



**Nunatsiavut kavamanga
Nunatsiavut Government**

FOURTH ASSEMBLY

OF

NUNATSIAVUT

SPRING SESSION 9th Session Continued 1st- SITTING

kAVAMALIGIJET

KAUJITITSIUTINGA

PARLIAMENTARY REPORT

March 8, 2021

In Attendance:

Speaker and Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville Mrs. Marlene Winters-Wheeler

Deputy Speaker and Ordinary Member for Canada, Mr. Roland Saunders

President of Nunatsiavut, Honorable Johannes Lampe

First Minister and Ordinary Member for Postville, Honorable Tyler Edmunds

Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology and Ordinary Member for Nain, Honorable Anthony Andersen

Minister of Lands and Natural Resources and Ordinary Member for Hopedale, Honorable Gregory Flowers

Minister of Education and Economic Development and Ordinary Member for Rigolet, Honorable Carlene Palliser

Minister of Culture, Recreation and Tourism and Ordinary Member for Nain, Honorable Jim Lyall

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

Ordinary Member for Makkovik, Mr. John Andersen

Ordinary Member for Canada, Ms. Susan Onalik

AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Mrs .Marjorie Flowers

AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen

AngajukKâk for Postville, Mr. Glen Sheppard

AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Mrs. Charlotte Wolfrey

AngajukKâk for Nain, Mr. Julius Dicker

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

Chair Person of the Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation, Ms. Maxene Winters

Director of Legal Services, Mr. Mark Gillette

Clerk of the Nunatsiavut Assembly, Ms. Mary Sillett

Absent:

Legal Counsel, Ms. Annike Flomen

**The Nunatsiavut Assembly proceedings
were recorded in Inuktitut and English.
March 8, 2021
Assembly commenced at 9:00AM March 8, 2021**

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: [Speaks in Inuktitut.] I'd like to call to order the continuation of the 9th Session of the 4th Nunatsiavut Assembly and I ask Marjorie Flowers, AngajukKâk of Hopedale to say the opening prayer. Marjorie, your microphone is muted.

MS. FLOWERS: [Recites prayer]

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, Marjorie. *Nakummek*. We will now move on to Item Two of the *Orders of the Day*. I call upon President of the Nunatsiavut Government, the Honourable Johannes Lampe to administer to the Oath of Office for the declared winner of the by-election for Ordinary Member for Canada, Ms. Susan Onalik.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: *Nakummek, UKatti*. [Speaks in Inuktitut.] Susan, repeat after me, the Oath of Office for the Nunatsiavut Assembly Members. [Speaks in Inuktitut]

MS. ONALIK: [Speaks in Inuktitut.]

PRESIDENT LAMPE: [Administers Oath in Inuktitut.]

MS. ONALIK: [Takes Oath in Inuktitut.]

PRESIDENT LAMPE:

I present to the Nunatsiavut Assembly and the Labrador Inuit our new Member for the Canadian Constituency, Susan Onalik and new Member of Nunatsiavut Assembly. Congratulations.

[Applause]

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Honourable President and Congratulations to Ms. Onalik. We look forward to working with you and we will-, I would just like to point out that on "International Women's Day", I think it's a great way to start our day by swearing in our newest Assembly Member. So with that being said, we will now move on to Item Three, which is the "Opening Orders of the Day", and I will call upon President Johannes Lampe for his opening address. Excuse me, Mr. President, your microphone is muted.

PRESIDENT LAMPE:

Okay. *Nakummek, UKatti.* [Speaks in Inuttitut.] Madam Speaker, this "International Women's Day", I think it is important to acknowledge the tremendous role Labrador Inuit women play in our society and in our Government. Labrador Inuit women have always played a critical role in decision making, whether that be political or community level and within family structures. The responsibilities of Inuit women within our culture are equally as important as those of men. That level of respect, I believe, is the reason why traditionally, so many of our women continue to become actively involved in public life. Although still outnumbered by their male counterparts, women at least in Nunatsiavut, are having an impact on our political landscape. Labrador Inuit women are adding new voices to many important issues such as job creation, and economic

growth. As a point of interest, more and more Labrador Inuit women are pursuing post secondary educations. Many of these women, because of their higher levels of education and training will eventually find their way into leadership roles and probably the political role. I think it is important that we encourage through our statements and actions, more women to take on leadership roles and to provide opportunities that will foster a competitive environment that promotes and supports equality in politics. In an effort to provide gender equality in Nunatsiavut Government election process, reasonable steps must be taken by the President to ensure female candidates are nominated in each of our constituencies. In other words, if there are no female candidates in a constituency, I have the ability to approach individuals and ask them if they would consider putting their names on the ballot. Those also in elected positions as I see it, have a responsibility to reach out to others in leadership roles in advocating for more female candidates to offer themselves up for election. The reality is that women still face challenges that men do not. And raising awareness and promoting gender equality in politics is critical. Inuit women have always been the movers and shakers in their communities. They have been the ties that have bound our social affairs and maintained our cultural values, which is probably why many of our women are more likely to be involved in the educational, social and health sectors. Over the past several years, the Nunatsiavut Government has partnered with various universities for the delivery of various degree programs including nursing, social work as a second degree, as well as the

regular social work degree. In all three programs, all of the students were women. We are currently working with Memorial University and the delivery of an education degree program in Labrador and the majority of students in place-, 10 out of 11 are women. Many of these women will become future leaders. In conclusion, I think Labrador Inuit women have come a long way in a relatively short time, demonstrating the willingness and ability to break down barriers and take on even greater responsibilities, aside from our traditional roles within our communities. While there still is a ways to go, however, if we ever achieve gender equality in politics, I do believe we are on the right track. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, Mr. President. Now we'll move on to Item Four, "Recognition of visitors in our gallery." So, obviously, we have no visitors in our gallery, as we are not in Hopedale. Amid the concerns of Covid-19 and in consultation with the President and the First Minister, we decided to meet virtually, under the authority of the Special Standing Orders which were passed during the pandemic outbreak late last year. I would like to welcome those who are joining us by video. I believe this is the first time that anyone can view the Assembly live. So it is an exciting time for everyone. Please note that the Assembly Members are in their respective communities and are participating by video as are our required staff. In the future, we truly hope that the Assembly proceedings can be viewed by live video. But until the bandwidth capability increases significantly in our Nunatsiavut communities, we will

continue to conduct our Assembly business via audio. We encourage everyone to respect and follow the Public Health guidelines of our Medical Officers and do what we have to do, to stay safe. *Nakummek*. Now, on to Item Five, "Ministers Statements". Under Special Standing Order 35(2), I will determine the order of Ministers giving statements. I will call upon the Ministers who have submitted their statements. First statement, I call upon First Minister Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Madam Speaker. Today I'll be updating the Assembly on two items which are the Rapid Housing Initiative and the Constitutional Amendments that are being tabled later today. Madam Speaker as I updated the Assembly at the last session, Nunatsiavut Affairs partnered with the Department of Health and Social Development to submit an application to the Rapid Housing Initiative under Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation, CMHC. The program was developed to create housing opportunities for vulnerable populations. The NG submitted a number of projects under the initiative, ensuring that each community was included in our application. While we did not receive funds for all the projects that were submitted, I am pleased to update the Assembly that we have been successful in securing a total of \$5.9 million, under the project. The bulk of the funding, *UKatti*, will be used to develop 12 seniors units evenly between Nain and Hopedale, meaning that each community will have six units designated for senior's housing. Additionally, Madam Speaker, we have been successful in securing funds to complete the conversion of the older DHSD building in Hopedale into a shelter which will

provide eight bedrooms with an emphasis on single men without housing options. An additional \$3 million, Madam Speaker, will be provided by the Nunatsiavut Government with contributions split evenly between the Nunatsiavut Housing Fund and funds previously awarded under the *Tasiujatsoak Trust* Fund at \$1.5 million each. Total spending on these projects, then, Madam Speaker is projected at \$9 million. The RFP for the design and engineering of these projects will be released in the coming months and we anticipate construction to begin this upcoming season. There are concerns if these new builds, which are specific for seniors are covered under our current legislation, however, specific legislation will be developed and presented to the Assembly prior to occupancy if necessary. We trust, *Uhalitik*, that these projects will start to address the housing needs of seniors in Nain and Hopedale, and that the shelter in Hopedale will provide a much-needed service for the community. Madam Speaker, as I mentioned, today I will be tabling a document with proposed constitutional and legislative amendments regarding fixed election dates. This document contains suggested changes for clauses in the *Labrador Inuit Constitution*, *The Nunatsiavut Elections Act*, and the *Inuit Community Governments Elections Act*. I want to stress, Madam Speaker, that these changes are designed to allow us greater flexibility on election dates and a better ability to respond to emergencies that could affect any of our elections. As the Assembly is aware, any changes to the *Labrador Inuit Constitution* requires the approval of the Inuit public through referendum. Consultation with the public on the changes for fixed election dates, then,

Madam Speaker, will be crucial. This process will be administered under the President's Office and will take place over months before the Assembly can be in a position to vote on any bill to amend the *Constitution*, should the Inuit public support the proposed changes. *Uhalitik*, the need to have greater flexibility in our regular election dates found in the *Labrador Inuit Constitution*, and the accompanying *Acts*, was made apparent this past spring as we attempted to navigate a Presidential Election in the midst of a global health crisis and the pandemic that is Covid-19. The proposal that is tabled, identifies the provision around regular election dates found in the *Labrador Inuit Constitution* and the accompanying *Acts*. The document then proposes amendments for these provisions that will effectively move the precise rules respecting timing of an election from the *Labrador Inuit Constitution* to the *Acts*. The proposed amendments are prepared with the intention to meet three primary objectives: to maintain the current set of election dates for various elections as they are currently set out, to provide for the lawful adjustment of an election day in the event of an emergency that would significantly impact or prevent polling on the day set for an election, and to maintain the spirit and attempts of the original provisions. *UKatti*, while setting the election dates in the *Constitution* has allowed additional legislation to be developed which governs our elections, there's hope that these proposed amendments can ensure that the integrity of the election dates can be protected while providing us with the opportunity to respond when events could interfere with the proper administration of our elections. I wanna thank Legal Services for

undertaking this work, the Assembly for their understanding as we navigated the Presidential Election during the pandemic, and I want to thank our beneficiaries for their patience. *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, First Minister. I now call upon Mr. Jim Lyall, Minister of Language, Culture and Tourism, for his statement.

MR. LYALL:

Nakummek, UKatti. I would like to highlight some very-, some key areas that we are working on, Madam Speaker. The Nunatsiavut Art Strategy is near completion and will be brought to the NEC in April. The Division of Tourism is continuing to work on the five-year Nunatsiavut Tourism Strategy. Staff are scheduled to visit communities to conduct one-on-one interviews and visit attractions but will now be conducting all interviews online because of the Covid. We are continuing to work on major projects such as experience and product development planned for the Mealy Mountain National Park Reserve, the Hebron Ambassador Guidebook and the Stories of Labrador Project. The long-term programming and restoration plan for Hebron and other projects relating to the Torngat Mountains Basecamp and Research Station. There have been some delays due to Covid, but we are moving forward as best we can. My department will soon be announcing an online craft auction for National Indigenous Peoples Day. Madam Speaker, in the Division of Culture, a Terminology Workshop was planned from February 9th to the 11th of this year in Nain. But due to Covid-19, it has to be postponed for the time being. This workshop involves fluent Inuttitut speakers that help determine a standardized list of Inuttitut terms to use within the region. This year the

focus is older terminology. I'm also very pleased to announce that the Nunatsiavut Language Strategy was approved by the Nunatsiavut Executive Council on March the 2nd of this year. Our department is very excited about the approval and is now working with our resource centre to be able to print and post online as a downloadable pdf. We are working on posters that will be sent to schools, NG offices and other public settings that contain visuals of traditional items, family members, animals, et cetera with the Inuttitut word. Madam Speaker, these are various (inaudible) that our department has been working on and I presume that everyone is well aware that it's been difficult to move some of the programs forward because of the Covid and the pandemic. However, we are looking forward to the day that we can get back to normal. I would like to take this opportunity as well, to thank my staff and all their hard work during these challenging times. *Nakummek, UKatti.*

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, Minister Lyall. I now call upon Minister of Health and Social Development, Mr. Gerald Asivak.

MR. ASIVSK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker and welcome virtual viewers. I'll highlight seven items this morning in my department. And the first one is the Makkovik false positive. On Wednesday, February 17th, 2021, at 4:45 p.m., the Department of Health and Social Development Regional Office was notified of a presumptive positive case of Covid-19 in Makkovik. In approximately 15 hours, a team from Happy Valley, Goose Bay, Labrador Grenfell Health and DHSD were on the ground in Makkovik to join the local team to plan for and execute a mass community screening clinic. The team

arrived at 8:00 a.m., and by 12:00 noon, the first residents were seen in the clinic for testing. Over two days approximately 239 residents in Makkovik were screened, all of whom were negative on the point of care test. A debrief session took place on Thursday, March 4th to discuss the lessons learned, what went well, the challenges et cetera. The Department of Health and Social Development Regional Team met with Labrador Grenfell Health on Friday March 5th to collectively debrief. Any information from DHSD session will be shared. Second dose of Moderna Vaccine roll-out, Madam Speaker. The second dose Moderna vaccine clinic was initially delayed due to inclement weather, but on Thursday, February 11th, the team arrived into Makkovik and clinics resumed daily thereafter and finished up in Hopedale on Tuesday, February 16th. The team worked over the weekend. We do not have a concrete picture of the overall coverage rate to date as NG has a first dose coverage of 83.5 percent and for the second dose, 71.7 percent. Keeping in mind, there are clients for the second dose coming up next week so this number will change.

Madam Speaker, tuberculosis. Two clients remain on treatment for active tuberculosis. Contact follow-up is ongoing. Registered nurse Jennifer Bull is currently working with communities and regional staff, communications and the resource centre to plan virtual events and activities for World TB Day on March 24th. Madam Speaker, the Moderna vaccine clinics in Upper Lake Melville: Two Moderna vaccine clinics were held in Upper Lake Melville for beneficiaries. The first, post secondary students and the second, residents of Mud Lake. The clinic for post secondary students was

held at the Labrador Health Centre, the vaccine administered by two Nunatsiavut Government nurses. There was a total of 20 beneficiaries immunized. The clinic for Mud Lake was held at the community centre in Mud Lake, with a vaccine administered by three nurses, two of which were Nunatsiavut, and one Labrador Grenfell Health. A total of 32 people were immunized. Overall, the clinic was very well organized with great support from DHSD Regional Staff, Labrador Grenfell Health and the local community. Inuit Data Strategy was launched February 4th. This is a partnership between Inuit regions, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Indigenous Service Canada and the Provinces and Territories. The goal is to develop a consistent tool to get access to regularly updated data on Inuit children in care, to inform planning and prevention services, to enhance overall long-term goals for Inuit families and create sustainability. C92 meetings: Regular meetings have begun around the implementation of the new Federal Child Welfare Legislation. These are a combination of technical briefings and Inuit specific working group sessions. We are reviewing all documents and preparing to discuss next steps with NG Legal Counsel. Lastly, Madam Speaker, Professional Communication Skills Training Program, Gardiner Centre. All of the Family Connections staff are completing the Professional Communications Skills Training Program between January and March 2021. Thank you, Madam Speaker

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, Minister of DHSD. I now call upon Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Mr. Greg Flowers.

