



NUNATSIAVUT

Senani jârini kajusimanik pivallianimmut

10 Years of Continued Progress

Nunatsiavut kavamanga
Nunatsiavut Government

THIRD ASSEMBLY

OF

NUNATSIAVUT

SPRING SESSION 14th Session 1st- SITTING

kAVAMALIGIJET

KAUJITITSIUTINGA

PARLIAMENTARY REPORT

March 7, 2017

In Attendance:

Speaker of the Nunatsiavut Assembly, Ordinary Member for Postville, Honorable Tyler Edmunds

President of Nunatsiavut, Honorable Johannes Lampe

Minister of Lands and Nunatsiavut Treasurer Ordinary Member for Rigolet, Honorable Darryl Shiwak

Minister of Health and Social Development, Ordinary Member for Hopedale, Honorable Gregory Flowers

Minister of Education and Economic Development, Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Honorable Patricia Kemuksigak

Ordinary Member for Nain, Honorable Richard Pamak

Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Roy Blake

AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Marjorie Flowers

AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Herb Jacque

AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Jack Shiwak

Chair Person for the NunaKâtiget Inuit Community Corporation, Gary Mitchell

Deputy Minister of Finance, Human Resources, and Information Technology, Rexanne Crawford

Director of Legal Services, Loretta Michelin

Deputy Minister of the Nunatsiavut Secretariat, Secretary to the Executive Council, Isabella Pain

Deputy Minister of Nunatsiavut Affairs, Toby Andersen

Deputy Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Carl McLean

Deputy Minister of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Belinda Webb

Deputy Minister of Education and Economic Development, Tim McNeill

Deputy Speaker of the Nunatsiavut Assembly, Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Honorable Patricia Ford

Clerk of the Assembly, Mary Sillett

Absent:

First Minister, Ordinary Member for Makkovik, Honorable Kate Mitchell for Wednesday March 8, 2017

AngajukKâk for Nain, Julius Dicker

AngajukKâk for Postville, Diane Gear

The Nunatsiavut Assembly proceedings were recorded in Inuktitut and English.

March 7th and 8th, 2017

MR. EDMUNDS: *Ullâkut Ilonnasi.* I'd like to call to order the Spring Session for the 14th Session of the Third Nunatsiavut Assembly. We'll begin on item one, "Prayer." I'd like to ask President Johannes Lampe to say our opening prayer.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: (Recites Prayer).

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, President Lampe. We'll move to item two on our Orders of the Day, "Opening Address by the President." I will now call upon the President of Nunatsiavut, the Honourable Johannes Lampe, to do the opening address.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: Nakummek, OKatti.

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek,* Honourable President Lampe. We'll move to item three, "Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery." Please be advised that there will be no attendance at the sitting by the Chair of the Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation, the Ordinary Member for Canada and the Ordinary Member for Nain as these positions are currently in the process of a by-election. AngajukKâk Joe Dicker could not join us for this Assembly sitting, and AngajukKâk Diane Gear has been properly excused, as has the First Minister, the Honourable Kate Mitchell. Under the definitions of quorum in our Standing Orders, a quorum consists of six Ordinary Members and the President, and we do have quorum today and the sitting will proceed. For the information of the Assembly, our visiting pages come from Postville for this sitting and we have joining us Katelyn Jacque and Madison Goudie. Providing support to the visiting pages as

always is our Assistant to the Clerk, Tabea Onalik, and the interpreters and translators are Gus Semigak and Katie Winters from Nain.

Nakummek. Tristan Gear is our IT staff helping for this Assembly and, of course, we'd like to recognize our OKâlaKatiget staff; Simone Kohlmeister and Johansi Tuglavina. Again if there are any questions around travel, logistics, please see Tabea Onalik. If we have time this afternoon we do have a couple items we'd like to add to the agenda outside of the formal session, and the details on that will follow as we get to our adjournment later today. I'd like to welcome those in the gallery today and thank them for their interest in the Nunatsiavut Assembly. I'd like to recognize Mr. Richard Paddock and Cindy Paddock who joins us from Postville. Mr. Richard Paddock is our pastor for the community. They've done a tremendous job in being involved in the community, and I commend them for being here today. Is there any other Member wishing to recognize visitors in the gallery today? If there are no further recognition of visitors, then we will move to item four on your Orders of the Day, "Ministers Statements." Do we have any minister statements this morning? I recognize the Nunatsiavut Treasurers and Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, the Honourable Darryl Shiwak.

MR. D. SHIWAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll give an update from the Department of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology first. Mr. Speaker, at the January sitting of the Nunatsiavut Assembly we reported that customers in Hopedale would be migrating at the end of January and customers in Nain at the end of February. That is over to the

new internet. Unfortunately, there have been delays in achieving these migration goals. First Bell Aliant has experienced some technical difficulties with interference from the old back phone and therefore the original plan for a phased-in approach migration cannot be attained. Bell Aliant has planned for all customers in Nain and Hopedale to transition from the old back phone to the new back phone at the same time. Secondly, a further delay, Mr. Speaker, has occurred as Bell Aliant had to redirect its resources due to the issues with the tower in Natuashish. As we receive further information and a new timeframe, we will pass along this information. Mr. Speaker, Andrew Hamal has recently resigned his position as IT Support Specialist. On behalf of Nunatsiavut Government, thank you for your dedication, hard work and commitment. We wish you all the best in your future endeavours. We are in the process of completing interviews and are hopeful to have this vacancy filled at the end of the month. Nakummek. Mr. Speaker, part of the Lands and Natural Resources. Fisheries. The annual shrimp, snow crab and Atlantic salmon science meetings took place last month led by DFO Science. Departmental staff participated in these annual science meetings. The Northern Shrimp Advisory Committee, NSAC, is meeting on March 9th in St. John's to make their recommendations to the Minister for setting the total allowable catches for Northern shrimp in different shrimp management areas. Both the Deputy Minister and the Director of Renewable Resources will be attending this meeting. We anticipate a lively discussion at NSAC with the depleted staff in the shrimp fishing

Area 6, and some concerns with the shrimp health in shrimp fishing Area 5.

5. The Nunatsiavut Government communal Greenland halibut allocations remain at 181 metric tonnes in 2017. The 2017 commercial fishery application forms are now available at the NG offices in Nunatsiavut and Upper Lake Melville. They will be available until March 31st. Fishers who are interested in applying for a commercial allocation for the 2017 fishing year must submit a completed application to our office by that deadline date.

Wildlife, Mr. Speaker. The moose hunting season opened on September 15th. We have very poor harvesting returns to date. Only 11 of the moose have been harvested in the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area. Twenty-eight licences remained unfilled. In recognition of the high number of licences left unfilled and the season quickly coming to an end the Department will open the hunt in each of the communities during March 16th to March 31st. This is normally when the last beneficiary draw would occur in each community. The number of licences available within each community after March 16th will be open to all beneficiaries within that community on a first-come-first-served basis. Beneficiaries who harvest a moose will be required to come to the NG office in their community after a successful kill and get the required tags and also to fill out the kill return form. This measure is enacted to address food security issues within the communities and to ensure we fill all available licences. Again the hunting season will close March 31st, 2017. Mr. Speaker, 12 polar bear licences are available at the NG for the 2017 hunting season. The open season is in effect from

February 2nd to June 30th. To date five bears have been harvested. Mr. Speaker, on February 27th three of our conservation officers travelled to St. John's to receive their formal aboriginal fisheries guardian training. After this training six of our conservation officers have received the necessary training to be qualified as Aboriginal fisheries guardians. Mr. Speaker, the Torngat Secretariat is planning to conduct an aerial survey of the Torngat Mountains Caribou Herd beginning on March 15th. The Nunatsiavut Government will have one representative on the survey, Conservation Officer George Gear, out of Postville. The survey is anticipated to last 21 days and cover 3,000 miles of ground in the Torngat Mountains area. This will be the second aerial survey of the Torngat Caribou Herd. Consultations are being held in George River and in Nain prior to the start of the survey. Impacts Benefits Agreement, Mr. Speaker. Teresa Baikie, our IBA co-ordinator, is continuing to work with Vale and its contractors to get as many of our beneficiaries working at the mine site both for permanent and temporary positions. There have been a few glitches, especially in a contract to hiring, however, these issues are being dealt with as they come up and are now being processed better than in the past. There was a committee meeting in Voisey Bay mine site on February 8th with discussions on communication, recruitment and hiring, contractor hire update, and an update on underground mine expansion. The Parks Co-Management Board is scheduled to meet and to have a face-to-face meeting here in Hopedale

during the week of March 27th with discussion focusing on the five-year management plan. Nakummek, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister. I recognize Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak, the Minister of the Department of Education and Economic Development.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. Due to First Minister Kate Mitchell's absence, I will be reading her report on behalf of her. I am pleased to submit to the Assembly a brief update on the activities of the Nunatsiavut Affairs Department since the last Assembly sitting in January. Implementation. The Implementation Committee met on February 22nd in St. John's. They approved the Board's Draft Work Plans and Budgets for 2017-2018 and are now in the process of preparing their Agreements for signatures for our respective ministers by March 1st, 2017. Included in the agenda was an updated response from Canada to the Nunatsiavut Government request to amend *the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement* to allow beneficiaries resident in Upper Lake Melville to harvest migratory birds within the Schedule 12E area. Canada confirmed that the intention is still for Canada to recommend amending the LILCA to extend rights to 12E areas minus the parcels of land that is a part of the Labrador Innu land selections following required consultations with other affected Indigenous groups. Kate can also confirm that the obligation to consult the Labrador Innu and NunaKâtiget is Canada's responsibility, and for the time being you can place a pause on the overlap discussions with the Labrador Innu. Membership. The membership workshop was held in

Hopedale February 13th to the 16th. The Appointments Committee selected three candidates to fill the vacancy in the Rigolet, Upper Lake Melville Membership Committee, and these appointments were approved by the Executive Council. However, two of the appointees rejected the appointment. We are currently in the process of trying to select two candidates who can be appointed to fill these positions. Jim Lyall has been appointed to fill the vacancy in the Nain and North of Nain Committee, and Rachel Saunders has been appointed to fill the vacancy in the Hopedale Committee. Public Property. Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation has transferred to the Nunatsiavut Government the property, including land, at 114 Middle path Road in Nain. The NG has submitted to NLHC a funding application under the NLHC Seniors Affordable Housing Program. If this proposal is accepted, a senior's complex will be constructed on this site. The site issue for the proposed new DHSD office building in Hopedale has been resolved, and an RRF is now being issued for design of the building. The actual cost of the building will be determined by the design consultant in consultation with DHSD as the final design will determine the cost of the building. Mr. Speaker, Illusuak. Progress continues on the interior construction and the electrical and mechanical installation. A meeting was held in Nain on February 8th between NG, Stantec, Nillik Construction, Switch Electrical and CBCL to finalize recommended changes made by the interior design consultants to the exhibit and the changes to the kitchen, café and gift shop areas recommended by NG and Pavia Gallery. As a result of that

meeting work is commencing as agreed by the NG consultants and contractors. Mr. Speaker, prototype six-plex in Nain. Budgell's Equipment is scheduled to commence work on the prototype six-plex in late May as soon as the snow has melted enough to commence work. In the meantime the NG has negotiated with CMHC a \$92,000 contribution agreement to contract an experienced CMHC-approved contractor to make site visits and to install necessary equipment to monitor the performance of the building during and after construction and occupancy. The final report from this monitoring program will document annual monthly energy consumption. The report will answer the questions a) What are the energy savings given the additional investment in the building and b) What is the cost effectiveness of the building design? And c) Report on occupants' comfort. Geotechnical Drilling. Aivek Stantec was scheduled to deliver the final report for the Geotechnical Drilling Program completed in Makkovik, Postville and Rigolet by the end of January. However, there have been some delays based on the fact that there are three separate reports required. Aivek Stantec is committed to have the report submitted to NG by March 10th, 2017. When we received the reports they will be shared with the Inuit Community Governments and we will ask Stirling Parsons from Stantec to visit the communities and explain the report to each Inuit Community Government. Mr. Speaker, housing continues to take the majority of our time within the First Minister's department. She continues to be involved in Aboriginal housing issues at the national level and to promote

adequate housing funding for Nunatsiavut. Housing Repairs and Federal Housing Funding. Work continues for the 2016-2017 Housing Repair Program in Nain and Hopedale. And all repair work is scheduled to be completed by the end of March, 2017. The three NLHC units in Hopedale are completed, inspected and ready for occupancy. The NLHC unit in Nain will be ready for occupancy March 15th, 2017. One contractor in Hopedale has completed all the work identified in his contract and an inspection was completed. The inspection identified some deficiencies, particularly with insulation of the windows. Therefore these deficiencies will be corrected this spring and 10 percent of the contract is being held until the deficiencies are completed and a final report done. Applications are now available for the 2017-2018 Home Repair Program. The application process commenced on February 21st and is open until March 21st. After the application closure date applications will be reviewed by an NG selection committee and the homes will be selected for repairs this year. We will contract a qualified contractor to do an inspection assessment of the homes commencing in April to determine the required repairs and to prepare a material list for the homes selected. We propose to work contracts for this repair work in all Inuit communities by June so that the contractors can order and ship the material as early in the marine shipping season as possible and work to commence in July. The NG proposes to construct two multi-unit complexes; one in Nain and one in Hopedale in 2017. These complexes will assist with supportive living and will help provide a home for parents

whose children would otherwise be taken into protective care without the provision of adequate housing. We have purchased land in Nain and Hopedale for these complexes, and a contract for building design, project management and construction tendering has been awarded to Atsanik Consulting Limited. We propose to have the buildings designed and construction contract awarded by June in order that material can be ordered and shipped, and site work can commence when the snow is gone. Mr. Speaker, Nunatsiavut Housing Strategy. The Nunatsiavut Housing Strategy is still a draft with very significant component missing. The First Minister felt it was inappropriate to share or discuss the draft with the Assembly until we have completed the draft. The Housing Working Group met on February 23rd and discussed the options and next steps related to the one missing component of the draft strategy, which is Nunatsiavut Housing Delivery Model. The Housing Working Group has appointed a working committee to prepare a high level model for presentation to the whole Housing Working Group. This model will develop a concept on how an NG housing model will be structured and what options are available for community involvement in the model and recommend the best option. The committee consists of Isabella Pain, Rod Lang, Toby Anderson and Varian Hassam. After the Housing Working Group has agreed on a model, it will be presented to the NEC for approval. When approved by the NEC, we will then prepare Consolidated Final Housing Strategy which will be presented to the Assembly. Mr. Speaker, Transportation. Marine Transportation. In April, 2016 Minister

Hawkins informed me that the contract for the Astron concluded on March 31st, 2017, and the province would issue a RRF for replacement of the Astron. No RRF has been developed to date, but the Deputy Minister, Toby Andersen, has been communicating with the Deputy Minister in ADM of the Department of Transportation and Works. On February 28th, 2017 the ADM, John Baker, confirmed that the province is now communicating with Woodbridge Limited to extend the contract of the Astron for another two-year period. The province will continue to use the Northern Ranger to provide passenger service to Nunatsiavut. The Ranger will be operated on a contract by Nunatsiavut Marine Inc. The province does not plan to issue an RRF for a new vessel at this time. Instead they will develop a five-year infrastructure plan for the Nunatsiavut communities. An engineer and diving team will begin visiting the communities as soon as the ice has gone. This team will review the wharfs, determine what needs to be done with respect to wharf repairs or replacement, dredging of the bottom and offloading ramps for containers. The team will also determine what type and size of freight holding facilities are required, and storage space for containers and other freight or equipment. The team will meet with the Inuit Community Governments and NG representatives in each community to discuss the community views on what may be required. The province will meet with NG to discuss the draft plan before it is finalized. After this five-year plan is developed, the province will then know what type of vessel is required and the cost to complete the infrastructure needs. Mr. Speaker, in

conclusion, the Nain Airstrip. The Department is still lobbying Canada and the Province for funding to construct the proposed new airstrip in Nain. Canada still maintains that this is a priority. However, they require a proposal from Newfoundland and Labrador Government or a cost-sharing funding arrangement. The Newfoundland Government states that although they consider the new proposed Nain airstrip a priority, the Province has no funds to contribute towards this proposed project. They are continuing discussions with Canada. We continue to lobby the Province regarding the state of washrooms on our airstrip within Nunatsiavut, and we have asked the Province to include funds in the 2017 Budget to address these issues. Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. And I'd like to request a break before I read minister statement if that's acceptable.

MR. EDMUNDS: Yes, Minister, we'll have a few other ministers do their statements and then we'll return.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Nakummek.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Honourable Minister. I recognize the Minister of Health and Social Development, the Honourable Greg Flowers.

MR. FLOWERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I've just got a few short announcements for this morning. As most of you know that TB has been an issue in Nunatsiavut for a long time, for the last few years for sure. So starting on Wednesday, March 22nd, in all five of our Nunatsiavut communities, we'll start a TB campaign; family events and TB education,

food and prizes. Nunatsiavut will be engaged in these sessions, but we will be cordoned off, advising all the NG offices with the dates and the times that the launch will be in their respective communities. The campaign is a response to our recent TB outbreak; Nain in 2014, 2015 and Hopedale 2016 and present to date. The goal of the campaign is to raise awareness of TB, particularly drawing attention to the risk factors associated with TB and the sharing of smoking devices, Mr. Speaker. In Hopedale as to date there are 16 cases of TB. So we would certainly like to make people more aware of TB in Nunatsiavut and the communities. NG Status of Women, Mr. Speaker, has sponsored a women's conference here in Hopedale on the week of February 20th. This is the second women's conference since NG has been formed. We had 28 women attend the conference in Nunatsiavut. They came from all the five communities, also from Upper Lake Melville, Happy Valley Goose Bay, North West River and the Canadian Constituency. It was a huge success with presentations ranging from self-esteem, healing, economic development, leadership and women's health. The conference had a full morning of cultural teachings and including learning crafts on and how to make small souvenirs. And so actually some real serious discussions were held, Mr. Speaker, around fostering of children. The conference was funded by the *Tasiujatsaok Trust*, and I would like to acknowledge their contribution to this event, which I feel that from being to some of the sessions while it was going on, I think that this is very important for the women of Nunatsiavut to have conferences that they can express their

feelings, their ideas on how to make Nunatsiavut just a little bit better place, Mr. Speaker. And another thing that I saw, Mr. Speaker, was that all the sessions that people were engaged in, only one wasn't a Labrador Inuit women. So, Mr. Speaker, I can surely say that our women are strong and vocal and are being heard by us and everyone in Nunatsiavut. Also, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to take this opportunity to — some of our people that will be retiring from our Department in the next little while. Actually, one retired in January, Don Dicker, from his position as community health worker, and also Juliana Winters, better known to us as Jukie in Hopedale, she will be retiring after 24 years, so congratulations to her and Don, and also we'll be losing Cindy Allen as the same position in Rigolet in the coming months. So and she's, I think, served with us for 20 years. So I'd just like to say, Mr. Speaker, hats off to these people who dedicated best part of their careers and lives to Nunatsiavut even before we were a government. So, Mr. Speaker, I'd just like to say thank you to these people and there will be, I guess, shoes to fill by somebody and probably hard to fill by others. So, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister. I recognize the President of Nunatsiavut and the Acting Minister of Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, the Honourable Johannes Lampe.

PRESIDENT LAMPE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will present my report in two parts, and the first part is for this morning. And the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism has been really busy since the last Assembly meeting. I

would like to update the Assembly on the work that is currently occurring in the areas of tourism, culture and archaeology. In tourism, Mr. Speaker, I will update on Nunatsiavut Tourism Strategy, Marketing and Partnerships. First I would like to update on the Draft Nunatsiavut Tourism Strategy. While we are working on a detailed Implementation Plan for the Nunatsiavut Tourism Strategy, once completed, the draft will be presented to NEC and then to the Assembly. Our Division will be reaching out to our stakeholders within the communities to partner on all the projects that we do. Within our tourism strategy is the development of an experienced provider's network. This network would allow for experienced providers within the community to receive monies for the experiences that they offer, as well as for a broker organization within the community as well. Our Tourism Division have been working with the Rigolet Inuit Community Government to research a model that would work. Jillian and Jenna will be presenting this to the RICG and councillors in the last week of March. We will also be holding a session for all stakeholders in the community as well as an open house night to present to the public. We are finalizing the location and times before sending it out to the community members. There were a few factors in deciding on Rigolet, and these are the Northern Ranger stops into the community four times weekly. There is a groomed snowmobile trail from Central Labrador into Rigolet, Nunatsiavut. There is a dedicated tourism staff person within the Rigolet Inuit Community Government. The Rigolet Inuit Community Government has a five-year tourism plan. Rigolet is in

close vicinity to the Mealy Mountain National Park Reserve. The Rigolet Inuit Community Government owns and operates a variety of infrastructure to offer programming. For example, two museums, craft shop, boardwalk, and community centre. Mr. Speaker, there is a significant increase in cruise stops into our communities this year. Last year in 2016 there was one stop in Hopedale. This year we have stops into three of our Nunatsiavut communities. Jenna, our experienced development co-ordinator, has reached out to the communities and will be offering assistance to help prepare for the stops. Second, Mr. Speaker, I would like to update you on our marketing efforts in tourism. We are currently finalizing our new Nunatsiavut Visitors Guide. We had partnered again with the Inuit Community Governments to develop more detailed community maps. We are working with the Torngat Secretariat who will develop the maps free of charge for us. We are developing new maps because of the feedback we have obtained from our stakeholders who wanted maps that included all public buildings in their communities. The Nunatsiavut Visitors Guide will have more call to action so readers know who to contact in their communities to book experiences. The Provincial Tourism Department are pushing out more itineraries now, and so we've included three general itineraries in our visitors guide. Northern Ranger and our airline option; somewhere we can get away in Rigolet via Northern Ranger. We are in the process of finalizing our marketing agreement with Destination Labrador which will give us a space on the Newfoundland and Labrador web site and in the traveller's guide. Jillian

Larkham, our director of tourism, is now the Newfoundland and Labrador board member for the Aboriginal Tourism Association of Canada, ATAC. Destination Canada, in partnership with ATAC, will be bringing a fan tour of heavy hitters in media and travel trade to Labrador. The focus will be the Torngat Mountains National Park. This is a great opportunity and something that the park has needed for a while. Jillian is working with Parks Canada, Nunatsiavut Group of Companies, the Provincial Government and others on drafting the itinerary to ensure everything's organized well. Third, in regards to partnerships, our Division met with a few within the Provincial Tourism Department to discuss different licensing, rules and regulations around accommodations and other experienced offerings. We will take the information and distribute to our stakeholders within the communities as well as with the Economic Development Department of NG. We attended the annual Hospitality Newfoundland and Labrador Conference this year and supported a community partner, Ruth Jacque, with the Postville Inuit Community Government. We will be following up with Ruth with any help that she needs in moving forward. We would like to thank the Postville Inuit Community Government in allowing Ruth to take the time to attend this event. Mr. Speaker, we will be reaching out more with our stakeholders. One of the ways we'll be doing this is through social media. Within the next few months we will be putting a big push on reaching out more to our partners. We strongly believe that in order for tourism to develop it has to be community-driven, and we are here to help develop partner

and reach out in any way that we can. The product development strategy for the Provincial Tourism Department has been released, and Indigenous Tourism is a focus. Jillian has already reached out to the director of product development with the Department of Tourism Industry and Innovation to let them know that we are excited to work closely with our Nunatsiavut stakeholders and everyone else to move this file forward.

Next, Mr. Speaker, I would like to update you on art and language. First in regards to arts, we have been asked to sit on the board for the Labrador Creative Arts Festival as a Nunatsiavut representative. The first teleconference is in March. We were able to fund three Nunatsiavut artists to attend the Northern Exposure conference that happened in St. John's at the end of January. We have also been contacted by a representative from the Great Northern Arts Festival in Inuvik with a great opportunity for our artists to apply for a 10-day artist residency program for the festival. We are currently working on advertising the festival and looking for funding to cover the cost of travel should any of our artists get chosen to attend. On February 1st, 2017 we had six graduates complete the jewellery program; John Terriak, Amos Harris, Harry Semigak, Jonah Semigak, Alma Harris and Martin Jararuse. Three of those students; John Terriak, Amos Harris and Harry Semigak now have permanent pieces as part of the NG collection. Sakkijâjuk has finished its tour of the rooms gallery in St. John's and we are now working with Heather Igloliorte and her team on the next steps of the tour. There are talks of adding more galleries to the tour thus extending the length of the

tour pending approval. We are currently working with the Department of Lands and Natural Resources on having a carving stone workshop in Hopedale. The artists chosen will be local artists from Hopedale that are familiar with carving with the rocks that are found around Hopedale. Lands and Natural Resources have different samples from different quarries and would like the carvers in Hopedale to try their hand at carving the samples to determine which is best and why. Ultimately this workshop will help us decide if carving stone in Hopedale can be sourced there and which quarries are the best. Our arts program co-ordinator is currently working with Inez Shiwak and has started community consultations. The consultations will occur in all five Nunatsiavut communities to gather information from local artists to help the department develop. An artisan database started Nunatsiavut Crafts Council, a patterned library, and began the development of an art strategy. Second, in regards to language, we are currently working on a master apprentice program that will be delivered in the five Nunatsiavut communities; Nain, Hopedale, Postville, Makkovik and Rigolet plus North West River and Happy Valley Goose Bay. It will run concurrently for a period of six months. The plan is to hire one master in each community to be matched with an apprentice to work together on improving the apprentice's fluency in *Inutittut*. Nakummek, Uhatti.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable President. We will refer back to the Honourable Patricia Kemuksigak for an update on the Department of Education and Economic Development.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. Today I'd like to do a brief update on the Economic Development Division. Mr. Speaker, Federal Funding Contracts. As previously referenced, the Strategic Partnership Initiative or SPI, project focusing on maximizes benefits for Inuit businesses related to the Voisey Bay Underground Mine Expansion has begun. Interviews with Inuit businesses and NG staff have been completed. Additional regional interviews will be completed in March, 2017 with the final report due in May, 2017. Business Development. The Division has approved two Inuit businesses to be added to our registry. Three additional application requests are under review. We have assisted 10 entities or individuals with business start-up inquiries. Between mid-January and early March, 49 underground packages have been received from Vale with our Division submitting 87 business nominations and 10 companies met pre-qualification requirements. Mr. Speaker, Youth Recruitment and Engagement. Youth Ventures. The Division has partnered with Community Business Development Corporation, CBDC, to secure \$14,000 to offer a Youth Ventures Program in 2017 spring and summer. The program is region-wide and our youth will have a 14-to-16-week employment opportunity that explores the business industry and assists in entrepreneurial development and business start-ups. This program will be launched in April, 2017. Work Term Program Development. Following our Education and Economic Development Department meeting in January, the Division of Education highlighted the gap between completing and education program in limited industrial

experience is a hurdle to employment. Responding to this issue, the Economic Development Division will pilot a five-week work term program with a post-secondary student for March and April. We welcome Stephanie Morris who has completed the Community Studies Program at the college of North Atlantic to join our Division. Stephanie will be located in our Rigolet office. Mr. Speaker, Staff Development. As a Division we are focused on increasing our in-house expertise and professional development. We are proud to announce that our Director of Education, Kristy Shepard, has been selected as a participant in the 2017 Governor-General Leadership Conference. This program gathers 250 up and coming leaders across Canada with business, labour, community and government sectors. The two-week program will focus on how best to accelerate innovation, productivity inclusion and entrepreneurial ship. This is a valued national opportunity that will invest in our staff and future leadership. Kristy will complete this training in June, 2017. Mr. Speaker, Status of Women Project. The Inuit Women in Business Project under the Economic Development Division held a meeting in Hopedale on January 17th and 18th. There were 11 participants in total with a representative from community in Nunatsiavut. Entrepreneurs attended this meeting and discussed supports within the region that are available, as well as supports that they would like to see developed by the Nunatsiavut Government to better support Inuit women in business. This was the final meeting of the Inuit Women in Business Project. In conclusion of this project which ends

in May, a Nunatsiavut-specific business tool is being developed, as well as several program ideas that were submitted for review and implementation of chosen strategies. And, Mr. Speaker, I have some good news on the Voisey Bay underground training. LATP received a call from Employment and Social Development Canada, ESDC, on March 2nd, 2017 inviting them to move forward and start negotiation process towards approval of the Strategic Partnership Fund, Vale Underground Proposal. While this is not a final approval notice, but it is part of the necessary process towards a final agreement. The LATP will be working with the SDC over the next couple of weeks to negotiate and finalize an agreement for the Voisey Bay underground training, however, they are unsure of when they will get their final agreement, and the amount of money they had asked will be reduced, but it's still really good news. In the meantime they are approaching the Provincial Government for funds to bridge any gap that may occur as a result of not reaching a final agreement by March 31st. The Province is working diligently on this request so that their office can remain open on April 1st. Nakummek, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister. I do not believe there are any further minister statements this morning, and we will move to item five, "Member Statements." Do we have any member statements this morning? I recognize the Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Ms. Pat Ford.

