Ms. Crawford?

MS. CRAWFORD:

In response to your initial question about are there plans to look at the budgets? As you know, we are still in negotiations of *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. We're using the information submitted by the Inuit Community Governments to develop a proposal to the Government of Canada in hopes of receiving more additional funding. And that's - we're still at that stage right now. I know it's been there a little while, but it is a little bit slower negotiating this time around than it was the last time we were in negotiations. But we have made notes, and I will take your comments today. And also I believe in the Members' Statement earlier today. I've made notes on both of those to take back internally and discuss.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Are there further comments or questions at this time?
Seeing none, you can continue.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Right. So, page 7 begins the departmental budgets. The Nunatsiavut Executive Council has approved a three percent increase for all employees effective April 1st, 2026 for the next three years. So, a three percent compounded for each of the next three years. Each department of the Government due to the growth in the workload, the priorities we're dealing with, the number of files that keep coming up in Nunatsiavut, the Executive Council's also approved the addition of an assistance Deputy Minister to be added to each department. And this will assist with the magnitude of files that are under the mandate of each department. So, these positions and the increase have been built into the budgets of each department. The Nunatsiavut Secretariat have a couple of high-level points to make note here, continues to work on an emergency response plan for Nunatsiavut, working on a renewed strategic plan and development of educational resources for policy development and on governance. They are going to continue their work in relation to the protection of Labrador Inuit's land and treaty rights to advance the energy plan and look at data management needs. They've budgeted to develop a communication strategy and a fulsome social media plan. The RFP for the social media plan has been released this past month and hopefully a proponent will be hired by the end of this fiscal year with the work ongoing into the next fiscal year. Are there any questions on the Secretariat? Nunatsiavut Affairs. There's no significant change for the implementation area of the - in the departmental plans for implementation of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement*. The

Registrar of Beneficiaries Office is budgeting for an additional resource person to assist the membership committees and the Inuit Membership Appeal Board. Effective April 1st, there's an increase in the rate of pay for members who serve on these committees from \$240 per day to \$455 per day plus the applicable Labrador allowance daily rate. For Chairs, their pay will go from \$355 per day to \$495 per day plus Labrador Allowance. The next phase of the Ancestry database is ongoing. And the Legal Services Division has planned to recruit a third legal counsel to assist with the growing number of files in that division. As already noted, the Infrastructure Division is implementing the Inuit Community Infrastructure Fund Action Plan and working on addressing the housing shortage. The maintenance part of that division has requirements to purchase two side-by-sides for staff. And they've also budgeted for an administrative assistant. And for the 2026 season preventative and critical maintenance plans at the Torngat Mountains Base Camp and Research Centre is budgeted at \$4.7 million to upgrade washrooms, executive domes, tent platforms, new heating and power systems, a solid waste management plan, to name a few projects. Are there any questions on Nunatsiavut Affairs?

MR. WINTERS:

Recognizing Mr. Barry Andersen.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the fees or the allowances for committees and the increases, will that apply to the Local Housing Committees that we're having elections as I mentioned yesterday in one

of my Members Statements - to attract people to those committees as well?

MR. WINTERS:

Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD:

There's ongoing work on that, the rights for those - the Members of the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission and the local housing committees.

Those pieces are being looked at with this one - first one was done. But the second one was identified and being worked on.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Are there further questions or comments at this time?

Seeing none you may continue, Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD:

So, the department that I'm responsible for, Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology. Key highlights from our department plans for the upcoming year is to continue the upgrade to our financial system, for accounting and financial reporting and the new Human Resources management and payroll system. It's been a lot of work done during this year, but the completion will be into the early of 2026 -'27 fiscal year.

The Human Resource Division has two areas of focus, one being on the human resource needs and second on its obligations for occupational health and safety. In this current year there was a full review done on the organizational struggle of Nunatsiavut Government and the second phase is to develop an action plan. And there are funds allocated to begin implementation once the action plan has been approved. There are funds budgeted to finalize production of videos and photos to highlight Nunatsiavut as a place to live and work. And again, we've

budgeted funds for the summer student program. We have budgeted for a position to help manage the occupational health and safety file. It is a very large and extensive program for a Government of our size. And we need to have someone who's dedicated at manager-type level. With regards to Information Technology, there are funds budgeted related to infrastructure monitoring and data storage. Each year we're seeing an increase in subscription fees for all our licensing and the department has budgeted for one new position, another information technology support person. With the growth of our Government the number of employees, the complexity of our operations, the number of support requests and items on their file has grown significantly and the business case was made for a new position. Are there any questions?