MR. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, from our Renewable Resources Division, since DFO Science meetings for the various fisheries are being held virtually this winter due to the ongoing global pandemic, it is still too early in the year to make any predictions on how the science data will affect the fishery in 2021. The total allowable catch decisions for all commercial species will be made within the next couple of weeks. Madam Speaker, the NG this year, as everyone, or most people know, that we issued 23 moose licence for LISA and to date, 15 of those moose licence has been filled. It was a better season than last year, Madam Speaker. Our department also transferred one of our licences from the Nain quota to Sivunivut in North West River, and they filled that licence also, Madam Speaker. The 2021 polar bear hunting season opened on February 2nd. We have 12 licences again this year. As to date of the 12 licences, two have been filled. The season is open until June the 30th. Madam Speaker, also, at last Assembly, I talked about a moose survey that was going to go on in the Hopedale, Postville area. Because of the global pandemic, this survey was put on hold. They did do one day of flying inside of Hopedale and with that one day, they saw three moose. So, that was very encouraging. Hopefully next year, we can get this survey done. Also, Madam Speaker, our department, with the Department of Health and Services, Dr. Maureen Baikie worked since October to do a Torngat Caribou Survey with the Torngat Wildlife Co-Management Board. This survey will go ahead in March, around March the 13th. They're gearing up now to get ready. They will be flying out of the base camp in Torngat, so everybody will be using

the base camp for that survey. So there's no interaction with any of the communities. Madam Speaker, I'm pleased to announce to the Assembly that after a considerable time and effort, my department has put in, we have made an agreement with the Kivalliq Arctic Food of Rankin Inlet, to harvest 100 caribou and 25 musk ox for the Nunatsiavut Government. This is the maximum amount of caribou that the KAF can harvest for us this year. Madam Speaker, I gotta thank my staff for all the work they've done. We will be getting this caribou and musk ox by the middle of March. So, that's great news for our people, Madam Speaker. From the Lands Division, Madam Speaker, the Manager of Lands reported two new land applications have been submitted for 2021. And these are for cabins, Madam Speaker. And we also issued a five-year land use permit for Aurora Energy Limited for the mineral exploration work south of Postville. Lastly, Madam Speaker, Tyler Amos, our GIS specialist with the Lands Division accepted a new position with the Manitoba Government. Tyler was employed with NG for only a short time, but he did some high-quality work for our department, as well as other NG departments. We wish him well in his new career. *Impacts and Benefits Agreement*, Madam Speaker: Winter shipping information sessions were held in Nain and Hopedale on January 27th and 28th respectively. Attendees were required to pre-register to ensure Public Health protocols were followed. From our Non-renewable Resources Division, Madam Speaker, on their exploration front, it has been very quiet since the last Assembly. However, Altius Minerals in Newfoundland and Labrador Junior Exploration Company has recently

staked a large parcel of land in the vicinity of Postville. The majority of the plains are within the central mineral belt and overlap a portion of Labrador Inuit land, Vale and also Labrador Settlement Area and Crown lands. Madam Speaker, the Federal Government Geological Survey of Canada was pleased to inform us that the Geo maps for Energy and mineral programs has been renewed for an additional seven years. Our Environmental Division, Madam Speaker, since the last Assembly, because of the Covid precautions in place, the Environment Division has supported the delivery of food from the Nain Inuit Community Freezer to approximately 150 homes in Nain. This delivery ensured that the community members still had weekly access to food from the freezer during the current Covid restrictions. The Environment Division continues to implement research projects throughout the Nunatsiavut region. This includes projects that monitors sea ice conditions and weather which also plans for projects to spring and summer that will study species of importance to the Labrador Inuit, such as Arctic Char, geese and sea birds. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, Minister Flowers. I now call upon Minister of Education and Economic Development, Ms. Carlene Palliser.

MS. PALLISER:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Today I'm going to report on the Economic Development Division. Under Policy Development, we completed a review of the final draft report last week on our Compliance Policies and Procedures. This report that makes recommendations on the management of our Inuit Business Registry and procurement processes.

These recommendations will be brought to the NEC in the coming months for review and approval. Economic assessments: The Economic assessments both for the community and the region are nearly complete. The MUN Harris Centre, along with staff support will finalize these documents in March. Building NG capacity to do update and continue producing these assessments was key to this project. The contract includes training an NG staff person in the data collection, with the tools to recreate the assessment tools as needed. While Covid will require online versus in-person training, we anticipate this will be completed early in the new fiscal year. The Rigolet Gas Station: The Rigolet Inuit Community Government has been confirmed as the interim operator for the Rigolet Gas Station until April 2021. Financial assistance has been provided by the NG and Federal Government. The goal of the NG remains to facilitate the long-term sustainability of the gas station and find private sector operators. Business owners continue to seek details on this opportunity and more details regarding potential support requests will be prepared and brought to NEC for review. We have confirmed support from Woodward to offer training to Rigolet Inuit Community Government and NG staff to accurately document the sales and dips associated with the operation. This has been postponed due to Covid restrictions, but we seek to implement as quickly as permitted. Business support: Between January and March, the division had four new businesses added to the Inuit registry regarding procurement, five underground and two regular site operation packages were received from Vale with our Division submitting 18 Inuit

Business Nominations and one QBE nominations. There are six active clients, five in business start-up, one in business growth. Mealy Mountains Entrepreneurship Program: This contract is in the final stages of completion. We met to review the draft report last week. Edits are being completed to ensure the project will produce recommendations on a two-year entrepreneurship program that will meet business needs. This is expected to be completed in March or April. Community Development, Economic Development Program: We have provided funding for the CD opposition at the Nain Inuit Community Government. We have received an application from the Makkovik Inuit Community Government that will be reviewed shortly. We currently have funds available within our CEDP Program. Funding is available for the continuation of the ICG Development Officer Positions for the current fiscal year. We encourage ICGs to apply. Covid Research and Relief programming. As noted, we have received Federal Covid Relief funding in the amount of \$117,000 for Indigenous Business Programs. This fund targets small businesses and artisans impacted by the pandemic. The application is being finalized with our partner, The Division of Tourism. We will promote this program to eligible applicants shortly. Smart Ice. We currently have two Nunatsiavut Government staff, the Smart Ice board of directors, Madeline and Kristy Sheppard. We have increased our presence on the Executive Team, by taking on the Vice Chair role. Our goal to ensure the Nunatsiavut Inclusion Value of investment in Inuit Benefits on a social expertise are met through enhanced involvement. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, Minister Palliser. I now call upon Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology, Mr. Anthony Andersen.

MR. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. During Minister Palliser's statement, I did get- , it was somewhat broken at times and I did get a pop-up saying that my internet connection was unstable. My statement today Madam Speaker, is relatively short so I hope I do stay connected. And perhaps the IT guy can come in and visit me after my statement to see what can be done here. Madam Speaker, tomorrow, the auditors for the Nunatsiavut Government will be presenting the Consolidated Audited Financial Statements for the year ended March 31st, 2020. Madam Speaker, it's important to remind ourselves of key indicators when reviewing those financial statements. The first indicator is to review the annual surplus deficit. This demonstrates whether revenue raised was sufficient to cover the costs and services provided within the year. As a reminder, Madam Speaker, this indicator is different from cash in the bank account as it includes non-cash transactions. The Government has a surplus of \$38 million, a positive financial indicator. The second key indicator, Madam Speaker, is to review the accumulated surplus/deficit. This reflects if the Government has net financial and physical resources to further services to our beneficiaries. There is accumulated surplus as of March 31st, 2020 of \$630 million. So, Madam Speaker, it's certain that we can continue to provide future services. The third key indicator is to look at the net financial assets or net financial liabilities. In simple terms, Madam Speaker, does the NG have enough financial assets to cover all their financial liability as of March 31st,

2020? It is an important test for sustainability of the Government and if we have the ability to cover the liabilities of our Government to finance future operations. The Nunatsiavut Government is in a net financial assets position of \$57.8 million. The last key indicator is the cash position. The cash position of the Nunatsiavut Government was increased by \$15.8 million during the 2020 fiscal year. All four indicators reflect that the Government has the ability to provide future programs and services to our beneficiaries, to finance our operations and to meet our everyday (audio cuts out). Madam Speaker, I'm pleased with the financial position of the management of the (audio cuts out) dedication and hard work. As I indicated earlier, Madam Speaker, tomorrow, our auditors will be presenting the Consolidated Audited Financial Statements in more detail than what I have presented in my statement today. And now, I end my statement here today and speak to Human Resource and Information Technology Divisions tomorrow. Thank you, very, much, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, Minister Andersen. I thank all of our Ministers for their informative updates. As always, our Government is doing great work and it's always wonderful to hear about it at our Assemblies. I will request a short recess for everyone to kinda stretch their legs, maybe get a drink, a quick bite to eat. I will touch base with IT. Hopefully, we can kinda figure out what's going on with some of our connections. And so, we will recess. It's now 10:20. I request everybody be back in their seat by 10:30 for a short 10-minute break. *Nakummek*.

[Recess]

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Good morning, everybody. We're now back in session at 10:35 a.m. We're now on to Item Number Six, "Members statements." Under Special Standing Order, 34(2), I will determine the order of Members giving statements. With our virtual sitting, I will call upon Members who have submitted their statements ahead of time. I first call upon Mr. Joe Dicker, AngajukKâk for the Nain Inuit Community Government.

MR. DICKER:

Okay. *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker. First of all, I'd like to welcome Susan Onalik, to the Constituency of Canada from St. John's area. Welcome, Susan. Looking forward to a long, good working relationship with you. Since last fall, or last January, Madam Speaker, sadly, this community has lost-, in my report it said seven, but since I wrote the report, there was one more passing of our community elder. So, condolences go out to the families of Paul Harris, and out to the families of and relatives and friends of Paul Harris, Jonas Semigak, Augusta Obed, Margaret Obed, Elizabeth Ittulak, Marion Winters, Barbara Saimat, and Ryan Brown. I had to put out acknowledges to and thank you to the Moravian Church, the Nain Care and all the volunteers who unselfishly helped out and they're continuing to help out with the losses of all those involved. Madam Speaker, I'd like to acknowledge the Department of Health and Social Development, the Public Health and the frontline workers who carried out the second doses of the Moderna vaccine. We are so blessed to be the first group on the list of priorities for the vaccine as we seen the Covid-19 rose its ugly presence in Newfoundland last - this past month. And for those who have not been vaccinated, please take a serious step back and consider all the benefits of

protection that you will receive, not only for yourself but for your community members. So, please stay safe and wear a mask. Madam Speaker, our Community Employment Enhancement Program CEEP, as it's called for 2021 is now complete. We had eight community members who took advantage of the opportunity to work for and qualify for EI. So, this was a successful project again this year, over this past season. And Madam Speaker, as we're working through the Alert Level 4 which we are at now, the Nain Inuit Community Government is still rotating their staff schedules and our office doors are shut and staff will help community members by appointment only. There are no layoffs for our staff as we have to do essential work in the community like collect garbage and making sure that the water lines are not frozen or everything is working properly for the safety of the community. And the other staff are kept busy maintaining the buildings and cleaning the buildings every day. And as everybody in the Assembly is aware, travel restrictions are requested by Nunatsiavut Government, and the ICG and that has been a challenge for all of us, especially for around Hopedale and Nain. But for the most part, community members understand and are complying. There are a few not adhering but I feel that they are being made aware by our community members. That's all I have for now, Madam Speaker. And I look forward to better times in the coming months. Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, Joe - sorry, AngajukKâk Dicker. My apologies. I now call upon Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Mr. Roland Saunders.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Nakummek, Madam Speaker. Morning, Assembly Members. It is with great pleasure that I am here today to represent the Canadian Constituency with the recently elected Ordinary Member for Canada, Ms. Susan Onalik. Welcome, Susan to the Nunatsiavut Government and I'm sure you will do quite well in your new position. It's gonna be good to be with you. Covid-19 is still holding the country back, Madam Speaker, from recovery, with new strains spreading everywhere. The latest outbreak of the UK strain was in St. John's early in February. And fortunately, no Nunatsiavut Members have been infected as of yet, in the Canadian Constituency. Thankfully, the vaccines are getting to many healthcare workers and seniors along the coast of Labrador. And the rest of the country is waiting for their vaccines to be distributed to them. *Nakummek* once again to the Nunatsiavut Government for keeping the Food Supplement Program going as we are still having our Members within the Canadian Constituency apply. The applications are being processed by our Members, but the few problems and lost applications and the change-over to different intake people in the last month. *Nakummek*, to Cherie Auckinleck, Kathy Michelin, Michelle Wood, Rutie Dicker, Mary Adelaide and Jim Goudie for doing these late applications, getting them processed for the seniors and low-income Members of the Canadian Constituency. They are finally getting the help that they applied for, some as far back as December of 2020. But Nunatsiavut Members living in Natuashish, and Sheshatshiu, are in a different and strange situation. They live on coastal Labrador, but because they are members of the Canadian Constituency,

they don't qualify for the fuel and wood subsidy. I ask that the NEC reconsider their unique circumstances and give them the same subsidy as other members living on coastal Labrador lands, going forward with supplemental funding. Madam Speaker, still on the subject of Covid relief funding, many Canadian Constituency members were able to receive their retroactive cards and of misplaced applications. The system was working for most areas. Just lost more for the Canadian Constituents because of human errors and mostly because of Canada Post. Madam Speaker, it is not always the best decision to leave Labrador, but when you leave you pay the consequences. Now, many members with their families find that they have been targeted and have to reapply for their membership but at the same time some siblings are not being questioned. They don't have to go through the painstaking arduous tasks of going back over the lineage, checking their ancestry for the second or third time, when they apply when they appeal. I'm not sure if this is happening in Northern communities with members, but it sure is within the Canadian Constituency. I do understand that membership is a separate issue, has its own committees, chairs and members. I just need to mention it here at this time as I have been contacted many times by members asking me to do so, to make sure that the Assembly Members understand the frustration of the people in Canada with regards to membership. Madam Speaker, this statement is from a parent and I have had several dozen members make several similar statements to me. It begins, "I have a concern how my youngest is being treated by NG Membership Committee. As a minor, the child was given