MS. FORD:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the beneficiaries of the Canadian Constituency, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dan Pottle for serving his constituents well over the past 10 ½ years. He certainly contributed much to the Canadian Constituency and to the Nunatsiavut Government as a whole, as he was here from the beginning. He certainly will be missed. We wish him well and much success in his future endeavours. Nakummek, Dan and Nakummek, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Ms. Ford. I recognize the Chairperson for NunaKâtiget, Mr. Gary Mitchell.

MR. MITCHELL:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. *Ullâkut Ilonnasi*. First of all I would like to extend my sincere condolences to the family of Liz Tooktoshina who just passed away, and she was a well-respected lady all over and a true Labrador woman and a Tishialuk girl. So she will certainly be missed and I extend my condolences to the family and to Roy over there who's a relative and First Minister Kate and Jack Shiwak's family. So the list goes on, so there will be a big gap there in one of our true Labrador woman. I'd like to congratulate and acknowledge Ann Morris, a Nunatsiavut beneficiary, living in Happy Valley Goose Bay who's just been inducted into the Newfoundland and Labrador Broom Ball Hall of Fame, and this broom ball team from Goose Bay has just returned from Stephenville where they won another gold medal in the ladies broom ball. Ann has been playing broom ball since the 70's and won numerous awards over the years, both individually and championship team trophies with the Goose Bay team. So congratulations, Ann, on your achievement and commitment to the sport.

My statement today is just a brief report on the NunaKâtiget Corporation activities since our last Assembly in January. It's pretty much business as usual at NunaKâtiget Corporation with the Community Freezer Program being our main activity. At the present time we are carrying most of our usual winter stock of things we were able to get at this time of the year which includes moose, cod fillets, partridges, rabbits, red berries, blueberries, strawberries and frozen corn and peas. Within the last month we have had two moose harvested for which we had licences for. One was harvested by the Labrador Fishing and Hunting Association, and the second one by Joseph Townley. So we appreciate those people bringing in our moose for us and get the seniors happy that they have some fresh meat in our Community Freezer. We had offered a snowshoe making course earlier in the winter and had everything set up to start it, but we had to cancel the course due to people having work commitments and family responsibilities, and our participants just dropped off. At this point we have not made a decision to whether to try it again. We are now looking at offering a net mending course before the salmon and fishery trout season starts. So hopefully we can get that one on the go. We'll also be advertising a moose hide slipper making course in the near future. We'll be advertising for an instructor later this week. At the last sitting of the Assembly in January I mentioned that the NunaKâtiget Corporation was trying to get some information in support in trying to set up a local radio station in the Upper Lake Melville area. I did mention that the Traditions and Transition partnership would be something to look for support. Since

that time I had a tele-conference with Dr. Tom Gordon from Munn and Ivan Kemke , I think that's his name, from Grenfell College in Corner brook on this matter. We had a very positive discussion on the phone on this matter, and there's a follow-up meeting coming in April with Dr. Tom Gordon coming to Goose Bay to meet with community members who are interested in setting up and establishing a local radio station in that area for and well run by Nunatsiavut beneficiaries. I will be talking to people over the next few weeks regarding the upcoming meeting in April, so that we try to attract some people to this project, should it happen, as well talk to some young people because Dr. Tom Gordon feels young people should be involved because there's going to be some volunteer time required to run a local radio station should we set it up. I already talked to people at the Labrador Friendship Centre and they're supportive of the idea. So eventually we'll get enough people together and I'll be calling on Ordinary Members Roy Blake and Patricia Kemuksigak for their support when we meet with Dr. Gordon to try to get this off the ground. Last, but not least, NunaKâtiget now has its own Facebook page and you're all welcome to join if you so wish. Nakummek, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Chairperson. I recognize the Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Roy Blake.

MR. BLAKE:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this morning I would like to recognize the Lake Melville girls' volleyball team from North West River who travelled to Grand Falls, Windsor, to participate in the Newfoundland and Labrador Volleyball Association Tournament Division C. Mr. Speaker,

18 teams competed. The Lake Melville School Titans won the silver medal. Mr. Speaker, this team consists of the following: Alice Michelin, Anna Gear, Ashley Allan, Carla Montague, Emma White, Faith Butt, Grace Tuglavina, Kayla Montague and Kelly Butt. Also, Mr. Speaker, I would like to make mention that this team was coached by Shane Morgan and Lori Michelin. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the community of North West River who helped raise funds to make this trip possible for the girls to attend this tournament. Congrats, Titans. Mr. Speaker, I would like to send sincere condolences to the following families and extended family members of loved ones who have sadly passed away since our last sitting. Max McClean, Eva Mesher and Elizabeth Tooktoshina. Nakummek, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Mr. Blake. I recognize the AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Mr. Jack Shiwak.

MR. J. SHIWAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and to the Ordinary Members. It's getting a little serious. I've got a full-page day instead of a sticky note stuck on my finger. This is something I've been planning on for some time now and I finally got around to doing it. And for myself personally I've faced a lot of challenges throughout my life, and a lot of these challenges were challenges I took on, not because I had to, but because I wanted to. And I gained a lot of knowledge and information in the working world through that. But there's one more challenge I have to face, and that's becoming a pensioner. I look at pensioners today. They live on a fixed income. They seem to have very little control over their own lives. It seems to be dependent on what's in

the community, who their family are, what the support groups are, you know. They don't make decisions where they live or where they go anymore. I'm quite sure a lot of these seniors or, if you want to say, in their golden years, would like to spend their time at home with family and friends. You know, these are the people they grew up with. These are the people they know, and these are the sounds, the sights, the images that they have learned to recognize, live with and depend on throughout their lifetime. I don't think it's fair that a senior in their senior years, in their later years, have to be sent away, have to send away to some institution where they look, or they have to try to make new friends, get acquainted with new people, learn new things and be taken away from the people they love, trust, and who support them. You know, this doesn't happen too much because our seniors go out to an institution, they go out of town. And as most of you know or all of you know it's very expensive to go and sit with a senior. Like from my community, if I was to go just to visit a senior this time of the year I'm looking at over \$700 for a round ticket. And this shouldn't have to be. I should be able to walk down the road, spend some time with a senior, and I think most of you will know that if you go into a seniors institution in Goose Bay, ***1:25:11, in that thing, wherever, the happiness shown on their faces just to see somebody they know, I think is worthless, and I think we should strive to bring that happiness to them day after day after day within their own homes. I had to think back and say that there's so many times we sat around in this Honourable House, there's questions on training, there's questions on job opportunity,

there's questions on housing, you know. It seems that we are doing everything to help our people achieve a good life until they become a senior and their golden years. You know, what are we doing? What are we really doing to make sure those golden years, you know, these seniors can live in comfort, happiness and be still a part of the community? Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk. I recognize the Ordinary Member for Nain, Mr. Richard Pamak.

MR. PAMAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First just let me want to say that certainly I was truly shocked on the resignation of my colleague, Ordinary Member Sean Lyall, and also the Minister of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, this last week so. You know, Sean and I had a fairly good working relationship and we certainly shared constituency issues that always popped up within our community. We always had that connection. So I certainly want to wish Sean the best in moving forward and in his future endeavours. So I wish him well, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I just want to take this time to pass on sincere condolences to the family of the late Paula Tuglavina. Deepest and heart-felt condolences going out to the Ittulak, Tuglavina, and Bennett family. Losing a loved one, not only affects your friends and family, it is also felt by the whole community. I'll remember Paula of always having a smile and always having a hello and a time to chat to all those that she met in her path. Paula was a victim to suicide. May you rest in peace, Paula. Mr. Speaker, it seems like I am becoming repetitive in reporting to this Assembly. The Nain Boys and Girls Huskies have done it again, taking first

place overall at the Winter Sports Meet held in Postville over the past weekend. Nain Boys and Girls took first place overall in Inuit games, in soccer, and took silver in ball hockey. Congratulations once again to the Nain Huskies on a job well done. I don't believe that they will be going onto Provincials, so hopefully they may not be part of my next not hopefully, but I don't think they'll be part of my next member statement. But, again, congratulations certainly to the Nain Huskies Boys and Girls.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday Young Women's Day was celebrated in Nain with 11 young women dressed in traditional dress in akuliks skin boots or moccasins and church hats. Since the last sitting of the Assembly, Nain also celebrated Young Men's Day where young men also dressed in traditional silapak skin boots, decorated hats and ribbons. Widows' Day and Married Days was also celebrated. It is so good that traditions of celebrating Young Men's and Women's Day, Widows' Day or Married Couples Day or People's Day are still celebrated and carrying on in our community. Practising and preserving our traditions and culture is very important. Mr. Speaker, as you and others have heard over the past week, fostering of our children was news all over Labrador, Newfoundland and across Canada, an issue that many of us around the table have shared and addressed at several sessions of this Assembly over the past year or so.

Mr. Speaker, I do not fully agree with the way that CBC portrayed the story, however, it brought our concerns to the forefront. I was not surprised with what we are doing. When I say we, I mean the Nunatsiavut Government, but was very surprised with what CBC reporter, Terry Roberts, brought

forward regarding the level of support that has been provided to the Newfoundland communities of Roddickton and Englee. Before I go any further, Mr. Speaker, I just want to take this time to give a big thank you to the families of the communities of Roddickton and Englee for taking our children in and supporting them, to love them as their own and to raise them in a healthier environment. I see much is being done in keeping connections close with the children and their parents whether parents are travelling to visit them or foster parents and the children are coming home. This is important to keep that family connection and to carry on Inuit cultures and values. Mr. Speaker, the CBC report shows or tells of a picture of how much money is injected into the local economy of those communities. Schools are being kept open. Businesses are benefiting, and what mostly disturbs me is to hear that the extra social workers are recruited to help support foster families. Plus extra staff support and services with new infrastructure being placed to meet the demand; money, resources and facilities that should have been placed in our Inuit communities to keep our children home. The placing of our children outside our communities must stop now, and that time is now. We now have to take steps, little steps, to ensure that this not happen unless all options are exhausted within the community and within Nunatsiavut. Mr. Speaker, despite the housing crisis in our communities, we have foster homes on as many as a few years ago lost duly mostly to the lack of support provided to them. Our foster parents must be reassured that support services are available to them when they need. Recruitment and retention

must be addressed. Support services such as Working with Foster Parenting Association, long-term support staff such as Family Connections which is what I was going to address at this level as well, be made available for families at risk. These are responsibilities of the Provincial Government. Having said that, Mr. Speaker, families too must take on the responsibility in raising their own kids. You know, we all heard that families are faced with inter-generational trauma from relocation, residential schools and the lack of housing, are only parts of the reason why we're in a position where we are. Families not only need support services, but effective support services such as trauma, addictions counselling and parenting skills. Mr. Speaker, I have said it before and recognize that the Department of Health and Social Development of the Nunatsiavut Government is doing what it can to be done. Solutions to many of these issues facing our foster of children falls on the shoulders of the Provincial Government. Our MHA has to continue his efforts in advocating on fostering. The Minister of Inter-governmental and Indigenous Affairs of Labrador and Minister of Labrador Affairs, Premier Dwight Ball, and Minister for Children and Senior and Social Development, Sherry Gambin-Walsh must begin to work more in depth with the Nunatsiavut Government in ensuring our children remain in their homes and make every effort to get our children back home. In closing, Mr. Speaker, I just want to say a special thank you to Michelle Kinney, Deputy Minister, Department of Health and Social Development, for taking the time over the past year to listen to my concerns, giving updates on what is being

done and providing some guidance and advice. I look to Michelle and staff on the ground to work together on what we can do to move forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Mr. Pamak. Are there any further member statements this morning? I recognize Ms. Marjorie Flowers, the AngajukKâk for Hopedale.

MS. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that my statement was a bit long last time, this is very short. I just want to acknowledge and send out condolences to the family of Ruby Nochasak who we just recently lost to suicide. It really breaks my heart and our community to lose another one of our young people to suicide. I really think that we really need to work together. Otherwise we won't have any young people left to lead the future. I think this is a very important topic and one that will take much working in all communities to get under control. Also I'm sounding like a broken record, but we're still continuing to have a lot of water leaks in our community. One just noted again this morning and it's an ongoing and very expensive process of trying to fix these leaks so I call on this Assembly to support me in my cause to fund. We do have funds to fix some of the leaks there this summer, but I'm hoping that things can be fixed once and for all. I also want to bring and acknowledge the very high operating costs of our multi-purpose building, and not only this community, but in other communities, and I think that we need to really start looking at ways and how we can operate this very expensive but very much needed buildings. Since our last Assembly sitting I've attended a combined counsel ATM. I've been voted in again as Vice President, but I am coming and just with the AngajukKâat

and the reps from our communities, really want to make it clear that I cannot help unless people bring their concerns to me. With combined counsels of Labrador since our government has been formed, it sometimes seems that maybe we don't need him to be a part of that Assembly, but I think that we do. Our government is a big representation for us. But I think extending it to all of Labrador, we need to be still a part of this combined counsels. Our wooding project has not been started due to some of ongoing issues that we had, but we are hoping to get it started in the next few weeks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Ms. Flowers. I recognize the AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Herb Jacque.

MR. JACQUE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Makkovik Inuit Community Government would like to advise the Assembly of the following issues: We welcome Sonny James Gear to our team as a seasonal municipal labourer. He's now undergoing training with our water and sewer maintenance guys and we wish him well. We'd also like to congratulate Kim Anderson on rank up to sergeant with the Senior Rangers. Congratulations, Kim. Cindy Lyall, our CAO, has formed a women's group in our community with 11 members, which we're very proud of. We wish them the best in their future endeavours as well. We welcome our Volunteer Arena Committee, Minor Hockey committee. We wish them the best luck in their fundraising activities. We are so happy and we are pleased we invite, extend a visitation to our neighbouring communities to come and enjoy our arena as well. We thank the Makkovik Inuit Trust Committee in providing

funding to hire two assistant recreation directors along with our recreation team for 16 weeks with the extra activity in our community. We are also happy to have a groom operator and assistant in place to provide safe travels for travellers in our area and beyond, and the trails are now being marked from Makkovik to Burnt Lake, Little Neck, plus Makkovik to Hopedale is in progress. We extend a warm welcome to the military troop that's coming to our community starting today. They're going to have a community feast this evening, and we'd like to thank all the volunteers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk. Are there any further member statements this morning? If we have no further member statements then we will recess, reconvene for eleven o'clock, and we'll pick up with item six, "Returns to Oral Questions."

(Recess)

MR. EDMUNDS:

Welcome back to the Assembly. After recess prior to Assembly we left on item five, "Member Statements." And at this point we will move onto item six on your Orders of the Day, "Returns to Oral Questions." This morning we have three scheduled, "Returns to Oral Questions," which came from the January sitting. These questions were all directed to the Honourable Darryl Shiwak, the Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology, and the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources. I will ask that the Honourable Minister deal with these questions consecutively and read them for the purposes of the Hansard. I recognize the Nunatsiavut Treasurer and Minister of Lands, the Honourable Darryl Shiwak.

MR. D. SHIWAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Teresa Baikie, our IBA Co-ordinator, is continuing to work with Vale and its contractors to get as many of our beneficiaries working at the mine site, both for permanent and temporary positions. There have been a few glitches, especially with contract to hiring. However, the issues are being dealt with as they come up, and there is a better process being followed. Our IBA Co-ordinator has communicated directly with Innu Municipal and NGC many times in the last number of months. This came about as a direct result of complaints and concerns regarding NG beneficiaries not getting calls for work. There have been a few NG beneficiaries who were overlooked but have now been hired. They were able to provide copies of emails or correspondence detailing when they had sent their resumes. This is the type of proof that we need to get back to the company so they cannot deny the information. Innu Municipal is now being more diligent in confirming Aboriginal status and really going through the resumes to ensure they meet requirements of the contract. They have been told we cannot support them for further work if they are not willing to follow the commitments in relation to hiring. All applicants for positions must have their status confirmed whether it be Nunatsiavut Government beneficiary or Innu. There was a list of 634 applicants for the first round of hiring and, of those, there were only 20 applicants from Nunatsiavut. Mr. Speaker, a question was directed to me from the Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Honourable Roy Blake, requesting an outline of the hiring process for jobs at Voisey Bay. The hiring process is as follows: First a job ad is sent from Vale Aboriginal

Affairs Department, a minimum of a week for people to apply, job ads are distributed to community liaison officers, Post-Secondary Student Support Program, Inuit Pathways, and Canadian Constituency for distribution. Also posted on jobs in Voisey Bay Facebook page. Resumes reviewed and qualified beneficiaries contacted to determine interest in applying. Applicants' names and place of residence submitted to NG to confirm beneficiary status. Qualified NG beneficiaries should be hired based on adjacency commitment within the IBA which is: First, Inuit residing in Nain is a first priority. Inuit residing in other Inuit communities or Natuashish, Inuit residing elsewhere in Labrador, and then Inuit residing on the island of Newfoundland. In order to promote gender equality, the company and contractors can bypass the adjacency requirement to increase the number of Inuit women into the workforce. Innu Municipal contract. With regards to the contract to hiring in the fall of 2016 for the civil works preparation for underground quickly came to our attention that there were issues with the hiring for the Innu Municipal Contract Hiring. When Innu Municipal was first hiring they did confirm beneficiary status for approximately 30 applicants, but not for the full 600 plus applicants that had applied. We learned that Innu Municipal trusted what applicants self-identified as, and a number of NunatuKavut members identified as Inuit, which caused issues initially. We now have this fixed and they realize how important beneficiary confirmations are to us and to them. Mr. Speaker, on January 25th, 2017 the Ordinary Member for Canada, Mr. Dan Pottle, asked the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Darryl Shiwak if his department would

be willing to consult with beneficiaries and non-NEC elected officials prior to 2018-2019 budgets. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology is willing to have a pre-budget consultation process for the 2018-2019 budget. Mr. Speaker, on January 25th, 2017, the Ordinary Member for Nain, Mr. Richard Pamak, asked the Minister of Finance, Human Resources, the Honourable Darryl Shiwak, if he would be willing to gauge civil service, about their interest in becoming unionized and, if so, would his Department be willing to initiate discussions with the union and start the process? Mr. Speaker, by definition, a labour union is an organization intended to represent the collective interests of workers in negotiations with employers over wages, hours, benefits and working conditions. Mr. Speaker, it is not the responsibility of an employer to unionize its workforce. Nakummek.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister. Are there any further returns to oral questions this morning? If we have no further returns to oral questions, we'll proceed to item seven, "Oral Questions." Do we have any oral questions this morning? I recognize the Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Roy Blake.

MR. BLAKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Mr. Shiwak. Sir, with regards to Muskrat Falls, when will the Independent Expert Advisory Committee be established? This was a commitment made by the Province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Mr. Blake. In response, the Honourable Darryl Shiwak, Minister of Lands and Natural Resources.

MR. D. SHIWAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for the question. It's an important one. And, as you said, it was a very important commitment that was agreed to and made by the Province to establish with the other Aboriginal groups and Independent Expert Advisory Committee to look at issues dealing with the downstream effects from Muskrat Falls. What I can say right now is the Aboriginal Groups have finalized comments and what an agreement for an Independent Expert Advisory Committee would be. It is with the Provincial Government. We're waiting for them to sign off on that agreement and then we'll have the Independent Expert Advisory Committee established and do its work in moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Honourable Minister. Does the Member have a supplementary question?

MR. BLAKE: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Mr. Blake. Are there any further oral questions this morning? I recognize Mr. Gary Mitchell, Member for NunaKâtiget.

MR. MITCHELL: Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. My question this morning is for the Honourable Johannes Lampe, President of Nunatsiavut. In regard to communications, it's in the past couple statements there have been references to past statements with a lack of communication or, you know, maybe a personal view of lack of communication, and there's been some correspondence in

the last couple of months regarding correspondence, and I realize Ministers Statements in the Assembly are a means to pass information onto us. But, in my view, not all the questions are answered in the Assembly, and not all information's coming forth. And I'd like to know is there any desire on the part of NEC to pass on more information to the Assembly Members on where Ministers are going and what's happening with some activities, like housing and applications. Is there any desire of the NEC to pass on more information directly to Assembly Members before it's released to anybody else to keep us in the loop on things? Nakummek, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Chairperson for NunaKâtiget. In response, I recognize the Honourable President, Mr. Johannes Lampe.

PRESIDENT LAMPE:

Nakummek, Chair of NunaKâtiget. Mr. Speaker, at the last sitting of the Assembly the same question was asked, but it is the desire of the Nunatsiavut Executive Council to enhance communication within government, and most certainly to communicate to the elected members is something that we desire to do. But the challenges that we have are in the workings with either the Federal or Provincial Departments, and most times that the Ministers are working with Departments, whether it's with the Federal or Provincial Departments, some of these, you know, items are confidential, and some of the work that we are doing are ongoing and in draft form. And so we, as the NEC, have to be very careful not to jeopardize any discussions that we are having with the Federal or Provincial Departments. But we do have the desire to enhance

communication, and so we are looking at ways of what it is that we can communicate to NunaKâtiget or Ellicott of the communities or Ordinary Members of the Nunatsiavut communities. And we certainly will need your help as elected members to work at enhancing that communication. But right now as NEC, the work that we are doing we are communicating to you as we complete the work that we do. Nakummek, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Honourable President. Does the Chairperson have a supplementary question?

MR. MITCHELL: Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. Does it have to be a question, or can I make a comment?

MR. EDMUNDS: Only a question, Chairperson.

MR. MITCHELL: I don't have any further questions right now, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Chairperson. Are there any further oral questions? I recognize the AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Mr. Jack Shiwak.

MR. J. SHIWAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Lands and Resources. I think I heard right this morning in your statement that anyone can go and get a moose licence, or anybody can go out and kill a moose before they get their licence. Is that correct? Is that what I heard? That I don't have to go out to the Department, get a licence and then go hunt for the moose. But I can kill the moose, come back, say I have the moose and pick up all the necessary licence plus the tags. Is that correct?

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, AngajukKâk. In response, Honourable Darryl Shiwak, Minister of Lands.

MR. D. SHIWAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And to answer your question, in previous before the March 16th date the process was you had to go to the office and you'd have to be on a list to get a moose licence. Due to the reasons I stated today with regards to food security and having those moose harvested, we will change that as of March 16th, and you are correct in saying that you can go kill the moose first and then come back to the office and then fill out the correct paperwork for that licence.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister. Does the AngajukKâk have a supplementary? I recognize Mr. Jack Shiwak, AngajukKâk.

MR. J. SHIWAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess the second question is — well, first of all I wouldn't do this, but if I went out there somewhere and there's four to five moose there, can I kill all four and five and then come back say, here, I've got five moose and pick up the licence and the tags and go back and do the work with them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk. In response the Honourable Darryl Shiwak.

MR. D. SHIWAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I hope you wouldn't do it. No, the intent of what we're doing with this change is the intent that one person would kill one moose so that we do have more different people killing the moose. But if you do kill more than one moose, say, if you kill two moose, we would ask that you bring that second moose into the Community Freezer so that that meat can be distributed amongst more of the community, but the intent is for you to kill one moose. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Honourable Minister. Does the AngajukKâk have a final supplementary?

MR. J. SHIWAK: One final question on that. Maybe I should have the answer as a firearms safety instructor, but some people that don't have their firearms safety instructor certificates or cards are these people able to go and do the same, or do you need to have all the FAC or PAL, whatever they call it now, to be able to hunt moose. Thank you.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, AngajukKâk. In response, the Honourable Darryl Shiwak.

MR. D. SHIWAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for the question again. It is my understanding that with the conservation officers, they do not ask for that particular piece of identification or that particular piece of, like I say, identification. That's my understanding. It's not required by them. It's just for you to go and get that moose licence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Honourable Minister. Do we have any further oral questions this morning? I recognize the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question would be for the First Minister whose report was given today by Minister Kemuksigak, and it's regarding the Housing Strategy Report. I've heard that there is a missing component to that report around the housing model, and I'm just wondering is there a timeframe when this Housing Model Report will be in so that we can get the Housing Strategy Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, AngajukKâk. Obviously our First Minister hasn't been here this morning and we've had Ministers acting on her behalf. I think what we can do in this instance is that the question can be forwarded to the President, and the President can choose to either answer it or take that question under notice, and the Minister can provide a response within our timeframe.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. I, as President, will certainly bring that forward to the Honourable First Minister. Nakummek, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Honourable President. That question then will be taken under notice. Are there any further oral questions? I believe the Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Roy Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed once again to the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Mr. Shiwak. Sir, does the moose hunting with no licence also include Happy Valley Goose Bay, North West River and Mud Lake beneficiaries? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Mr. Blake. In response, the Honourable Darryl Shiwak. Minister of Lands.

MR. D. SHIWAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As far as I understand there's a certain number of licences for Upper Lake Melville for North West River, Happy Valley Goose Bay and Mud Lake. They go into a draw. If there are moose licences still in those draws, they have to be hunted in the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area so those licences would be under the same conditions as the licences in those communities. Does that answer your question?

MR. BLAKE: Maybe I'm asking the same thing.

MR. D. SHIWAK: It's the same thing. The same rules apply.

MR. BLAKE: Okay.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Honourable Minister. Does the Member have a supplementary? Nakummek, Mr. Blake. Is there any Member who is yet to ask a question and would like to take advantage of the question period? I recognize the Chairperson for NunaKâtiget, Mr. Gary Mitchell.

MR. MITCHELL: Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. In absence of the First Minister, I guess I will direct this question to the Honourable Johannes Lampe, President of Nunatsiavut. In one of the reports that came out this morning regard to the Housing Strategy, it was mentioned that there was a committee, I do believe, of four members, and the four committee members were named, and two of these names were non-beneficiaries, although they were staff members. I just wonder why, if there's a Housing Strategy being developed, which I think is dragging its heels on, why aren't all the Members, beneficiaries and people from the communities that are on this committee for the Housing Strategy? Maybe I'm wrong here, but I just thought the committee might be made of four people and, like I mentioned, there was two names that weren't beneficiaries. Why aren't all the names beneficiaries of the communities that are affected by a housing problem? Nakummek, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Chairperson. In response I recognize the Honourable Johannes Lampe, President of Nunatsiavut.