MR. WINTERS:

Yes, Mr. Tony Andersen.

MR. T. ANDERSEN:

Yes, there's something that the AngajukKâk for Makkovik mentioned earlier about IT support non-existent. We have non-existent IT services in I think all of our Inuit Community Governments and I believe that almost every joint management committee meeting this is brought forward and I believe that ICGs are begging for the expertise and knowledge and well-being of the Nunatsiavut Government's IT Department that could help us move forward with IT services. We just don't have anyone within, I know in our office, nobody. And it's worrisome these days being to get hacked, losing money, and breakdowns. We've got to run out around the community and try to find someone with enough skills to reboot our system and look at things. I

really wish that more support would come and I think I'm not the only one, the only - we're not - Nain is not the only ICG that would like to see a lot more help from the Department of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology to develop good IT programs for Inuit Community Governments. And I just wanted to mention that, okay?

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD:

I've made the note to discuss with our director. But I do know that at least one other ICG had looked at outsourcing their information technology services with an external provider. It's probably worth a discussion outside of the budget discussion on how that service is provided and if it's been helpful, and something that could be implemented in other Inuit Community Governments and looking at the costing of it as well. But I've made a note to have a discussion with the Director of IT as well.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Are there further comments or questions at this time? Yes, recognizing Ms. Flowers, when you're ready.

MS. FLOWERS:

Thank you. This is something that I bring up as well almost every time budget session comes around that we really struggle with the IT work. We did outsource ours this year, but I don't find that it's working so well. I think that if we are under the umbrella of NG then we should be getting a little bit more support from NG in this department, like every symposium we go to around IT, they always come back and say how careful we have to be with our systems and how easy it is to get hacked

now. And I think without proper IT support, it's very easy for us to get hacked and lose everything. Thank you.

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

MS. CRAWFORD: Taking your notes and you were who I was referring to about the outsourcing because I knew you had tried that route. But we'll take this point away for the department. Okay.

MR. WINTERS: Yes, Mr. Barry Andersen.

MR. B. ANDERSEN: Yeah, and just to add like it's not something new. There was a study - I don't know if it's a study but there was an ask that we had three options in the past. I've been here for nearly eight years now but I'm not sure what year it was but for the IT we were given the option, or looking at a way to improve the IT systems. AngajukKâk friend there Tony, he might recall - Marjorie probably too, that it was the ICG operations, NG support or some other entity. So, it's not something new. It's something that comes up every year and we did lose some funds, a very small amount to a phishing scam at the ICG level. So, it can happen on a larger scale. We're just fortunate that it hasn't yet.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek,* Mr. Andersen. Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD: I'm not - like I said to both the AngajukKâk Andersen and Flowers, I've made notes. I'll take this back to the director and see - we'll have a discussion on the outsourcing et cetera and look at what we can support in terms of information technology. On page 9, is Lands and Natural Resources. There's no significant changes for the Non-Renewable and

Lands Divisions. As I noted earlier, the Renewable Resources Division reflects the appropriation to the Fishery Fund. So having this appropriation allows the Nunatsiavut Government to be able to act quickly and avail of fishing opportunities when they arise. And the department is also working on, I think it's called a Commercial Designation Fishery Policy and these funds would be used to help implement should that be completed in the upcoming year. Renewable Resources Division again will be participating in the moose research and annual fishery workshop. There's an allocation for replacement of a boat and trailer as well as the appropriate safety gear. And there's no current changes in the Environment Division's current program plans. They work on Northern Contaminants Program, Lake Melville baseline study, climate change, Imappivut, to name a few projects. Are there any questions on Lands and Natural Resources? Moving on to Health and Social Development. The majority of the funding for this department comes from the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. They have developed a Capital Asset Replacement Schedule and they budgeted for the replacement of one side-by-side, one snow mobile and one vehicle for the upcoming year. Other sources of revenue help support the Family Services, Youth, Elders, Status of Women and Food Security Files. And there are no significant program changes planned for this division. Moving to page 10, Education and Economic Development. There are significant funds received in the annual fiscal grant of the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* to support post secondary programs. There are \$6.3 million budgeted to