membership upon approval of the application and even voted in one election. When the child became an adult, the child had to reapply, which we did, but was rejected as a member. Then we appealed the decision not to allow the child to be a member and it appears the child would no longer be a member. The ancestry has not changed. The older siblings are still NG members. We were given another appeal but why bother wasting time as the minds of the committee members had already been made. I have many cousins in Labrador whose children would be in the same situation if they lived outside of Labrador. But they don't, and they keep their membership. Why is that? I will not mention names for fear their children may have their membership revoked, but I doubt it. The consensus seemed to be no use complaining because nothing will be done with the membership committees. If that is true, it is certainly-, it certainly, does not speak well about our new members and especially new members and families and how families are treated. Madam Speaker, Canadian Constituency members in Quebec have many problems getting prescriptions direct-billed to Nunatsiavut. The Department of Health and Pharmacy, Medical, have been working with these members and I thank the NIHB members. There seems to be no course of action to have Quebec Pharmacy join and direct billing and payment with Nunatsiavut. The simple way was to email the bill to Nunatsiavut NIHB Department and the bill would have been paid. But Quebec, for some reason, refused to do that. Madam Speaker, there are still some Inuit groups across Canada, Inuit from Labrador have connected with. This allows them to enjoy the

culture, foods, games, courses and skills with other Inuit. They work, learn, and share their life experiences with each other, practice language differences, teach on the different words with the same meanings and they hold gatherings. One thing we have in common is our love for our culture. They also hold elders and seniors above themselves when it comes to gatherings. Elders and seniors are cared for first, served first, choice seating, first to select the food they want. There are more helping hands, listening ears, able bodies willing to do what the elders asked of them-, a joy to experience at such gatherings. Madam Speaker, the recent by-election for the Ordinary Member of Canada showed an ongoing problem. There were over 2000 ballot kits made up by the NEO. During that time there were over 60 new address changes that came through. Of the total number of ballots sent out, they had 682 ballots returned. 152 ballots were deemed undeliverable, 18 rejected, three canceled. This is the estimated number that they have at the end of February. The NEO expects to have more undeliverable ballots over the coming weeks, even months, Madam Speaker. This gives us the information that many members have not updated their addresses and there is absolutely nothing anyone can do to correct this problem, other than the member. The late return ballots are because Canada is such a huge country and also because Canada is keeping people off work and off course. And of course, Canada Post is always a problem. But in conversation with the NEC, it was mentioned that NunatuKavut had hired a company from Quebec to organize and conduct the election they had completed. From all reports it was a success. Not

only did they use mail-in ballots, but they were also able to vote by phone. I think this is worth checking into for future elections. Thank you, again, Madam Speaker and Assembly Members. That's all from me. Bye, for now.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, Ordinary Member Saunders. I now call upon Barry Andersen, AngajukKâk for the Makkovik Inuit Community Government.

MR. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker, very brief statement to start this morning. I would like to pass along my condolences to the families of Samantha Rice, Bernice and Derrick Penny, and Samuel and Susan Jacque on the sudden passing of their daughter Samantha in early February. So, our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time. So, thank you, very much, Madam Speaker. I'll have more statements later on in the sitting.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk Andersen. I now call upon Mr. Glenn Sheppard, AngajukKâk for the Postville Inuit Community Government.

MR. SHEPPARD: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's certainly a different Assembly sitting this morning, but I guess one thing is a bit different here is we're not kinda looking at each other sideways. We're looking at each other head on which is very different. But anyway, here we are. We'll get through it. Madam Speaker, this morning, I'd like a couple more-, I guess I'll be very brief in not knowing what this virtual sitting was going to turn out like, so I tried to be brief or I'll try and be brief if possible. First of all, Madam Speaker, I'd like to welcome Ms. Susan Onalik to our Assembly as an Assembly Member and the new Canadian Constituency representative for the Canadian

Constituency for the members out there. Madam Speaker, I would like to share just a few, I guess activities that the Postville Inuit Community Government has been doing over the past, I guess few weeks. The reason why I say a few weeks is that it only seems like a few weeks since we've been in Hopedale in person and, you know, I certainly missed going to Hopedale this morning. Believe me, I always look forward going into Hopedale, and no I don't mind getting caught in weather in Hopedale. Believe that too, as well, please. Anyway, Madam Speaker, we are currently involved in administering a wood program here in Postville. Madam Speaker, this wood program started February 24th and will run until all funds have been exhausted or winter conditions cause us to discontinue the program. If it runs its full course, Madam Speaker, it will provide a total of 85 loads of wood for the community of Postville. This will certainly be of great help for those who heat their home with wood. Some here, in the community, I might mention, that only have wood, no other alternative heat source, no electric, no oil, no nothing-, just wood. But Madam Speaker, in the same breath, I would like to thank the Inland Trust Committee here in Postville for making this possible by approving a proposal that we have submitted as an ICG, some time ago. Madam Speaker, the Postville Inuit Community Government is also responsible for the maintenance of a section of the Labrador Winter Trail. Having said that, the Postville Inuit Community Government made a decision on March 1 to mark the sections between Postville and Makkovik far as Little Neck. Also from Postville to a place known as Kaipakok Bight headed into

Drunken Harbour direction, heading towards Hopedale. Madam Speaker, we understand that people will continue to move around despite travel advisories. We also understand that movement between communities is not part of any special measures order by the CMO Janice Fitzgerald, however she does discourage movement between communities. It is basically a safety issue to mark this section of trail mentioned above, that's following the ice conditions is appropriate to do so. And I'd just like to add to that, as of early this morning, I was speaking, Madam Speaker with my CMO and we're in the process right now. We do have one individual lined up. We're trying to get the second one. And once that happens, marking will take place for those who are interested, between Postville and Makkovik, Postville and Hopedale, at our limited distance. Finally, Madam Speaker, on February the 26th, the Postville Inuit Community Government received a letter from the First Minister, Tyler Edmunds, stating that he will be implementing Section 13.2(b) of the *Inuit Community Government Election Act* to appoint a non-resident who meets our requirements and eligibility under the *Act*, to serve as councilor on the Postville Inuit Community Government. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to report to the Assembly that Ms. Rebecca Morris has accepted the request to be appointed as a councilor. Furthermore, Ms. Morris has taken her Oath of Office, March 1, and is now an active Council Member. And I'm proud to say that we have a full slated council here in Postville. We have the total seats filled and we hope it stays that way until the next election, Madam Speaker. Finally, Madam Speaker, as of Thursday, March the 4th, I had a

discussion with Deputy Minister of Lands and Resources, Jim Goudie, related to the June 15 oil spill in the Postville area, and it's pretty frustrating and sad to say, Madam Speaker, that the report, as of Thursday and it's very frustrating for the Department of Lands, I understand as well as the ICG as well as for the Ordinary Member of Postville, that the investigation is still continuing. No further details than what we got last September. We feel that we're hung on a string, but Madam Speaker, we're hoping in the next few coming months ahead that we will get some positive information related to this oil spill. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Sheppard. I now call upon Ordinary Member for Makkovik, Mr. John Andersen.

MR. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd like to welcome Susan, one of our young ladies from Makkovik who's doing very well for herself. Welcome aboard, Susan. My statement today, Madam Speaker is music is starting online for our adults. Dr. Tom Gordon along with David Buley, Deantha Edmunds and Kellie Welsh have been preparing to have organ/piano training for Makkovik, Hopedale, Nain and Happy Valley-Goose Bay. This was started by request from Reverend Beatrice Hope because communities are having difficulty finding organists to play for church services. Hopefully, this training, when completed, will provide at least or lay the foundation for getting organists for our churches. Madam Speaker, this was first discussed at a meeting in Hopedale, September 24, 2019. The plan was to come to the communities and have hands-on training that would be starting in February 2020. Then Covid hit. Dr. Tom Gordon had to go out

and look for additional funding to be able to purchase portable organs that participants could use for the training. Since the trainers could not travel to the coast, they would also have to set up online training. Madam Speaker, there was a lot of interest when we first asked who would like to take part. Once it was agreed that it would be an online course, interest dropped off. (Inaudible.) The workshop finally got started on March the 1st. Four evening workshops were held that week with at least 16 participants. Everyone was online at the same time doing the same training. But after this week they will split up into smaller groups who are similar level and continue with one workshop per week. A lot of work will have to be done on their own. Practice, practice, practice. Madam Speaker, besides organ and piano training, there will now be some voice training. We are thankful to have such highly skilled musicians to lead us through this course. *Nakummek*. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member Andersen. I now, call upon the Chair of NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Inuttit Training funding. Our Inuttit instructor for the Master Apprentice program and Inuttit training for adults and youth had to step down. We are now looking for someone to be an instructor master. NunaKatiget received permission from our funders, Heritage Canada, to defer the funds until March 31st 2022, due to Covid restrictions. We are planning computer training workshop sessions delivered virtually for elders in the next month. Topics will range from social media, smart phones, online banking, how to identify

fraudsters by phone or email, and Facebook, and other topics that will be identified by the elders. We will receive funds from ESDC Senior Horizons do develop and deliver more virtual training in the next fiscal year. Madam Speaker, the Max Winters Memorial Community Freezer: For the month of January 2021, 175 families visited the freezer. In February 2021, 158 families. We wanna thank the Nunatsiavut Government for the donation of scallops and salt cod. We also received donations of smelts from a number of families and we are so very appreciative. Our board member, Barbara Crawford has donated a large amount of smelts to the freezer from her family and grandchildren. We will be contacting the Nain Community Freezer to see if they would like us to send them some smelts. NunaKatiget entered into another contract for local carrot and turnip that should bring us until the end of the fiscal year. It was wonderful to hear that caribou and muskox will be coming to our people. Many thanks to the Second Harvest Food Rescue program for donating chicken legs, turkey breast and Tater Tots to the freezer. We also purchased additional char and fresh frozen cod from Torngat Fisheries. Madam Speaker, the additional funds we received from various organizations for Covid-19 relief for food insecurity is coming to a close as of March 31st, 2021. NunaKatiget is very thankful for the funds we have received from the Government of Canada through Employment and Social Development Canada and various not-for-profit organizations. Community Food Centres of Canada, Breakfast Club of Canada, Food First NL, United Way, among others. The funds enable us to purchase and provide food items to more

elders and people with disabilities. We also had problems with members who have to reapply when they're 19 and there are a lot of frustrations with the process. We gathered data to bring to the Nunatsiavut Executive Council for them to explore the possibility of slightly increasing the percentage of traditional food items we receive from the Nunatsiavut Government due to our increasing number of seniors. I would like to thank your employee, Debbie Hines for all her hard work during the Covid-19 lockdown, and throughout the year as we still continue when the Covid-19 lockdown happens, 'cause we're essential. *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, Chairperson Kemuksigak. I now call upon the AngajukKâk for Hopedale Inuit Community Government, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS:

Nakummek, Madam Speaker. Because this Assembly only met just last month, my Members Statement will be brief. In our last Assembly sitting, I mistakenly missed offering condolences to a family who had lost a loved one in our community. Today, I would like to extend my deepest condolences to the family of Thomas Tuglavina. Thomas is the son of our interpreter Gus Semigak. To Gus, his wife Lena, and their family, also to Thomas' partner, Sabina Onalik and their children, Wilson, Nigel and little Pauline. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Madam Speaker, as of February 12, 2021, due to Covid-19, widespread presence of B-117 variant in the St. John's area, the Chief Medical Officer of Health announced a province-wide lockdown which put us back to Level Five. Since then, our office buildings and recreation facilities closed immediately. HICG staff who work from home in a rotating schedule was initiated to keep essential

services and businesses running. I extend my gratitude and thanks to all the businesses and staff who work so diligently to keep our community safe during this world-wide pandemic. Madam Speaker, I was a little disappointed to learn that more was not put in place to deter those travelling via snowmobile from entering our communities. Even though Nunatsiavut issued a travel advisory advising only essential travel, we still see people nearly every day from other communities walking the roads and shopping in our stores. If we are to keep our community safe, this type of non-essential travel has to stop. Madam Speaker, March 8th, which is today, is International Women's Day. The theme for 2021 is, "Let's all choose to challenge." A challenged world is an alert world. Individually, we are all responsible for our own thoughts and actions all day every day. We can all choose to challenge and call out gender bias and inequality. We can all choose to seek out and celebrate women's achievements collectively. We can all help create an inclusive world. From challenge comes change. So let's all choose to challenge. Madam Speaker, 15 members plus our President makes up this Nunatsiavut Assembly. Seven of these Members, including myself, are women who choose to challenge and won their seats as elected officials and I would like to thank our newest Member, Susan Onalik for winning her seat in the Canadian Constituency. I know that you will enjoy the challenge and you'll be a wonderful representative for your people. I hope that you enjoy your day, ladies, and thank you for taking up the challenge. *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Flowers. Thank you. I now call upon Susan Onalik, Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency for her Members Statement.

MS. ONALIK:

Can you hear me okay? All right. *Nakummek, UKatti*. My statement today is going to be relatively short. I am new to this role and I do thank every one of you for all your welcomes in the learning curve that I have. You've all been really good in helping me adjust to this transition. *UKatti*. It's an honour and a privilege to be elected into this role as Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency. I'd like to start by saying, *Nakummesuak*, to my fellow Inuit who have put their faith in me to advocate their needs and concerns to our Government on their behalf. I would also like to acknowledge those who have put their names forward to run with my in this by-election. It was a close race and either one of these candidates would've made a great Ordinary Member. I would also like to acknowledge my predecessor, Edward Blake Rudkowski who many of our beneficiaries expressed appreciation for, in regards to the good work he has done connecting and serving our Members within the Canadian Constituency. The Canadian Constituency, Madam Speaker, is arguably, the most difficult constituency to represent given the geographical limitations, interprovincial jurisdictions and different time zones. Regardless of the difficulties, I promise to do my best and bring the needs and concerns forward along with Roland Saunders, in the best of my ability throughout my term. Today, Madam Speaker, I recognize the importance of this day in taking my oath. I also recognize the significance in being the

first to take the oath virtually. Although it is not ideal, it's a decision you've made to keep our community safe by limiting our movements and the potential spread of Covid-19 and its variants. I look forward to working, learning, contributing, along side each of you and all the platforms to the betterment of the lives of all Labrador Inuit no matter where we live in Canada. *Nakummek, Ukatti.*

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member Onalik. I now, call upon AngajukKâk for Rigolet Inuit Community Government, Ms. Charlotte Wolfrey.