PRESIDENT LAMPE:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Chair of NunaKâtiget, for the question. And, again, I will bring this question forward to the First Minister. Nakummek, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable President. Again the question will be taken under notice and supplied to the Assembly when it is made available. Are there any further oral questions this morning? If we have no further oral questions then we'll proceed on with item eight on your Orders of the Day. "Written Questions." Do we have any written questions this morning? Onto item nine, "Returns to Written Questions." There are no scheduled returns to written questions today. Item 10, "Petitions." Do we have any petitions? Consider item 11, "Responses to Petitions." There are no responses to petitions today. Onto item 12, "Reports of Standing and Special Committees." And I'd like to recognize Mr. Richard Pamak, the Ordinary Member for Nain, to give a report from the Member Services Committee on the review of the salaries and benefits of elected officials.

MR. PAMAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Bear with me, everybody. I'm suffering through some very serious sinus issues and I hope I don't mention Dwight Ball or Yokum again in my report. Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Standing Order 66(1) states that the Member Services Committee shall be comprised of all those Ordinary Members who are not Members of the Executive Council. Further, Standing Order 66(2) states that the Speaker shall be a Chair of Member Services Committee and Standing Order 66(3) says that the mandate of the Member Services Committee is provided by Section 78 to 83 of the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act*. Additionally, Mr.

Speaker, Section 80 of the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act* states that notwithstanding Section 79 before tabling the budget in the Assembly the *Member Services Act* shall a) Give at least 10 days' notice to the Inuit public of all amounts proposed for recommendation under Part 11. b) Consider any submissions that may be received from the Inuit public with respect to the amounts proposed for recommendation under Part 11 and c) Incorporate the expenditure estimates on the Part 11 into the annual budget for the Assembly. Section 88 states that the Member Services Committee shall, after completing requirements under Section 80, table its consolidated budget recommendation for the approval of the Assembly. And Section 88 of the *Assembly Act* states that after taking into account the comments and suggestions of the Members of the Assembly and Member Services Committee shall prepare a final consolidated estimate and transmit them to the Treasurer for inclusion into the Consolidated Financial Plan for that fiscal year. With that in mind, Mr. Speaker and Members, your Member Services Committee is pleased to provide its report on the salaries and benefits of elected officials and recommends it to the Nunatsiavut Assembly. Mr. Speaker, in early November of 2016 a scope of work was established by the Member Services Committee so that consultants could undertake the work of a salary review. The scope of work contained the following: Review the responsibilities of all elected officials and perform a comparative review of other elected officials in the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and at least two other Inuit Government structures in Canada. To perform

a comparative review of compensation and benefit packages for all elected officials with equivalent or similar elected officials from the jurisdiction defined in Subsection (1) above. 3) Identify the rationale provided to the salaries and compensation packages determined for elected officials in designated jurisdictions. How salaries and compensation packages changes/increases are determined. How salaries and compensation packages for newly elected officials are determined are the same as the outgoing elected officials or are they different and if they are, why? 4) Provide recommendations for changes to the current compensation packages to elected officials with a rationale for change if required. After confirming with the comptroller of the Nunatsiavut Government, the Member Services Committee determined that it would be best if the criteria were forwarded to the company contracted to conduct the civil service salary review. PGF Consultants Incorporated, after reviewing the criteria, the company stated they could undertake the stipulated work for a cost of 26,500. The funds come from the professional fees category of the Nunatsiavut Assembly budget. The NEC approved the cost and the work on the project began at the end of November, 2016. The first review of the report began in early January, 2017. At this time the Member Services Committee felt that there were concerns with language and a lack of definition throughout parts of the report. And it was referred back to the consultants for revision. The Speaker and the Clerk then teleconferenced with representatives from PGF on January 16 to express the concerns brought forward from the Member Services Committee. The

consultants were able to remedy these issues and forward a final report on January 25th, 2017. The submission of this final report prompted the NEC to meet in Goose Bay for February 6th, 2017. In this face-to-face meeting the overall report was discussed by Members and then the recommendations from the consultants were considered. The three primary areas of consideration were the base salary figure, adjustment of indemnities, and using the Consumer Price Index, CPI, to adjust base salaries. In each of these areas the Member Services Committee examined the potential for fully adopting the recommendation from the consultant or compromising on the recommendation. The Consumer Price Index is a figure used to measure the cost change in goods and services. The recommendation from the consultant is to use the Province's CPI as a way to adjust elected official's salary each year. The Member Services Committee agreed that the Consumer Price Index would be an effective tool for adjusting salaries due to inflation and it would ensure that the current salary recommendation would be fair and current within the next five years when another review is conducted. The first application of the Consumer Price Index to the base salary would take place in the 2018-2019 fiscal year. With respect to salaries, the Member Services Committee first decided to move the current system of a 3 percent increase on salary with a cap on fourth year of service. As a salary of an elected official in the last year of their term was 71,286, the committee determined that this would be the starting point for further discussion. As mentioned in the report from the consultants, after adjusting the cost of living difference between

Nunatsiavut and Nunavut and an equivalent base of salary of an elected official for Nunatsiavut would translate to 81,125. With this in mind, the committee determined that bringing the base salary up to 75,000, while being subject to Consumer Price Index increases, would approximately bridge the salary gap noted in the report. In terms of indemnities had recommended that the combined base salary and the indemnity of a Minister be brought to approximately 97,500. The Member Services Committee felt that the base salary increase combined with a mid-level indemnity increase would bring the salary of a Minister up to the acceptable level as highlighted in the report. The end result was a recommendation of a 10 percent indemnity increase, and when combined with the base salary, brought the overall salary of a Minister to 91,500. The end result then of the Member Services Committee recommendation was the creation of a \$75,000 base salary, a 10 percent increase in indemnities, and that the base salary is subject to the Consumer Price Index increases. On February 10th, 2017, the Member Services Committee issued a public consultation document requesting the Inuit public to comment on the proposed salaries and benefits of elected officials with a deadline of February 20th, 2017. This document was posted in each community and constituency office, and it was emailed to the Nunatsiavut Government, Nunatsiavut Assembly, and Distribution Network for their distribution to Nunatsiavut beneficiaries. After the consultation period ended, there were only two written responses. One response supported the increase for the salaries and the benefits for elected officials while the

other sought further information and disagreed with the recommended salary increases. Both responses were replied to by the Speaker and the detail responses are available at the Clerk's Office. There were several phone calls throughout the consultation process as the beneficiaries were seeking more information about the current salaries and benefits of elected officials. These inquiries were addressed by the Speaker, and individuals were encouraged to follow up with written responses, but none expressed intent to submit. Additionally there were questions regarding a membership of the Member Services Committee and the potential effects of a salary increase on the overall budget of the Nunatsiavut Government. Once more these concerns were addressed and beneficiaries were prompt to submit written comments. The Member Services Committee will be submitting its recommendations on the salary and benefits to this sitting under the Nunatsiavut Assembly Proposed Budget for 2017 to 2018. Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I move, seconded by Ordinary Member for Canada, Ms. Patricia Ford, that the March 7th, 2017 report on the salaries and benefits for elected officials be received and adopted.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Mr. Pamak. The motion is in order. Mr. Pamak, would you like to speak to the motion?

MR. PAMAK:

No more further comments, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. EDMUNDS:

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

MR. PAMAK: I have no further comments and wish to close debate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Ordinary Member. That will conclude debate. Are there any nays? The motion is carried, and that will conclude our reports for today. I will move to item 13, "Tabling of Documents." And I'd like to recognize the Treasurer of the Nunatsiavut Government, the Honourable Darryl Shiwak.

MR. D. SHIWAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the Assembly Budget Recommendations for the 2017-2018 year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Honourable Minister. The document will be numbered as tabled document 01-3(14). And I'd like to once more recognize the Treasurer of the Nunatsiavut Government, the Honourable Darryl Shiwak.

MR. D. SHIWAK: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. As requested by the *Labrador Inuit Constitution*, I am pleased to table the Nunatsiavut Government Financial Plan 2017-2018.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Honourable Minister. The tabled document will be numbered as tabled document 02-3(14). I'd like to recognize the Ordinary Member for Nain.

MR. PAMAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the PGF Report on the compensation and benefits study for elected officials dated January 25th, 2017.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Member for Nain. The document will be tabled as tabled document 03-3(14). I do not believe we have any further documents to be

tabled today, and at this point I would like for the Assembly to break for lunch. We will reconvene for 1:15.

(Recess)

MR. EDMUNDS: Welcome back to the Assembly. Before lunch we adjourned on item 13. We'll now proceed to item 14, "Notices of Motion," and I would like to recognize the Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Roy Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, March the 8th, 2017 that I will move, seconded by Ordinary Member for Canada, Ms. Pat Ford, and the following motion: That tabled document 01-3(14), the Assembly Budget Recommendations for 2017-2018, be referred to Committee of the Whole for consideration with Mrs. Rexanne Crawford, the Comptroller of the Nunatsiavut Government, as a witness. And, Mr. Speaker, I will be seeking unanimous consent by requesting the Assembly to waive Standing Order 37(1) to deal with this motion today under item 16, "Motions."

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Mr. Blake. I'd like to recognize the Nunatsiavut Treasurer, the Honourable Darryl Shiwak.

MR. D. SHIWAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, March 8th, I will move, seconded by the Honourable Greg Flowers, tabled document 3-14 the Financial Plan 2017-2018 be moved in Committee of the Whole for discussion in conjunction with bill 2017-01, the Budget Bill 2017. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Honourable Minister. I'd like to once more recognize the Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Roy Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, March the 8th, 2017, I will move, seconded by Ordinary Member for Canada, Ms. Pat Ford, that the NEO be paid \$300 per day with the 4 percent vacation pay and that the MSC review the remuneration of the NEO on an annual basis for approval by the Nunatsiavut Assembly. And, Mr. Speaker, I will be seeking unanimous consent by requesting the Assembly to waive the Standing Order 37(1) to deal with this motion today under item 16, "Motions."

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Mr. Blake. Are there any further notices of motion today? If we have no further notices of motion we'll proceed to item 15. Item 15, "Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills." I'd like to recognize the Minister of Finance and the Nunatsiavut Treasurer, the Honourable Darryl Shiwak.

MR. D. SHIWAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, March 8th, 2017, I will move, seconded by the Minister of Health and Social Development, the Honourable Greg Flowers, first reading of Bill 2017-01, the Budget Bill 2017.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Honourable Minister. Once more for a notice of motion for another first reading of bill, I recognize the Minister of Finance and Nunatsiavut Treasurer, the Honourable Darryl Shiwak.

MR. D. SHIWAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, March 8th, 2017, I will move, seconded by the Minister of Health and Social Development, the Honourable Greg Flowers, the first reading of Bill 2017-02, a bill to enact to amend the final *Financial Administration Act*, CILF-131-12-2012.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Honourable Minister. I do not believe that there are any more notices of motion for the first reading of bills today. We'll move to item 16 on your Orders of the Day, "Motions," and I'd like to recognize Mr. Roy Blake, Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville.

MR. BLAKE: Honourable Speaker. I am seeking unanimous consent to proceed with my motion today that tabled document 01-3(14) the Assembly Budget Recommendations for 2017-2018 be referred to Committee of the Whole for consideration with Ms. Rexanne Crawford, the Comptroller of the Nunatsiavut Government as a witness.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Ordinary Member. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are none, and Mr. Blake, please proceed.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker and Members. Whereas the Member Services Committee is required by Section 81 of the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act* has tabled the consolidated budget recommendations for approval of the Assembly. And whereas the Assembly should consider the recommendations to allow the Member Services Committee to finalize consolidated estimates of the Assembly for transmittal of the Treasurer for

in conclusion in the Consolidated Financial Plan for 2017-2018. Now therefore I move, seconded by Ordinary Member for Canada, Ms. Pat Ford, that tabled document 01-3(14), the Assembly Budget Recommendations for 2017-2018, be referred to Committee of the Whole for consideration.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Mr. Blake. The motion is in order. Mr. Blake, would you like to speak to the motion?

MR. BLAKE:

No, Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to speak to the motion.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Mr. Blake. Would anyone else like to speak to the motion? If no other Member wishes to speak, does the Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville wish to make final comments and close debate?

MR. BLAKE:

No further comments, Mr. Speaker, and I wish to close debate.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member. That will conclude debate. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed to the motion? The motion is carried. We will now enter into the Committee of the Whole, and I'd like to invite Ms. Rexanne Crawford, the Comptroller of the Nunatsiavut Government, to open the discussions on the Assembly Budget Recommendations for 2017 and 2018. We, again, are in the Committee of the Whole and we'll begin our considerations of the Assembly Budget. Of course, as we've learned, and as has been discussed, the Member Services Committee has been tasked with going over the Assembly budget and with much help from the comptroller of the Nunatsiavut Government, and we'll begin our presentations when Ms. Crawford is ready to do so.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Before I begin, does everyone have a copy of the Nunatsiavut Assembly Budget in your binder? The one that says Assembly Budget 2017-2018. Tab 4? Okay. So the overall budget for the Assembly has slightly increased from the preceding year. The main driver of this increase are, as we're all aware, the *Labrador Inuit Constitution* states that salaries for elected officials are set for a five-year period, and the Member Services Committee has been tasked with determining the salaries and allowances for elected officials. So the Member Services Committee engaged a consultant this year. The PGF Report was tabled. This report was used to facilitate a discussion with the Member Services Committee to develop options and recommendations and, as was put out to the public, there are several recommendations on changes to the salaries for elected officials. So the changes that were recommended were that the base salary of an elected official will increase to \$75,000 per year effective April 1st, 2017. And what that means is that every elected official, as of April 1st, will make \$75,000. In the event that there is a bi-election during that particular year, the elected official will make \$75,000. For the next fiscal year, April 1st, 2018, this salary will increase by CPI, and the CPI for Newfoundland and Labrador for the proceeding calendar year. So April 1st, 2018, the CPI will be based on the 2017 year, and then the base salary for that particular year would be — I think it's about 1.04 percent for last year, so your base salary would then increase to 76,500 for simplicity purposes. And in that year every single elected official will make the same salary, and again in the event of a bi-election that's the salary the elected official will make. Elected officials

serving in ministerial positions; the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Assembly, receive an indemnity to compensate for additional roles and responsibilities. So the Member Services Committee recommends a 10 percent increase on these indemnities to create the following: The First Minister being paid 27,500, Speaker of the Nunatsiavut Assembly and Ministers, 16,500, and the Deputy Speaker of the Nunatsiavut Assembly, \$8,250. I'll just go through the Presidential salary before I kind of open it up for any questions on that particular piece. And the President, in the past the way the salary was done for the President was that the President would make the base salary, as all other elected officials, and then they would receive a \$36,000 indemnity on top of that. In the discussions at the Member Services Committee, it was identified that an indemnity is to compensate for additional roles and responsibilities on top of what you're elected for. The President is elected to be the President. So the compensation then should just be a set compensation. You do not need to have an indemnity on top of it. So the salary was reviewed looking at base salary, increase indemnity. What would that total be? And the recommendation is to compensate the President at a salary of \$115,000 per year. This base salary again would be adjusted annually based on the CPI for Newfoundland and Labrador. And in both cases in the event that CPI is negative, there would be no adjusted. We would never adjust down. We would just maintain status quo. So these recommendations were put out to the Inuit public and, as you heard in your report earlier on this morning, there are only two written submissions on this salary, and I think

in all cases it seemed to be favourable. Mostly the concern was making sure that programs and services would not be reduced to compensate for this additional compensation. So that's the main driver of, of this Assembly budget, is the change in that. Travel is consistent from the prior year. It's based on five sittings plus one for an emergency. The Nunatsiavut Assembly committees. There are four standing committees of the Nunatsiavut Assembly; the Member Services Committee, Rules and Procedures Committee, Funds Set Aside for a Code of Conduct Committee and the Alcohol and Drug Committee. And there's also an allocation for any special committee structure in a year. The allocations for constituency allowances have not changed from the previous year. The allocations are set out in the report; \$4,000 for each elected official in the constituencies in Nunatsiavut; 7,500 for each elected official in Upper Lake Melville and 37,000 for each elected official in the Canadian Constituency. Election of costs reflect that there will be a general election in May, 2018, and as per the prior report, there are start-up costs that will begin around the first week in February when the NEO is brought on in preparation for this general election. Operating costs remain consistent with prior years and just cover your general operating costs of the Assembly, telephone, stationary, postage, printing, maintenance, insurance, and etcetera. So that's the summary of the Assembly Budget for this upcoming year. Are there any questions that I can hopefully address?

MR. EDMUNDS:

I recognize the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's just one question, and then I didn't even know if being new if this is the right place to ask, but with the increases I'm just wondering where will the money come from to pay from if this is passed?

MR. EDMUNDS: If you could just repeat the question. I think there was some issue with the mic picking up the....

MS. FLOWERS: My question is where will the money come from if this budget is passed for the increases? Thank you.

MS. CRAWFORD: So what happens, typically the Assembly budget is done in a sitting before we come with the Budget Bill. But this budget has already been submitted into my department. We've incorporated into the Financial Plan that is before you that will be considered tomorrow. So the funds for all government operations had several sources which we'll go through tomorrow, but they come from personal income taxes, Goods and Services taxes, investment income, mining royalties, *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. So we take all the expenditures planned for the government including the Assembly and then we'll go through our resources which we have, our financial resources to make sure we have a balanced budget to bring to you.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Ms. Crawford. Any further questions or comments? Mr. Shiwak.

MR. D. SHIWAK: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. And I know that Mr. Pamak went through it when you tabled the document earlier. Can you, or I don't know if it was Rexanne, or you, or one of the other members on the NEC described how

you came up with the 75,000 from Ordinary Members again. Just how you got to that number versus — it had something to do with 71,000 and it had something to do with the base salary which is 65,000 which is what we start at. So a new member would have started at 65,000. Next year they're going to start at 75,000. If you can just go through that. I don't know who wants to take it.

MS. CRAWFORD:

So under the regime, I guess, the compensation regime that's currently in effect right now, any elected official in their very first year of service makes 65,400. And then as you go through your years of service up to a maximum, I guess, of four years, your salary will increase by 3 percent of that original 65,400, which is \$1,892. So any member who's in their fourth year plus of service to the Assembly is at a maximum of 71,286. I know I was going to get that wrong. My numbers are going — 286 in that final year. Like I mentioned four years plus. There were several options considered using the PGF Report. So they had proposed no change to a base salary which, in looking at, would have been 65,400 cause that's what has always been verbalized as a base salary. We looked at the fact that Members are, you know, by the time you hit your fourth year of service, you're at 71,286. We looked at what would the CPI increase be on that? There were, you know, three or four different options proposed as the Member Services Committee debated it out. And what was finally decided on was a base salary of 75,000. Coming from finance, my recommendation to the Member Services Committee was to have one base salary per year. It's a simpler regime to be under. So and the 2017-2018 fiscal year all

elected officials make the same base salary, and that's consistent with what all other governments do. So there is none of this, I guess, compensation for years of service for lack of a better term. And then we looked at adjusting that base salary and, actually, the consultant had recommended using CPI as the adjustment factor. They felt it was a fair and objective way. It's done in North West Territories. There are other governments that look at using public sector increases, but there's been a thought among the world, I guess, that kind of leads to biases because when elected officials then approve union agreements and because they knew it would tie to their compensation or would they be able to make very fair and objective. So the Member Services Committee felt this was a very fair and objective way of looking at increases in compensation. So I don't know if I over-answered your question, but I hope I answered what you are looking for.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Ms. Crawford. Mr. Flowers.

MR. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Tyler. I guess one question that I have is that all elected officials will be increased in April by 75. But does the First Minister, Speaker, and Ministers and Deputy Speakers, has that number's always been there, or is there an increase in there, or is that what it has always been right to this date?

MS. CRAWFORD:

There's always been an indemnity. Well, it's the base, whatever your salary is, your base salary plus 15,000. The First Minister, I think, was 25,000 and 36,000 for the President and 7,500 for the Deputy Speaker. So

the proposal was to increase what the indemnity was by 10 percent to what is reflected in that table in the document in front of you.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Ms. Crawford. Mr. Flowers.

MR. FLOWERS:

So, I guess, for elected officials coming this year now and coming on in the previous year, community chairs in Upper Lake Melville and North West River will be the same as an AngajukKâk in any other communities. For me, personally, I find that the AngajukKâk, as running a community versus a community Chair running and not a community kind of thing, I find that maybe I guess I have, I don't know if it's an issue. I just find that for AngajukKâk not to — or to have more responsibility in a community versus, say a community Chair not having the same responsibilities, was there any talk or whispering talks around that as to maybe the 75,000 would come under something like the First Minister or a Deputy Speaker or something of that knowledge to just be a little bit different, if you understand what I'm trying to say.

MS. CRAWFORD:

I'll answer part of your question and then I think part of it's not within my role or responsibility to answer. But the salaries for an elected official I know during the discussion. What the Member Services Committee is looking at is compensation of elected officials in particular to their roles and responsibilities as being in their elected, and what their role is in the Assembly. So everyone in the table has the same responsibility once they come into the room here regardless if you're a Chair, an AngajukKâk or an Ordinary Member. So the indemnity, in order to be a Minister or a Deputy Speaker or Speaker, you have to be an Ordinary Member. And so then the

indemnity compensates you for your roles and responsibilities over and above your constituency work and your work in the Assembly. So that's what the indemnity is in place for. There was some discussion on AngajukKâat and Chairs and compensation for that in a different way, I think, than you've been wording your question because some of it is looking at should it or does it get funded from a community level or a corporation level, or does it get funded from the Assembly and we kind of felt that was outside of the realm of what the consultant was asked to do and where we were comfortable at being at that point in preparing for this budget. I think that's all I can answer from Finance. I think your question is bigger than me so.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Ms. Crawford. I recognize Mr. Pamak.

MR. PAMAK:

Yes, I guess just to add on what Rexanne said, certainly we recognize that, you know, Ordinary Members, Community Chairs, AngajukKâat, outside of Assembly have different roles and responsibilities. I think one of the areas throughout this whole process is that, first of all, I think, you know, we had to start a little bit earlier to review salary structures in the next five years, but we also have to look at the roles and responsibility outside of the Assembly too as well, but our primary goal, like Rexanne said, was that the roles and responsibilities as we are sitting together as an Assembly. Certainly we recognize the different levels of governance, if you want. Not so much governance, but roles and responsibility between AngajukKâat, Community Chairs, Ordinary Members and Ministers too as well. So all

that was taken into consideration when we looked at the final figures that we have in front of us today.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Mr. Pamak. I recognize Ms. Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I also had that brought to my attention as well, the similar issue as Minister Flowers. So people said the elected officials have different roles and responsibilities. Ordinary Members have different roles and responsibilities. AngajukKâat run their communities and deal with water and sewer and all kinds of major issues, and Chairpersons of corporations run, you know, run programs for their beneficiaries, but not to that greater extent as running a community. So people have said that maybe there should be different salary scales dependent on the job. And that came from also former elected officials, brought that to my attention. So I just wanted to raise it because it was brought to me. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Ms. Kemuksigak. I think, you know, just quickly, as Mr. Pamak has mentioned, you know, it is work that has been identified by the Member Services Committee that we need to really evaluate what these roles and responsibilities are outside of the Assembly. It is a task that needs to be done by the Member Services Committee and, you know, attaching relevant figures and I think to the positions is definitely a worthwhile pursuit. So that is, you know, as we've said, an entirely different piece of work and, you know, the terms of reference, you've all seen the terms of reference that we've given to the PGF Consultants. You know, that wasn't necessarily pieces of work that was up for consideration

this time around, but it is something that, you know, the Member Services Committee is interested in pursuing in the future so.

MR. EDMUNDS: Yes, Ms. Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Could that be documented because the next time there's a review of salaries, there might be all new people around the table. So if it's documented as something to consider, I think that would be much appreciated.

MR. EDMUNDS: It's within our records of decision at the Member Services Committee level and, you know, if we need any further documentation with respect to that then, you know, we'll certainly do that as well. I recognize Mr. Shiwak.

MR. D. SHIWAK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm glad to hear that it will be considered and will these, I guess you call them, recommendations as coming from here. And it seems like you've already thought of these things. One of the other recommendations that I think, and it's coming from the, what I'm hearing from Greg and Patricia as well, is I think that the way Member Services Committee is made up and who's involved in that discussion is we have the Ordinary Members not in the NEC plus you have the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker. And I'm trying to separate the position from the person. It might be good as either you take the Speaker out of that because your Speaker is involved in that discussion around their salary as well. Or you go the other way and you involve a representative from the different sections in the Assembly. So you may have input from the AngajukKâk, the Community Chair. You might have a Minister's input into that discussion

as well. Because if you're going to look at the different realms of salaries, when I took on this position, I've been a Minister for most of my whole elected life, pretty much, except for maybe a couple months. The indemnity I get is what I get and I accept and that's totally fine. That's part of my job. But we had to be careful in moving forward when we want — and it will be new people and could be new people very soon coming into these roles, and we want young people to come up. We want people to come in, and we want people to come in and want to be Ministers and be around the executive table. They have to be compensated for the job that they do, and they have to know that they are going to be compensated for the job. So I'm happy that you've already looked at that and you will be discussing that further. And, like Patricia said, if those recommendations can be brought forward, is there better ways for us to do this, and is there better ways to bring those recommendations forward, it would be great. I'm just thinking about the future generations and how the Assembly Members should be compensated. I'm not here advocating for more money and all that sort of stuff. Just we need to re-think this and make this a better process, I guess. But, no, it's a good job and I'm glad you already thought of it. So Nakummek.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Mr. Shiwak. I believe Ms. Crawford has something to add there.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Just to add to something Tyler had mentioned earlier and, I think, Richard. In the meeting for the Member Services Committee it was identified that while it says that every five years this has to be reviewed, it doesn't mean

that you wait till the fifth year because what we felt, and I'm not a decision maker on the MSC, but I was there as just to help facilitate and provide some advice. What was felt around the table was that it was very much a time crunch period, and while some of these things that we're even hearing from the other elected officials here were items that were discussed at the Member Services Committee, you're in a real time crunch to try to get some decisions out to Labrador Inuit to meet that 10 days to get back to me and to our budget. So I believe there were some projects that were identified that were going to be even looked at within the next — it could be even within the next year you would start looking at your scope of work and engagement so that you're better prepared going into year five and you're not waiting until year five to start working on some — even just the basic of what we have to do. But that there are other and bigger picture questions that are being raised. And I think it's a sign that we're becoming, I guess, more sophisticated. We're understanding how things are working and we're 11 years into it now. So I just wanted to kind of point that out and identify that those are things that Member Services Committee will be working toward, and as a matter of record there's record for Member Services Committee and the Hansard also has documented this discussion so.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Ms. Crawford. Any further questions or comments? I recognize Mr. Shiwak?

MR. J. SHIWAK:

I don't know who was involved in this, but I know shortly after I was elected, I think I did speak to the fact that AngajukKâat and counsels

needed some training, and we were taken in by the former President and the Finance Minister, and in that meeting we were pretty blankly told you don't get paid as an AngajukKâk. You get paid as an Assembly Member. I know we'd probably do a lot more work with them other people because it's a day-to-day thing, but I never ever expected much because in that meeting we had with the President and the Finance Minister at that time we were told you don't get paid as an AngajukKâk. You get paid as an Assembly Member and that's it.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Any further questions, comments? I recognize Ms. Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Thank you, Chairperson. I just wanted to talk a little about the PGF document. On page 16. And it's in the second paragraph kind of down towards the bottom. However, the accountability of a Minister is far greater than a regular Member as the Minister has to make decisions and assume responsibility for the consequences, and this does not seem to be recognized as much by the Nunatsiavut Government pay scale. Was this something that was looked at by the MSC?