support - for student supports consistent with prior years. The Nunatsiavut Government is providing \$3,8 million to NL schools for positions and programs not provided or funded by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. The Education Division currently hires an external consultant for our curriculum development for school-aged children. This budget appropriates funding for a new internal position specific to curriculum development, to decrease and eventually eliminate the need for external consultants. The - sorry, the Economic Development Division has funding appropriated for the community development officers for each community. These positions will focus on community tourism, and economic development priorities and support regional focus priorities. The Division has budgeted for a new position to be the primary contact under the Community Capacity Program as well as work on interdepartmental plans and strategy that impact economic development in Nunatsiavut. And they have funds appropriated to work on new programs and funding, focus on community economic development, social enterprises and microgrants. I'll pause for any questions on this division.

MR. WINTERS:

Recognizing Ms. Kemuksigak, when you're ready.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. The question I had, in the second paragraph it says, "Education has appropriated \$6.3 million," which is consistent with prior years. However, their student allowances have gone up. Do that mean they'll be - they'll have to take less students now or - just for clarification?

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

MS. CRAWFORD: The increase in student supports will have no impact on their ability to take students on.

MR. WINTERS: Yes, Mr. Saunders.

MR. SAUNDERS: I notice that you said \$3.8 million to NL schools and positions programs. I've had lots of discussion with a student in St. John's area that has American Sign Language as his only way of communication, and they have failed him in that division. Do you have any way of - especially the Education Minister of helping him out? Because this young gentleman, he's been failed from Grade 3, 4 I believe until Grade 6 or Grade 6 or Grade 7 because he can't get anyone to supply American Sign Language. And the teachers won't help him out. We've had that problem for five - a couple of years.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek,* Mr. Saunders. Ms. Crawford?

MS. CRAWFORD: I've made a note. I know it's not directly tied to the Budget, but we will take a note and take it back because - and I think everybody's aware of the Child First initiative is also another avenue for availing of funding to help children who aren't meeting their needs. But we'll make a note, and the Minister can connect to get the information.

MR. SAUNDERS: Actually, I had dealings with that person, and they said that Child First Initiative failed them.

MS. CRAWFORD: Oh, okay.

MR. SAUNDERS: So, there was a terrible problem there.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Further comments or questions at this time? You may continue, Ms. Crawford, when you're ready.

MS. CRAWFORD:

So, on page 11, Language, Culture and Tourism. The most significant plan for the upcoming year is that there is currently a director of both Language and Culture. However, the Department requires this position to be split into two areas with one director focusing entirely on the preservation, use and development of the Inuttitut language, and another director to be focused on - right now we're looking at culture and heritage, but it's not finalized exactly what the title would be of that second division. But it's very exciting to look at the growth of the program areas under Inuttitut and to see that we now are at a place where we need to have one director whose job is focused solely on Inuttitut language. In the document presented, it talks about a number of the current programs that are underway in terms of language. You know, we have Inuttitut on the OK Society. We have the Annual Terminology Workshop which has amazing results and comes back with such high accolades. We have the Inuttitut Master Apprenticeship Program. But in the upcoming year, there are plans to develop an Inuttitut Immersion Program as well as continue the delivery of Inuttitut classes for the Nunatsiavut Civil Service. And due to the growth in the number of programs and services and moving forward with the renewed as the language strategy is renewed, they've requested a new manager to assist with the management of programs focused on the Inuttitut language. There are no changes in the work in the Archaeology Office.

And the Tourism Division continues to be the lead in Nunatsiavut. And as I spoke earlier, when talking about the Economic Development Division, they are a partner in the Community Capacity Program to support the longer-term community development officers. They've committed to operations and a youth leadership program at the Torngat Mountains Base Camp and Research Centre and supporting the Hebron Ambassador Restoration Program. The Arts fall under the Tourism Division. There is plans in the upcoming year to support an artist in residence in the community of Nain. The development of quality control and standards for grass work and slippers, research on Labrador amautik patterns, which may be located in Europe and other parts of the world, and as notified the Minister this morning, they will be implementing a new recreation program for participants in Nunatsiavut. And the initial amount for this program is \$125,000. I'll pause for any questions on this division.

MR. WINTERS:

Yes, Mr. Lampe.

PRESIDENT LAMPE:

Nakummek, Itsivauta.