MS. WOLFREY:

Nakummek, UKatti. I know I wasn't on the list and I wanna thank you. I wanted to have an opportunity today-, I'm not gonna do my Members Statement. I'm gonna leave that for tomorrow. But I really wanted to have an opportunity today to put my voice to-, because it's International Women's Day and because I've fought so hard for equality for women and for Inuit women and children, for years. But I wanted to take the time to say Happy International Women's Day to all women in Nunatsiavut and to all our Inuit sisters living throughout Inuit Nunangat. And throughout Canada. My wish for all Inuit women is to be safe and to live a life that is violence free. And on this day, I would like to welcome our latest Inuit sister to the Assembly. Congratulations and welcome, Susan. And I'd like to take a little bit of time to thank AngajukKâk Marjorie Flowers for bringing attention to this year's theme of challenge. Let's all take this opportunity to challenge things that are wrong, to speak up and to speak out when we see things that aren't right. Again, thank you, *Nakummek,*

Ukatti and thank you to everyone here for listening. Happy International Women's Day to all you women out there. *Nakummek*.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek to you as well, AngajukKâk Wolfrey. I now call upon Mr. Barry Andersen, AngajukKâk for the Makkovik Inuit Community Government for his second statement today.

MR. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. First of all, I'd like to congratulate Susan Onalik on her election to the Canadian Constituency. I know that your mother must be very proud of you and it's, I think that Josh and Suzi Onalik, your grandparents would be so proud. Even more proud, I think than his fast Arctic Cat. So, I'd just like to thank Susan for running and taking up the challenge to be with us as our elected official. So, Madam Speaker, I would like today to say how grateful I am for the fast and professional response for the presumptive case of Covid-19 at Makkovik last month. Not only did the health care professionals of Labrador Grenfell Health and the Department of Health and Social Development step up to their work, they did it while also being so calm giving the public the reassurance that this matter was under control. I would also like to thank the Nunatsiavut Government for the open lines of communications with the relevant departments and leaders so that the Makkovik Inuit Community Government could pass along much needed information to the public via various media outlets and social media and online. So, yeah, a big thank you to everyone involved for that response. And also, as you mentioned, this is International Women's Day, March 8th. I'd like to wish all the women, especially those here within the Nunatsiavut Government who

play such a major role and 100 percent I think of those people vaccinating our beneficiaries, who responded to the challenge in mid-February here in Makkovik for an all female (inaudible) and it's very difficult for people who are first responders to see-, having to sit back I think and watch people run into the fire willingly and so bravely. Thank you, very much Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Andersen. That being said, I'd like to thank everybody for their Members statements. I think very informative, always very passionate and a lot of our communities are grieving, and I wish to send condolences to all of our beneficiaries that may be grieving at this time. We will now move on to Item number seven, which is "Return to Oral Questions." At the February 2021 Assembly sittings, the Chair of the Chair of the NunaKatiget Community Corporation, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak asked the Minister of Health and Social Development, the Honourable Gerald Asivak if the recently hired Street Outreach Coordinator for the Housing Hub in Upper Lake Melville would have additional program funds for land-based programs. The Minister responded that his department is partnering with other Department of Health and Social Development divisions for land-based activities, life skills and traditional crafts. DHSD has also submitted a proposal to Home First, called No Idle Hands for approximately \$40,000 for exactly this purpose. Thank you, Honourable Asivak for your timely response. There are no more returns to oral questions, so we will continue on to Item Number Eight, which are "Oral Questions." Under Special Standing Order 36.2, I will determine the order

of oral questions as submitted by our Members. I will call upon the Members to ask their questions. Members can also submit written questions under Special Standing Order 36.1, in a virtual Assembly sitting. So, we now have-, I do have some Members listed to ask oral questions and I will now ask Ordinary Member Roland Saunders of the Canadian Constituency for his question, please. And please address who your question is to, Mr. Saunders. Thank you.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Nakummek, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Language, Culture and Tourism, Mr. Jim Lyall. Mr. Minister, I had question on your recent press release regarding Inuttitut Language Strategy. When can members from the Canadian Constituency have access to the language program that has been approved for youth?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Ordinary Member Saunders. Do you have a response, Minister Lyall?

MR. LYALL:

Yes, I'm sorry Madam Speaker, I didn't get the question clearly. Could you say it again please, Mr. Saunders? Thank you.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Most definitely. When can members from the Canadian Constituency have access to the language program that has been approved for youth by your department?

MR. LYALL:

Thank you, for your question, Honourable Member. The Language Strategy -, our department is working on Language Strategy is an ongoing project right now. I know it's been approved by the NEC and we are now working with the resource centre to provide print copies and

downloadable copies of the strategy. And we will also have to put it in for translation. So, up to this time, it's a working document and mostly print copies and downloaded copies available, you'll be aware of it and be able to view what we're doing. Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, Minister Lyall. Do you have a supplementary question, Ordinary Member Saunders?

MR. SAUNDERS: Yes, I do. Mr. Lyall, once again, what is the plan that will be in place for this program and will Canadian Constituency members be a part of this plan, or will we be excluded?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, Ordinary Member Saunders. Do you have a reply, Minister Lyall?

MR. LYALL: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you again for your question, Honourable Member for Canadian Constituency. The Language Strategy has a number of goals, as you're probably aware, objectives and initiatives that the department will work on over the next five years. We are working at making things as accessible as possible with the understanding that some funds are specific for the Land Claims Region. Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, Minister Lyall. Do you have a final supplementary question, Ordinary Member Saunders?

MR. SAUNDERS: Yes, actually, I do. I have another question for the Minister of Language, Culture and Tourism, Mr. Jim Lyall.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Excuse me Ordinary Member Saunders. Is this a supplementary question to your first question?

MR. SAUNDERS: No, this is another question.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Okay. No, so, do you have a second supplementary question to your question?

MR. SAUNDERS: No, I don't.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Okay. Thank you. You're other question will be further down the list. Thank you.

MR. SAUNDERS: Okay. Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you. Okay. Thank you. I now call upon the Ordinary Member for Makkovik, Mr. John Andersen for his question.

MR. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I've asked this question a couple times in the Assembly before. My question is to the First Minister, Honourable Tyler Edmunds. My question is this: Would the First Minister at his earliest convenience contact Patricia Way to begin discussion on a way that her family trees could be shared with the Nunatsiavut Registrar and the Membership Committees and board to serve as a permanent data base? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, Ordinary Member Andersen. Do you have a response?

MR. EDMUNDS: I do. *Nakummek* Madam Speaker and *Nakummek* to the Ordinary Member for the question. At the last Assembly, the Ordinary Member did speak to this issue around the establishment of an Inuit database and where those discussions were. As I stated at that time, it is still the direction that the Registrar wants to head in that a special workshop has been budgeted for in the previous year as we've been hearing throughout

the day, Covid has impacted a number of things including this workshop and we want to try to get that workshop organized in the near future. I do recognize the value of the work that Ms. Way has done over the years and it can be extremely useful to our Membership Committees as they work towards establishing this ancestry database that we have been speaking of. So I do believe that there is a good opportunity to bridge the information between Ms. Way's research and the knowledge that is found within our committees as this database is working towards being developed. So I will discuss with my department how this could happen and the conditions through which this information could be accessible by the Registrar. *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, First Minister Edmunds. Do you have a supplementary question, Ordinary Member Andersen? I'm sorry Ordinary Member Andersen. I think your microphone is muted.

MR. ANDERSEN:

Yes. I talked to Patty Way got new information and passed it onto First Minister Edmunds. So, I'm just asking that he just take a serious look at it because with Covid on we're not sure what time the membership meetings are gonna get together and this needs to be done ASAP. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Okay. Thank you, Ordinary Member Andersen. Excuse me. I now call upon NunaKatiget Inuit Community Chair, Patricia Kemuksigak for her oral question.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Nakummek, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health and Social Development, the Honourable Gerald Asivak. I thank you for your update on the Covid-19 immunization clinics but I wanted to ask, will there be further clinics of Covid-19 immunizations in Happy Valley-Goose Bay and North West River? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, Chairperson Kemuksigak. Do you have a response, Minister Asivak?

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker and Chairperson Kemuksigak. Labrador Grenfell Health is administering the vaccinations in Upper Lake Melville. DHSD are in regular contact, weekly meetings, and we're expecting a very soon update for the vaccination clinic through Labrador Grenfell Health. They are channeling their information through different forms of media. Actually, there was even an email this morning that came through Nunatsiavut from Happy Valley-Goose Bay that you can sign up for online vaccination clinic the week of March 16th and personally, Madam Speaker, I've signed up. It's open for residence age 18 and over. So, right now it is available through the communications, so it should be available now for adults for the general population. I do not have specific information yet if beneficiaries will have their own clinic. DHSD has requested this and obtaining beneficiary membership to provide. But this is in the final works with Labrador Grenfell Health having the decision but DHSD is inputting and putting a recommendation forward for the beneficiaries of Upper Lake Melville. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, Minister Asivak. Do you have a supplementary question Chairperson Kemuksigak?

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

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, very much. I now call upon Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Ms. Susan Onalik.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek, Ukatti.* My question is to the Honourable Minister Carlene Palliser. The NEC approved the purchase of Chrome Books for all beneficiary students from K to 12 in both the Nunatsiavut Communities and the Constituency of Upper Lake Melville. The option to purchase Chrome Books for the Canadian Constituency, I understand is still under review. Will the beneficiaries in Canadian Constituency be included in delivery of Chrome Books for our children?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, Ordinary Member Onalik. Do you have a response, Minister Palliser?

MS. PALLISER: Yes, I do. Thank you for your question, Honourable Member. At the time the NEC approved the purchase of Chrome Books for all Nunatsiavut beneficiary students in Grades K to 12, in both Nunatsiavut and Upper Lake Melville, the Government of Newfoundland had just launched its own Technology Support Program. Their program is providing a (inaudible) Chrome Book each year to students from Grade 7 to 12 across the Province as well as laptops for all teachers. Therefore, Canadian Constituency residents in the province can avail of the support for the children in Grades 7 to 12. At the time the Nunatsiavut Upper Lake Melville Technology

Support Program was approved, Canadian Constituency was not included in the NEC approved technology support program for a number of reasons. First, knowing that the demand on all types of technology was extremely high, we knew submitting a larger order would further delay receipt of any technology for any student. Even the current order for Nunatsiavut and Upper Lake Melville to date has not been filled. We have only received enough devices to distribute Chrome Books to beneficiaries Grade 7 to 12, as the devices for Grade K to 6 have still not arrived. The order was placed in August 2020. Second, at the time of our program's approval, we were unsure of the measures put in place in other provinces and territories across the country and we wanted to make sure that we weren't duplicating what was already in place. Information has been very hard to find on what is being offered, but so far, by reaching out to people we know in other areas, we have found the following: Nova Scotia has a similar program to NL. Nunavut, currently rolling out a support program that includes iPads, Chrome Books and Internet Sticks as they have satellite internet and not everyone's connected. Currently we have enough for all Grade 11 and 12 students. Ontario's provided \$200 gift cards to be used for anything toward education. Many people used this to purchase technology but it was not limited to that. Other data collected from Manitoba, Yukon, PEI, Alberta, told us that many places do not have provincial programs as such, but schools are working with local organizations to provide loaner devices to students who need technology. Third, access in class of technology outside of Nunatsiavut and the Upper

Lake Melville area is taking into consideration when deciding how wide a reach the program would start with. Access to larger centres with big box stores like Walmart, Best Buy and Staples is afforded to more beneficiaries in the Canadian Constituency than in other regions. Even if the person had to order online, shipping costs to residents outside of Nunatsiavut and Upper Lake Melville are much more affordable. Finally, there is the Inuit Child First initiative, that does entertain requests for supports for education. This is a national program and has been noticeably underused, especially in Nunatsiavut. We have received some inquiries from residents of the Canadian Constituency, and this information has been given to them. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, Minister Palliser. Do you have a supplementary question, Ordinary Member Onalik?

MS. ONALIK: No, I do not, but *Nakummek* for your detailed response.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: (Microphone muted.) Did you hear my question or was I muted?

MS. ONALIK: You were on mute.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Okay, my apologies. I now call upon AngajukKâk for the Makkovik Inuit Community Government, Mr. Barry Andersen.

MR. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for the First Minister, Tyler Edmunds. Can you give me an update on the Low Earth Orbit application for the Nunatsiavut Communities to ensure that the (inaudible) infrastructure will be in place prior to the service coming into our communities? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk Andersen. Did you hear that question clearly, First Minister Edmunds?

MR. EDMUNDS: It was really difficult Madam Speaker to hear the start of the question. Could I just ask if the AngajukKâk could repeat it please?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Sure. Could you please repeat your question, AngajukKâk Andersen?

MR. ANDERSEN: Okay. I'll read it again. Can you give me an update on the Low Earth Orbit Satellite Internet Application for the Nunatsiavut communities to ensure that the Last Mile Infrastructure will be in place prior to this coming to serve us in our communities. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk Andersen. Do you have a response, First Minister Edmunds?

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker. I would suggest that this question be directed to the Minister responsible for Information Technology, Honourable Tony Andersen. So I just ask that it be redirected to his department.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Okay. Thank you, for that suggestion, First Minister Edmunds. Are you comfortable with that question, Minister Anthony Andersen?

MR. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker, I'm comfortable if I understand the question correctly. I did indicate in my statement earlier, Madam Speaker, that tomorrow I would speak to the other divisions in my department, namely, Human Resource and Information Technology. If the Member is okay I would like to do my statement before I answer his question. I think that by way of my statement, the AngajukKâk for Makkovik will get a much

clearer position where the Nunatsiavut Government is, in terms of pursuing broadband for our communities. If that is acceptable to the AngajukKâk to wait until after my statement tomorrow, I certainly would answer any further questions that the Member may have, you know? If that's okay, Madam Speaker?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, Minister Andersen. Is that okay with you, AngajukKâk Andersen for the statement tomorrow from Minister Andersen, or would you like a response?

MR. ANDERSEN: No, that's fine for me, Madam Speaker and thank you, very much Tyler, for putting up with me misdirecting the question. Thank you, very much Minister Andersen for the update and I'll wait for tomorrow.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Okay. *Nakummek*, for your patience, AngajukKâk Andersen. Right now, I have Second Oral Questions from Ordinary Member Roland Saunders, Ordinary Member Mr. John Andersen, NunaKatiget Inuit Community Chair, Patricia Kemuksigak and Makkovik AngajukKâk Mr. Barry Andersen. Do I have-, before I go to these people, are there any other Members that would like to ask an Oral Question. Please just raise your hand? Okay, I see-, thank you, for your patience everybody. I know this is a different time for us and I appreciate your patience and flexibility. I now call upon Rigolet AngajukKâk Ms. Charlotte Wolfrey.