MR. PAMAK:

Yes, very much so and that's why we kind of see an increase in the indemnities from 15 to 16,500. I guess as part of and going through the whole recommendations that is put out by PGF, they certainly recognize an increase for indemnities for Ministers for their extra roles and responsibilities outside of an Ordinary Member when placed into Ministerial roles. And they made that comparative to other governments. We've included the Provincial Government and Nunavut Government and Kativik Government too as well. Certainly there we took a balance of that

too as well, and we strongly recognized too at MSC the amount of work that the Ministers do over and above as just an Ordinary Member and certainly we wanted to recognize that too as well, and that's why we increased from 15 to 16,500.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Mr. Pamak. Any further questions, comments? I recognize Mr. Jack Shiwak.

MR. J. SHIWAK:

Just one question on the budget layout there. Salaries and benefits and travel. Does that take into account in your salaries, the cost of Northern allowance as well, and in travel, the travel and benefits paid to Assembly Members?

MS. CRAWFORD:

The line item called salary and benefits takes into account those three items as well as your mandatory employment, credits that you have to pay your 2 percent payroll tax, your Workers' Comp. All those are lumped into a line item called salaries and benefits so, yes.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Ms. Crawford. Any additional questions, comments? Again, Mr. Jack Shiwak.

MR. J. SHIWAK:

Look at election cost. As you know I've been there for quite some time. You know when I look at this I see there's very little room for movement on digital voting, I guess. It's what I have a look at there. I think there's a — if we were to go digital in the next election, I think the program itself is somewhere around 40,000. So that'd take a good chunk of that money right there. So, you know, maybe that cost should be a bit higher. Thank you.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Mr. Shiwak. PROOF FROM HERE FORWARD

MS. CRAWFORD: In going through the budget there was no discussion about in the next general election going digital. I know it has been an item that's been flagged. But I don't think there's — I mean, it hasn't come to my desk about a cost analysis about going digital versus using the balance which has been used in the past. So I think the budget right now has been developed the way we've run elections in the past and there's been nothing to my knowledge brought forward with a cost estimate for even being a digital election.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Ms. Crawford. Again any further comments or questions? Is there any additional commentary information that you'd like to offer, Ms. Crawford?

MS. CRAWFORD: No, thank you.

MR. EDMUNDS: If there aren't any further comments or questions, I would like to ask the Assembly if they are in favour of accepting the Assembly Budget 2017-2018 for inclusion in the overall Nunatsiavut Government Budget for 2017 and 2018. All those in favour please say aye?

ASSEMBLY: Aye.

MR. EDMUNDS: Any nays? The motion has been carried and we will end our Committee of the Whole and I thank Ms. Crawford for her time and contributions. We are now back into the Assembly and we have another motion for consideration and I'd like to recognize the Ordinary Member for Nain, Mr. Richard Pamak.

MR. PAMAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm seeking unanimous consent to proceed with my motion today that the NEO be paid \$300 per day with the 4 percent vacation pay. And that the Member Services Committee review the remuneration of the NEO on an annual basis for approval by the Nunatsiavut Assembly.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Mr. Pamak. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are none. Mr. Pamak, please proceed.

MR. PAMAK:

Thank you, Honourable Speaker and Members. Whereas a Nunatsiavut Editorial Officer, NEO was appointed by a resolution of the Nunatsiavut Assembly at its sitting on September 22nd, 2015 as recorded by the Nunatsiavut Elections Act. Whereas Part II, Section 3(4) of the Nunatsiavut Elections Act states that the NEO shall be paid a salary determined by the Assembly after considering estimates of the Member Services Committee. And whereas resolution 01-3-8 passed on September 24th, 2015, the Nunatsiavut Assembly directed that the Member Services Committee review the remuneration of the NEO on an annual basis for approval by the Assembly. And whereas the Member Services Committee reviewed the recommendations of the Nunatsiavut Government Salary Review Committee and other sources on the question of fair and equitable remuneration for the NEO position. Now therefore be it resolved that the NEO be paid \$300 per day with a 4 percent vacation pay and further be it resolved that the Member Services Committee reviewed a remuneration of the NEO on an annual basis for approval by the Nunatsiavut Assembly.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Mr. Pamak. The motion is in order. Mr. Pamak, would you like to speak to the motion?

MR. PAMAK: I have nothing else to add to the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Mr. Pamak. Is there anyone else who would like to speak to the motion? If no other member wishes to speak. Does the Ordinary Member for Nain wish to make final comments and close debate?

MR. PAMAK: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to close debate. Thank you.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Ordinary Member. That will close debate. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? The motion has been carried. We will proceed now to item 17 on our Orders of the Day, "First Reading of Bills," and I'd like to recognize the Honourable Darryl Shiwak, the Minister of Finance and the Nunatsiavut Treasurer.

MR. D. SHIWAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to give first reading to Bill20-17-02, a bill or an Act to amend the Financial Administration Act, CIL-F131-12-2012 today.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Honourable Minister. Members, the Minister is seeking unanimous consent to give first reading to Bill 2017-02 now. Are there any nays? There are none, and Mr. Minister, you may proceed with the first reading.

MR. D. SHIWAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Members. I move, seconded by the Minister of Health and Social Development, the Honourable Greg Flowers that Bill 2017-02, a bill or an Act to amend the Financial Administration Act be now introduced and read for the first time.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister. Minister, would you like to introduce the bill?

MR. D. SHIWAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today we are bringing forward amendments to the Financial Administration Act as it relates to the composition of the Joint Management Committee, or the JMC as it is commonly referred to. And to the ability to allow the designation of an alternate delegate under certain circumstances. Once a year the JMC meets to debate and approve the allocation of the capital work projects for the Inuit communities. Under the current legislation if the AngajukKâk of a particular community is unable to attend the meeting, there is no provision to allow an alternate member, designate or delegate to be the community's representative on the committee. This has been raised as a concern by the JMC as each community wants to be represented during this all important meeting for the allocation of capital works funding. Currently if an AngajukKâk is unable to attend, a town manager or a council member has been speaking on the matters for the community. However, Mr. Speaker, they do not have a vote on the allocation. The proposed legislation has a new Section 30 that will allow, if approved, the AngajukKâk to designate the Deputy AngajukKâk or a community councillor in the event that the AngajukKâk is unable to attend due for medical reasons, a death in the family, or if they have subpoenaed to appear in court. Mr. Speaker, the proposed legislation also has a revision of the composition of the JMC. In practice, the JMC has come to be composed of the Treasurer, the AngajukKâk, the Deputy Minister of

Nunatsiavut Secretariat, and the Assistant Comptroller. The revision to the Financial Administration Act reflects the change from First Minister to President as the President is responsible for inter-governmental affairs and that the appointees named in the section be explicitly given the power and the authority to name delegates that serve on the committee in their place as has effectively become the practice. Your recommended amendment was served to mandate the current composition of the JMC and provide flexibility to change as circumstances may require from time to time. Mr. Speaker, the amendment today also reflects a repeal of Section 29. This section refers to transitional provisions that are no longer relevant as the Nunatsiavut Government has been in effect for over 10 years. In November, 2016 these amendments were presented to the JMC and they were in agreement on these proposed changes, Mr. Speaker. Under Section 10.2.5 of the Labrador Inuit Constitution before a draft bill is tabled at the Assembly that could affect the status, institutions, powers, or function of Inuit Community Governments, it must be published in all Inuit communities for public comment before it is introduced in the Assembly. This was completed in November, 2016. There were no comments on this matter. Our government is recommending that the Nunatsiavut Assembly approve these proposed amendments to the Financial Administration Act. Nakummek, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister. The motion is in order and would anyone like to speak to the principle of the bill? If no Member wishes to

speaking, does the Minister of Finance and the Nunatsiavut Treasurer wish to conclude the debate?

MR. D. SHIWAK:

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

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister. That will conclude debate on first reading. Is the Assembly in favour of approving Bill 2017-02 on first reading? All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried and accordingly Bill 2017-02, a Bill for an Act to amend the Financial Administration Act CILF-131-12-2012 has had its first reading. Once more I'd like to recognize the Minister of Finance and the Nunatsiavut Treasurer, the Honourable Darryl Shiwak.

MR. D. SHIWAK:

Thank you, Mr. 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 2017-02, a Bill for an Act to amend the Financial Administration Act, CILF1-31-12-2012.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister. The Minister is seeking unanimous consent to waive Standing Order 54(1)(d) to proceed with second reading of Bill 2017-02, a bill for an Act to amend the Financial Administration Act, CILF-131-12-2012. Are there any nays? There are none and Honourable Minister you have unanimous consent. So the bill can proceed to second reading at the appropriate time. We will now proceed to item 18 on your Orders of the Day, "The Second Reading of Bills." And I would like to recognize the Minister of Finance and the Nunatsiavut Treasurer, the Honourable Darryl Shiwak, for the Second Reading of Bills.

MR. D. SHIWAK:

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Health and Social Development, the Honourable Greg Flowers that Bill 2017-02, a Bill for an Act to amend the Financial Administration Act be read for the second time.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister. The motion is in order. The procedure for second reading debate will be the page-by-page and clause-by-clause review of Bill 2017-02, the Financial Administration Act amendment. If Members have comments or questions on any page of the bill, of course you have up to 10 minutes to speak at a particular time. Again, if you have questions or comments once that time expires you will have an opportunity to speak once more. The Assembly Members have received the bill on March 1st and have had an opportunity to do an initial review of the bill. So I will call the page number, ask for questions and comments and I will ask for agreement from the Assembly. So I ask that you turn your attention to Tab 6 where you will find the bill. I'll give you a moment just to ensure that you have that prepared. I'll ask first that you turn your attention to page two. We will consider clause 1 which reads, "Short Title," above the clause. Any questions? Agreed? Is the Assembly in agreement for clause 1? We will consider clause 2. Any questions? Is the Assembly in agreement for clause 2? Please consider clause 3. Questions on clause 3? Is the Assembly in agreement for clause 3? We'll consider clause 4(1), (2). Any questions on clause 4(1), (2)? Is the Assembly in agreement? Please turn to page three. We'll consider clause 4(3). Any questions? Is the Assembly in agreement for clause 4(3)? We'll now consider clause 5. Any questions for clause 5? Is the Assembly in agreement for clause 5?

That concludes our page-by-page and clause-by-clause review of the bill.

Does the Honourable Minister wish to conclude debate?

MR. D. SHIWAK:

Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to conclude debate.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister. That will conclude debate. All those in favour of second reading of Bill 2017-02. All those opposed? The motion is carried. And, accordingly, Bill 2017-02, an Act to amend the Financial Administration Act, CILF-31-12-2012 has had a second reading. I would like to thank the Minister. We will now proceed to item 19, "Assent to Bills." Honourable President, the Assembly has given second reading to Bill 2017-02, a bill for an Act to amend the Financial Administration Act, CILF-131-12-2012 and wish to present it for assent.

PRESIDENT LAMPE:

Honourable Speaker and Members, as President of Nunatsiavut, I wish to give assent to Bill 2017-02, a bill for an Act to amend the Financial Administration Act, CILF-131-12-2012 and hereby sign it into law.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister. We'll now proceed to item 20 on your Orders of the Day, "Adjournment." I'd like to thank all the Members for their time today. The Assembly is adjourned. We will reconvene tomorrow at nine o'clock, March 8th, 2017. Nakummek.

PRESIDENT LAMPE:

(Speaks in Inuktitut) Opening Prayer.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, President Lampe. We'll move to item two, "Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery." Is there any Member wishing to recognize visitors in the public gallery today? We'll move to item three, "Ministers

Statements." I recognize the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, the Honourable Darryl Shiwak.

MR. D. SHIWAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the Department continues to support all the departments with their finance and human resource needs, and as they move forward achieving their departmental goals in projects our Department has been busy preparing three pieces of legislation for this sitting. These pieces of legislation; the Budget Act 2017, amendments to the Financial Administration Act and the Nain Supported Living Unit Loan Act take a significant amount of time to analyze and prepare before being brought to the Nunatsiavut Assembly for consideration. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Ms. Rexanne Crawford for the hard work and the dedication to these files in getting to where we are today. Nakummek. Mr. Speaker, from the Lands and Natural Resources Department, Renewable Resources Division. Consultations have begun on the quarry standards on Labrador Inuit Lands and are expected to conclude by the beginning of April. Once completed, these standards will finalize how quarries are applied for and managed within our lands. The goal of the standard will create a more straightforward process for quarry operators, while also promoting our environmental human health and land access priorities. Also the Non-Renewable Resource Division is nearing completion of surveys conducted with Inuit businesses as part of his participation in the Arctic Net Voisey Bay Business Review Research Project. To date, over 45 interviews have been done with our businesses to identify the opportunities created

either directly or indirectly by the Voisey's Bay mine as well as to understand the challenges facing these companies within the mining sector. This information will be useful in helping the Nunatsiavut Government support its business community through program delivery in preparing our businesses to take advantage of both private and public opportunities. Finally, Mr. Speaker, the Division is attending the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada's Annual Convention in Toronto this week. Our participants will be meeting with companies and governments including Newfoundland and Labrador Natural Resources and Natural Resources Canada officials to discuss geological and mining opportunities within Nunatsiavut. Environment Division, Mr. Speaker. In partnership with NutuKavut and Innu Nation we continue to interact with mercury experts at Harvard University as well as Memorial University to evaluate the monitoring plan for downstream effects with the Muskrat Falls Hydro Electric Project to ensure the plan and the analysis, the analysis are appropriate and meet the terms agreed to last fall with the Province and the Indigenous groups. Additionally, Harvard University through partnership with the Labrador Institute, they're local community research team has conducted additional flooding experiment that uses soil cores from the future Muskrat Falls reservoir to estimate the relative methyl mercury contributions to Lake Melville. Results are currently being processed and should be made available this spring for evaluation by then to be set up Independent Expert Advisory Committee. Mr. Speaker, the Environment Division, in consultation with the Steering

Committee for the Going Off, Growing Strong Program has been evaluating the program to learn and to ensure the next cohort has the most effective set-up and that appropriate boundary exists around staff and after hours programming. The third cohort will begin this spring after vacant staff positions within the Division are filled. Additionally, Mr. Speaker, work continues on the Going Off, Growing Strong cabin with help from youth and Environment Division staff. Once the weather improves it is anticipated that all work on the cabin should be completed by the summer allowing for additional programming options for youth. The Environment Division continues to work directly with the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism and Parks Canada to ensure that research remains a priority at the Torngat Mountains Base Camp and Research Station. Meaningful and important discussions continue to take place with the appropriate partners that operate of a base camp to ensure that essential change has happened to enable long-term sustainability of the facility. The facility is imperative to the many research programs that the Division is running or partnered on and we look forward to evaluation process as it continues to move forward. Lands Division, Mr. Speaker. Interviews for the vacant GAS Specialist position is ongoing and with assistance from HR we hope to have a decision on this position by the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Speaker, Nunatsiavut Construction has submitted a draft reclamation scheduled for the former Post mill Lumber Sawmill site beginning this summer and concluding in 2019. Departmental staff are currently reviewing those

plans. The Lands and Non-Renewal Resources staff met with representatives from the Nain Inuit Community Government to discuss issues regarding the sand quarry and to determine potential quarrying options for quarrying material and for completing a resource assessment for quarry materials in the Nain area. Nakummek, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister. I recognize the Minister of Department of Health and Social Development, the Honourable Greg Flowers.

MR. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just another few updates from my Department, Mr. Speaker. Our Department, the HSD, will be facilitating a two-year diploma in child youth care and in partnership with Nova Scotia Community College. We will be accepting 20 participants, and the program will be starting on March 20th. The program will be facilitated through the Additions Education would come on site sessions. This program will help our staff and key assets and other children and youth programs. Also, Mr. Speaker, on April the 18th, 2017, the Community of Hopedale and Natuashish, will be walking together as one to help people deal with grief and loss from suicide. Mr. Speaker, we all know in Nunatsiavut about suicide and I guess just to why this came about, Mr. Speaker, was two years ago a young man from Natuashish left his home community and was found between Hopedale and Natuashish trying to walk here and last year, Mr. Speaker, the community of Natuashish walked here in his honour. And our staff, Mr. Speaker, last year we had a big celebration here with Natuashish, invited them into our community,

and we said that we would honour them by walking back to Natuashish. And when Natuashish heard of our plans they too joined in and they will be driving up here by snowmobile and walking with the people from Hopedale on April the 18th in honour of this young man and also in honour lost from suicide, Mr. Speaker. So it's going to be, I guess, in some ways a lot of — bringing up a lot of memories for a lot of people and a lot of fresh memories to some of these people, Mr. Speaker. And just to add that we in Hopedale here just lost another person through suicide and we need all the help we can get, Mr. Speaker, in Nunatsiavut. I just had a brief chat with our AngajukKâk and also people at this Assembly, and they feel that we need to do more, Mr. Speaker. So if anyone's got any thoughts or anything that we can make it just a little bit, you know, easier for the people or try to find solutions, Mr. Speaker, we need to do this sooner than later. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister. I recognize the Minister of the Department of Education and Economic Development, the Honourable Patricia Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. Today I'll report on education. Mr. Speaker, our student stats as per PSSP, Post-Secondary Student Support. As of the winter 2017 semester, we had a hundred and twenty full-time and 34 part-time students registered. Those numbers are now down to a hundred and fourteen full-time and 32 part-time. The reasons for discontinuation are academic, personal, and one person had their membership revoked. Policy Changes. The new policy respecting the

extra trip for Nunatsiavut residents attending full-time studies has seen 14 students use it, which amounts to \$22,765. Fifteen students have filed claims under the New Equipment Policy for a total usage of \$2,688. Only one person submitted receipts for excess baggage, but we anticipate that will increase at the end of the year. As these policies were not implemented until after the school year has begun, we anticipate they will be used more in the future. The IBED Update. The Inuit Bachelor of Education Program continues to run fairly smoothly with only a few hiccups with the language piece. In late February our cultural consultant and assistant instructor developed a visual/audio aid for use with the program using the Nunatsiavut 1 drive. This illustration tool was very well received by students as it is something they can use at home to help with their learning process. Research. We continue to research new programs coming on stream right across the country. In recent years many new programs have been introduced that are geared to market demand. Currently we are tracking new nursing masters and PhD graduates to see how many are employed in their field and where. New Applicants. The deadline for applicants for 2017-18 academic year was March 1st. We have received approximately a hundred and twenty-five applications. Mr. Speaker, Inuit Pathways Update. Plans for the extension year for assets funding is awaiting approval from the Federal Government with all documentation submitted last week. Discussions are underway on planning an Asset Successor Program to come into effect April, 2018. ITK is involved in this process through the Inuit

Human Resource Development Technical Committee, and Inuit Pathways, as part of that committee, will be updated, consulted bi-weekly on the progress of these discussions. We are planning to have Creating Your Future training workshop here in Hopedale next week. Staff are screening participants for this program. Funding for this was accessed through the Federal Government's Communities at Risk Program, along with a small allocation to support DHSD Community Shed Project that is run in Nain. The deadline for long-term skills development application was last week, and staff are currently starting the processing of these applications. They were also busy completing year end activities and ensuring that all stats for completion employee results for Service Canada have been inputted before the year end along with ensuring budgets have been allocated as planned. Mr. Speaker, the Inuit Education Forum. A gathering to harness knowledge of Inuit education leaders. The Inuit Education Forum was held in Nain from February 13th to 16th. It opened with a community feast co-sponsored by the Nunatsiavut Government and ITK. Caribou was brought in from Rankin Inlet and served on cold plates. Two recent graduates from the College of the North Atlantic Cooking Program were hired as caterers for the feast as well as through the forum. They did an excellent job catering. The forum saw educators from as far away as Tuktoyaktuk, Baker Lake, Nunavik, Iqaluit as well as a number of representatives from Nunatsiavut. There was much discussion on education goals across Inuit Nunangat with language dominating much of the discussion. A full report will be available in the coming

months and will be circulated when received. Inuktitut K to 12 Evaluation. Upon request of the NEC money was allocated in the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District Contribution Agreement for an evaluation of the current K to 12 *Inuktitut* programs in the Nunatsiavut schools. We have begun discussions between the school board Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism and our Department on what we feel needs to be included and we are close to hiring someone to oversee the project. An *Inuktitut* speaker will also be brought on to act as a consultant to the person contracted to do the study. Mr. Speaker, Inuk book, a Traditions and Transitions Project. The deadline for illustrator submissions was February 28th. The committee will soon meet to review and, if no selections are made, the deadline will be extended. Parent/Teacher Tool Kit and a parental engagement project. Due to delays, we have pushed the release of the tool kit back to September. It makes sense to introduce this new resource at the start of the school year. There are just a few additions that need to be made as well as some layout changes before it's sent to be printed. Sharon Baikie Memorial Scholarship. The deadline for the Sharon Baikie Memorial Scholarship was March 1st. Six applications were received. Mr. Speaker, Needs Base Study. The Needs Base Study on the Post-Secondary and Inuit Pathways Funding Programs are well under way. Community focus groups have been held in all five Nunatsiavut communities and one is scheduled for Goose Bay later this month. Some very valuable data has been collected and analyzed which will definitely help justify any future

changes that may need to be made to the programs. A full report will be available in the spring. And, lastly, Mr. Speaker. The Education Director received the applications of both PSSP and Inuit Pathways application lists to see how many Grade 12 students from Nunatsiavut applied for funding. Here is the breakdown. Thirty out of 40 grade 12 students from Nunatsiavut have applied for funding; Nain, 7 out of 15; Hopedale, 7 out of 8; Makkovik, 5 out of 5; Postville, 5 out of 5; Rigolet, 6 out of 7. Overall there are 49 PSSP applications and 38 Inuit Pathways applications from Nunatsiavut. Nakummek, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister. Are there any further minister's statements? I recognize the President of Nunatsiavut and Acting Minister of Culture, Recreation, Tourism, the Honourable Johannes Lampe.

PRESIDENT LAMPE:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. I would like to update on as Acting, Minister of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, of what we are doing in regards to archaeology and heritage. We have co-ordinated the completion and submission application to have Hopedale included on Canada's tentative list or World Heritage Sites that was due on January 27th with the support of Michelle Davis, Carl Crotty, Tom Gordon, Hans Rollmann, the Hopedale Inuit Community Government, the Agvituk Historical Society, the Moravian Church Board of Newfoundland and Labrador and Parks Canada. We had provided letters of support to graduate students interested in doing archaeological field work in the Region in response to a specific request from Nunatsiavut communities. Responses on three land use applications, recommendation to the Rooms Provincial Museum

relating to their acquisition of Inuit Cultural Material. Photographs from archaeological field work in Nunatsiavut to be used in two exhibits at the Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum in Bowden College, Main.

Recommendations to the Deputy Minister, Minister and legal counsel relating to a request from a graduate student to make 3D models of artifacts from Nunatsiavut, and recommendations to Deputy Minister, Minister and legal counsel relating to the determination as per Part 15.7 of *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement* of cultural affiliation of human remains inadvertently found at Double Mer Point. We have completed detailed review of heretical literature relevant for policy development in Nunatsiavut, as well as held a series of discussions about heritage in Rigolet, Postville and Nain with Mark Turner, Manager of Audio/Visual Archives and Media Literacy with the Tradition and Transition among the Labrador Inuit Partnership. We have completed the last of the basic records related to NG archaeological field work in 2016 and the completed administration work relating to contract for geotechnical and archaeological work in and around the 1817 Provisions House at the Hopedale Mission Complex. Internal preliminary meetings to plan logistics for the field season in Hebron this summer has begun. To ensure a well-co-ordinated approach, there have also been preliminary meetings with Sound Venture Productions who are interested in observing upcoming community consultations for the Hebron field season and in developing a documentary about the Hebron Family Archaeology Project. Mr. Speaker, I will just highlight quickly some additional work within

archaeology and heritage. Assistance in organizing a few Tradition and Transition projects including Andrea Procter and Candice Cochrane's older exhibit and an Artifact Loan Agreement between the Nain Church Council and German Embassy to display their trumpet. NGRAC met in February to approve the Northern Contaminants Program Funding Applications. Translation of Spanish documents regarding Labrador Inuit human exhibitions in Madrid and the Polar Love newspaper clipping. Coordinating Wilderness advanced a first aid course to take place in June this year. Discussions with Memorial University of Newfoundland Archaeology Co-op Program to host a student researcher in Nain this summer. Providing support and reviewing land use applications this month which have received response letters. Initiated discussions with Beatrix Arendt regarding archaeological collections from Hopedale which are currently held in the United States and are looking to transfer to Nunatsiavut. Initiated discussions to develop a business plan for the repository with NG business development officers. Ordered new materials and equipment for the Department including artifact preservation materials and new drone for the office. This will make survey work go a lot faster and also yield high definition photos of sites that we can stitch together afterwards to create high resolution 3D models. Registering Jens Haven Memorial School in the Admit Program with the high school science teacher. The Admit Program is a competition in which schools and clubs across North America build remote operated vehicles to perform certain tasks under water. Building

this with students from the school in Nain provides students with insight to other possible career opportunity, all the while having fun learning about robotics and Nunatsiavut's rich cultural heritage. Catalogue Work. We have been working on making a photo reference catalogue for NG's artifact catalogue and also cataloguing the last of the artifacts that needed to be registered. Breakfast Skill, 2016. Place, Name Work. As of right now we have identified several documentary sources or traditional place names with place names put on a map. This is still in the very early stages. We still have more event records to go through and the community consultations will need to be done in the future. Finding Inuit Ancestor. We were approached by Nunatsiavut Government beneficiary looking for information on her great-grandmother. She was involved with the human exhibits during the late 1890's to early 1900's. Contact was made with an archivist in Madrid Spain who has been very helpful with providing information of an Inuit group travels in Madrid and beyond. We are confident that we have found the great-grandmother in records with many other questions answered as well such as travel route and timeline. There is much more to learn about this group that travelled to Europe, and we are keeping contact with the archivist from Madrid for possible projects down the road. Assisted the area searcher with a map for Canada 150. There's a researcher from Main, USA making a map for Canada 150 with Indigenous place names from all over Canada. We have given her 20 place names that are now in translation. Afterwards they

will be featured on a map with many other Indigenous place names from all over Canada. Mr. Speaker, that is all for my updates. Nakummek.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable President. Are there any further minister's statements this morning? We'll proceed with item four, "Member Statements." As the Assembly may have noted, we do have an absence from the Member for Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Roy Blake, and I'd like to note that he has been properly excused. Do we have any member statements this morning? I recognize the Member for Upper Lake Melville, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today is International Women's Day, March the 8th, and I would like to extend a big acknowledgement to all the Nunatsiavut beneficiary women near and far. Also I would like to commend the women in our Nunatsiavut Assembly. Kate Mitchell, she is the first female First Minister in our Assembly's history, and Pat Ford, Marjorie Flowers and Diane Gear as elected officials. I, too, would like to extend my condolences to the family of Elizabeth Tooktoshina. Mrs. Tooktoshina was a strong woman and a loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt to a large circle of family. Nakummek, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Ms. Kemuksigak. I recognize the Chairperson for NunaKâtiget, Mr. Gary Mitchell.