Going back to page 11, under the Department plans are guided by three strategies, there's a typo. Where it reads, "Inuttitut" Ukkalalautta it's supposed to be *UKalaloota. Nakummek.*

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Nakummek. The last part of the departmental plans are the administration. We have made - we make every effort to keep our administrative costs low. There's a lot of scrutiny done by myself, and a

few others to make sure that we're very - operate in a very cost-effective manner. We have budgeted for a new janitorial position in Nain, as those of you may be aware, there's a new extension being added on to the administration building which I think it's 28 offices, 34 rooms. Maybe it's 34 offices. But - so there is definitely a need for one janitor person to be added. That brings us to the end of the departmental budgets.

MR. WINTERS:

Mr. Tony Andersen. Your mic isn't on, sir.

MR. T. ANDERSEN:

I tell yeah, I'm slow. But back to the Language, Culture and Tourism, I'm happy to see that the new recreation program for participants in Nunatsiavut. I just wonder, is that like it's because it's from the Language and Culture, is it - that's like cultural recreation, would allow Nunatsiavimiut to travel to places like Nunavik and Nunavut to participate in more cultural recreation programming? Is that the idea here?

MR. WINTERS:

Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD:

This current plan here is - there used to be the Torngat Recreation Commission which is no longer operational, and the Nunatsiavut Government flowed the funds directly to each Inuit Community Government for sports travel. But you do raise a really interesting point and one that the department has been discussing in terms of the definition of recreation because often individuals will think of physical recreation, but there are so many other forms of recreation, and we speak about the Arts. We also have some people going to the Arctic

Winter Games to view it with the hope of in the future, Nunatsiavut participating in the Arctic Winter Games and other such areas that would fit, as you talk about cultural recreation, would be one item of looking at it. So, I guess the short answer to your question is, there are discussions on it, but that's not what this particular fund will capture. *Naku.*

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Further questions or comments? Recognizing Mr. Barry Andersen.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 10, regarding the community development officers, will there be administration funds provided too for the administration of those positions in the ICGs?

MR. WINTERS:

Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD:

I will have to take your question - I know I can't take it under notice, because the leads on these programs are jointly the Economic Development Division and the Tourism Division. My understanding is that the bulk of what's been budgeted specifically is for the salaries. But then they have also budgeted program funding that will help with the initiatives and other pieces related to these positions. But in terms of your specific question on administration, which I take laptops or other fees related to offices, I can't speak definitively on where that's captured.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Further questions or comments? You may continue, Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Page 13 is the Assembly Budget. This was approved yesterday by the Nunatsiavut Assembly. So, I won't take any time in going back over this

information. It is virtually the same that was in the document yesterday.

So, if we move to the last page of the Financial Plan, the,

"Implementation Plan." The Nunatsiavut Government has obligations

along with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the

Government of Canada to support the budgets for the Torngat Joint

Fisheries Board and the Torngat Wildlife and Co-Management Board.

And the budget reflects the commitment for the upcoming year that has

been agreed to by the three parties. *Nakummek.*

MR. WINTERS:

Are there any more questions or comments at this time? *Nakummek.*

We will now go to the Budget Bill itself. I'm sorry, did you have a

question? In reviewing the Bill we will begin by voting on the substantive

sections first, starting with Section 2, and then to the substantive sections

- sorry, when the substantive sections are finished we will go back to

begin and consider the preamble and title of the Bill. You should be under

Tab 6 if you aren't already, on pages 2 and 3, Clause 2. Interpretation. In

this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, (a) Act means the Budget

Act 2026 and (b) Budget means the Consolidated Financial Plan referred

to in Section 3 of this Act and annexed to this Act. (c) Nunatsiavut Fund

means the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Nunatsiavut Government

established and maintained in terms of Chapter 8 of the *Labrador Inuit*

Constitution. On Clause 2, do we have any questions? Are we agreed?