MR. WOLFREY: *Nakummek, Ukatti.* My question is to Honourable Greg Flowers. It's about the caribou and muskox. First I heard of it, Greg, I don't know if you can answer my question, or if we can talk later, but I'm wondering about the

distribution. Like will this already be done up in meals, or do we have to cut it up or what's gonna happen for when it comes to our community freezers?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk Wolfrey. Do you have a response, Minister Flowers?

MR. FLOWERS: Yes, I can speak to it, Madam Speaker. Thank you, AngajukKâk for Rigolet for the question. I know it came to a lot of people a great surprise this morning, and I hope that it's received well. I-, to answer your question, it's basically, the same as the moose has been distributed to your communities. It'll be all cut in meal sizes and distributed with the same formula that we use with the moose. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, Minister Flowers. Do you have a supplementary question, AngajukKâk Wolfrey?

MS. WOLFREY: No, thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, as well. I now call upon AngajukKâk for Postville, Mr. Glenn Sheppard.

MR. SHEPPARD: All right. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, my question is for the Honourable Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Greg Flowers, and it's in relation to I guess everybody's bit of interest within Nunatsiavut, Madam Speaker, when it comes to wildlife and whatever. And it's no different this morning. My question is related to the George River Caribou Herd. I would like to ask the Minister this morning, Madam Speaker, you know, in relation to the science that has been done on the George River

Caribou Herd up to date, can the Minister provide the Assembly and the listening audience this morning on what delay the stats is on numbers of the George River Caribou Herd? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk Sheppard. Do you have a response, Minister Flowers?

MR. FLOWERS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yes, early last-, I think it was in the November sitting, we announced that the recruitment of calves was I think 30 percent this year which was an increase over-, overall I think we have roughly a little over I think from the numbers, 8,000-, I wanna say 8,000. I don't have no stats in front of my but I'm trying to recall what I said in November. The recruitment was looking good for the George River rebound, Madam Speaker. But as we all know, the Inuit from Natuashish have been doing some harvesting this year, so we don't have any new updates on the herd or what the numbers are. But we do this survey every two years, I think it is, so we won't be able to know what's happening until then, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, Minister Flowers. Do you have a supplementary question, AngajukKâk Sheppard?

MR. SHEPPARD: Thank you, Madam Speaker, no, I don't.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*. Before I canvas the last four, are there any other Ordinary Members or Chairs that would like to ask an oral question? Oh, I'm sorry, AngajukKâk Flowers, did you raise your hand? Did I miss that? Okay, yes,

I call upon AngajukKâk Marjorie Flowers for the Hopedale Inuit Community Government.

MS. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for Minister Tyler Edmunds, First Minister. And it's regarding the housing repair funding. Some repairs from last year were not completed. My question is, what is NG doing about getting all the houses completed, and when will it start? Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Flowers. Do you have a response, First Minister Edmunds?

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Madam Speaker, and *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk Flowers for the question. Each year that we do administer our Home Repair Program, our expectation is that every item that has been identified in the scope of work will be completed, that the contractor will be responsible for finishing any items found in that scope of work. Obviously, in some instances, there are delays each year due to, maybe in accessible materials or due to weather. So, it's not new for us to have work carried over into the new year. I wanna give the Member the assurance that any item that was missing from that scope of work will happen in the upcoming construction season and as soon as materials can be on the ground, we expect the contractors to start mobilizing and finishing any remaining work from the previous season.
Nakummek, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, First Minister Edmunds. Do you have a supplementary question, AngajukKâk Flowers?

MS. FLOWERS:

No, I don't. Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek.* Okay. I now move onto Ordinary Member, Mr. Roland Saunders for his next oral question.

MR. SAUNDERS: *Nakummek,* Madam Speaker. This second question is also for Minister of Language, Culture and Tourism, Mr. Jim Lyall. Last year, Mr. Lyall, you had developed a Master Apprenticeship Program that Canadian Constituency Members were not permitted to participate in. Will this Master Apprenticeship Program be a part of the new strategy?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek,* Ordinary Member Saunders. Do you have a response, Minister Lyall?

MR. LYALL: Yes, I do, Madam Speaker. Thank you for the question, Ordinary Member for Canadian Constituency. A part of our initiative with Language Strategy Minister Saunders, is to build on the Master Apprenticeship Program. There will be further discussion over the next number of days and weeks, exactly how we're going to build on the Apprenticeship Program. I'm depending on my deputies in the department to come up with a strategy on that. Any new information coming out will certainly be relayed to you. Thank you, very much.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek,* Mr. Lyall. Do you have a supplementary question, Ordinary Member Saunders?

MR. SAUNDERS: Yes, Madame, I do. Will the Canadian Constituency Members be permitted to participate in this program, and have a Master Apprenticeship this time, Mr. Lyall? Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, Ordinary Member Saunders. Minister Lyall, do you have a response?

MR. LYALL: Yes, I do. Thank you, again for the question, Ordinary Member for Canada. As I noted in my earlier answer, we are doing other programs like the-, sorry, we will depend in funding received, first of all, for the program, and whether it is related to specific to the Land Claims region or not. We are doing other programs like the Facebook Inuttitut Learning and we're also working with the Pirurvik Centre in Iqaluit on a Website for the Nunatsiavut dialect. So while some programs are specific to the Land Claims region, we understand that people live outside too. And we are working to make things accessible where we can. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, Minister. Lyall. Do you have a final supplementary question Ordinary Member Saunders?

MR. SAUNDERS: No, Madam Speaker. That's fine. Thank you, Mr. Lyall.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*. I now call upon Ordinary Member, Mr. John Andersen for Makkovik for his oral question.

MR. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Language, Culture and Tourism, the Honourable Jim Lyall. It has been a discussion for a number a years, that we need somewhere to store all of the archives that are scattered in unsecured buildings such as churches and unheated museums. Has a site been chosen yet for the future archive storage space?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, Ordinary Member Andersen. Minister Lyall, do you have a response?

MR. LYALL:

Yes, I do, Madam Speaker, thank you. Thank you for the question, Ordinary Member from Makkovik. Unfortunately, over the last number of months, we've had a lot of changes within the Archaeology Department with loss of Jamie Brake and now the loss of Michelle Davies and Kyle Crotty. We are very excited, however, to have Lena Onalik take over the archaeologist position within our department. We have done preliminary work on the possibility of our repository and will now start moving forward on the file with Lena at the helm, working in partnership with NG Property. My Deputy Minister and Lena and been meeting and discussing the next steps on this file. So right now it's being worked on, Ordinary Member Andersen and any details coming forward, you'll certainly, be made aware. Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, Minister. (Audio skips) supplementary question, Ordinary Member Andersen?

MR. ANDERSEN:

No, I don't. Thank you, Minister and thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek. I call upon NunaKatiget Inuit Community Chair, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak for her oral question.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Nakummek, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Finance Minister, the Honourable Tony Andersen. Would you consider looking into the possibility of giving a salary increase to Home Support Workers, as they do a lot of very tremendous working helping keep our elders at home. And I'm wondering if you would look into a salary increase for those positions? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, Chairperson Kemuksigak. I now call upon Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology, Mr. Anthony Andersen.

MR. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker and I just to repeat the question because it broke up a little at the beginning. If I understand the question correctly, she's asking if there could be a review of Home Support Workers? Is that correct? Just so I understand the question?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: That is correct.

MR. ANDERSEN: Okay. Well, thank you, Madam Speaker and Madam Speaker, I think the Member for the question. As with our Human Resource Division and the Civil Service, a review is done in a timely manner for all positions within our Government, Madam Speaker. Certainly, if it seems to the Member from Upper Lake Melville, that there is some unfairness that I should be made aware of, that my department should be made aware of, we will certainly undertake a review to ensure that there is fairness. And my answer to the Member's question then, Madam Speaker, is yes.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, Minister Andersen. Do you have a supplementary question, Chairperson Kemuksigak?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: No, Madam Speaker and thank you for the answer, Minister Andersen.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*. I now call upon Mr. Barry Andersen, AngajukKâk For Makkovik Inuit Community Government.

MR. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, and I believe he sort of alluded to this earlier, but can you provide an update on the upcoming fishing season regarding quotas

for turbot and snow crab, adjacent to our shores? That is vital to keeping the Torngat Fisheries Co-Op operating at Makkovik, thus providing a fair living wage to the people working there. Thank you, Madam Speaker

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Andersen. I call upon Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Mr. Greg Flowers.

MR. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker and thank you, AngajukKâk Andersen for your question. It is really hard to hear you. It sounds like an echo, but I think the question was around snow crab and turbot for the Makkovik Plant, an update on the quotas? Is that correct, Madam Speaker? Okay, thank you, AngajukKâk. As I said in my statement, this morning, DFO and quotas are being reviewed, Madam Speaker. And we should know further along probably the end of this month or early April-, probably mid-April when new quotas come out for turbot and for crab, Madam Speaker. I can assure the Minister-, sorry, the AngajukKâk that we're doing everything possible to make sure that the snow crab and the turbot will be landed at the plant in Makkovik and I know how important it is to our plant workers and our fishers, Madam Speaker. Right now we-, it's in DFO's hands. We certainly, I know that my team has been talking virtually to the Department of DFO and we're certainly on top of this. But it's, like I said, Madam Speaker, we will know the quotas as they come down. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, Minister Flowers. Do you have a supplementary question, AngajukKâk Andersen?

MR. ANDERSEN: No, I don't, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Okay. *Nakummek*. Do we have any other oral questions? Okay. I call upon Mr. Glenn Sheppard, AngajukKâk for Postville Inuit Community Government.

MR. SHEPPARD: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Honourable Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Mr. Greg Flowers. I'd like to ask the Minister this morning, Madam Speaker, in relation to his report where he reported that there will be 100 caribou and some muskox for the Labrador Inuit, unless I never caught something, Madam Speaker here, I never heard the number of musk ox. I would like to ask the Minister if he had a number of musk ox? I did hear the number of 100 caribou but not the muskox. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk Sheppard. I call upon Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Mr. Greg Flowers.

MR. FLOWERS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you, AngajukKâk Sheppard. Yes, it's 25 musk ox, AngajukKâk. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, Minister Flowers. Do you have a supplementary question, AngajukKâk Sheppard? Do you have any supplementary questions, AngajukKâk Sheppard?

MR. SHEPPARD: No, I don't, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*. Are there any more oral questions? Okay. I'm just scanning the screen. Seeing none, we will move on to Item Number Nine, "Written Questions". Are there any written questions, today? Seeing none, I will

move on to Item number 10, "Returns to Written Questions". As we are all aware, the Covid-19 pandemic has forced us to consider ways to conduct Assembly business under challenging times. And as such, there was a delay in responding to written, and response to written questions in October of 2020. I, as Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, before I was appointed to Speaker, asked First Minister Tyler Edmunds if our Government could look into online voting options for future elections. As well, during that sitting, which was structured in a way to meet Covid-19 guidelines, the Ordinary Members who were physically present in the chamber were asked to ask questions for those who were not physically present in the Assembly Chambers. On behalf of Patricia Kemuksigak, NunaKatiget Chair, I asked the President about the eligibility and financial criteria of the Nunatsiavut Government Covid-19 Food Program, as there were reports of inconsistent applications of the Program to elders. Finally, in February 2021, the AngajukKâk for Rigolet asked the Minister of Language, Culture and Tourism, the Honourable Mr. Jim Lyall, if online Inuttitut Program offered by the Nunatsiavut Government last year, would be continued? In a review of these questions, it is the determination that these questions do not meet the standard of Standing Order 33.1 which reads, "Under the Item, "Written Questions", written questions may be asked to the President and Ministers. A question would likely require a detailed or complex answer or would not reasonably be assumed be within the present knowledge of the Minister, should be posed as a written question. These questions can be asked of these appropriate elected

officials during "Oral Question" period or by email. In February, the AngajukKâk for Postville asked the President if the Nunatsiavut Government has discussed the fact that climate change has caused skidoo travel to revise their travel routes and asked if the Nunatsiavut Government has discussed this and considered subsidies for the extra travel that may be required. President Lampe indicated that because of the pandemic, Nunatsiavut Government has strictly enforced the message of non-essential travel by snow mobile, especially to different communities, and added that the issue of subsidies for snow mobile travellers has not been discussed. There are no more "Returns to Written Questions", so we'll move on to Item 11, "Petitions". There are no petitions today, so we'll move on to Item 12. Item 12, "Response to petitions." There are no response to petitions today. We will move on to Item 13, "Reports of Standing and Special Committees." There are no reports of Standing in Special committees, so we now move on to Item 14. And I would like to suggest, actually, before we move on to Item 14, that we break for lunch, seeing it's just before 12:00. I would like to take a recess from 12:00 and return for 1:15 so we can broadcast again starting at 1:15. I thank everybody for their patience today so far and I will see you back at your desks at 1:10, live, again at 1:15. *Nakummek.*

[Recess]

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

I'd like to welcome everybody back at 1:18 p.m. for our continuation of our daily procedures. We are now on Item Number 14, "The Tabling of

Documents". I would like to recognize the Nunatsiavut Treasurer, the Honourable, Mr. Anthony Andersen.

MR. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Madam Speaker, as required by the *Labrador Inuit Constitution*, I am pleased to Table the Nunatsiavut Government Financial Plan, 2021-2022.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Minister Andersen. The Tabled Document will be numbered as 01-49.1. I would now like to recognize the First Minister, the Honourable Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, UKatti. I'd like to Table the Assembly submission, Proposal for Constitutional and Legislative Amendments regarding fixed election dates. *Nakummek, Honourable Speaker.*

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, Honourable First Minister. The Tabled Document will be numbered at 02-49.1. I would again like to recognize the Nunatsiavut Treasurer, the Honourable Anthony Andersen.

MR. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I'm pleased to table the Consolidated Financial Statements of the Nunatsiavut Government for the year end March 31st, 2020, and the Report on the Audited Annual Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended March 31st, 2020.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister. The Consolidated Financial Statements of the Nunatsiavut Government for the year ending March 31st, 2020, will be numbered as Tabled Document 03-49.1. And the Report of the Audited Annual Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ending March 31st, 2020 will be numbered as Tabled Document 04-49.1. Are there any other

documents to be tabled today? Seeing none, we will move on to Item 15, "Notices of Motions". I would like to recognize the Nunatsiavut Treasurer, the Honourable Mr. Anthony Andersen. (Audio muted.)