MR. MITCHELL:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. I don't have my written statement this morning, but I'd like to respond to something that came up yesterday in

the Assembly when we talked about the salaries of Assembly Members and especially the salary of the Chairperson's position with the Corporation. It came out from a couple NEC members that it's questionable about the salary of the Chairperson position and wondered if this should be on par with other Assembly Members here. I think all Assembly Members here are doing the equal work in the Assembly and should be paid as such, equally, which we are. Outside of the Assembly we have different responsibilities, we have different duties and, of course, the AngajukKâat positions and the Ordinary Members' responsibilities are different than the Chairperson. I don't think the Chairperson's responsibility are any less than anybody else that's here in the Assembly. I work full-time. I'm kind of defending the position because I didn't say anything yesterday, but I feel I have to say something today because somebody has to defend the position or it gets pushed under the rug. I go to work full-time. The Corporation is run by a Board. We have Board Members that we deal with. This takes time. We have meetings. I feel I'm pretty motivated with the position I'm in and have been since I came on. I started a farm project. I'm not patting myself on the back, but I'm just telling that we had duties that we take care of on a day-to-day basis, and I don't want the position downplayed so much that it's questionable whether the position of the Chairperson should be a different salary. I think it should remain the same, and the Board is in the process now of establishing a radio station. We haven't done that before. So we are doing things. The Corporation plays a big role in the

Happy Valley Goose Bay, Mud Lake area and I think we've brought good contributions here to the Assembly. So I don't think we should be downplayed as a question whether the Chairperson or the Corporation's position should be any different than any of the Assembly Member or the duties or responsibilities that other Assembly Members have outside of the Assembly. I think we fill a very big role and we should be supported by the NEC for what we do in our day-to-day things to make life better for the people that we serve wherever we are. Nakummek, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Mr. Mitchell. Do we have any further member statements this morning? I recognize the Member for Hopedale, Mr. Greg Flowers.

MR. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was reminded this morning by my wife that it was International Day for Women, so I'd just like to say to all the women in Nunatsiavut, I know the hard work that you do. I know some of you are just, you know, starting your career. Some of you are at the end. Some of you are in the middle. Some of you are home with your children raising your family. So I'd just like to say keep up the good work, and I was going to leave this one to Jack because the last Assembly he really tapped women on the back. So I'd just like to say, Jack, I hope I'm doing a good job here so thanks, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Mr. Flowers. Do we have any further member statements this morning? I recognize the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a few brief issues that I want to — I'd like to congratulate all those women who are working so hard on this International Women's Day and to acknowledge the women that have gone before us. Also I'd like to acknowledge the teachers from the ACMS School who really put their best effort before them to help our students, to acknowledge the students who attended the winter sports meet in Postville. I think these are all great events that bring students and teachers together and it's good for our communities. Also just to acknowledge that they will be going to Goose Bay for a Heritage Fair, a drama festival and a music festival, so all wonderful things happening at our schools. I also have a challenge for our members here in this sitting, to join us on the walk to Natuashish on April 18th. It's been brought forward, so I'm bringing it to everyone here who would like to walk. I think it's for a very good cause. All of us have lost and been affected by suicide in our communities. And I will sound like a broken record, but I really want to bring forward our really big problems we have with our water leaks in our community. It's been an ongoing issue for years and we really need to be supported and really need to do something once and for all to fix our water issues. It's very taxing on the staff who work daily in and out with this issue and hard on the people who live here who every day have to face the challenge of water freezing up and waking up with no water. And this day and age I think we really need to do something to not have to go through that on a daily basis. Also with our quick update on our finances. We still are struggling but making

progress, and I want to acknowledge that there's so many things that we can do in our communities, but without good finances, and without a good water system, we really can't move forward, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk. Are there any further member statements this morning? I recognize the AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Mr. Jack Shiwak.

MR. J. SHIWAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Ordinary Member for Hopedale, I couldn't let this pass, and I'm sorry I didn't speak before Marjorie did, the AngajukKâk for Hopedale. I just want to acknowledge and express my appreciation with what you're doing with suicide, the walk. Well, I wish I spoke before Marjorie as I have trouble walking from the hotel over here so I'm not going to be there, I don't think, but I fully morally support you on that because suicide does affect a lot of people, and normally it leaves a lot more questions than answers. And I think by bringing it to the forefront with our walk maybe we will get people talking and maybe we'll start coming up with answers and solutions to how we can make it better, how do we treat this problem, and where do we go with it? Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Mr. Shiwak. Any further member statements? I recognize the Member for Nain, Mr. Richard Pamak.

MR. PAMAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not so much of a statement, but certainly I want to accept your challenge, Marjorie, for sure, and certainly I'll make every effort to join you. I'll also bring it back to my community too as

well. I have been affected by suicide, and many in my community as well. And I think what you're doing, along with Minister Flowers, Greg Flowers here, is a great thing, and it's spreading awareness of suicide and, you know, and it also shows that we can come together. We all can come together and we can work together, and hopefully this is one of the ways that we can find solutions on such a very important issue within our community. So, with that, I accept your challenge, and again I'll make an effort to join you. I have to lose a few pounds anyway. So and then I'll certainly extend that to my constituency too as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member. Do we have any further member statements this morning? I recognize the President, Mr. Johannes Lampe.

PRESIDENT LAMPE:

Nakummek, OKatti. As Acting Minister of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, I also would like to acknowledge, congratulate women on the International Women's Day. Certainly culturally we are born by our mothers and certainly all the learning that we, as Inuit, are given, we are given that by our mothers, mostly, and the challenges that mothers have to go through, especially in relation to women who go missing and murdered, and mothers who suffer grief and loss of suicide to their children and their grandchildren, and mostly to have to raise a family as single parents, single mothers. And I feel that it is time that as government that we put into action and then start to walk the walk, and I believe that we have been talking long enough that we should put more

action into the words that we have been giving as government. But again I, as Acting Minister of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, do acknowledge and congratulate women on the International Women's Day.

Nakummek.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Mr. President. Are there any further member statements this morning? If we have no further member statements then we'll move to item five, "Returns to Oral Questions." Do we have any returns to oral questions this morning? I recognize the Minister of Finance and Natural Resources, the Honourable Darryl Shiwak.

MR. D. SHIWAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the AngajukKâk for Rigolet, the Honourable Jack Shiwak, asked are moose hunters required to have FAC or the POL, the certification card with them when they go for the moose hunt or apply for the licence. For clarification, Mr. Speaker, what NG conservation officers currently do when asked this question is to inform the beneficiaries who asked that they should have the necessary documentation to provide if they are requested by a wildlife official. These measures are not ours to enforce, and it does not prevent us from issuing a moose licence to a beneficiary. We just let them know that they should have the correct identification. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister. Are there any further returns to oral questions today? I recognize the First Minister, the Honourable Kate Mitchell.

MS. MITCHELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Okay, I have two returns today. The first one is a question from the Chair of NunaKâtiget Community Corporation. Thank you for your question. And the question was why are two of the four Members on the Housing Working Group Committee established to prepare a Draft Housing Delivery Model non-beneficiaries? This committee is an Internal Technical Committee of the Housing Working Group and who are authorized to review all the information and options prepared and discussed by the Housing Working Group over the past year. The committee will prepare a high level Housing Delivery Model Draft for consideration by the whole working group. The draft will be reviewed by the Housing Working Group for changes or additions before it can be finalized and submitted to the Nunatsiavut Executive Council for consideration. After approval by the Nunatsiavut Executive Council, the strategy will be tabled in the House of Assembly. The Internal Technical Committee members are comprised of Nunatsiavut Government staff. The Director of Environment has been involved in a key capacity in the Nunatsiavut Housing Needs Assessment, the Sustainable Communities Initiative with the Inuit Community Governments and Memorial University. The Housing Working Group wants to keep that consistency in developing the Housing Delivery Model. Varian Hassam provides legal advice and drafting to the Housing Working Group. The Housing Delivery Model has to determine a future role or disbandment of Torngat Regional Housing Association. These are legal issues so Varian is to provide legal advice and legal drafting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Do I continue on with

— okay. And the second response that I have today is to the AngajukKâk from Hopedale. Thank you, AngajukKâk, for your question. And the question from the AngajukKâk was when do you expect the Housing Strategy will be finalized and submitted to the Assembly? The Technical Committee is scheduling the first meeting as soon as possible. This meeting will set to do a list and timelines for completion and submission of the Draft Model to the Housing Working Group. The Housing Working Group will then finalize the draft and submit the Nunatsiavut Housing Delivery Model to the Nunatsiavut Executive Council for consideration. I have expressed my intent to have the Housing Strategy approved by the Nunatsiavut Executive Council and ready for submission to the Assembly during the 2017 fall sitting of this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister. Are there any further returns to oral questions today? If not, we'll move to item six, "Oral Questions." Do we have any oral questions today? I recognize the Ordinary Member for Nain, Mr. Richard Pamak.

MR. PAMAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to forward my question to First Minister, Honourable Kate Mitchell, first of all. I'm glad to see you joining us here today. It is safe to say that I and other Members around the table have nearly exhausted our efforts in reaching out to you and to the Nunatsiavut Executive Council to improve or enhance communications between the NEC and the Nunatsiavut Assembly. Overall with NG, you know. I'll just go straight into the question. I've got some preamble here, but I just want to go straight into the question to save time. No, actually,

I think I'll read the preamble. Verbal. You know, we've made verbal requests. A letter was sent to the President, to the NEC, but we still haven't received a response, and communications has always been raised nearly at every sitting of the Assembly for the past year or so. President Lampe expressed yesterday that he wants to work with the Assembly to find ways to improve communication, and that is the desire of the NEC as well. Mr. Speaker, I ask the First Minister if she could enlighten us this morning on ways she thinks or the NEC on how communications between NEC and Nunatsiavut Assembly can be improved in the short term. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member. There's a considerable overlap with respect to communication to the President's Office. So I will ask that the President respond to that question.

PRESIDENT LAMPE:

Nakummek, Okatti. And the question that the Ordinary Member for Nain asks relates to again communication. And most certainly as a government and as Executive Council Members, we work with Canada and the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. And a lot of the work that we do related to Labrador Inuit issues, ongoing issues, discussions and engagement sometimes is not initiated by Nunatsiavut. And so the discussions or engagement, the collaboration, when initiated by Federal or Provincial Government are that. They are the government that, you know, will ask that Nunatsiavut will keep the discussions at this level where some of the work that we are doing are in draft form or the work is ongoing. And so at times we cannot give communication on issues that

we are doing until the Government of Canada or the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, you know. Protocol is very important, and they are the governments that, you know, hold the files that, you know, we are discussing, and that is just an example of what challenges that even we, as Executive Council, have. Nakummek, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable President. Does the Ordinary Member have a supplementary? I recognize the Ordinary Member for a supplementary.

MR. PAMAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, you know, I truly respect that any discussions and negotiations with the Federal and Provincial Governments or any other governments is to be kept confidential, and I don't think that's what we're asking of the Nunatsiavut Executive Council here. It's more of, you know, relaying information that you can to us in a more timely manner, I guess, and more effective manner. So I guess my question to you — I guess I'll forward my question now to President Lampe and, President Lampe, yesterday that you indicated your wish or your wants to work with the Assembly on improving communications. You know, I believe that there are a couple of options out there, or several options are available for you to consider. One is to have a discussion, like yesterday we had a discussion on one matter outside of the Assembly, or even if we have to go into Committee of the Whole. Mr. Speaker, I ask that the President Johannes Lampe, is he willing to begin that dialogue and to start working together on improving communications. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member. In response, the Honourable President.

PRESIDENT LAMPE:

Nakummek. The question from the Ordinary Member for Nain. And, as Executive Council, we certainly when we know that the issues at hand, you know, require discussions and we are able to do that yes, NEC's most certainly willing and able to get into those discussions, and I believe, as you say, that by working together that, you know, we are able to make sure that the work that we are doing is certainly going to get done.

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable President. The Member does not have a final supplementary. Are there any further oral questions this morning? If we have no further oral questions, we'll proceed on with our Orders of the Day to item seven, "Written Questions." Do we have any written questions today? Move to item eight, "Returns to Written Questions." There are no returns today. Item nine, "Petitions." Do we have any petitions? Item 10, "Responses to Petitions." There are no responses today. Item 11, "Reports to Standing and Special Committees." I do not believe that we have any reports today. To item 12, "Tabling of Documents." We have no tabling of documents today. Item 13, "Notices of Motion." We have no notices of motion today. We'll move to item 14, "Notices of Motion for the First Reading of Bills," and I would like to recognize the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Darryl Shiwak.

MR. D. SHIWAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, March 9th, 2017, I will move, seconded by the First Minister, the Honourable Kate Mitchell, the first reading of Bill 2017-03, Nain Supportive Living Unit Loan. Nakummek.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Honourable Minister. I recognize the First Minister, the Honourable Kate Mitchell.

MS. MITCHELL: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, March 9th, 2017, I will move, seconded by the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Darryl Shiwak, the first reading of Bill 2017-04, Housing Initiatives Hopedale and Nain.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Honourable First Minister. I do not believe that we have any more notices of motion for the first reading of bills. We'll proceed with item 15 on your orders, "Motions." And I'd like to recognize the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Darryl Shiwak, for motion 2-3(14).

MR. D. SHIWAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The motion is 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 for 2017-2018 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 Kate Mitchell, that tabled document 02-3(14) the Financial Plan 2017-2018, be moved into Committee of the Whole for discussion in conjunction with Bill 2017-01, the Budget Bill 2017. Nakummek.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Honourable Minister. The motion is in order. Honourable Minister, would you like to speak to the motion?

MR. D. SHIWAK: Not at this time, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Honourable Minister. Is there anyone else would like to speak to the motion? If no other Member wishes to speak, does the Minister wish to make final comments and close debate?

MR. J. SHIWAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to close debate.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Honourable Minister. That will conclude debate. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed to the motion? The motion is carried, and the Financial Plan will be considered into the Committee of the Whole at the appropriate time, along with the Budget Bill. We'll move to item 16, "First Reading of Bills." I'd like to recognize again the Minister of Finance and Nunatsiavut Treasurer, the Honourable Darryl Shiwak.

MR. D. SHIWAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the First Minister, the Honourable Kate Mitchell, that Bill 2017-01, the Bill Budget Bill 2017, be now introduced and read for the first time.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Honourable Minister. Would you like to introduce the bill?

MR. D. SHIWAK: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. And to this Assembly and to women everywhere, Happy International Women's Day. It gives me great pleasure to present to this Assembly the Nunatsiavut Government's 2017-2018 Budget. In preparing this budget, Mr. Speaker, my Department focused on commitments outlined in the *Labrador Inuit Constitution* as we continue to strive to secure our rightful place as a distinct self-sustaining and self-governing Aboriginal people within Canada. Our culture, our heritage, language and identity, Mr. Speaker,

doesn't consist of money or material wealth. But rather our values, our beliefs and traditions, our shared bond and our belonging to one another and our communities. Promoting and valuing our way of life and building on our strengths as a people is a crucial part of positioning Nunatsiavut for the future. And the decisions we make today will pave the way for a better tomorrow for generations yet to come. Mr. Speaker, we are proud of our past and we are confident in our future. So in that regard, as a government, we continue to honour the commitments outlined in our *Constitution* to assert our inherent right to self-government and the right to continue to determine our own clinical, social, cultural and economic institutions and our relationships with people and their governments. Mr. Speaker, these commitments have guided the decisions we have made over the last 11 years and continue to provide a direction as we look to the future. We have made significant progress on many fronts, and we will continue to make progress as a government as we strive to secure a future where we as a people are self-sufficient, where we can practice our unique culture and traditions in communities that are healthy and in environments that are sustainable. I am proud to say, Mr. Speaker, that we have a fully functioning government with our 300 employees delivering culturally relevant programs and services to meet the needs of all beneficiaries while living within our own means. And we continue to develop and implement plans, many plans and strategies that are reflective of our values while at the same time strengthening our communities and improving the lives of our people.

The progress we have made, Mr. Speaker, is a direct result of our ability to raise revenues and sound fiscal management that is the envy of most governments across this great nation. I want to thank the staff within each of our departments for being fiscally responsible for ensuring Nunatsiavut Government continues to remain financially strong and sound. I am confident that the Financial Plan for the upcoming fiscal year has responsible choices, balances our overall goals with fiscal realities, and is reflective of our commitments under our *Constitution*. As well, Mr. Speaker, we recognize the need to ensure our employees receive the best and up-to-date skills in order to effectively carry out their duties. That is why we have made allowances for increased training dollars in this budget. Commitments to our Employees. Mr. Speaker, the skills, motivation, dedication of our employees are the most important reasons for our success in delivering quality and efficient programs and services to Labrador Inuit. To reflect our commitment to our civil service, we have budgeted a 2 percent increase in salaries in each of the next three fiscal years starting on April 1st, 2017, in the Employee and Casual Divisions. Mr. Speaker, this is the first pay increase for these employees since 2014. As well, Mr. Speaker, the salary scale for the Management Division has fallen significantly behind the scale of the Employee Division. As such, this budget reflects an adjustment to the Management Division salary scale, the first adjustment since 2011. Committed to improving quality of life. I say once again, Mr. Speaker, the Nunatsiavut Government is committed to improving the lives of Labrador Inuit. As we have spoken

about continually over the last four years, housing remains one of our top priorities and is of utmost concern through all of Nunatsiavut. The Inter-Departmental Housing Working Group has continued to work diligently on both the Housing Strategy while moving forward with various housing initiatives. Funds have been committed to research the design of houses in sub-Arctic environment to research and prepare a report on Housing Delivery Models based on a review of programs across the country and continue with major/minor housing repair programs. This work is a significant step in the discussion and debate of where we go with respect to housing in Nunatsiavut. I am pleased to announce, Mr. Speaker that the Nunatsiavut Government has set aside a total of \$2.6 million in this year's budget to enable Torngat Regional Housing Association to carry out its mandate of providing affordable housing in our communities. This is an increase of about 4 percent over last year's allocation. Mr. Speaker, funds have also been set aside for the implementation of solar and other sources of alternate energy as outlined in the Nunatsiavut Energy Security Plan tabled during our last sittings. In an effort to address food insecurity the Department of Health and Social Development will continue to employ a food security co-ordinator and provide funding for the programming. The Department of Lands and Natural Resources continues to budget approximately 165,000 for the annual moose hunt, providing a valuable source of country food to our communities as well as budgeting for research on the Davis Strait polar bear population and the Torngat Mountains Caribou Herd. Investing in the well-being of Labrador

Inuit. In order to fulfill our commitment to improving the well-being of Labrador Inuit, Mr. Speaker, we must also have adequate facilities to ensure we operate effectively and efficiently. As noted in last year's financial plan, the Department of Health and Social Development is in desperate need of a new office and program space here in Hopedale. Land is in the process of being procured and the plan for its upcoming fiscal year is to design, tender and hopefully begin the construction of this new facility. The Department of Health and Social Development will receive approximately \$22.4 million for health programming from the Government of Canada. This provides essential funding for mental health and additions, non-insured health benefits, suicide prevention and programming for elders and youth, to name a few. We have a unique language and culture, Mr. Speaker, and it is imperative for us to honour our identity in our communities and on a national stage. We are committed to prevent the erosion of the *Inuktitut* language, our culture and our dignity. To achieve this goal the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism has planned many projects and programs including the development of an *Inuktitut* Master Apprenticeship Program. A Digital Outreach and Oral History Initiative will continue with the *Inuktitut* radio hour and the Labrador *Inuktitut* Training Program and so on. Mr. Speaker, the Illusuak Cultural Centre will be the living room from which we showcase our culture, our heritage and our identity. Illusuak is in the final stages of construction, and work continues on the design and fabrication of exhibits in the operation of a café and gift shop.

Nunatsiavut artists are now being showcased through the Sakkijajuk Inuit Planning Art and Craft Project. This project is an example of the potential of this industry within Nunatsiavut. The Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism is working on the development of an art strategy that will be used to determine projects and programs moving forward. In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, the \$93.4 million budget presented here today is one to be proud of. One that honours our roots as Labrador Inuit and the commitments we made under the *Labrador Inuit Constitution*. As I indicated earlier, we have made tremendous progress since the signing of our *Land Claims Agreement*. We are providing delivery programs and services efficiently and effectively to our people and to our communities. We continue to make sound investments to protect our land, our culture, and our language and our heritage and our identity. The decisions we make today, Mr. Speaker, are the determinant factors for what lies ahead. This year's budget will allow us to build on our accomplishments, and I'm confident that the choices and decisions we make today will result in even more positive change in the years to come. Nakummek, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister. The motion is in order, and would anyone like to speak to the principle of the bill? If no Member wishes to speak, does the Minister of Finance wish to conclude the debate?

MR. D. SHIWAK:

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

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister. That will conclude debate on the first reading. Is the Assembly in favour of approving Bill 2017-01 on its first

reading? All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried and accordingly Bill 2017-01, the Budget Bill 2017 has had its first reading. I'd like to once more recognize the Minister of Finance.

MR. D. SHIWAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In accordance with Standing Order 54(3), I seek unanimous consent to waive Standing Order 54(1) to have the Assembly proceed to second reading of Bill 27-01, the Budget Bill 2017 today.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Honourable Minister. The Minister is seeking unanimous consent to waive Standing Order 54(1)(d) to proceed with second reading of Bill 2017-01, the Budget Bill 2017. Are there any nays? There are none. There is unanimous consent, and the bill can proceed to second reading at the appropriate time. I would like to once more recognize the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Darryl Shiwak.

MR. D. SHIWAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to give first reading to Bill 2017-03 the *Nain Supportive Living Unit Loan Act* today.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Honourable Minister. Members, the Minister is seeking unanimous consent to give first reading to Bill 2017-03 now. Are there any nays? There are none and, Minister, you may proceed with the first reading of Bill 2017-03, the *Nain Supportive Living Unit Loan Act*.

MR. D. SHIWAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the First Minister, the Honourable Kate Mitchell, that Bill 2017-03, the *Nain Supportive Living Unit Loan Act*, be now introduced and read for the first time.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Honourable Minister. Minister, would you like to introduce the bill?

MR. D. SHIWAK:

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in 2015 when the Nunatsiavut Government agreed to deliver the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador Supportive Living Program in Happy Valley Goose Bay, it did so on the condition that Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation, or NLHC, would provide similar programs in Nunatsiavut. As we are all aware, there are now two operational units for the Supportive Living Program, one in Hopedale, one in Nain. In the fall of 2015 the government entered into an arrangement with NLHC and the Torngat Regional Housing Association to renovate and to use an existing house in Nain for the Supportive Living Program. Mr. Speaker, under the arrangement, TRHA agreed to lease a property to the Nunatsiavut Government for \$1 per year with the understanding that the Nunatsiavut Government would undertake the necessary renovations to the building to make it suitable for the Supportive Living Program. NLHC agreed to provide the NG with 75,000 to cover the costs of these renovations, and the renovations were completed, Mr. Speaker. NLHC ultimately provided a *Forgivable Loan Agreement* instead of the standard *Contribution Agreement*, Mr. Speaker. Under Section 80 of the *Financial Administration Act*, the Nunatsiavut Government cannot enter into a loan agreement without the approval of the Nunatsiavut Assembly. The terms of the *Forgivable Loan Agreement* hold little risk to the Nunatsiavut Government. Under this agreement NLHC will loan the NG the 75,000 that is non-interest bearing and is fully forgivable once the NG occupies and uses the building for the Supportive Living Program for a 10-year

period. In the event that NG does not provide the Supportive Living Program before the end of the 10-year term, the NG would have to repay the portion of the original amount at the rate of \$625 per month. Mr. Speaker, as Treasurer, I support the *Nain Supportive Living Union Loan Act* and recommend that the Nunatsiavut Assembly approve this legislation. Nakummek, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister. The motion is in order, and would any of the members wish to speak to the principle of the bill? I recognize the Member for Nain, Mr. Richard Pamak.

MR. PAMAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all I just wanted to say that, you know, I think we're making some incredible grounds in terms of moving forward on housing, and this is one area that certainly we all see happening today. I guess I have a question, if it's permitted at this time, or is it at the second reading?

MR. EDMUNDS:

At this stage we're just speaking to the principle of the bill, whether or not you agree with the intent of the bill, disagree with the intent of the bill. Actual specific questions will occur during the second reading of the bill.

MR. PAMAK:

Okay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, yes, just for clarification, I'll wait for that but, yes, it's certainly great to see this initiative being off the ground, and we certainly recognize that, you know, supportive living has been offered outside of Nunatsiavut and, you know, we certainly need these types of supportive living units in our communities too as well. And

certainly I give my full support for a project such as this within Nunatsiavut and also to enhance, if we can, with other units down the road. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Mr. Pamak. Does any other Member wish to speak to the principle of the bill? If no other Member wishes to speak, does the Minister wish to make a final comment and close debate?

MR. D. SHIWAK: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to conclude debate.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Honourable Minister. That will conclude debate on first reading. Is the Assembly in favour of approving Bill 2017-03 on first reading? All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried and, accordingly, Bill 2017-03, the *Nain Supportive Living Unit Loan Act*, has had its first reading. I would once more like to recognize the Minister of Finance.

MR. D. SHIWAK: Thank you, again, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in accordance with Standing Order 54(3), I seek unanimous consent to waive Standing Order 54(1) and to have the Assembly proceed to second reading of Bill 2017-03, the *Nain Supportive Living Unit Loan Act* today. Nakummek.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Honourable Minister. Members, the Minister is seeking unanimous consent to waive Standing Order 54(1)(d) to proceed with second reading of Bill 2017-03, the *Nain Supportive Living Unit Loan Act*. Are there any nays? There are none. And Minister you have unanimous consent so that the bill can proceed to second reading today at the

appropriate time. I'd now like to recognize the First Minister, the Honourable Kate Mitchell.

MS. MITCHELL: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to give first reading to Bill 2017-04, the *Housing Initiatives Hopedale and Nain Act* today.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Honourable Minister. Members, the Minister is seeking unanimous consent to give first reading to Bill 2017-04 now. Are there any nays? There are none, and First Minister, you may proceed with the first reading.

MS. MITCHELL: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I move, seconded by the Nunatsiavut Treasurer, the Honourable Darryl Shiwak, that Bill 2017-04, the *Housing Initiatives Nain and Hopedale Act*, be introduced and read for the first time.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Honourable Minister. First Minister, would you like to introduce the bill?

MS. MITCHELL: Yes, You're Honour. I would. Okay. This bill, under our *Land Claims Agreement* the Nunatsiavut Government has legislated jurisdiction over the housing in Labrador Inuit Lands and housing owned by the Nunatsiavut Governments in the Inuit communities. It also has jurisdiction to make laws respecting programs, services and residential facilities for individuals in need of support or help. The Government of Canada has allocated \$15 million to the Nunatsiavut Government for housing initiatives in Nunatsiavut in 2017. The Nunatsiavut Government

intends to use these funds to construct two six-unit buildings; one in Hopedale and one in Nain. These are the communities with the greatest unmet housing needs, as according to our 2012 Housing Needs Assessment, and we're also proceeding with construction of the six-unit prototype building in Nain. The prototype is a model for sustainable housing in Nunatsiavut. It has to be tested and proven before it can be used as the basis for construction standards. The Nunatsiavut Government plans to use the buildings and prototype to provide housing programs for Inuit whose needs can be addressed through access to housing. If enacted, this bill would ensure Nunatsiavut Government ownership of the buildings and prototype under the administration and control of the Minister of Nunatsiavut Affairs. It would provide for the Minister of Health and Social Development to develop a program to address housing needs of youth and seniors in Nain and use the units in the prototype for that program. To use the buildings in Hopedale and Nain for purposes of accessing federal and provincial funding. Programs and services for Inuit with complex needs. The bill would require Nunatsiavut Secretariat to establish a monitoring program to evaluate the prototype as a model for sustainable housing in Nunatsiavut. It would inform the development of guidelines and standards for sustainable residential construction in Nunatsiavut. And occupancy of the prototype will be subject to the requirements of the monitoring program. A zero tolerance policy will apply to the buildings and prototype, and breaches of the policy will result in termination of the

eligibility for programs and shelter. Because of this, and because the housing program requires the allocation of scarce resources, and the monitoring will have to be respected, the bill would require the Minister of Nunatsiavut Affairs to appoint a Tribunal to review and, if necessary, remedy housing program decisions that are inconsistent with program policies or that are unfair. The Executive Council would be given the power to flesh out the details of all the aspects of these arrangements through subordinate legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister. The motion is in order. Does any Member wish to speak to the principle of the bill? I recognize the Member for Nain, Mr. Richard Pamak.