Any opposed? Seeing none, we are agreed. On page 3, Clause 3, Budget

Approved and Adopted. The Consolidated Financial Plan of the

Nunatsiavut Government for the fiscal year beginning April 1st 2026 and

ending March 31st, 2027 a copy of which is annexed to this Act, is hereby approved and adopted as the Consolidated Financial Plan of the Nunatsiavut Government for the fiscal period April 1st 2026 to March 31st 2027. Are there questions? Seeing none, are we agreed? We are agreed. Still on page 3, Clause 4. Authorizations Respecting Revenues. The Nunatsiavut Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed (a) to bring the following amounts from the Government of Canada under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* into the amounts available to the Nunatsiavut Government for the fiscal year starting April 1st 2026, \$399,604,000. And (b) to raise and collect the following revenues and to pay the same into the Nunatsiavut Fund during the fiscal year starting April 1st 2026: Fisheries and Environment Fund, \$13,032,000. Personal Income Tax, \$5,775,000. *Labrador Land Claims Implementation Trust Fund*, \$12,791,000. Interest Investment Revenue., \$6,449,500. Goods and Services Tax. \$2,157,500. Other revenue, \$245,000. Total amount \$440,540,000. Do we have questions? Seeing none, are we agreed? We are agreed. On page 4, Clause 5, Additional Revenues. The amounts referred to in Subsection 4(b) are estimates and nothing in Section 4 prevents or shall be construed to prevent the Nunatsiavut Government from collecting or receiving additional money provided such money is paid into the Nunatsiavut Fund, but nothing in this section authorizes or shall be construed to authorize an increase in any tax payable by Inuit, whether under an agreement with a taxing authority or otherwise. On Clause 5, do we have questions? Seeing none, are we agreed? We are

agreed. Clause 6, Payments Must Be Authorized. No payments may be made out of the Nunatsiavut Fund during the fiscal period April 1st 2026 to March 31st 2027, except (a) in accordance with the Budget, (b) with the authorization of the President and council where the payment is made pursuant to a funding agreement entered into by the Nunatsiavut Government and the payment does not exceed the amount payable to or received or receivable by the Nunatsiavut Government pursuant to the agreement or (c) in accordance with an authorization under some other Act of the Assembly including the *Land Claims Agreement Funding Act*.

On Clause 6, do we have comments or questions? Seeing none, are we agreed? We are agreed. Clause 7. "Time Limit on Payments Authorized under this Act." Subject to Section 64 of the *Financial Administration Act*, no payment may be made under this Act after March 31st, 2027.

Questions? Seeing no questions, are we agreed? We are agreed. 8, "Appropriations." Subject to Part 9 of the *Financial Administration Act*, the following persons may in accordance with the Budget requisition from and out of the Nunatsiavut Fund up to the following amounts for the fiscal year beginning on April 1st, 2026 for the following purposes: (a) Nunatsiavut Assembly, \$4,566,500 in respect of the Assembly and the Members on the requisition of the Speaker. (b) Nunatsiavut Secretariat, \$6,682,500 in respect of the functions, programs and services of the Nunatsiavut Secretariat on the requisition of the President, (c) Nunatsiavut Affairs, \$239,849,000 in respect of the functions, programs and services of the Nunatsiavut Affairs on the requisition of the First

Minister. (d) Department of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology, \$72,703,500 in respect of the functions, programs and services of the Department of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology on the requisition of the Nunatsiavut Treasurer.

(e) Department of Lands and Natural Resources, \$19,310,000 in respect of the functions, programs and services of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources on the requisition of the Nunatsiavut Minister of Lands and Natural Resources. (f) Department of Health and Social

Development, \$76,377,500 in respect of the functions, programs and services of the Department of Health and Social Development on the requisition of the Nunatsiavut Minister of Health and Social

Development. (g) Department of Education and Economic Development, \$33,576,500 in respect of the functions, programs and services of the Department of Education and Economic Development on the requisition of the Nunatsiavut Minister of Education and Economic Development.

(h) Department of Language, Culture and Tourism, \$7,724,000 in respect of the functions, programs and services of the Department of Language, Culture and Tourism on the requisition of the Nunatsiavut Minister of

Language, Culture and Tourism. (i) \$17,734,500 in respect of the functions, programs and services of the Inuit Community Governments on the requisition of the Nunatsiavut Treasurer provided the treasurer is satisfied that: (a) The budget of each Inuit Community Government has been approved in accordance with Section 10.3.6 of the *Labrador Inuit Constitution* and (b) The requisition is consistent with the advice of the