MR. ANDERSEN:

Apologize Madam Speaker, it was muted. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I give notice that on Tuesday, March the 9th, 2021, I will move, seconded by the Ordinary Member for Postville, Mr. Tyler Edmunds, that Tabled Document 0149.1, the Financial Plan, 2021-2022 be moved into Committee of the Whole for discussion and approval in conjunction with Bill 2020-02, the Budget Bill, 2021 and that Ms. Rexanne Crawford, the Controller of the Nunatsiavut Government be called as a witness.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you. I'd like to recognize the First Minister, the Honourable Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, UKatti. I give notice that on Tuesday, March 9th, 2021, I will move, seconded by the Ordinary Member for Rigolet, Ms. Carlene Palliser, that the Nunatsiavut Assembly establish a Special Committee on voting alternatives for the Canadian Constituency and further, that the following persons be appointed to the Special Committee, Ms. Marlene Winters-Wheeler, Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Barry Andersen, AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Roland Saunders, Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency and Mr. Mark Gillette, Director of Legal Services for the Nunatsiavut Government. And furthermore, that the terms of reference of the Special Committee shall be a) to meet with the Nunatsiavut electoral officer to discuss the existing voting procedures used for elections involving the Canadian Constituency and to identify any

shortcomings or issues affecting voter participation and transmission of votes, b) to consider, in particular, any system of electronic voting exists that would better serve constituents in the Canadian Constituency as an effective method of exercising the democratic right to participate in elections, c) to retain, if the committee feels necessary, the professional services of persons knowledgeable in voting systems, to conduct technical research and to provide recommendations to the committee and to provide a report to the Assembly on the work of the committee, together with any recommendations the committee may make during the fall session in 2021. *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, First Minister Edmunds. I would like to recognize the Nunatsiavut Treasurer, the Honourable (audio muted).

MR. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I give notice, that on Tuesday, March the 9th, 2021, I will move, seconded by the Ordinary Member for Postville, Mr. Tyler Edmunds, that Tabled Document 03-49.1 and 04-49.1 be referred to Committee of the Whole for consideration and approval with witnesses from Deloitte LLP, and the Controller of the Nunatsiavut Government, Ms. Rexanne Crawford.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you. There are no more Notices of Motions today so we will move on to Item number 16, "Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills." I would like to recognize the Nunatsiavut treasurer, the Honourable Mr. Anthony Andersen.

MR. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I give notice, that on Tuesday, March the 9th, 2021, I will move, seconded by the Ordinary Member for Postville, Mr. Tyler Edmunds, the first reading of Bill 2021-02, the Budget Bill 2021.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, Minister Andersen. That concludes the Notices of Motions for the First Reading of Bills today. We will now move on to Item 17 which is "Motions". There are no motions today, so we move on to Item number 18, "The First Reading of Bills". There are no first reading of bills today, so we will move on to Item number 19, "The Second Reading of Bills". I would like to recognize the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, the Honourable Gregory Flowers.

MR. FLOWERS: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I would like to make a motion in accordance with Standing Order 42, to allow the consideration of Bill 2021-01, Community Quarry Bill 2021 in Committee of the Whole. Therefore, I move, seconded by the Ordinary Member for Postville, Mr. Tyler Edmunds, that Bill 2021-01 be referred to Committee of the Whole for consideration, with witnesses, Mark Gillette, Senior Director of Legal Services and Brent Dennison, Director of Lands and Legal Counsel and Jim Goudie, Deputy Minister of Lands and Natural Resources. And that the Bill be now read for the second time.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, Honourable Minister. The Motion is in Order. Does the Honourable Minister wish to speak to the Motion?

MR. FLOWERS: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I am pleased today to speak to the Bill. If this bill is enacted, it would authorize the Minister to issue a lease to the

Nain Inuit Community Government for purpose of developing and operating a sand quarry on a 2.894 hectare lot of Labrador Inuit Land, Partial LIL-05C for a term of five years for an annual rental of \$1 per year, authorize the Minister to issue a lease to the Postville Inuit Community Government, for the purpose of developing a-, operating a sand quarry on 7.573 hectare lot of Labrador Inuit Land Partial LIL-13.C for a term of five years at an annual rental of \$1 per year. Also authorize the Minister to issue a lease to the Rigolet Inuit Community Government for the purpose of developing and operating a quarry on 7.139 hectares lot on Labrador Inuit Land partial LIL-21 for a term of five years at an annual rental of \$1 per year. Authorize the Minister to establish the terms and conditions of the lease, subject to conditions set out in the Act and waive their requirement for *Impact and Benefit Agreement* for each of those proposed quarries. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Minister. All those in favour of the Motion, please raise your hand. Opposed? Okay. The motion is carried. I will ask for a brief 10-minute recess. I ask that Members please stay at their desk if at all possible while we connect with the witnesses for the Committee of the Whole. And, Mary, can you please come down? Thank you. Just mute your microphone and turn off your camera, please for 10 minutes. Thank you.

(Audio muted.)

[Recess]

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you. I'd like to welcome everybody back. It's now 1:37 p.m. We have our witnesses online with us. We are in Committee of the Whole.

We can get started. The procedure for the Second Reading Debate will be a page-by-page and clause-by-clause review of Bill 2021-01. If Members have comments or questions on any page of the Bill, you have up to 10 minutes at a time. If you still have questions or comments, once other Members have spoken, you will be given another opportunity to speak. In accordance with Standing Order 55.3, we will proceed directly with the substantive sections beginning with Section One. So, we will go page three, clause one, under Short Title. Any questions? I'm going to be asking for a show of hands for agreement, please just because we're on video and we're not-, Patricia do you have a question, or? Okay, I'm not asking for agreement, yet. I just wanted to be clear. I apologize, okay? So, page three, clause one, no questions? Everyone agreed? Show of hands, please? Thank you. Page three, clause two? Any questions? Charlotte, you have a question?

MS. WOLFREY:

Yeah, just so I'm clear on this, so you did page-, it starts off on page two, and no, you did page one and then I-, are we on page three, now? I missed something.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Yeah, we are on page three. We're at actually where it starts, okay, the Bill. So, page three, so the clause one, which is The Short Title-, do you see that, Charlotte? Okay, good. So, we just, number two, which is the Interpretation, okay? Any questions on clause two? Joe has a question on clause two? Joe, I need you to unmute your microphone, please.

MR. DICKER:

Sorry about that. I don't have the Act in front of me. I did not attend the last meeting and I was off until this morning, so-, and I couldn't attend any

training because of the death of my uncle. So, I'm gonna just run down to Minister Andersen's office. I think he has a copy there that I can get printed.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Okay. We'll give you a short time to get down there.

MR. DICKER: Okay, on my way.

MR. LYALL: (Inaudible.)

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Pardon me, Minister Lyall?

MR. LYALL: I was telling Joe look under Tab 12. I had a hard time finding it too, but I was just trying to help him find it, but he's gone, now.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Okay.

MR. ANDERSEN: Madam Speaker, I will print off a copy for the AngajukKâk for Nain.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, very much, Minister Andersen.

MR. FLOWERS: Marlene, since we're in the Committee of the Whole, I just wanted to, I guess, ask you a quick question...

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Yes.

MR. FLOWERS: ...if you don't mind, while we're waiting.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: No, go ahead.

MR. FLOWERS: When I was reading my Bill, I was reading what was printed off for me, and I said, Jim Goudie, Deputy Minister, but then I was informed that, that shouldn't have been in there. They didn't get no confirmation that it shouldn't...

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Yeah.

MR. FLOWERS: ...have been there, so...

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: No, that's okay. It's okay. We have Brent Dennison as a witness and Mark Gillette as a witness. So, that's okay.

MR. FLOWERS: All right. Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you. And my apologies, I'm still using-, I know we're in Committee of the Whole, so it's a little bit more informal. Hopefully, AngajukKâk Dicker will be back at his desk very soon.

MR. EDMUNDS: Madam Chair?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Yes?

MR. EDMUNDS: Perhaps Charlotte's question was more around the fact that we did not talk through the pre-amble or pages one or two of the Bill and perhaps you could just clarify as to when we will deal with those Items of the Bill?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Okay. My apologies. So, the page two of the Act will be read after we do the clause-by-clause and page-by-page. And Minister Flowers did the explanatory note just before we went into Committee of the Whole for the Act. So, is that a bit clearer, Charlotte? My apologies.

MS. WOLFREY: Yeah, it seemed like you skipped over page two and went to page three. Thank you, Tyler.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: My sincere apologies. Okay, are you ready AngajukKâk? Okay, so we're on page three, clause two. Any questions? Seeing none, we will move on. Page three, clause three. Are there any questions? Seeing none, we will move on, page four, clause three continued. Are there any questions?

Okay. All agreed? My apologies for not-, okay, thank you. Page four, clause four? Any questions? It's a little bit of a longer clause. Okay. So, page four, clause four, no questions? All agreed? Thank you. Page five, clause five, any questions? No questions? All agreed? Thank you. Page five, clause six? Any questions?

MR. GILLETTE: Madam Chair?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Yes?

MR. GILLETTE: If I may, we recognize that there is a typographical error in Section Six, paragraph (e), the second last line, there's a reference to Nain Inuit Community Government. It should-, that's a typographical error. It should be the Postville Inuit Community Government.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you.

MR. GILLETTE: We apologize for that, but it is in the Bill, so we couldn't fix it once the Bill was tabled at the last Assembly. It's one of those things where you can read the things a bunch of times, sometimes the wrong version manages to get sent along. It would be appropriate for there to be a motion for an amendment to the bill to strike the word Nain in that line and replace it with Postville. So if there was a Member-, obviously, you're Chair of the committee, but just a suggestion, if you want to ask for a motion to replace the word Nain with Postville in that paragraph and have that-, and move an amendment that way.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Okay. Thank you, for that, Mark. So, do I have a mover for such motion to change under Number six, paragraph (e), second last line, change the word

Nain to Postville? Do I have a mover? Minister Greg Flowers. Do I have-, make a note-, seconder? AngajukKâk Barry Andersen. All those in favour of the motion? Thank you. Okay. Okay, so no questions on clause six? All agreed with the proposed amendment for clause six, page five? Thank you. We're now on to page six, clause six continued. Any questions? Seeing no questions, all those in favour, agreed? Get a show of hands? Thank you. We're now on page six, clause seven. Any questions? Any questions on clause seven? Agree? All those in favour? Thank you. Now, on to page six, clause eight. Any questions? Do you have a question? Sorry, I recognize Tyler.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Madam Chair, just to go off of the Director of Legal Services commentary from the previous amendment in 6(e), there is the same, a typographical error in 8(e) unless we were just considering page six here? And if that's the case, my apologies, Madam Chair.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Sorry, you said on 8(e)?

MR. EDMUNDS:

Yes.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Okay. So, right now we are on page six. We will continue on that page in the next-, we're doing page-by-page, clause-by-clause, but thank you. So, we will amend that on the next page, okay? Page six clause eight, any questions? All those agreed? Okay. Thank you. Now, on to page seven, clause number eight.

MR. GILLETTE:

Again, Madam Chair, as was referenced by the First Minister, the same error occurs in paragraph (e). In that instance, it should be-, the word Nain, should be replaced with the word Rigolet.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Okay. Can I get a mover for that to amend Nain to Rigolet? Susan-, moved by Susan Onalik, our Member for Canada. Seconded by-, I see Mr. Joe Dicker, AngajukKâk for Nain. All those in favour of the proposed amendment? Thank you. The amendment passes. Any questions on page seven, clause eight continued? No questions? All those in favour of page seven, number eight, continued with the proposed amendment? All those in favour? Thank you. Page seven, clause nine-, any questions? No questions. All those in favour? Agreed? Thank you. We will now consider the title and pre-amble. So, the pre-amble is on page two of the Act. Now, do you want me to read-, I can read the pre-amble if you like? Mark, do you have-, do you think that's something that I could read, or we can just kind of continue with the page-by-page?

MR. GILLETTE:

I don't think it's necessary to read the pre-amble. The pre-amble is for the sake of clarity for the Members-, so, the pre-amble is sometimes called the whereases, but they start the middle of page two and run down to the middle of page three. So, the whereas statements are the pre-amble.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

So, we're on page two in the pre-amble section, on just page two. Are there any questions? Okay. Seeing no questions, all those in favour, all agree with the pre-amble, page two section, please raise your hand in favour? Thank you. We move now to page three of the pre-amble section, so as Mark stated earlier, it's the continuation of the 'and whereas'. So,

I'll give you just a minute to kind of review that as well, if there are any questions? Okay, any questions on page three pre-amble? Seeing no questions, is everyone in agreement with page three, pre-amble? Thank you. Okay. So, now we'll go back to page two of the *Inuit Communities Quarries Act*-, page two where we go back to the title. It starts with "An Act to authorize the Nunatsiavut Government to issue separate leases". It starts with that. It's at the top of the page. Are there any questions regarding the title of the Act? Seeing no questions, is everyone in agreement with the title? Raise your hand, please, if you are in agreement? Thank you. That concludes the page-by-page and clause-by-clause review of the Bill. Does the Minister wish to conclude the debate?

MR. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I wish to close debate.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you. That concludes debate. All those in favour of the second reading of Bill 2021-01? All those in favour? Thank you. Any opposed? The motion is carried. Thank you. I'd like to thank our witnesses for joining us today. I appreciate your knowledge and your time, and we thank you and we hope you have a wonderful day. Thank you.

MR. GILLETTE:

Thank you, very much.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Okay. We'll just let them jump off. Okay. So, thank you. We are now back in the Assembly. Accordingly, Bill 2021-01 has had second reading. We now move on to Item number 20, "Assent to Bills". Honourable President, the Assembly has given second reading to Bill 2021-01, *Inuit Communities Quarries Bill 2021* and wish to present it for assent.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: Honourable Speaker and Members, as President of Nunatsiavut, I wish to assent to a Bill 2021-01, *Inuit Communities Quarries Bill*, and hereby sign it into Law.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, Honourable President. We will now move on to Item 21, which is "Adjournment". The Assembly is adjourned today at 2:00 p.m. until Tuesday morning, March the 9th, 2021. Thank you and I please ask that everybody please stay on the line for just a moment while we-, oh, the President is holding up the signed Act-, signed Bill. Thank you, very much, with the seal. He's now signing. Thank you. Okay. Thank you. We will adjourn today for 2:00 p.m. I will see everybody tomorrow morning. Thank you, Josh.

Day two March 9, 2021

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: ...session for Day 2 of the Nunatsiavut Assembly into order at 9:01 a.m. I'd like to welcome everybody to our First *Order of the Day*. I would like Roland Saunders, our Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency to say our opening prayer.