MR. PAMAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And again another great initiative in our moving forward in housing, something that I think we had been raising at some level at this Assembly in the past over the last two years, the need for housing for supportive living for families at risk. And I think our voices are being heard here today and moving forward on housing initiatives, and another great project for Nunatsiavut, and especially for the communities of Nain and Hopedale which is greatly at risk at this moment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Mr. Pamak. Is there any other Member who wished to speak to the principle of the bill? If no other Member wishes to speak, does the First Minister wish to conclude the debate?

MS. MITCHELL:

Yes, Your Honour, I wish to conclude debate.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Honourable Minister. That will conclude our debate on first reading. Is the Assembly in favour of approving Bill 2017-04 on first reading? All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried and, accordingly, Bill 2017-04, the *Housing Initiatives for Hopedale and Nain Act* has had its first reading. I would once more like to recognize the First Minister, the Honourable Kate Mitchell.

MS. MITCHELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Honourable Speaker, in accordance with Standing Order 54(3), I seek unanimous consent to waive Standing Order 54(1)(d) to have the Assembly proceed to second reading of Bill 2017-04, the *Housing Initiatives Hopedale and Nain Act* today.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Honourable Minister. Members, the Minister is seeking unanimous consent to waive Standing Order 54(1)(d) to proceed with second reading of Bill 2017-04, the *Housing Initiatives Hopedale and Nain Act*. Are there any nays? There are none and, Minister, you have unanimous consent so that the bill can proceed to second reading at the appropriate time today. At this stage we'll have a 15-minute break, reconvene for 11:00 and proceed on with item 17 on your Orders of the Day.

(Recess)

MR. EDMUNDS: Prior to our recess we were at the end of item 16. We will now proceed to item 17 on your *Orders of the Day*, "Second Reading of Bills." I'd like to recognize the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Darryl Shiwak, for the second reading of bills.

MR. D. SHIWAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make a motion in accordance with Standing Order 42 to allow for consideration of Budget Bill 2017 in Committee of the Whole. Therefore I move, seconded by the First Minister, the Honourable Kate Mitchell, that Bill 2017-01 be referred to Committee of the Whole for consideration with Comptroller Rexanne Crawford as witness. Nakummek.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister. The motion is in order. We will now consider the motion. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried and we will enter into the Committee of the Whole, and I'd like to invite Rexanne Crawford to join us at the Assembly table. Of course, we will, at this point consider the Financial Plan in conjunction with the Budget Bill and, as you each are aware, the procedure for second reading debate is our page-by-page and clause-by-clause review. The Financial Plan is quite important for our discussions today and requires approval from the Assembly. It will be considered first today, and I will ask for agreement after the whole Financial Plan is presented. After our agreement on the Financial Plan, we'll then move to the annex of the bill and then to the clause reading of the plan. So our procedure will include of course commentary from the comptroller and questions from the Assembly, and I believe that we'll be starting on page two of the Financial Plan, and I'll invite Ms. Crawford to begin our review.

MS. CRAWFORD:

So the Financial Plan has been written in the same flow as the annex to the *Budget Act*. And the annex to the *Budget Act* has also been included on this Financial Plan. So we'll start by going through the sources of

revenue and, as everyone is aware, a significant amount of our finances come from the Government of Canada through our *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. And this a five-year agreement. It's a tri-partite agreement, but at the current time we only take programs down from the Government of Canada, and in the current year we will receive approximately \$47.5 million in *Fiscal Financing Agreement* to run programs and services that we've taken down from the Government of Canada, and these programs include non-insured health benefits, Post-Secondary Student Support Program, the funding for the Inuit Community Governments including capital works and operational funding. The *Financial Administration Act* also allows the government the ability to carry over funds that are not expended in one year. It allows us to plan and accumulate funds for larger projects. So currently there is \$18 million in internally restricted funds related to the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*, and you will see this reflected in Schedule 2 to be budgeted as well under the categories in which they were received. So while we don't receive a huge amount of money specific to housing initiatives, we do take a portion of our governance money and have been accumulating it in order so that we can move forward as the Strategy and Housing Initiatives are being implemented. So there's \$12 million for that particular area; 4.5 for Educational Programs and Services, and 1.5 million for Economic Development Initiatives. Outside of the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* we also receive other sources of funding that we call our own source revenue. So we receive personal income taxes. In the current

year budgeting \$5.9 million in personal income taxes. Our annual remittance from the Government of Canada is 3.8 million, and what happens is, is they've agreed that this amount is fairly consistent with what the revenue they see generated, and then as each personal income tax season goes by, they will go back and audit the personal income taxes for people in Nunatsiavut as well as those who — it's we've talked about it before. It's the ticking the box. Do you live in the Inuit communities or do you not. So they've gone back to do significant amount of audits. And in the past fiscal year we received an additional payment of 2.1 million in regards to personal income taxes related to the year 2011 and 2012 calendar years. When those audits were completed, they actually owed us money so we have received that money and we have budgeted under this *Budget Act* to spend on our programs and services. Goods and Services Tax is based on an estimate that we receive from the Government of Canada, and for the 2017-2018 fiscal year it is \$1,289,000. Again, as they go through, these are estimates, and when they get the actual amounts, if there is more funding to be paid to us, they will then remit that at that time, and then we will budget it in the next upcoming year. Are there any questions on taxes and the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* revenues? Okay. We also budget interest and investment income. So we have three sources of interest and investment income. One is interest we earn on our bank accounts. Two is we have \$55 million in investments with Optimum Investment Management based out of Montreal. So we earn money on those investments and under the

Labrador Inuit Land Claims Implementation Trust, under their deed they have to provide us with 50 percent of any income earned in their year previous. So in the 2016 year, 50 percent of their income is \$9.9 million. So they had a very healthy year on their investments. As such, the Nunatsiavut Government will be receiving additional funds. We also collect fees from fishers for the use of the NG fishing licenses, and this has been occurring the last three years and is in accordance with Commercial Fishing Policy of the Nunatsiavut Government. Fishers were consulted in the development of this policy, and they sign an agreement to remit these access fees. And we also receive fees from Charlottetown fish plant for the processing of the shrimp at their plant. And so we collect approximately \$300,000 on an annual basis. We'll talk about it a little later as we get into the departmental budget, but these funds are accumulating in the renewable resources or fishery fund. Because we had an increase in our investment income and our personal income tax income, we did not have to appropriate as much from our mining royalties. So if you recall from the past, we had received a surplus of mining royalties. We had set it aside in internally restricted funds, and the plan was in order to reach our balanced budget and continue to operate the government, we would bring these in over a five-to-six-year period. Thankfully in this year we've received, you know, an additional 2.1 million in personal income tax plus the *Implementation Trust* income was significantly higher in the past year. We did not have to bring in as

much mining royalties as we have in the past. We're only budgeting \$720,000.

MR. MITCHELL:

Can I ask a question now? With regard to the investment income and interest in investment income, what happens to other 50 percent? Is it reinvested?

MS. CRAWFORD:

So that, I will speak to it, is a question for the trustees, but what happens for any of the Trusts, the monies that are in the Trust, as the income is earned, it gets reinvested back into the units of where they are invested. So all the Trusts, the *Tasiujatsaok Trust, Implementation and Settlement* have investments in bonds, global equities, Canadian equities and in real estate. So, as income is earned, they get reinvested back in there. This amount we will receive from income that they have earned and they'll remit it to us.

MR. MITCHELL:

And one more question. With regard then to the mining royalties, you say you only had to appropriate 720,000. So there was more money in mining royalties that was generated. Is there an amount stated somewhere where how much mining royalties, actually, there was in the past year?

MS. CRAWFORD:

If you go back to the audited financial statements for the last fiscal year, we received \$285,000 in mining royalties in the last fiscal year. In this fiscal year we're around the same amount, maybe even a little bit less. This amount here that we're bringing in is the amount that was sitting. If you recall a number of years ago we had gotten like \$14 million, 12

million, but only about 2 million were budgeted. So if you don't budget it, you can't spend it so it was restricted in the Internally Restricted Fund. Under the audited financial statements there's a table that outlines each of those categories. And so what we're doing here is bringing in what we require in order to continue to provide services and programs to our beneficiaries.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Ms. Crawford and Chairperson Mitchell. Any other questions, comments?

MS. CRAWFORD:

All right, so we'll turn to page four. We have in our annex a projected budget and a five-year plan. As part of this budget we, under the *Labrador Inuit Constitution*, the government is required to maintain a contingency fund that be used by the Executive Council for any of the following reasons which are outlined in your document; meeting a temporary excess of authorized expenditures paid out of Nunatsiavut fund over revenues paid into the Nunatsiavut fund, provide a working balance for the Nunatsiavut fund, meeting an unforeseen emergency or responding to an urgent and immediate need to implement a new program or services for the good of Labrador Inuit. I know definitely in the time since I've been here, and I think even since the government was established, the funds had not been used from this contingency fund. It is budgeted, I think it's about 2.5 percent of the Departmental budget. We set aside that money, and it's actually, if you look at our audited financial statements, there is a restricted cash account of the same amount as what we had for the contingency reserve, and those are

reflected as a financial asset and a financial liability on our financial statements. So for the 2017-2018 year it's \$454,000 that will be going into the contingency fund. It brings the total balance, I believe, to about, and I'm going to use a round number, but it's about \$3 million. I think it's slightly over that. The budgets of the Inuit Community Corporations have been approved by the Nunatsiavut Executive Council for a total of \$154,000 between the two corporations. The next document in the annex is a five-year plan and we can walk through that when we look at the annex. Are there any questions on that particular page?

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Ms. Crawford. I recognize Mr. Pamak.

MR. PAMAK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess over the last couple days we've heard AngajukKâk from Hopedale seeking more funding for water and sewer repairs within the community. A couple years ago the community of Hopedale went into a state of emergency because of the water situation. Would this type of funding be made available for those types of incidents? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. CRAWFORD:

The *Constitution* says it could be used in a non-foreseen emergency. In the particular incident that happened with Hopedale a couple years ago we were able to secure more additional funding from the Provincial Government as well as use additional funds our capital works funding. So my understanding on discussions that have happened when we talk about contingency fund and emergencies, if we do have other sources of funding available within the government, or we can avail of other sources, I know GNL came in with like 90 percent funding. We had

emergency applications in as well. We try to use that before we would touch the contingency fund and allow this to grow, and so I think that's kind of where you take your step but, yes, if it was an unforeseen emergency, as per the *Constitution*, it could be used for that.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek.

MR. PAMAK:

Just to follow up on that question, I guess, and, you know, certainly, we've tried to utilize as much of other people's money as possible and, you know, I've supported that in the past, but was this option made available to — like in the instance for Hopedale's emergency in the past and, if so, would Hopedale right now in their situation qualify for that now?

MS. CRAWFORD:

To speak to the past issue when Hopedale went into their emergency situation, we didn't need to avail of it. So could it have, or should it have been used at that point? We didn't need it. We had enough funding from all the sources, whether it was Provincial Government or *our Fiscal Financing Agreement* to deal with the emergency that was there at the time. I think whether it would be used now in the future, I don't know that I can answer that question, or if it's the appropriate time because we're looking at this budget. The *Constitution* is very clear on those four points, so right now I'm not sure the Hopedale situation is an unforeseen emergency, or it's something that we need to be planning for, and I know under the capital works allocation for this year there is a feasibility study planned for the entire water system in Hopedale to look at the situation and what should be done to correct the problem so that every week

Marjorie's not having to deal, or her staff are having to deal with a water break. But, I mean, those points are there on what it can be used for.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Ms. Crawford. Any further questions, comments?

MS. CRAWFORD:

So the next page, on page five, we start going through the departmental budgets for each of the seven departments of the government. As the treasurer spoke about in his speech during first reading, the employees are the key to the success of the Nunatsiavut Government, and they're the key to successful program delivery and to service delivery to the beneficiaries of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement*. In 2011 there was a pay increase approved for employees over a four-year period. And so that concluded in 2014. The employees of the Management Division in 2011 had an adjustment to their pay scale and then did not receive any increases on their scale after that date. So that six years, and it's been three years since the employees of the Employee and Casual Divisions. So to reflect the commitment of the Nunatsiavut Government to its civil service and the increased cost of living, there's been a 2 percent increase budget for employees, so the Employee and Casual Divisions, in each of the next fiscal years starting April 1st, 2017. So it would be 2 percent this fiscal, 2 percent next fiscal year and 2 percent in two years after that. The salary scale, due to the increases with the Employees Division, and the fact it's been six years, they've fallen significantly behind. As such, the budget reflects an adjustment of the Management Division salary scale in this particular year, and each of these items are reflected in the overall salary line items of the departmental budgets of the Nunatsiavut

Government. I'm just going to go through each of the departments, and please stop me if you have any questions on these items. The Nunatsiavut Secretariat is responsible for the planning and priority setting of the Nunatsiavut Government, developing the legislative agenda as well as intergovernmental relations. So in the upcoming fiscal year, the department will continue to support Inuit Tapirisat Kanatami and the Inuit Circumpolar Council activities, as well as begin the implementation of the Nunatsiavut Energy Security Plan and continue with policy development and strategic planning for the government. There has been a decrease in salaries for Nunatsiavut Secretariat from the last fiscal year. In this past year the department has revisited their organizational structure, and they had budgeted a position, the Information Management Specialist position. And in looking at their priorities and their org structure made a determination that this is — it hasn't been filled, and the position is no longer required for this department. There's also an increase in the travel budget as the President will be required to travel and participate in the Inuit Crown Partnership Committee which was established on February 9th, 2017 with the four Inuit regions and with the Prime Minister. We are hopeful, and there's been a very positive indication from the Government of Canada, that they will be providing funding to the four Inuit regions to be part of this partnership. However, if we don't have the funds budgeted, we can't spend it. We wanted to make sure that we had the funding to actively participate in this partnership. I think there are very positive strides since February

9th, and the indication has been that there should be and will be funding coming from the Federal Government. We haven't got that in writing yet, though. The Department is also responsible for External Public Information and Communications and for Nunatsiavut Visual Design. And there are no significant changes planned in the operations of these divisions from previous years. Are there any questions on the Secretariat?

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Ms. Crawford. Mr. Pamak.

MR. PAMAK:

I don't have a question on the Secretariat, but I'd like to go back up to just above that in regards to salaries for Employees and Casual Divisions, and also there's an indication here that, you know, salaries had been increased for the management positions. So does this include all employees, or all civil service that'd be reflective of the 2 percent increase, or is it just a separate category called Employee and Casual Divisions?

MS. CRAWFORD:

It's for all employees. So if you go back to the *Nunatsiavut Civil Service Act*, our government is structured into three divisions. One is Temporary and Casual Employees. Those are on a short-term contract basis, less than three years. Maybe hired for a seasonal position. That's not a permanent seasonal position. And Employee Division includes all employees outside of the Management Division that are in permanent full-time or permanent part-time positions.

MR. PAMAK:

I guess a follow-up question to that is that, you know, certainly when the Member Services Committee conducted their review for salary reviews for Members of the house of Assembly, we used the Consumer Price Index as a level of providing increases, if you want to say, in salaries for Members for the Assembly. In here you indicate the 2 percent increase for, I think you said on an annual basis, for all employees. Was the CPI considered for using CPI for increases for the civil service? Thank you.

MS. CRAWFORD:

So in conducting a review, the Human Resources Division went through quite a significant review process in looking at public sector, union contracts. There was a little bit of talk on CPI, but we looked at what are comparatives. And in most cases our comparatives are the other governments, and we looked at the Government of Newfoundland contracts. We looked at all the union contracts for the unions in Nunatsiavut. We looked at the Federal Government. We reached out to other Inuit Regions. Very similar to the process that was undertaken in the PGF Review. And came up with in doing our comparative and coming up with a recommendation, this is comparable. In some case even a little better than what some of the other governments are doing for their employees, and we felt this was the most fair way to compensate. We haven't had a salary raise for employees for a couple of years. So looking at that and taking that into factoring and consideration as well. So that's how the 2 percent was developed.

MR. PAMAK:

I guess, you know, through our process of the Member Services Committee we use CPI for increases. Do you think that could be used as a model that could be followed for the civil service in future budgets?

MS. CRAWFORD:

It most certainly could be taken into consideration. I can't rule it out. I mean, what we're proposing under this budget is 6 percent over three years. And we had 0 percent in two years prior to that. We did, you know, we did look at what the inflation was. You know, in 2016 the inflation was 1.4 percent. I do want to go back to the PGF Report for elected officials. And one of the reasons they suggested using inflation as a method of looking at increases for elected officials was the perception of independence in making considerations for approving union contracts, and that would the perception be that you would only reprove a union contract, well, a certain percentage because you knew it would be tied to your compensation as well. And so the recommendation under the PGF Report was let's get away from the tide what your civil servants and your particular government and organization is making and look at it in a different manner, something that's a little bit more objective, and people wouldn't have that perception of maybe you're not making an objective or independent decision. And so that's the crux of why PGF has determined that inflation should be used and what the Member Services Committee accepted. So it is a factor that can be considered and it is one we do consider in evaluating what percentage our employees should be receiving.

MR. PAMAK:

I guess there's just another question to follow up too as well. And certainly, you know, you indicated 2 percent increase for employees for civil service across the board. You also mentioned that, you know, this budget reflects adjustment of the Management Division scale too as well. Can you give us an indication of what percentage of an increase was given to management? Thank you.

MS. CRAWFORD:

It's different for different positions. What I will explain is that back in 2011 when the scales were developed for the Employee Division right up to the Management Division the ending salary on the civil servants was just slightly below the Management Division scales. With the subsequent increases in the Employee Division, the civil service positions have gone up ahead of some of the management positions. And so there is some, we've heard, and we have heard quite clearly from some civil servants that there's very little incentive to move from a civil servant position into management, and we do want our employees to be able to be promoted up and to want to go into these positions. So what we have done, we have engaged a consultant to look at the management salaries, to look at the classification of salaries for all employees as well, cause currently we use an Akin job scale and we want to validate that that continues to be relevant for us. The report only came in in February and this is one of the main recommendations. There are other ones, but we haven't, in HR, had a chance to do an in-depth analysis or read all the report to be able to understand and be able to incorporate any other recommendations or look at classifications and those type of things. But this was one of the

most blaring items that came in the report plus it was consistent with what we heard from employees in the Employee Division when considering jobs in Management Division. And so all we're doing is trying to bring it back to what it was looking like in 2011 while we undergo this extensive review of our salaries. So and that's really what we're doing. We're just bringing it back to what it looked like in 2011 before all the increases to the Employee Divisions occurred back then.

MR. PAMAK:

Great, and thank you for that and, you know, getting an understanding of where you've gone with it, but any indication of what percentage? I know you can give an average of increase in management. Certainly it has to be in your budget, and I figured that you might have some insight too, but give an indication of what sort of, on average, increase in salary is provided to management. Not that I disagree, just for more for information.

MS. CRAWFORD:

I don't have the information at my fingertips at this moment. When we do a budget, we actually budget each position and we put in what the proposed salary is. So it's not that I went through and said we're going to increase that salary line item by 2 percent and another percent for these positions. I actually — when each division submits their budget, every position is there with their relevant salary. So at this point in time I'm not able to say that the entire Management Division got a 3 percent salary increase because it's not as simple as that. Some positions might have had a 3 percent. Some might have 5. Some might have 1. So I would have to go back to get an average for you. I can commit to get that to

you after this budget, or we can take a break and I can go calculate that for you.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Ms. Crawford. Any further questions, comments?

MS. CRAWFORD:

Nunatsiavut Affairs is responsible for the implementation of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement*, housing, legal services, the Registrar Beneficiaries Office and Public Property. In the current upcoming fiscal year there is no plan changes in the operations of this department, so there are no new positions being budgeted? What does change in property is what maintenance they're going to do. So if they did a maintenance on a particular unit in Rigolet, it may be Makkovik that get some plan maintenance on this year, and some of the maintenance obviously is unforeseen and they budget contingencies for that. There are some changes in public property cause the cost of insurance of new properties have to be budgeted for as new buildings are purchased or constructed, and there was also a slight minor adjustment of \$10,000 for the expenditures for the Membership Committee meetings and their annual workshop, and that was done looking at actual expenditures of the last five years as well as looking what the plan is for the upcoming year. Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology. We're responsible for the financial affairs, Human Resource needs, and the supply and management of Information Technology needs and resources of the Nunatsiavut Government. Again we have no plan changes in our operations from a staffing standpoint or what our mandate is. We do have some changes and increases due to Information Technology

requirements of the NG. There's a requirement to replace servers as well as the offline server management systems at a projected cost of \$51,000 this year. Our servers are anywhere between I think five to seven years old. So they do have to be replaced. There is also, when you look at it, there's a huge amount of money, 280,500 budgeted for subscriptions, and those are for items such as the Microsoft Volume Licence, which is about \$160,000 per year, Blackberry licences, our Compu Trade security licence. That's just a few of them. We have anti-virus. We have firewall security, and those licences have to be renewed on an annual basis. Are there any questions on Nunatsiavut Affairs or Finance, Human Resources and IT?

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Ms. Crawford. I believe the Chairperson from NunaKâtiget, has a question.

MR. MITCHELL:

Thank you, Chair. My question is not so much on the finance of IT, but there's a WIFI available in the office of Goose Bay, work in the building, the HSD building. Can I ask why it's only a limited, why you have to have a password and just for limited time to use the WIFI?

MS. CRAWFORD:

I think that all the WIFI in all the buildings, if you have a Nunatsiavut Government computer, you should be automatically be able to get into the Nunatsiavut WIFI. So my computer, when I came here, I automatically can log into the WIFI that's in this building. If you are a guest to our buildings, you are given a guest pass for the timeframe that you were there, and that's just for security reasons. So last week in Hillcrest we had a Conference Board of Canada group come in to conduct

sessions with our staff. We would have given them a pass for the two days they were there, and then once they left they would no longer have access to our WIFI in our building. But as long as you're in NG, my understanding is any of the WIFI in any of our buildings you should be able to automatically connect.

MR. MITCHELL: Is it limited?

MS. CRAWFORD: No, it shouldn't be limited. It shouldn't be limited unless it's due just where to your location that you lose connectivity.

MR. MITCHELL: The reason I mentioned limited because if I brought in my own personal iPhone, then I was given the password for a limited time.

MS. CRAWFORD: And that's because it's not an NG software IT. So it's probably just for the security of it. I mean, we can make, if you would like, we can put a formal request in to see if we could allow your phone to be connected rather than get a guest past, but it's because it's not an NG equipment.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Ms. Crawford and Mr. Mitchell. Any further questions, comments?

MS. CRAWFORD: Under Lands and Natural Resources, they are responsible for Labrador Inuit Lands and all natural resources in Labrador Inuit Lands, both renewable and non-renewable, the management and regulation of Inuit harvesting, protection of the environment, establishment of exploration standards and the approval of work plans, the establishment and management of protected areas in LIL and the implementation and administration of *Impacts and Benefits Agreements*. So within this

department there are four divisions. The Environment Division will continue to support the Northern Contaminants Program, the Lake Melville Baseline Study, waste management programs in Nunatsiavut, Smart Ice, to name a few of the programs that are ongoing. The division will also begin the implementation of a researching program in the Torngat Mountains through a partnership with the Westin Foundation and also support the monitoring of energy efficiency in the prototype in Nain. The Lands Division, in partnership with the Non-renewable Division, is planning to conduct inspections of various sites on LIL with potential environmental concerns as recommended by the Clarke Committees. This has led to a slight increase in their budgeting requests for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. And while there are no significant changes planned with programs and services of the Non-renewable division, they are continuing to be involved in marine protection, in particular as it relates to offshore development, as well as the ongoing geological assessments of the carving stone. A major activity of this division continues to be encouragement of exploration in Nunatsiavut and to promote resource server sector businesses operating in the region. Program expenses and the renewal resources division have increased again, and this is directly related to the fishing fund. So, as you recall, when I spoke about revenues we are budgeting about \$300,000 to be collected in the current year relating to the access fees. So over the last number of years as fees are collected they've been accumulating in a fishing fund. And, as in prior years, if we don't budget this fund we can't

spend it. And often opportunities that happen in the fishery happen at a very short notice and not enough time for us to come back to the Assembly to get approval to spend the money. So the entire amount that's in the fishing fund has been budgeted as well as under program expenditures you'll notice that there is a program amount. They don't match up cause there's some other program expenses in other parts of their division. And I know that they've been working on a piece. Darryl probably can speak to it better than I could, but on what this fund is to be used for and have had significant consultation with fishers in the communities, and fishers in Upper Lake Melville on the fund, and what it is to be used for in the future. The Renewable Resources Division is also participating in the research of the Davis Strait polar bear survey and the Torngat Mountain caribou herd surveys, and there is also under the capital assets an allocation for the construction of a Quonset Hut for storage of equipment in Nain. Are there any questions on Lands and Natural Resources? Okay. Health and Social Development. We have two pieces to their budget. So, under the schedule for departmental budgets, it's a smaller amount, and the majority of funding for the entire department comes from the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*, and you see that budgeted amount under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. What is in this particular departmental budget is the funding for the food security co-ordinator, the program associated with this position, our youth and elder co-ordinators and administrators, as well as some of the operating and program inspectors for these particular positions, and the Status of

Women co-ordinator position and program and funding associated with that as well. Education and Economic Development. They are responsible for establishing and administrating education and economic development policies, programs and services for the government, and promoting the economic development of Nunatsiavut and education of Inuit. Again there's been no plan changes and positions or their mandate for this upcoming year. They continue to implement programs as it relates to education and wage experience, capacity building, development of economic opportunities, private and public partnerships, and they continue to budget \$300,000 for the Community Economic Development Program. Are there any questions on Health and Social Development and Education and Economic Development? So Culture, Recreation and Tourism. They have a very large mandate as it relates to language, culture and heritage and tourism. They have a lot of programs and services under that particular area as well. So the Culture Division has a number of ongoing programs and projects in the areas of art and language. With regards to the arts, they're in the process of finalizing an art strategy, and that strategy will help them guide on their future projects and programs moving forward. Work is also continuing with SakKijajuk Indian Fine Art and Craft from Nunatsiavut. As we heard in the departmental statement earlier today or yesterday, it was at The Rooms, and now there is plan for it to move to other galleries across Canada. Funding continues to be appropriated for ongoing *Inuktitut* programs such as the *Inuktitut* Radio Hour on the OK Society radio station, the

Language Nest Program, the Labrador *Inuktitut* Training Program and the Interpreter/Translator annual workshops. There's also currently a plan underway to develop and implement an *Inuktitut* Master Apprenticeship Program which is a very exciting initiative that they're looking to move forward on.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Ms. Crawford. Mr. Pamak.

MR. PAMAK:

Thank you. We've heard from this morning and yesterday too as well many projects ongoing and future projects under Culture, Recreation and Tourism, whether they be language, or even tourism. I'm kind of looking at your budget for this year. I see very little increase, if any, for operating from last year. I recognize and seeing implement an *Inuktitut* Master Apprentice Program. I guess what was brought up in the past on several occasion is the Labrador *Inuktitut* Training program and the delivery of that. Was there any request outside of the program that's done through IBED to enhance some language programs using the LITP for this fiscal year.