Community's Joint Management Committee with respect to the equitable division among the Inuit Community Governments of the amount of \$17,734,500. (j) Appropriation in respect of Inuit Community Corporation Budgets, \$263,000 in respect of the functions, programs and services of the Inuit Community Corporations on the requisition of the Nunatsiavut Treasurer provided the Annual Budget of the Inuit Community Corporation has been approved by the Nunatsiavut Executive Council. Across pages 4, 5 and 6, Clause 8. Do we have questions? Seeing no questions are - oh, yes, recognizing Mr. Barry Andersen.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman for the Department of Language, Culture and Tourism (h) I see again that this department seems to have the lowest budget. Is there any requirements to increase this budget to increase the protection of the language? Just a question.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD:

The Department of Language, Culture and Tourism only gets a hundred and ninety-five thousand dollars under the annual fiscal grant under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. And so that's why you're seeing significantly higher amounts for the other departments. We have a negotiating mandate almost finalized for language to look for higher amounts of money. They have been successful in receiving money through Heritage Canada under the Indigenous Languages component which has helped increase their budget quite significantly over the last couple of years. But we continue to advocate and lobby for more funding to help them as they grow. And each year they are taking steps and growing their

department. As you can see in the Budget, there's three new - or two new positions budgeted for language. And in growing the number of programs they're offering as the immersion program is one, you know, significant one that's being developed this year, as well as a number of programs that the Ministers have reported on during each Assembly.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Further questions or comments on Clause 8 around the Table? Seeing none, are we agreed? We are agreed. Back to page 6, Clause 9. Other requisitions must be budgeted for and be authorized by the Executive Council. Any requisition for a payment from and out of the Nunatsiavut Fund that is not specifically authorized in Sections 6, 7 and 8 of this Act that has been provided for in the Budget, must first be authorized by order of the Nunatsiavut Executive Council. On Clause 9, are there questions? Seeing no questions, are we agreed? We are agreed. Clause 10, Transfers between funds or departmental budgets. Nothing in this Act prevents the transfer of an amount between funds or departmental budgets in accordance with Sections 49 and 50 of the *Financial Administration Act*. Are there questions? Seeing none, are we agreed? We are agreed. Clause 11, Effective date. This Act has effect on April 1st, 2026. Do we have questions? Seeing none, are we agreed? We are agreed. On the Annex. Are there questions on the Annex? Mr. Saunders?

MR. SAUNDERS:

Why have we completed it for April 1, April Fool's Day?

MR. WINTERS:

Appreciate the foolish question, Ms. Crawford?

MS. CRAWFORD: It is the very first day of our fiscal year, but I will keep that in mind as that day turns around.

MR. WINTERS: Are there any other questions on the Annex? Seeing none, are we agreed? We are agreed. Let's go all the way back to page 2, Clause 1. Page 2, Clause 1, Short Title. This Inuit Law may be cited as *The Budget Act* 2026. Are there questions? Seeing none, are we agreed? We are agreed. Finally, the long title, An Act to Implement the Consolidated Financial Plan of the Nunatsiavut Government for the fiscal year beginning April 1st, 2026 and ending March 31st, 2027. Are there questions? Seeing none, are we agreed? We are agreed. That concludes the page-by-page, clause-by-clause review of the Bill. Does the Minister wish to conclude debate?

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

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*. That concludes the debate. That concludes the Committee of the Whole, and I thank the witness. We are now back in the Assembly. All those in favour of second reading of Bill 2026-02, "*The Budget Act* 2026", by show of hands. Any opposed? Seeing none, the motion is carried. Accordingly, Bill 2026-02, *The Budget Act* 2026 has had second reading. I would like to thank the Minister. We will now move on to Item 17, "Assent to Bills." Honourable President, the Assembly has given second reading of Bill 2026-02, *The Budget 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 2026-02, *The Budget Act 2026* and hereby sign them into law. *Nakummek, UKattik.*

[Applause]

MR. WINTERS:

The final sitting of the Fifth Nunatsiavut Assembly is now adjourned. 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 makes this possible. I would like to thank our incredible first-time interpreter translators, Sarah Townley and Angus Andersen, as well as Selma Suarak who has been shadowing these proceedings. I would also like to thank our OKâlaKatiget Society support, Mitchell White and Johansi Tuglavina and our IT support, Harry Dicker. Our fantastic pages have been Jasmine Winters and Tabea Onalik Junior while our drivers have been Gavin Boas and April Lucy. *Nakummesuak.* Please, take care. Safe travels home, everyone.

[Applause]

[Adjourned]