MR. SAUNDERS: *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker. [Recites prayer]

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Amen. *Nakummek*, Ordinary Member Saunders. I'll now move on to Item Two, "Recognition of the visitors in the gallery." Once again, we are in our virtual Assembly. I would like to thank everybody who viewed us yesterday and followed us along. Hopefully, you're following us along again today. I would like to thank you for your interest and hopefully we are over our technical difficulties from yesterday. So, thank you, once

again, for everybody who's joining us online. Now, until Item Number Three, "Members statements." Under Special Standing Order 35.2, I will determine the order of Ministers giving statements. I will call upon the Ministers who have submitted their statements. I now call upon the Honourable Gerald Asivak, Minister of Health and Social Development.

MR. ASIVAK:

Good morning. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Currently, the Mental Health staff continue to offer both distance counselling and in-person counselling services where required. These services have continued Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. during lockdown as mental health and addiction workers and other frontline counselling providers have been working from the office where necessary to continue with this critical support. Under Trauma and Addictions, in addition to the lockdown, Nain has recently encountered significant loss impacting the community, including staff, as well as identified impacts on the youth population. As a result, we have been working on the following. Covid hygiene kits have been sent for youth to access at the Youth Centre-, 100 kits, which includes masks, hand sanitizer, antibacterial wipes and some other personal care items. Thirty take-away mini mental wellness kits were sent to the Youth Centre this week for youth, which included journals, games, and fidget stress toys. Our clinical therapist is planning with Labrador Grenfell Health Counsellor, to facilitate two debriefing sessions for staff in Nain. We have ordered 40 self-care kits from "Spruced Up Labrador" to send into Nain for staff that will be distributed at the same time as the delivery of the self-care session being held by the

Survivor Support Coordinator, of residential schools. Our Clinical therapist, Trauma and Addictions, Team Lead and Child and Youth Mental Health Specialist will be presenting at International Conference on the Intergenerational Trauma, April 11th. Madam Speaker, under "Justice". The Provincial Funding that has been granted through the Office of the Status of Women will be covering the costs of two separate training sessions for DHSD staff. One will be held virtually, with a Master Social Worker trainer in Ottawa entitled, "Men and Healing", which focuses on increasing the engagement of men in programs and services, while also providing education and tools to staff to understand the root causes of gender based violence, on behalf of men, and how this relates back to childhood trauma. The other training we'll be accessing will be in person when Public Health measures allow and will focus on empowering women who are victims of IPV or domestic violence. This funding was due to expire at the end of March, and we asked for an extension which has been granted until June. The hope is that we'll be able to support the second training to occur before the new deadline. Madam Speaker, under the Harm Reduction Specialist, a series of presentations is being facilitated with various internal and external stakeholders focusing on reducing harms of colonization. Child First Initiative. The CFI National Forum is being held March 2nd, 4th, 8th and 9th for the Inuit Regions. Nunatsiavut is doing a keynote address, speaking to the current CFI roll-out and future of the program. We've been able to secure funding for day staff at both the Happy Valley-Goose Bay shelter and the Nain

shelter, under the Home First and Covid initiatives. We have hired an outreach worker at the Housing Hub in Happy Valley-Goose Bay for a one-year term. This individual will be working with the homeless and transient populations, encouraging participation in land-based outings, day programming and outreach activities. Lastly, Madam Speaker, we are currently, advertising for a Supportive Housing Manager in Nain or Hopedale. This is a new position that will be responsible for the Supportive Living Units in Nain and Hopedale, the seven-plexes in Nain and Hopedale, the six-plex prototype in Nain, the emergency shelter in Nain and the new bedsitter facility when renovations are completed on the old DHSD building in Hopedale, as well as other new supportive housing initiatives. *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, Minister Asivak. I now call upon the Minister for Education and Economic Development, Ms. Carlene Palliser.

MS. PALLISER:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Today, I will be updating on the Education Department. Division Restructure: The new position of Student Liaison has been advertised and we are in interview process now. The position will be the main contact for all issues pertaining to student files and will receive all student documents from the application process, right through to graduation. This will be a welcome addition to the division as all three funding programs will be administered out of Makkovik once the St. John's office closes in October. We have completed the interview process for the Accountant Clerk position and hope to have an offer made very soon. Inuit Postsecondary Education Funding Program. The

final proposed new supports for students have now been approved by NEC. Students attending postsecondary studies will now possibly qualify for rent support, childcare subsidy and a living away from home allowance. These new supports will be added to the newly approved policy manual and will provide much needed financial relief to students who previously were faced with high rental and daycare costs with no increase in living allowance. The rollout of the previously approved new supports was a success and we have heard from many students who are grateful and appreciative of those efforts we have made to help ensure their success at school.

Winter, 2021 applications and online learning: As of our funding deadline of March 1st, we have received applications for the following: 106 full-time students, 15 part-time, four short-term programs and one job-start supports. These applications are for all three funding programs combined, so include applications it includes applications for trades, university and other college programs. These numbers are lower than previous years, however, we believe this is due to the uncertainty that Covid-19 has brought to the post secondary system. Many people are not online learners, so they're waiting for in class instruction to resume before pursuing their studies.

Labrador Aboriginal Training Partnership, LATP update. The LATP Program was scheduled to conclude this year on March 31st, as students are not due to complete their programs until June. MOU's were drafted to transfer students over to the Education Division to administer funds until students finish their studies. The students were transferred as of January 2020

and funds will come from LAMP until March 31st, and then from the Education Division from April 1st until the end of this program in June. An extension request to the Federal Government was submitted as well as a proposal for new funds. These requests were based on two key factors. First, because of the global Covid-19 pandemic, training programs and community-based delivery efforts were delayed or cancelled, and second, the mine expansion project is behind schedule and some training has been difficult to arrange and align with employment opportunities. Training efforts are still needed in order to fulfill the required need by Vale and VBME for the Underground Mine Expansion at Voisey's Bay. To date, an extension has been granted by LAMP by the Federal Government and an additional amount of \$1.2 million has been committed. The students transferred to the Education Division will go back under LAMP and finish out their training under their program. Plans for additional training is underway with hopes that travel restrictions will soon be lifted and regular programming can resume.

Chrome Book purchase for K to 12 students. We are still waiting on the delivery of Chrome Books for the K to 6 students in Nunatsiavut and the Upper Lake Melville area. K to 9 Social Studies resources: Work continues on the Grade 3 textbook with a call for illustrators have been completed in recent weeks. A local beneficiary will be hired to provide illustrations that will be used as key reoccurring icons and images throughout the resource. Thank you, Madam Speaker. That's my report.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, Minister Palliser. I now call upon the Honourable Minister for Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology, Mr. Anthony Andersen.

MR. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I am committed to provide updates to the Assembly as we move forward on a solution to adjust the connectivity within Nunatsiavut. First of all, Madam Speaker, I'd like to thank the Director of Information Technology, Robert Ford for the tireless work and his technical expertise is met with various players, reviewed countless documents and analyzed a tonne of potential solutions. The work has allowed us to understand and make decisions based on sound advice. My department has reviewed five potential solutions. Additional capacity within the most recent upgrades to the backbone, extending sub sea fibre cables to each community, the addition of LEO satellites into the network from a company known as Telesat, as well, Starlink and as well an overbuild to the existing microwave radio network. After analyzing each of those options, the Nunatsiavut Government is supporting an overbuild to the existing microwave radio tower. There will be new towers and tower reinforcement for wireless access networks, mobility equipment and fibre connectivity from central offices to the towers. The fixed wireless solution has been used in other provinces and is designed for small communities where it is not feasible to install fibre for the last mile. Madam Speaker, this solution will significantly improve the connectivity in Nunatsiavut. It will also provide cellular service to our communities-, something that we did not think was

possible a few years ago. In addition to this, Madam Speaker, I wish to add as a last note, that in looking at the best options for our five communities, we joined with the Mushuau Innu First Nation from Natuashish and asked them to work with us in finding a solution to broadband to their community which is smack in the middle of Nunatsiavut. And they work with us and their experts joined with our IT Division to move forward and I'm very happy to say that we will work together with the Mushuau Innu to be sure that broadband connectivity is provided to our communities with the best possible option. We are now in the process of preparing an application with Bell as our partner, to be submitted on March 15th of this year. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, Minister Andersen. I now, call upon First Minister, Mr. Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Madam Speaker. March 15th certainly seems to be a very demanding time for our Government and I'm sure that it'll be interesting to see some of the announcements from the Broadband Fund and the National Trade Corridors Fund. As we updated the Assembly last month, March 15th is also the deadline for our comprehensive proposal under the National Trade Corridors Fund for the Nain Airstrip feasibility studies. I wanted to state, Madam Speaker, that the proposal not only looked at the costs and timelines that are associated with those feasibility studies, but also demands that a project manager be identified to oversee these studies. Nunatsiavut Affairs and Nunatsiavut Secretariat have worked together on the file and we will be in a position to submit that application

next week. As a reminder, Madam Speaker, a significant component of this application requires commitment from the Provincial Government, as this is a 50:50 cost-shared program with the Federal Government. The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has been supportive of the project as of late, but we do await the exit of the Government caretaker mode to have any assurance of the commitment. As we receive updates on this application, Madam Speaker, we will assure that the Assembly is kept up to date. Madam Speaker, with respect to Torngat Regional Housing Association, members of NG's Housing Commission Steering Committee met with officials from TRHA at the end of February to discuss the plan for this year's construction season. These discussions focused on improving energy efficiency of builds, preliminary designs and communities where construction may take place in the upcoming year. A contribution agreement is still in the works, Madam Speaker. As stated previously, the upcoming construction season is expected to look different for TRHA as we would like to prioritize the construction of multi-units like duplexes, over traditional single-family bungalow designs. With respect to the Housing Commission itself, Madam Speaker, the draft plan for the Housing Commission is finalized. And Affairs intends to present the Implementation Plan to the NEC in the coming months, Madam Speaker. A key part of this implementation plan is the Director of Housing. And once the plan receives NEC approval, this position will be advertised. After NEC adoption of the Implementation Plan, we will share it with the Assembly with the goal of having this document to the

Assembly at the June sitting, Madam Speaker. With the Postville Daycare extension, *UKatti*, NG has released a second RFP for the construction of the extension to the daycare in Postville. RFPs were released the past year for an outside gated area, a kitchen and a dedicated office space for the daycare, to be sure that it meets Provincial regulations. However, the submissions for the work at that time came significantly over budget. If we do encounter a similar situation again, Madam Speaker, DHSD and Affairs will have to work together to find ways to ensure that an appropriate daycare space can be created in the community. Under Membership, as of March 8th, we have a total of 7,052 beneficiaries of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement*. The Membership Department also hired Amy Maku as their Membership Filing Clerk this month as well. Rigolet and Lake Melville Membership Committee has one vacancy and has re-advertised with a deadline of March 15th, 2021. Anyone who is from that area who is interested, please contact the Registrar in Nain. The Registrar beneficiaries would also like to inform new parents that it's important to apply for their elder children for membership as soon as possible, to prevent any loss of health benefits, for medical travel, medication, et cetera, as children can only use their parents' membership until 18 months of age. So, again, it's urged that parents engage in the application process as soon as possible. Beneficiaries again, are being reminded to continually check and update your physical address and are encouraged to call our Membership Department at 1-866-922-2942 and speak to Kila Angutuk, Pauling Angutuk or again, Amy Maku. Finally, any

beneficiary who's looking for an application, it is accessible on our web page or at a local NG office. *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek First Minister Edmunds. That concludes our Members statement portion. I'd now like to move on to Item number four which is "Members statements". Under Special Standing Order 34.2, I will determine the order of Members giving statements. For their virtual sitting I will call upon the Members who have submitted their statements. I now call upon Maxene Winters, Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation Chair, for her statement.

MS. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Madam Speaker. I would like to congratulate and welcome our newest Member to the Assembly, Ms. Susan Onalik. It will be a pleasure working with you, I'm sure. Sivunivut would like to also recognize the Labrador Grenfell Health, the Nunatsiavut Department of Health and Social Development, the Makkovik Inuit Community Government and the residents of Makkovik on their swift reaction to the recent Covid-19 health scare last month. All the hard work and long days by everyone did not go unnoticed and is greatly appreciated. I hope that all learn from this scare and that we take extra care and caution in our everyday lives following the Public Health Guidelines. Under the current Level Four, our Community Freezer is back to curbside pick-up. Seniors can call the office and make their order with our program coordinator, Shirley with a designated pick-up time. We ask everyone adhere to their scheduled times, as we need to maintain our social distance rules and keep everyone safe. In closing, I would like to thank the DHSD team in

Northwest River, Joyce Tuglavina, Brenda Saunders, and Janice Parsons for all their hard work and dedication to their jobs during this pandemic. Although the majority of their programs are on hold due to Covid-19, they are finding creative ways to help keep everyone engaged, busy, and have some sort of community spirit during these difficult times. Keep up the good work, ladies. *Nakummek*.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Sivunivut Chair, Maxene Winters. I now call upon Ordinary Member for Canada, Ms. Susan Onalik.

MS. ONALIK:

Sorry, just one second. My apologies. I just got a new cell phone and I don't know how to silence it. *Nakummek, Ukatti*. I wanted to start by saying a lot of academic research will come out of this pandemic and the lasting effects it will have on people's well-being. There have been multiple deaths among our people in recent weeks and many of those losses were deaths by suicide. I wanna take a moment and share my condolences to the family and friends, to those communities of those we have lost. I would also like to remind my fellow Inuit to remain diligent in taking care of our mental wellbeing and the wellbeing of our larger communities. I also want to express my sympathy to those who are battling terminal illnesses. Due to Covid, the ability to provide support to our loved ones is limited and restricted, and it plays heavy on the hearts of many who find themselves in these unfortunate circumstances. The traditional methods of grieving, for Inuit is embedded into our identity. It is a part of our culture and many Inuit find themselves lost and alone in their grieving processes. More mental health support and services need

to be considered in helping our people cope with the losses and struggles Inuit face during this pandemic and their day-to-day lives. Madam Speaker, Members of the Canadian Constituency face unique challenges that can bear on their individual mental wellbeing. For example, constituents have repeatedly and openly expressed that they feel disconnected to the land and our people. Our constituency is made up of beneficiaries who had to relocate to find work or access services, along with their husbands, wives, sons and daughters and Innguitait. They are our elders who require specialized care. They are our children removed and placed in foster care. They are the Inuit who had sought opportunities not yet made available to them within Nunatsiavut. There are many who take it upon themselves to find and source ways to connect and remain connected to our homeland, our people, our culture, language, and traditions. Sharon Edmunds, originally from Postville, was recently named Inuit Woman of the Year by Pauktuutit for her PhD work. I wanna say congratulations to Sharon for her hard work and determination, and also giving back to the Inuit. An article out of Guelph University quoted her words and I wanna share them today. We are breaking the ground slowly, but at the same time, we are also trying to live in two worlds. Our Inuit in the Canadian Constituency are people who have skills and abilities that Nunatsiavut can benefit more from. We are beneficiaries that can benefit Nunatsiavut in so many ways. More creative ways for Inuit to feel connected, informed and included need to be explored and considered. I want to end, by saying, Madam Speaker,

[speaks in Inuttitut] to the DHSD workers in Nain, who have recently included the beneficiaries from the Canadian Constituency in various contexts was seen on Facebook. It's the little things like that, that can mean a lot in building and maintaining those connections. (speaks in Inuttitut) *Nakummek UKatti*.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, Ordinary Member Onalik. I now call upon the AngajukKâk for the Makkovik Inuit Community Government, Mr. Barry Andersen.