MS. CRAWFORD:

So in relation to your question about an increase, they're looking at between a 500 to \$550,000 increase in their budget from the prior year. So there has been a significant amount of money being put into Culture, Recreation and Tourism programming. There is a budgeted amount of 300,000 for LITP. I don't believe that it's only for the Inuit Bachelor of Education Program, but as to the details of exactly where it's going out to, I can't speak to that. I can get the information again to look at that. I do know that under the education budgets and discussions with the

Newfoundland and Labrador English School District they have budgeted in the past to look at the *Inuktitut* language and continue to budget. They're putting together a form to, in conjunction with education, with Culture, Recreation and Tourism with the school district as well to make sure that, you know, we're achieving what we want to achieve and how do we move forward in making sure that they're — you know, we stop the erosion of Labrador *Inuktitut* language. So I know I didn't answer your question in very detailed specifics. But I will take the note so that I can get an answer to you on what they are doing with the Labrador *Inuktitut* Program outside of the IBED.

MR. PAMAK:

I guess as a follow-up question, I don't know if Rexanne can answer it or Johannes, who's Minister for Culture, Recreation and Tourism. Year after year I know the Labrador *Inuktitut* Training Program is being developed, and last year, year before, very close to completion and going into delivery. If you can give us an update maybe as to where that program is, whether it's being finalized, and when do you think that it could be incorporated into the budgets in the future for delivery?

MS. CRAWFORD:

Richard, if I may, just I know Johannes is a new Minister. What they're doing to the IBED Program is implementing it and working out the kinks and the nuances as you take something that you write on paper and actually start to teach it. So I know there's been a fair amount of adjustments done to the Labrador *Inuktitut* Training Program as it's being delivered and taught, and those modules are being refined. I'm not sure if the question is relevant to right now as we're discussing the budget, or

if it would be something that we could come back to, either through, you know, the oral question period. What's budgeted under this year is 300,000 for the Labrador *Inuktitut* Training Program. I do believe it's entirely for the IBED, but I think there are some other pieces and in conjunction with education and looking at tying it in with what's going on. So the education system at our early childhood development stage and actually, you know, that full continuum of delivery of *Inuktitut* into our communities.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Ms. Crawford and Mr. Pamak for the questions and commentary. I believe that Mr. Shiwak has something to add to this discussion.

MR. J. SHIWAK:

Yes, just a follow-up to that. With regards to that request, as for your same request this morning with regards to communication, I will ensure that the President, if he can, give an update on where that program is outside of this forum here, outside of the budget forum. But I will bring that forward to the President.

MR. PAMAK:

Just a comment, I guess. I'll wait for your response, Rexanne, in regards to the allocation regards to the LITP within that department. And certainly I would, based on that, if there's any questions to be raised, I'll have the opportunity through oral questions in future assemblies and certainly direct them to the appropriate department. Thank you.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Thank you, Richard. It's back to some of the other planned activities under this particular department. The archaeologists are continuing with

the Model T Salvage Project which we've seen on various programs and information that's been out in annual reports. They are continuing with annual heritage forum. The identification and designation of historically significant buildings in Nunatsiavut, and the commemoration of Labrador Inuit contributions to the Great War. The archaeologists are also planning an initiative in regards to digital outreach and oral history, and this is coming from a direct recommendation for a couple of heritage forums. It will involve the documentation of intangible cultural heritage in Nunatsiavut through a variety of digital media platforms, audio, video recordings and photography. They have also budgeted for a Labrador Kayak Revival Project which involves the making use of ethnographic, archaeological and photographic information to begin constructing an authentic Labrador style kayak in this region for the first time in 50 years. So the last traditional Labrador Inuit kayak was made using orally transmitted information, and it was done in Nain in 1971 for the bicentennial of the establishment of Nain. The first successful Moravian Mission Station in Labrador, and they are planning a project for this upcoming year on the Labrador kayak. And so with the approval of the Nunatsiavut Tourism Strategy, plans for the Tourism Division will continue to focus on the development of this Implementation Plan. They have community sessions being planned as well as the development of an experienced development network. Funds are also appropriated for partnerships for market readiness programs and experienced packages in Nunatsiavut and the Torngat Mountain National Park Base Camp and

Research Centre. Hebron is also a very important part of the Labrador Inuit history. As such, the Tourism Division has planned for the continuation of the Hebron Ambassador Program and the Hebron Restoration Project. And they also continue to contribute \$75,000 to the activities of the Torngat Recreation Commission. Administration Costs. We've made a very concerted effort to keep administration costs at a minimum which include telephone, heat, light, insurance, office supplies, etcetera, and, as you'll see, there's been a slight deduction based on some of the areas we've looked at being more efficient with the use of our resources. Are there any questions on this?

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Ms. Crawford. I believe we have a question or comment from the Chairperson for NunaKâtiget. Did you have a...

MR. MITCHELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a question. Reading, going through this with the different things you're going to be spending money on within the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, I don't see anything in here regard to if you remember correctly last year when the Provincial Government had their budget cut-backs and the Arts Council office closed in Goose Bay, and the Labrador Cultural Travel money was going to be transferred to Nunatsiavut Government, and I think some was used for the — take performers to the Inuit Studies Conference in St. John's. I don't see anywhere in here where this lot of money is still there where performers could take advantage of travel money to attend cultural events.

MS. CRAWFORD:

So the only thing that we budget under our *Budget Act* are things that we are expanding our own funds on. Under the last year's cut, what happened is that they cut those programming, and they said they would give \$20,000 to each of Nunatsiavut Government, the Innu Nation and NunatuKavut Community Council, and it is for several areas of where they made cuts. So it was on arts, transportation and costs for people, artists and musicians travelling. It was for the Air, Foodlift Subsidy Program the province used to operate, and I think there was one other area. So they cut all those programs which saves them about 2 or \$300,000, and they gave each of three governments a *Contribution Agreement* for \$20,000 to make decisions on their funding for those areas. We don't budget *Contribution Agreements*. That particular *Contribution Agreement* only runs until March 31st, 2017, and at this point we're not sure what is there for next year, and usually we'll find out as the year — I think even this one only came in about four months ago, three months ago maybe. I reviewed it.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Ms. Crawford and Mr. Mitchell. I believe that Mr. Pamak has a question or comment.

MR. PAMAK:

Thank you. I guess under the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism we have two very active divisions within the department, one being language and the other one being tourism. Certainly recreation, not so active. Let's say that. I know that this budget always contributes an annual funding of \$75,000 or so each year, and it's given to Torngat Committee to run their activities for the year. Has there been any

requests coming into the Nunatsiavut Government for an increase in that? I've seen the figure of 75,000 for the last five, six years or so. If there was any requests in increase in funding, what consideration was given to give them any more funding? Thank you.

MS. CRAWFORD:

There have been no requests for any additional amounts of funding for recreation. The Nunatsiavut Government actually doesn't have the mandate for recreation in Nunatsiavut. It falls to, I think, the jurisdiction of the Inuit Community Governments. So what we have budgeted is what we support, the Torngat Recreation Commission and their mandate, and there is \$20,000 for Community Recreation Fund and it's for supporting festivals and events. So those are the two areas that have been identified and we've had no indication or no requests for any additional funding in that area.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Ms. Crawford and Mr. Pamak.

MS. CRAWFORD:

So on page nine I'm not going to spend any time on Nunatsiavut Assembly budget area. We went through that yesterday in reviewing and approving the Assembly budget. The Implementation Plan amounts that are under the annex, they come directly from our commitment under the Implementation Plan under Annex D. That is a tripartite agreement between us, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Government of Canada. So each of the three parties contribute an equal amount to the co-management boards and the Dispute Resolution Board. Capital Infrastructure. In the 2017-2018 year we'll continue to budget for three capital projects; Illusuak Cultural Centre, which I heard I believe in a

statement earlier, the construction of the building should be complete by early summer and then we'll continue with the design and fabrication of the exhibits that go along with that beautiful building. We are budgeting for a new office and programming space for the Department of Health and Social Development in Hopedale. We have been successful and we're in the final stages of procuring land in Hopedale for that building, and an RRFPP should be released shortly for the design of that building, to get the building and tendering process in place to get much needed space for this community. And the staff housing, there's been an amount budgeted to begin the planning stages of what we're going to do with the 15 units that are aging and to deal with also some of the issues in the Building Assessments Reports from Stantec. So that concludes the written piece of the Financial Plan. The Appendix to the Financial Plan is exactly the same as the Annex in the *Budget Act*. So I believe — the Chair wanted to go and do a page-by-page review of that.

MR. EDMUNDS:

So as I've mentioned before we began to consider the Financial Plan, we would go through pages 2 through 10 and then ask for agreement afterwards for those particular pages. So I'll ask if the Assembly is in agreement to accept pages 2 through 10 of the Financial Plan. All agreed? Nakummek. And we can now go on to consider the annex, and you'll find that after the Budget Bill in your binders. Again this is all within Tab 5. So again the procedure that we will do in this case is we will ask for agreement after each page when the lined items have been discussed by the comptroller. So what we will do now is we'll do the

presentation of the annex. The comptroller will speak to the page and after all items have been discussed on that page, I'll ask for agreement from the Assembly Members to accept the page.

MS. CRAWFORD:

So page seven of the annex is a summary. What it does is it in column one under, Administration, these are things that are being funded directly from our own source revenues, and then the breakdown from the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* to give you a total amount per department. The details are as you get through, this is really just a summary of items as you get further into the annex.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Is the Assembly in agreement for page seven of the annex? All agreed? Now turn to page eight.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Again it's a summary breakdown by revenues and expenditures. So the revenues where we say Nunatsiavut Government, Section 1, those are things that are funded from our projected sources of our own sources revenues and the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*, Section 2, talks to the amount and expenditures under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. Details are further back.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Is the Assembly in agreement for page eight? All agreed? We'll consider page nine.

MS. CRAWFORD:

So the projected sources of revenue are as I detailed out in the Financial Plan. We have our personal income taxes composed of our current annual remittance and a payment of \$2.1 million as audits are completed. The amount for the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* is a total of

the amount budgeted for governance under Section 2. And an amount being brought in from internally restricted or deferred revenue of the Department of Health as it relates to the new proposed building in Hopedale for the Department of Health and Social Development. Under our *Fiscal Financing Agreement*, they receive \$350,000 per year for capital expenditures, and again under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* we can accumulate that amount as we all know, \$350,000 is not going to build us anything. So we've accumulated it and have budgeted \$2 million to go against the Department of Health building. Now I'm going to double check my number. Yes, \$2 million towards this building this year. Interest and investment income are interest on our bank accounts and our investments in Optimum; 9.9 million from the *Implementation Trust*; 1.289 million from the GST agreement, program revenue, I can go through that in more detail when we go through the departmental budgets, but the biggest portion of it is funding that we receive under the fishing fund, as well as we've received some funds from the Government of Canada for our Conservation Officer Program and the English River Counting Fence. I spoke about the access fees for fishers, the mining tax royalty, rental income revenue are funds that we received in the prior year related to the rental of our staff units or office space or, you know, the courtroom here or various — an outside entity needs to use our space and we charge them. We've budgeted what we received last year, and from March 31st, 2015 we did have a 1.851 million surplus, which it

goes back into our general fund and has been re-budgeted for this upcoming year.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Any questions, comments on page nine? If there are no questions or comments, is the Assembly in agreement for page nine? We'll move to page 10.

MS. CRAWFORD:

So again the projected budget looks at what our program revenue is, the departmental budgets, our contingency fund, which I spoke about as I reviewed the Financial Plan. The OSR clawback, we presented, I believe the treasurer spoke in January about the amount that will be clawed back under our *Fiscal Financing Agreement* and *Own Source Revenue Capacity Agreement*. And this upcoming year it's \$1,246,000, and that will continue to grow as we get further along into the schedules of the OSR Capacity Agreements. The Assembly Budget and Implementation Plan and infrastructure amounts are there and those are further detailed out and schedules later on in the annex.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek. Any questions, comments for page 10? Is the Assembly in agreement for page 10? All agreed? Nakummek. We'll consider page 11.

MS. CRAWFORD:

It's the five-year plan. We kind of look at the previous two years that were budgeted and looking forward into the next two years after this, and while we have rejected some increases on OSR and a small percentage increase on departmental budgets in particular as it relates to salaries, you will see funds decrease for capital infrastructure as planned

projects are completed, and the Nunatsiavut Assembly budget always fluctuates depending on whether there's a general election or a Presidential election. So every second year you tend to see a higher amount and that's all contingent on election years.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Ms. Crawford. Questions, comments, page 11? Is the Assembly in agreement for page 11? All agreed? We'll now turn our attention to page 12.

MS. CRAWFORD:

I did a very extensive review as we went through the Financial Plan of each particular department in their programming or any difference in their activities as it would relate to the departmental items. I'm not going to go through a number-by-number of this particular page, but if there are any questions?

MR. EDMUNDS:

If there are no questions or comments, is the Assembly in agreement for page 12? I recognize the Chairperson for NunaKâtiget, Mr. Gary Mitchell.

MR. MITCHELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a question on professional fees at about a total of \$1.4 million. Is that salaries, or is that services acquired for legal? Does that include the salaries of the people we have on staff?

MS. CRAWFORD:

No, it does not include any salaries. So this amount would be items related to auditors, legal services, consultants firm, environmental work, funds that we have appropriated for ITK and ICC activities, and contributions we make to some of the Strategic Plans and those type of areas.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Ms. Crawford and Mr. Mitchell. Any further questions, commentary related to page 12? If not I'll ask if the Assembly is in agreement for page 12? All agreed? We'll now consider page 13.

MS. CRAWFORD: Page 13 is what was approved yesterday in the Committee of the Whole when we discussed the Assembly Budget, and it's just composed of the annex in order to flow it through.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Ms. Crawford. Questions, comments, page 13? Is the Assembly in agreement for page 13? All agreed? Nakummek. Consider page 14.

MS. CRAWFORD: As I noted during the Financial Plan review these figures come directly from Annex D, and this is our one third contribution to the operations of Torngat Joint Fisheries Board and the Wildlife and Plant Co-management Board, as well as the Dispute Resolution Board, and there is a small amount for Land Use Plan that has not been used.

MR. EDMUNDS: Any questions on page 14? I recognize the Chairperson for NunaKâtiget, Mr. Gary Mitchell.

MR. MITCHELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. With regard to the Land Use Plan there's \$6,500 in the budget each year. Is that an ongoing project, or I thought the Land Use Plan was like a one-shot thing and we finalized the Land Use Plan.

MS. CRAWFORD: At this point there is no final Land Use Plan. However, under Annex D, there is an amount that has to be budgeted and is agreed to between the three parties. In the event we get to a place where the Land Use Plan is approved, there are some minor, I think, implementation or

administrative items, but I have to budget it. If I don't budget it, I can't spend it, and if we ever get to that position it is an obligation of ours under Implementation Plan.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Ms. Crawford and Mr. Mitchell. Any further questions on page 14? I recognize AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS: Thank you. Just one question. What is dispute resolution?

MS. CRAWFORD: Under Chapter 21 of the *Land Claim Agreement*, it calls for the establishment of a Dispute Resolution Board and composed of, it's appointees. I think there's supposed to be five members of this Board, and in the event there is a dispute between us and one of the other parties or between the parties on the terms of the *Agreement*, we can go through a process under Chapter 21 and go to the Dispute Resolution Board to get a resolution on the disagreement. We haven't had to date, and so, but it is under Chapter 21.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Ms. Crawford and Ms. Flowers. Any further questions on page 14? If we have no further questions, is the Assembly in agreement for page 14? All agreed? Nakummek. We'll consider page 15.

MS. CRAWFORD: Again as I spoke to you in going through the Financial Plan, there are three categories on capital infrastructure projects. One is the finalization of the construction of Illusuak. Office Building and Renovations, which includes the new building in Department of Health and Social Development for Hopedale as well as some other, I don't know if you call it, minor or major renovations on some other buildings as identified

under the Building Assessment Report, and an allocation to look at staff housing in Nunatsiavut, as well as there are a couple of units that were identified under the Building Assessment Report that was completed by Stantec last year that need some work on them.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Ms. Crawford. Questions for page 15? If there are no questions for page 15, is the Assembly in agreement for page 15? All agreed. Now consider page 16.

MS. CRAWFORD:

So page 16 is composed of the funding that we're going to receive under this year's *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. And these amounts had been confirmed with the Government of Canada. Early in February of every year we get the amount that we're going to receive under each of the categories plus what we have under internally restricted. Internally restricted is also a line item under our audited financial statements each year and broken down in a note. And then we have it broken down by the different categories of which it would be expended. So Department of Health and Social Development, Post-Secondary Education, Secondary Education, Operations of the Inuit Community Governments, Torngat Regional Housing Association, Housing, Community Government, Capital Works, Governance, Economic Development, a very small amount for Culture and Language and a small amount for Lands and Natural Resources for the Conservation Officer Program and the English River. I do want to just speak to that one just briefly because it's each year we have to fight for that amount of money. It's time limited and was supposed to end, I think, in year two or three, and for each year we've

been successful in receiving these funds and we found out when we got our schedules on the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* that again they are continuing to support these two programs. It's part of our ongoing negotiation with them, but I just want to highlight that this one is time limited and we have to undergo a lot of discussions during the year to make sure we get that money.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Ms. Crawford. Any questions on page 16? I recognize Mr. Pamak.

MR. PAMAK:

Thank you. Looking at housing, of course, we have internally restricted funds of 18 million from last year which we know 12 million from last year relates to housing initiatives, and I understand and we received \$4 million last year from the Federal Government, and can you tell me how much we will receive this year? I think it's 4 from my recollection, but how much are we going to receive from the Federal Government for housing initiatives this year?

MS. CRAWFORD:

So there are two, under our *Fiscal Financing Agreement* the only amount that we receive for housing is the amount we flow to Torngat Regional Housing. What we have done, or what the Executive Council has agreed is the funds that we receive for governance we've been allocating into housing and growing that particular area so we can do some, I guess, bigger solutions. The Federal Government in last year's budget, allocated \$15 million over a two-year period to address specifically housing initiatives. So in this fiscal year that we're currently in, we got 4 million. In the next fiscal year we have 11 million, and a proposal was submitted

and accepted by the Government of Canada on how and what we can spend that money on of the 11 million. That is completely outside of this budget because the 15 million received from the Federal Government is in the form — because of the process we had to take in order to get approval to use it and spend it and to get it, it doesn't need to go into the *Budget Act*. We've got authority to spend it by way of agreement from the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada. She actually has to approve a plan for its expenditure before the money will be allowed to flow to us. So we will be getting \$11 million in the upcoming year for housing initiatives.

MR. PAMAK:

I guess if I'm doing the math right then that \$11 million is not part of this budget, and the figures that we have in here under housing is our budget, so 14. So in reality we have at our disposal for this fiscal year approximately \$25 million for housing initiatives?

MS. CRAWFORD:

Yes, we do. The 11 million, though, is not at our disposal because it had to be approved by Minister Bennett on what we could expend it on. So that plan for the 11 million has already been approved by the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada.

MR. PAMAK:

Certainly that opens my eyes a little bit more knowing that. I figured that the \$14 million included any funds that we were going to receive from the Federal Government as part of that \$15 million, you know, to see that we had \$25 million. We have quite a good fund to work with. I was thinking that out of this \$14 million that the two plexes for this year in Hopedale and Nain will be used. Those funds will be used for that and

also, you know, the repair program that we're doing. We also mentioned some other initiatives, but knowing that, you know, the complexes for Hopedale and Nain they won't come out of the federal funding, of the 11 million which is not part of this budget, can you give us a breakdown of what in our budget we're going to be using that \$14.5 million?

MS. CRAWFORD:

I can't give a breakdown of the entire amount because it hasn't all been allocated, and that's been communicated in statements by the Minister previously. I think two Assemblies ago we did give a table to all of the Assembly Members of what has been committed under that fund. I know there's funds for the prototype. There's been funds for the major/minor repair programs. There was funding for all the geotechnical assessments, and some of that are just concluding now so there's still funding coming out of that. We've got the Housing Delivery Model Program and fees associated with the review of that report and the outcomes coming from that particular report that was delivered, I believe, early this fiscal year. So there are still some of those components are there. The entire 14 million has not been allocated to specific items and that has — in previous statements in Ministers Statements has been specifically said that as the strategy is finalized and the initiatives and programs are being rolled out under those, that strategy and other initiatives as we move forward, those funds will be used for that.

MR. PAMAK:

I guess it just kind of brings a concern to me, you know, as a Member of this Assembly approving a budget. Certainly we have a budget request of \$14 million, and there's no real plan to spend that. There's no allocation

assigned to those budgets, and if you look at previous budgets we've been deferring revenue from 2012 in excess of \$10 million, if not more year-to-year-to-year of our own money when we're in such a housing crisis. And we'll certainly welcome any federal funding money which we're going to use, but we have financial resources too as well. And I've said in previous Assemblies that, you know, we should maximize external funds first and then tap into ours. In looking at our overall budget for this year it's great that we have money for housing initiatives. We're doing a lot in terms of housing within our communities. I am not contesting that. The concern that I have now is approving a housing budget without any allocation to it or how it's going to be spent. If it's the wishes to just carry on deferring funds from year-to-year when we're still in a housing crisis, then that's the wishes of the Assembly, but I guess I've said my point that, you know, we've, over the last five, six years have deferred X of million dollars of revenue of our own money which we could be utilizing too as well. Thank you.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Mr. Pamak. I believe that Mr. Shiwak has a point to add.

MR. D. SHIWAK:

Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair, and I understand. I hear your concerns. A couple of things from a financial perspective. If we don't budget it, we can't spend it. I understand from the Ministers Statements, and I don't know if she wants to add to this, is that she wants to have a strategy done by this fall. And I understand your concern of you see a large amount, and yes, we do have a housing crisis and we still will. I guess one thing I could say is that, from a capacity perspective, we can only do so

much. And again I can ask the Minister to add to that, but from a point of financial perspective, if you want to spend it or if you need to spend it, we can't spend it if you don't budget it. Did you want to add to from a housing perspective?

MS. CRAWFORD:

Just to add to what the Minister is saying, so under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*, if we do not have the funds budgeted, if we came up with a plan, once the strategy is released in the fall and we have action items, if that money is not budgeted we can't act on them until the next fiscal year. So what we have always done is taken this internally restricted funds and budgeted it. The same as with the fishing fund. While at this time nobody can say exactly what we're going to spend the fishery fund on, we know that if we don't budget it we can do nothing this year or we have to come back to another planned sitting to get authority to spend that money. I do want to talk about each year we haven't been deferring \$10 million because over time I think it's been about 2, 2 1/2 million per year, maybe 3 million that we've been adding to that housing fund, and as the communication and as that — I remember at the start of that item of when the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* was being budgeted for housing, one of the things that was talked about at the time by the former President was that the amount of money it does take to action. So yes, we are building two multiplexes this year in Nain and Hopedale, and the funding is coming from the Federal Government, thankfully, but those are costly. Like those multiplexes will cost about 2.5, 3 million each to construct. So 14 million is a big number. No doubt about it. But if you

build a multiplex at 3 million, and another one at 3 million it comes down, and even building a home, I mean, we can speak to capital works for putting in new lots in our communities. The cost per lot is going up to about 250 to \$300,000 per lot. The amount of a unit is going up close where to \$200,000. So you're looking at half a million dollars for one house. So I have no disagreement that 14 million is a big number. I think that the plan has always been to try to accumulate the money so that we can action in a broad and a good impact within our communities. Is that right, Kate?

MS. MITCHELL:

Right.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Yes. But, however, if you feel and want to make a recommendation to make an adjustment to the budget and not have it budgeted because there's no plan, we can certainly reduce the internally restricted amount. We can certainly take the money out of housing, but we won't be able to action on it until we come back with another money bill. And that's how the *Act* is designed. So we're trying to be proactive ensuring the funds are there once the plans are in place.

MR. PAMAK:

I think that's already been considered, what you just mentioned, in other discussions elsewhere outside of the Assembly. However, you know, it goes back to two years ago I requested, you know, basically to rob from Peter to feed Paul in this case. You know, to support some housing repair programs that Torngat Regional Housing conducts. I wasn't asking for millions, but I was asking for some funding's, and basically told there's just no money. Now look, you know, I guess, over time we do have the

money. We have a housing crisis. You know, I can't see why we can't help our affiliates, if you want to call it that; Torngat Housing, in order to achieve some more housing repair programs in the future. Technically on paper we have \$25 million of housing dollars available for housing initiatives this year. Not all one time, but we do have it. And year after year we've carried forward deferred revenue for housing initiatives at the same time saying we don't have any money for it, and yet to find out today that in addition to the 11 million or the 50 million we're going to receive, we have 14 plus of our own too as well. And I can understand we're going through developing a housing strategy. Some of these funds are going to create that housing strategy, not \$14 million, I hope. But, you know, I don't see a major portion of that funding this year being spent. When I say this funding, our budget of that major portion being spent this year on housing initiatives other than planning. We talk about the repair program. We talk about two six-plexes and other initiatives too, but I am presuming, and safe to say, that majority of those expenditures are coming from the Federal Government funding. Again I support using any federal dollars on housing initiatives. But I also have to say, and I strongly have to say too, we are budgeting for housing for our communities too as well, but we're not spending it. Now to remove the budget for you to come up with a housing plan to give us a better picture of what you intend to do this year, maybe that's an option for us to remove that portion until you come up with a housing plan. But having said that, I just said it's an option, I don't wish to take that route. My

route is to let's start working a little bit closer with Torngat Housing maybe. If they have requests for additional 500,000, 600,000 or a million dollars to help with repairs to work with our repair program, let's do it. Let's start spending, not only the federal government, let' start spending ours too. We have a responsibility to our constituency. And knowing that someone looking on the outside saying we don't have any money for housing, we don't have any money for housing, and for them to know that we're deferring revenue every year in a housing crisis, I don't answer their questions and it certainly don't answer mine. Thank you.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Mr. Pamak. I recognize Ms. Mitchell.

MS. MITCHELL:

What I do want to say, Richard, is that of the 14.5 million in this, that's not just a blanket fund. There are funds committed under that program. There is funds committed to repair programs that we have been spending and have committed to spend. There is money under the federal funding as well that we received of 11 million that is being, I think, to the tune, I wish I had brought my chart right in front of me or my computer in, I think it's almost up to \$3 million on a repair program this year of which applications are now being accepted by the NG. Those are coming from homes that are Torngat homes as well as general residents. It's open right across the board. We have supported Torngat Regional Housing in the past year and in this fiscal year, I guess this fiscal year, with additional funds to support their repair programs when they didn't have enough money. They did receive additional funding this year to put in an additional house in Rigolet. So of the \$25 million that we do have for

housing, I would say if I were to make an educated guess there's about \$15 million committed. So we're looking at \$10 million. And as I spoke to you before as what the Minister spoke to in previous statements is that \$10 million is a large amount to a single person, but when you have to action in a big strategy or action an amount to address the housing issues that we have \$10 million is not a lot. I mean when we look at a loan developing a subdivision in Nain, in Hopedale, in Makkovik, Postville or Rigolet where there are limited places to build right now and in some communities there are no subdivisions. You know, we could put more money into housing, but right now there's nowhere to build in Nain. There's nowhere to build in Hopedale. A couple of lots available so I wish, I always say I had a magic wand that I could fix it, but there are steps that have to be taken in place in order to action on some of things that you want action on. But it isn't fair to say that there are no plans for the 14.5 million in this budget. It is not only being spent on developing a strategy. In fact, the crux of the work and the costs have been in kind from the NG. They're being done by an inter-departmental working group composed of individuals across four or five departments, and they're working very diligently on this project. We did have a consultant who looked at Housing Delivery Models across the country because we didn't have the expertise in-house. And so the report's been brought, and the inter-departmental working group is analyzing that report and developing recommendations to be brought forward on that item. So I want to be just on some of the wording just so that it's very clear that of

the 14.5 there are funds committed to various items and the Minister has spoken and can speak on that, which leaves, I'd say, about 10 million, and when the plan comes out in September it can be, you know, the discussion then and the delivery of that will talk about what the money will be used for. We've always been very conservative in finance. So our recommendations to the departments have always been, you know, for planning purposes, you should budget the money so that it's available to budget because the time you want to action it, if it is not in a *Budget Act* and is not appropriated, you cannot move forward. A decision can go to the NEC and they can't approve any of these recommendations. They could approve a development of an additional *Budget Act* to come here. But if we know that during the year there is a potential that this funding could be spent your most conservative and most prudent place to put it is to put in this *Budget Act* now so that it can be actioned at the time it needs to be actioned rather than wait two months for the next Assembly to have it.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Ms. Crawford. I believe just going in terms of order of speaking.

MR. PAMAK:

Yes. And thank you for that, Rexanne, certainly. I just want to make a comment too as well. First of all I didn't say that there was no costs out of that \$14 million. I said that there's no real plan, in my opinion, because we hadn't seen anything from here and we speak of something in September of a housing plan for this year. That's totally separate from a housing strategy altogether. I certainly recognize that. And it always

seems like we're — like I really understand what you're saying, but seems like we're putting the cart before the horse sometimes meaning you want to do something without having a real plan in place, or without — what I'm trying to say is that we're not aware of that plan. We hear bits and pieces from previous Assembly what we're doing. You know, we come to the Assembly, we get an idea of what's going to be happening. But to see an actual plan would have prior to this budget would help solve some of the questions would not have come up today. And that's why I stress so much at previous Assemblies is the importance of keeping us informed about housing, whether it's in a housing plan from year-to-year or an overall housing strategy. We're getting there, we're getting there and hopefully by the end of 2017 we'll see a housing plan for this year and a housing strategy, and it's great to see. I'm not disagreeing with that by one bit. But I just find it difficult a bit, you know, that we're approving budgets from year to year in excess of I'll say millions of dollars without any real allocation to them. I understand that it's there for when you want to use it. Great, you know, but when you have a balanced budget, you have your revenue and you have your proposed expenditures to balance that budget. This is not balanced. You'll have when I said balanced, your expenditure does not meet your revenue which means you'll have deferred revenue. So along those lines I'm just basically saying, you know, it's good to know that we really have a lot of money to work with, and I just see that — I'd like to see that we start to use some of our money too as well. Thank you. I have no other comments.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek. I recognize Mr. Mitchell.

MR. MITCHELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess I just wanted to add a couple of comments I guess similar to what Rexanne mentioned. You know, we are moving forward on housing, but one thing that we have to ensure is the housing that we do is sustainable, is affordable and you know with — it's safe housing, and we just don't want to put up housing that we know we're going to have to repair again within a couple of years. We're doing our best. We're doing, you know, as part of our — and regardless of whether the strategy is finished by this fall or not, we're still going ahead. We're doing — right now we have the call-out for applications. We'll be doing repairs in all five of our communities. And that will be done this summer, and we'll get somebody to come in and do assessments of those homes to make sure that the money that we're putting into those homes are going to, you know, it's no good for us to say, okay, somebody needs their home repaired, we'll go and do this and this, and then find out later that, you know, the structure of that home is no good, or we're just throwing good money after bad. We need to make sure that the money we're spending is being well spent and we're not going to be going back every couple of years and repairing the work that we already did. And we also need to ensure that, you know, we have a delivery program that caters to all our beneficiaries, not just people with a certain income. We have people below that income. We have people, you know, that so these are a number of things that we have to make sure that we're spending the money for the, you know, for the most benefit of our

people. And so, for me, I certainly, you know, support the research that we're doing, the Housing Working Group. Some of the things about the Housing Working Group is, you know, we have a limited amount of people within our government at our disposal that help us with this important work. So it's hard to get everybody together. So we're subcommittee that we give them direction. They go out and look at different things and come back. That's what we're trying to do. But our repair program this year, we're really hoping that we will get a lot of work done, and last year when we got access to the funding from the federal allocation, what we did was we went to Torngat Housing and we asked them to give us a list of all the repairs that they could not cover last year because they didn't have the funding and we were going to pick them up. And that was for all our five communities. So I think last year there was something like 23 homes that we had repaired. The other thing is we need that funding that we have, that we have restricted funds. We need that to use as leverage. When we go to the Provincial Government and say, look, we're still in a housing crisis and when they look at our money they know what we have, but the thing about it is we need that money to be able to leverage and go into partnerships with them. They say, okay, you know, we can put in X amount of dollars if you match it. So for us we're trying to use the money the best way we can. We have to make sure that, you know, we're offering. And if I could have one wish it would be that nobody, especially within Nunatsiavut would be living in a house that's not safe, that they can't afford to heat and things like that.

Everybody. And that's our goal is that everybody living in a safe comfortable warm home, and that is certainly something that we've been striving to do and we're working towards. Thank you.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek. At this point I'm going to ask for agreement on page 16. Is the Assembly in agreement for page 16? We'll now move onto page 17.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Page 17 is the allocation of the funds we receive for operations of Inuit Community Governments. You will notice that there has been a change in the allocations from last year. As we're all aware Census 2016 was released and we had agreed in the past, I think it was four years ago I think to look at the number of dwellings in each community as a method of allocating the funds in a fair and equitable way. So we did look at the allocation coming from the Census 2016 in preparing this budget. Finance is committed and has it on our work plan to re-look at this entire issue and come back to the Joint Management Committee for some additional thoughts on looking at the allocation and whether a number of dwellings, whether it's population or whether there should be another method of reviewing the allocation. And that's where the numbers come from and the allocation come from. So the number of dwellings have changed in some communities. I do have a spreadsheet that I will be forwarding at the Joint Management Committee is part of a discussion as we at the next meeting. And it is the same method that they look at for the municipal operating grants and then there's an adjustment for, you know, the kilometres away from a central urban area under the municipal operating grants. This one is done purely on the number of

dwellings by community, and the information that's been taken by the Census 2016 we've gone back to each of the Inuit Community Governments to get some information from them on the number of dwellings, both private and commercial, that they have in looking as part of our review on this matter.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Any questions on page 17? I recognize Mr. Jack Shiwak.

MR. J. SHIWAK:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I know you do your allocations on the number of dwellings, and for a community like ours where we get one or two houses a year if we're lucky, and you compare that to a community that's getting 10, 15, 20 houses a year, you know, I guess we're — the best we can hope for is a reduction in our operation budget because as, if you go by the dwellings as one community goes, you have to find the extra funding to cover the cost of those buildings as well, and we're strapped now, and the way things are going now we've already cut staff. I think at my next council meeting that will be up for discussion again. Who do we cut next and, you know, looking at this, we didn't even get a penny. So, you know, where do we go?

MS. CRAWFORD:

So when we put in this allocation in the previous, I think it was four years ago, we made a commitment to the Inuit Community Governments that we would not reduce your funding. So you had maintained at the same level. There were a couple other communities in the same boat at that time, and this is the first year that Postville has gotten in a change in their community allocation. We recognize that it may not be the best method and that's why we commit it under finance to reviewing the method of

allocation and doing it in consultation with all five communities as we work through this method. I don't believe that every community has gotten 10 new homes per year, but I think we do need to revisit it and that's why we put it in our work plan for this year and we've already started some of the work on it already.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Ms. Crawford, and we'll return back to Mr. Shiwak.

MR. J. SHIWAK:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. When I'm looking at this, is there, or could there be a basic starting point for all communities and then you build on a number of houses or something in the communities? Is that a way that a formula that can be looked at as well?

MS. CRAWFORD:

Absolutely, and I think that's part of what we want to get to, is we want to work with the Inuit Community Governments to look at what are ways we should be looking at allocations? Is there a certain base amount we should be looking at, and I think it's just open for all exploration of opportunities and ways of looking at it. We recognize that this may not be the most appropriate way, and we want to work the Inuit Community Governments in coming up with how we do this. So, Jack, any ideas, any thoughts you or any of the other Inuit Community Governments have on allocations, please send them to my attention as we work forward and then we'll, you know, convene meetings to talk through it and look at what different methods we can use. Absolutely.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Ms. Crawford. Mr. Pamak.

MR. PAMAK:

Thank you. I guess just to add onto Jack's question, I guess. I'm not understanding how you do your preparation for budgets, and I understand, no doubt, you work with the departments quite close and you ask them what they think they would need for the next fiscal operating year. Do you do that same process with the Inuit Community Governments? Do you ask them what do you need for you to operate for that fiscal year outside of capital infrastructure projects and so forth, those are major dollars? But for the general operation of the Inuit Community Governments, do you go to them and say how much do you need, and what is your requirements for this fiscal year? Or is it just based on allocations like you said?

MS. CRAWFORD:

Under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* we receive a set amount for Inuit Community Government operations. And so that amount is what we have under the agreement to be allocated between the five communities. So in 2011-2012, I think it was 2012 we started undergoing a review because the way it was being allocated in the past up until that time was based on the old what was called the *Native People's Agreement* with the Government of Canada and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. We could find absolutely no documentation on how they allocated between the communities. So at that time we started — we did our initial project and we implemented it. It was discussed with the Joint Management Committee members at that time as to what would be an equitable and fair way of distributing these funds between the communities. And at that time this was the decision

that was made, was looking at the number of dwellings. It also coincided at the time with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador came out with — actually I think shortly after we did our approval process with how they allocate their municipal operating grants, and it was looking at it from the same method. So we're into year four of this new method and the new Census data came out and we've compared it to data that we've gotten from the communities, and there are concerns and issues that even us as finance not even being directly involved in each of the Inuit Community Governments have with the location. And so, as I just said, you know, we are committed to working with them and looking at the allocations. Under the Constitution the Inuit Community Governments do have to submit an annual budget to us in October of each year and it goes to Lina and she analyzes it on behalf of our department. You know, and we are not also the only source of funding for each of the Inuit Community Governments. They get municipal operating grants from the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. There's gas tax. There's also other pots, little pots of money they receive, but, you know, under this allocation this is based on the amount that we get from the Government of Canada, and we had to come up with a method to do this allocation. But we do have to absolutely revisit it and we've already started gathering some data in order to start discussions with our Inuit Community Governments on this matter.

MR. PAMAK:

Well, certainly, I recognize being, you know, the community councils for a number of years to the dollars that we get from the Provincial

Government for municipal operating grant are very, very minimal. Certainly, I think all the AngajukKâat can agree with me there. I certainly support, you know, you having a basis on how you allocate to each community. You know, there's pros and cons about it, but I really would emphasize going to the Inuit Community Governments and asking them what you want in your budget and incorporate that into your Fiscal Financing negotiations that you have every five or seven years. You know, these guys are strapped. I hear of two communities now that are reducing staff so they can keep up with operations of their communities. One being Hopedale and Jack mentioned another community. So certainly the system based on number of households, this and that, is a good starting ground. I think you should work with them too as well to say Jack, Diane, Joe, Herb, what do you need? They may not get what they want, but at least they have an indication of what their government would need in order to operate financially from year to year.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Mr. Pamak. Any further questions in relation to page 17? If there are no further questions, I will ask for agreement. Is the Assembly in agreement? Nakummek. Given that we've just completed the review of the Financial Plan and the annex to the bill, I'll ask that you turn your attention to the bill itself. And we'll do our clause-by-clause and page-by-page review of the Budget Bill. We will turn our attention now to the actual *Budget Act 2017* and we'll first consider page two, the first clause. Any questions around clause 1? Of course clause 1 reads Short Title above it. Is the Assembly in agreement for clause 1? Turn your attention

to clause 2(a) and (b). And we'll consider subsection (3) as well which continues on the next page. Any questions around clause 2 (a), (b) or (c) through pages two and three. Is the Assembly in agreement for clause 2? We'll now consider clause 3, budget approved and adopted. Questions around clause 3? Is the Assembly in agreement for clause 3? All agreed? We now consider clause 4, authorizations respecting revenues. Any questions around clause 4? Is the Assembly in agreement for clause 4? All agreed? We'll turn to page four which begins with clause 5, additional revenues. Any questions around clause 5? Is the Assembly in agreement for clause 5? All agreed? We'll now consider clause 6 which reads payments must be authorized. Any questions around clause 6? Is the Assembly in agreement for clause 6? All agreed? We'll now consider clause 7, time limit on payments authorized under this Act. Questions around clause 7? Is the Assembly in agreement for clause 7? All agreed? We'll now consider clause 8, appropriations. We'll consider all of clause 8 which continues onto page five and six. I believe I have a question from Mr. Pamak on clause 8.

MR. PAMAK:

Yes, not so much from a question maybe just for clarification, I guess. I don't know if I can go back to a clause. I know that we passed it. Just for clarification. If not, that's fine. I can ask outside of the committee hall.

MR. EDMUNDS:

We've had agreement on the clause. Any questions around clause 8? Is the Assembly in agreement for clause 8? All agreed? I ask that you now turn your attention to clause 9 on page six which reads authorization for the payment of loans, guarantees and indemnities. Any questions

around clause 9? Is the Assembly in agreement for clause 9? All agreed? We'll now turn our attention to clause 10. Other requisitions must be budgeted for and be authorized by Executive Council. Any questions around clause 10? Is the Assembly for clause 4? All agreed? We'll now consider clause 11, transfers between funds or departmental budgets. Questions around clause 11? Is the Assembly of clause 11? All agreed? We'll now consider clause 12, effective date. Questions around clause 12? Is the Assembly in agreement for clause 12? All agreed? That concludes our page-by-page and clause-by-clause review of the annex and the Budget Bill and, of course, consideration for the Financial Plan. Does the Minister wish to conclude the debate?

MR. D. SHIWAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I wish to conclude debate.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister. That will conclude debate. All those in favour of second reading of Bill 2017-01, the Budget Bill 2017. Please say aye.

ASSEMBLY:

Aye.

MR. EDMUNDS:

All those opposed? The motion has been carried and accordingly Bill 2017-01, the Budget Bill, has had second reading, and I'd like to thank the Minister for the presentation and the comptroller of the Nunatsiavut Government. Nakummek. We are now back into the Assembly and before we proceed onto the additional second reading of bills we will take our lunch break.

(Recess)

MR. EDMUNDS:

Welcome back to the Assembly Members. We are still on the second reading of bills, and we have an additional bill for second reading at this time. And I'd like to recognize the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Darryl Shiwak.

MR. D. SHIWAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the First Minister, the Honourable Kate Mitchell that Bill 2017-03 *Nain Supported Living Unit Loan Act* be read for the second time.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister. The motion is in order. Again, Members, procedure for second reading is page-by-page and clause-by-clause review of Bill 2017-03. If you have questions or comments, you have up to 10 minutes to speak at each time. Again I will call out the clause number, page number, and then I will ask for your agreement. So I ask that you first turn your attention to clause 1, the short title on page two. Any questions? Is the Assembly in agreement for clause 1? All agreed? We'll turn our attention to clause 2, definitions and interpretation which goes into the next page as well, page three. Any questions around clause 2? Is the Assembly in agreement for clause 2? All agreed? We'll now consider clause 3, authorization to borrow more purposes of the program. Any questions around clause 3? Is the Assembly in agreement for clause 3? All agreed? We'll now consider clause 4, responsibility for the building and program. Any questions around clause 4? I recognize Mr. Pamak.

MR. PAMAK:

Thank you. I understand that, you now, the lease of the unit is from Torngat Regional Housing Association for \$1.00. I don't know if that's a

dollar a year or what, but, you know, it's to run supported living for the next 10 years. I guess responsibility of it being a building. It's not really laid out in here, but will we be responsible, not only to the repairs we conducted of \$75,000, but will we, when I say we, the department or any department of Nunatsiavut Government be responsible for maintenance and further repairs of that unit even though it's a lease from Torngat Regional Housing Association.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Mr. Pamak. Though the Minister of Finance is the mover of the bill, the seconder will answer the question. I recognize the Honourable First Minister, Ms. Kate Mitchell.

MS. MITCHELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you, Ordinary Member for Nain, for your question. Yes, any public property that's under Nunatsiavut Government would be maintained by my department, Public Property. So we will be responsible for the repairs and maintenance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister. Any additional questions from the Assembly around clause 4? If there are no further questions from clause 4, is the Assembly in agreement for clause 4? All agreed? Nakummek. Please turn your attention to clause 5. Powers and Authorities of Treasurer related to the *Loan Agreement*. Any questions around clause 5? Is the Assembly in agreement for clause 5? All agreed? We'll now consider clause 6, Effective Date. Any questions around clause 6? Is the Assembly in agreement for clause 6? All agreed? Nakummek. That will

include our page-by-page and clause-by-clause review of the bill. Does the Honourable Minister wish to conclude the debate?

MR. D. SHIWAK: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to conclude debate.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek. That will conclude debate. All those in favour of second reading of Bill 2017-03, please say aye?

ASSEMBLY: Aye.

MR. EDMUNDS: All those opposed? The motion is carried and accordingly Bill 2017-03, the *Nain Supportive Living Unit Loan Act* has had its second reading and I'd like to thank the Honourable Minister. We have yet another second reading of bill scheduled for today and I'd like to recognize the First Minister, the Honourable Kate Mitchell for a second reading of bill.

MS. MITCHELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Darryl Shiwak that Bill 2017-04, the Housing Initiatives Hopedale and Nain bill be read for the second time.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Honourable Minister. The motion is in order. Again we will do our clause-by-clause and page-by-page review of Bill 2017-04. Once more you'll have the opportunity for questions or comments up to a period of 10 minutes. I ask that you now turn your attention to Bill 2017-04 which comes after the *Inuktitut* version of our previous bill. We'll first consider clause 1 on page two which reads short title. Any questions? Is the Assembly in agreement for clause 1? All agreed? We'll now turn our attention to clause 2, definitions and interpretations and this clause continues on to page three as well. Any questions around clause 2? Is

the Assembly in agreement for clause 2? All agreed? Turn to your attention to clause 3, purpose, which continues onto page four with subsection (d)(i) and (ii). I recognize the Ordinary Member for Nain, Mr. Pamak.

MR. PAMAK:

My apologies, Mr. Speaker, for not standing earlier. And now I was seated when I asked my question. Again, my apologies. I guess my question is in regards to the uses of this three prototype buildings. Truly, I understand that the ones to be constructed next year in Hopedale and in Nain are going to be used for program services to assist in families at risk. And the prototype that's being constructed this year in Nain and I outlined in here that it's addressed for seniors and also for youth. Will there be programming in that unit? I know the other two, as I understand, is going to be basically programs out of those two other units, but this one, the third one, the prototype in Nain seems like it's going to be just a residential unit unless there's going to be programs to either the seniors or to the youth.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Mr. Pamak. I believe that the Minister of Health of Social Development will have a response to your question.

MR. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Richard, for the question. I know that the six-plex for Hopedale and, like you said, and the one in Nain certainly will have programming in place. The senior's one for youth and seniors in Nain I would have to go back and ask that question. I'm not quite sure to give you the correct answer, but we could give you a follow-up on that. I don't know if the First Minister or anyone else might be able

to answer that question on that one. I'm not completely sure, but I know they did two units that were the other two units we will have programming for the people in need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Honourable Minister. I believe that the First Minister would like to add to that as well. I recognize the Honourable Kate Mitchell.

MS. MITCHELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Ordinary Member from Nain for your question. The prototype that's being built in Nain is strictly a residential building, but if there is, of course, if there's any help required for the seniors that would fall under the home support or home care, and that service will be provided. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Honourable Minister. Any further questions? Is the Assembly in agreement for clause 3? All agreed? We'll now consider clause 4, ownership of prototype and buildings. I recognize the Ordinary Member for Nain, Mr. Richard Pamak.

MR. PAMAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess my question is a follow-up to the last section. In regards to ownership, certainly you identified that the prototype being constructed in Nain this year will be as a residential unit. Any future units will certainly follow based on our discussions will follow this prototype and this building in Nain is going to be owned by the Nunatsiavut Government. Should any future buildings similar to this be constructed, will they be also owned by the government? And if so is the Nunatsiavut Government getting into the business of ownership for residential purposes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Ordinary Member. In response, I recognize the Honourable First Minister, Ms. Kate Mitchell.

MS. MITCHELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, once again, Ordinary Member from Nain, for your question. As it stands right now, the prototype will be the property of Nunatsiavut Government and will fall under public property. If you read Section 2 it says nothing in this subsection is intended to prevent or be construed as to prevent the transfer of ownership, administration and control of the prototype, the Hopedale building or the Nain building to another member of Nunatsiavut Executive Council to a corporation or other legal entity that is owned and controlled by the Nunatsiavut Government or to Inuit Community Government provided the transfer has been approved by Nunatsiavut Executive Council. And we have that clause in there because right now Nunatsiavut Government is responsible for public property, but if that clause is in there, if that should change at any time and like as a government we're continuously evolving, so that's in there so that everything will be covered. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Honourable Minister. Any further questions? If not, is the Assembly in agreement for clause 4? All agreed? We'll now consider clause 5, responsibilities of Minister of Nunatsiavut Affairs and Department of Nunatsiavut Affairs which continues on to page five and page six. Any questions around clause 5? If not, is the Assembly in agreement for clause 5? All agreed? We'll now turn our attention to clause 6, responsibilities of Minister and Department of Health and Social

Development, which continues onto page seven as well. Any questions around clause 6? If not, we'll now consider clause 7, responsibilities of President and Nunatsiavut Secretariat which continues onto page eight as well. Any questions around clause 7? Is the Assembly in agreement for clause 7? All agreed? We'll now consider clause 8, rules applicable to the prototype buildings and units. If not, is the Assembly in agreement for clause 8? All agreed? We'll now turn to page nine and consider clause 9, housing program, which continues onto page 10 as well. Is the Assembly in agreement for clause 9? All agreed? I recognize the Member for Nain, Mr. Richard Pamak.

MR. PAMAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Looking at some of your rules and regulation, I guess, it's pretty strict on that and understandably so. Certainly, you know, when Nunatsiavut Government gets into a facility like this and lease agreements are put in place, certainly there's a Landlord and Tenancy Act that protects all within Newfoundland and Labrador. I'm sure that has been considered as part of this here too as well.

Understand that there's going to be a Tribunal in place to review any breaches of those rules, regulations, what. I'm just wondering with respect to that to the *Landlord Tenancy Act*. I think the *Landlord Tenancy Act* may overpower something like this. I'm not quite sure. I'm sure it's been thoroughly reviewed and put into an *Act*. Just more of a concern knowing that we are now becoming landlords and leasing to tenants. Yes, every lease must have items in there which would what you can do, what you can't do. But I'm not sure if the *Landlord Tenancy Act* or this

Act will prevail over any breaches of those rules and regulations within that lease. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member. In response, I recognize the First Minister, the Honourable Ms. Kate Mitchell.

MS. MITCHELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you once again, Ordinary Member for Nain. And you notice that every time I give an update or report and anything to do with a housing or a housing working group, the prototype and whatever, we always come back to, you know, we have this committee that's comprised of so many of our people and legal counsel. And that's one thing that we always make sure. That legal counsel and I can assure you if there's anything in there that, you know, that should be contrary or whatever I guess to the *Tenant's Act* then, yes, it will already have been taken care of. But one thing you have to be aware of too is this is a prototype and it's just that, an experiment, and the thing about it is, you know, when you're doing any kind of experiment you have to have a controlled setting or whatever you have to know. You have to be able to monitor, you know, what your experiment and like ours is to find out if this is, you know, most energy efficient and everything, so then there are certain rules that you have to follow to enable us to get the information that we need. So that's why it is a controlled setting and like any other experiment, we need that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister. Any further questions around clause 9? If not, is the Assembly in agreement for clause 9? All agreed? We'll

now consider clause 10, Review Tribunal. I recognize the Ordinary Member for Nain, Mr. Richard Pamak.

MR. PAMAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again very similar to the last clause, I guess. Again I just want to stress that, you know, there is a *Landlord Tenancy Act* that governs — Landlord and *Residential Tenancy Act* that governs all homeowners and leases within the government. That's your minimum standard, and understand that, you know you will have a process here again to review any discrepancies with your current lease and just again I just want to caution that where you are now we are now becoming landlords. That is not contrary to any *Acts* of the Provincial Government unless our *Act* exceeds their *Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member. Any additional questions around clause 10? If not, is the Assembly in agreement for clause 10? All agreed? We'll now consider clause 11, Regulations, which continues onto page 11 and 12. Any questions around clause 11? I recognize the Ordinary Member for Nain, Mr. Richard Pamak.

MR. PAMAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, you know, just from reading here, it certainly looks like we might be building more of these units down the road or prototype. This is a prototype, but these units and based on this it seems like we're going to carry forward if we're going to have ownership the same rules, regulations and procedures to follow regards to, you know, staying in those units. Is this now — has it been looked at as, you know, if there's any future buildings that this Act can really overpower the *Landlord Tenancy Act* if there's buildings in Nain,

Hopedale, Rigolet, elsewhere, we're looking at a serious issue here; *Landlord Tenancy Act* versus our Act. I know at this rate now it's only for our prototype, but in here it states for future buildings too as well. Again a red flag on my part. I'm sure that our lawyers and our work team is going to work through it, but more or less a red flag on my part at this point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member. Any questions around clause 11? If not, is the Assembly in agreement for clause 11? All agreed? We'll now consider clause 12, application of other Inuit laws. Any questions around clause 12? Is the Assembly in agreement for clause 12? All agreed? We'll now consider clause 13, coming to effect. Any questions around clause 13? Is the Assembly in agreement for clause 13? All agreed? Nakummek. That will conclude our page-by-page and clause-by-clause review of the bill. I will ask if the Minister would like to conclude the debate.

MS. MITCHELL:

Yes, Your Honour. I wish to conclude debate.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister. That concludes the debate on the bill for second reading. All those in favour of second reading of Bill 2017-04 please say aye?

ASSEMBLY:

Aye.

MR. EDMUNDS:

All those opposed? The motion has been carried. And, accordingly, Bill 2017-04, Housing Initiatives Hopedale and Nain Bill has had its second reading, and I'd like to thank the First Minister. That concludes our

second reading of bills and we will proceed to item 18, Assent to Bills.

Honourable President, the Assembly has given second reading to Bill 2017-01, the Budget Bill 2017, and wish to present it for assent.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. And I would like to make this assent in Inuktitut, Mr. Speaker. *(Speaks in Inutittut)* Nakummek Uhatti.

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Honourable President. Further, the Assembly has given a second reading to Bill 2017-03 and Bill 2017-04 and wish to present these bills for assent as well.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: *(Speaks in Inutittut).*

MR. EDMUNDS: Nakummek, Honorable President. We'll move to item 19, "Adjournment," and again I wish to thank the Ministers and the Members for their contributions and timed during this Assembly meeting, and I give special mention to our interpreters/translators, Katie Winters and Gus Semigak. Nakummek again. Of course to our pages who've joined us from Postville, Katelyn Jacque and Maddison Goudie. To Tristan Gear from IT and again the OKâlaKatiget staff Simone Kohlmeister and Johansi Tuglavina and to our Assistant to the Clerk, Tabea Onalik. The Assembly is now adjourned and our next session is scheduled to take place during the week of June 5th through the 9th. Nakummek.