MR. ANDERSEN: Is that for a statement, today?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: I'm sorry, Barry? Yes, that's for your Members statement.

MR. ANDERSEN: Okay. I, but today I have no statement, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Oh, okay. Thank you. My apologies for that. Okay. I now call upon the Ordinary Member for the community of Makkovik, Mr. John Andersen.

MR. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to tell about the great work the Department of Health and Social Development are doing in our community. They have been doing a good job of keeping people moving, staying healthy during the Covid-19 pandemic. They had what they called "Healthy lifestyle challenges". These challenges lasted for a month and someone would win a prize, then they would start a new one. How it works, is that you do 30 minutes workout of your choice every second day, keeping track each time. You have to do this without missing any sessions. It is much better to do exercise in a group, than by yourself. People tend to keep going if they see others doing it. Each month has a different theme. The DHD staff are good at coming up with new ideas.

They have virtual events like scavenger hunts or send a picture of yourself doing physical activity, cultural activity, craft projects-, they also rent out toddler skis, snowshoes for youth and yoga mats. Madam Speaker, they also have craft nights even though there are only a few that can attend due to Covid rules. Madam Speaker, they have started a weight losing program that will run till Easter, great for people who need to challenge from others. They also make cookies and cakes or healthy snacks-, even meals, and take it around to the community with different age groups each time-, seniors or youth or just single people or married people. Madam Speaker, we are very happy with our group here at the Department of Health and Social Development in Makkovik. They have kept our community active and connected. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member Andersen. I now call upon the Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Mr. Roland Saunders for his statement.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My next topic is taken from the Elders Conference that was held a couple of years ago. I did compile some recommendations from the three representatives that we had there-, Sarah Onalik, Ellen Ford and Charlotte Winters-Foss. They came up with some recommendations that they have from their by-annual meeting. Madam Speaker, the representative stated that we are isolated and disconnected from our homeland and culture. We want inclusion, equality and not to feel left out because of where we live. They proposed to make real opportunities to attend gatherings for the Canadian

Constituency and beneficiaries. We are culturally isolated. Just because we moved away for jobs, education and medical care and a better way of life for our children, we should not be punished. Madam Speaker, the Canadian Constituents are able to feel less than other members because we are not on our land. Makes us feel like second-class citizens. We want to be treated and honoured for what we really are, Inuit from Labrador. Accountability-, make sure that the recommendations made in one gathering are acted upon before the next gathering, or in a timely manner. And this was from two years ago, and they haven't had an Elder's Conference since, and that's understandable because of Covid. The goal and result, apparently, were not met fully. Madam Speaker, they also said the way we are represented at NG does not include our traditional way of life, using self-governance, traditional, customary and spiritual laws. They want to reclaim and use those ways. The results were feeling exclusion in land-based programming. They want to have inclusion in land-based healing from our place of birth. The healing from this is phenomenal. We all become whole again. No Elder guidance and direction in the NG Assembly policy making, they suggest. They want to put elders on boards and get direction to get away from Tammak. No updates on communication from our Ordinary Members. They want communication and updates on a timely basis. They need to know and be informed for progress, initiatives and accomplishments in NG. And I must say, I've gotta speak-, we have been working to cure this. It's taking a while, and it's gonna continue. Madam Speaker, they're also looking

for support and provision for respite care, assisted living for elders and seniors with life challenges. They need quality of life measures which is a right of all Canadians. These are some of the concerns from that particular meeting from two years ago. Madam Speaker, Nunatsiavut's Culture, Language and Tourism Department started an introductory Inuttitut course online. It was developed by Harriet Anson and a course presented by Sarah Townley. There were over 1000 books sent out to members taking the course and for many of them it was just to refresh their language skills. And I know for a fact, that I've learned quite a few words from that course. Sarah held a one-hour class, three days a week, which for the most part was an evening or late afternoon course. But for the people that were in Alaska and Europe, it was either early morning or late night. And from the comments and congratulations passed on, to Sarah at the end, it was a great success. Now, the question, Culture Minister Jim Lyall, is whether or not the class will be held again or will a more difficult second class be developed for the Constituents outside of Labrador? Thank you, Madam Speaker and Assembly Members.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Ordinary Member Saunders for your statement. I now call upon the AngajukKâk for the Rigolet Inuit Community Government, Ms. Charlotte Wolfrey for her statement.

MS. WOLFREY:

Nakummek, UKatti. I would like to begin by expressing my appreciation for the fast reaction to the situation that happened in Makkovik. Like everyone, we are thankful that the test turned out to be negative. But I would like to commend the people of Makkovik for the kindness that was

shown and how the community rallied together to protect and shelter their people. Madam Speaker, this is surely showing love at its best. The leadership that was shown in Makkovik should set an example for us all. Barry and John, along with your team, you set the bar high and I would like to thank you for that. *UKatti*, Rigolet Inuit Community Government are still trying to adhere to the restrictions of Level Four. Our office doors are locked. We are seeing people by appointment only. We have essential staff working in their own spaces where possible. In respect of Nunatsiavut Government bulletin regarding essential travel, we are grooming only local roads. The trails are not being groomed. All recreational activities at this time, are on hold. We did sponsor a snow sculpture contest for Valentines Day and we had some beautiful entries for this event. *UKatti*. I would like to thank the residents of Rigolet for their patience and understanding in these uncertain times. *UKatti*. I would like to say happy belated birthday to Uncle Bert Allen of Rigolet who celebrated his 91st birthday on February 26th. Uncle Bert, I wish you good health and happiness. Madam Speaker, I would like to commend DHSD for finding ways to keeping our community engaged in lots of activities. They have been truly innovative in their approach in keeping us together while keeping us apart. Thank you to all the staff for helping to keep us engaged and safe. *UKatti*, I would also like to mention one of the youth in our community who is working for Frontier Collage as a Community Literacy Worker. Ocean Shiwak has been doing lots of virtual learning activities for the community for both young and old. And

thank you, Ocean. And *UKatti*, I would like to wish Kenny Buck Michelin a speedy recovery. Kenny is presently in St. John's dealing with some health issues. So all the best to you and your family. And *UKatti*, I would like to offer my condolences to the communities that have been dealing with great loss in the past few weeks. Our community sends our love and compassion to all of those affected. We are praying for better days ahead. And last but not least, I said it yesterday, but I'm gonna say it again, congratulations and welcome, to Susan Onalik-, another woman in our Assembly, yay. *Nakummek, UKatti.*

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Wolfrey for your kind words, and yes, our thoughts and prayers are to the communities that are grieving right now. I now call upon Ordinary Member for Rigolet, Ms. Carlene Palliser.

MS. PALLISER:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to start off with sending condolences to the Pottle family, as they grieve the loss of their loved one, Bonne Pottle Pariza. Charlotte, please accept my condolences on behalf of your family. I'm very sorry to hear of your loss. On Saturday, February 6th, 2021, our community had lost its ability to communicate with the outside world. Long distance calls and internet was down due to breaks in the cable. Thankfully, people have had satellite phones, could communicate with their families, and through them, they were able to communicate on social media what had happened. This eliminated the worry of family and friends who did not know what was happening here at the time. It was a long week for the people who depend on the internet for work purposes. It definitely was a set-back for students of

Northern Lights Academy who had missed a week of online classes, and also a hinderance for our post secondary students who are furthering their studies online. In today's world, we depend on technology for so much. It is not until something like that happens, we realize the extent of it. Thankfully, after the weather cleared, Bell Alliant technicians were able to get to the site and assess the problem. They found that they were not able to fix the solution permanently, as contractors would need to come in to get the work done. It is with much gratitude that we send thanks to Bell Alliant technicians who spent a few cold days working on cables to make a temporary fix that allowed us to get our communications back. In saying that, I hope our permanent fix will be complete as soon as it is possible to do so, as we as customers pay high prices for services that we receive on the coast. Where we are isolated and therefore depend on communication for so many reasons, including emergencies, I feel that we should do everything that we can to ensure that services are same standards as everywhere else in the province.

Thanks to the IT Department and Minister Andersen for their communications in this matter during the time. I would like to wish Uncle Bert Allen a very happy belated 91st birthday. He celebrated his birthday on February 26th. I hope he had a great day. Madam Speaker, there is not too much to report back on, since our last Assembly sitting just over a month ago in Hopedale. It is unfortunate the Province had been set back to Alert Level Five due to the spread of Covid-19 in the Eastern half region and we have to meet virtually this time. But safety of

our communities, of course, is what is important. It is comforting to be included with the rest of the regions in the Province who are now in Alert level four with the concern of the presumptive positive case in Makkovik which fortunately, turned out to be confirmed negative, we have come to realize how quickly things can change and how vulnerable our Indigenous communities on the coast really are. In saying that, it is great to see through social media, that our communities have shown that through hard times, we, as Inuit people do, support each other. It was nice to see comments such as, "Thinking of the people of Makkovik", "Stay strong Makkovik", and statuses sending prayers for individuals and community on Facebook. It was time for sure, that we will not forget too soon, as I know that even though we live separately, we are all connected in some way. I'm very happy that things turned out for the better for the individual involved and the community as a whole. It is a very reassuring fact that the Public Health Team got to travel into the communities early in February to give the second dose of the Moderna vaccine. The weather delays are really starting to become a concern for the possibility to make it happen. It really displayed the trials that we are facing on living on the coast and how with patience and time, we persevere. Thank you, to all involved in the Public Health Department and DHSD for setting this up to run smoothly in our communities. Congratulations to all the nurses involved, especially to our Nunatsiavut beneficiary nurses who were brave and ready to meet the challenges their careers presented at the time. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

And thank you, Ordinary Member Palliser. I now call upon AngajukKâk for the Hopedale Inuit Community Government, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS:

Nakummek, Madam Speaker. This morning, on behalf of Hopedale Inuit Community Government, I offer my support to the community of Nain. They have had several deaths in their town and have lost more elders and a couple of young people. To the Saimat, Ittulak, Harris, Winters, Brown-Fleming families, I extend my deepest condolences, thoughts and prayers. I also extend condolences and prayers to the Rice/Winters family and Jacques in Makkovik, who also lost two young people. Madam Chair, because our communities are small, when one hurt, we all hurt. Restrictions for funerals due to Covid-19 cause much stress and pain, as only a limited amount of people can attend to pay their last respects to our loved ones. Please know you are not alone in your grief and pain. May the Creator bless and keep you in His care. Minister Flowers report yesterday that communities will be receiving caribou meet and musk ox, was a joy to hear, Madam Speaker. This will be a treat for people who have been craving caribou since the moratorium. I thank Minister Flowers for initiating this venture and for initiating the buying of cod, scallops and crab legs earlier this year. I also thank NEC for supporting. It certainly filled our community freezers, and our people were so happy with the frozen food and the fish that they received. With the extra funds this year for housing and other funds which will be distributed through the Joint Management Committee, I look forward to meeting with my colleagues to discuss how funds will be distributed and extra

projects started in our communities. Due to Covid-19, the Winter Trails Project has still not commenced to full capacity, Madam Speaker. We did not put out our markers, as a travel advisory is still in place, except for essential travel. Hopefully, in the coming weeks if numbers of Covid cases decrease, this travel advisory will be lifted. Once again, I thank everyone in our communities, especially DHSD who are really trying hard to keep our communities safe. *Nakummek*, Madam Chair.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

And thank you, AngajukKâk Flowers. Are there any other Members who wish to give a statement? Mr. Glenn Sheppard. I call upon AngajukKâk Glenn Sheppard for Postville.

MR. SHEPPARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Great to hear all the sharing, Madam Speaker, of information from different communities and elected officials. Great job, I have to say. Madam Speaker, we heard some great news yesterday-, some, I guess, mouth-watering, appetizing news from the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources. And Marjorie, you kinda took some of the words outta my mouth there, about information provided about the supply of caribou and musk ox to our Nunatsiavut communities. As a hunter and a person who grew up on the coast, Madam Speaker, I have to say, that bit of information yesterday meant more than what the remainder of the Assembly meant to me, honestly-, right from the beginning of the ban of the caribou back in the day, you know, I heard elders-, I heard our own President, Madam Speaker, talk of how we miss the caribou, not just for a food source on our table, not just for a food source for our family, but it was part of our lifestyle. Every fall,

once the start to freeze-, the ice start to form, hunters in Nunatsiavut and beyond would start to prepare for this exciting hunt, whether it was up to Davis Inlet at the time, or Nain. No matter what the area-, or Hopedale, we'd always look forward to this great hunt, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, you know, this is something that has been taken away from us, almost without notice, meaning within a couple of years we went from our normal caribou hunt to finally in the last year of hunting we could just get one animal per household. A lot has been taken away, and I repeat, a lot has been taken away. Madam Speaker, I would also like to recognize this morning, some of our frontline workers who put themselves at risk in our communities, especially during this global pandemic. Madam Speaker, Postville, I guess, as opposed to other North Coast communities, is sort of unique in its own way-, unique in such a way, I guess, in a couple of different areas, but one, this morning I would like to mention, and that is Postville just has one nurse. Yeah, O-N-E-, one nurse. That nurse has been on-call 24/7 all while she's here, or he's here, in our community. Regardless if there's a pandemic or not, that nurse is on-call 24/7. This morning, I would like my hats off to the staff at our local clinic here at Labrador Grenfell Health for the job that they have done over the past while for our community. And I'm sure they're looking forward to continuing the efforts for our community for the safety of our community. Thank you, once again. Also, to our DHSD staff that have been mentioned here this morning in other communities, I can't help but mention our community staff does a great job of online programming for

youth, delivering on your doorstep, maybe some cleaning supplies-, maybe small things in some people's eyes, but that's a job that they're doing in our community, all to help prevent this virus from becoming active or entering our community. Finally, Madam Speaker, I would like to commend you all, as Assembly Members. We are all in this together. This global pandemic not only played a big part in the global economy, but it also had a negative impact on people socially, mentally-, name it. I would like to encourage you, each and everyone, on a job well done, keeping in mind that the pandemic is not gone away and is not going away any time soon, according to our higher authorities. Let us continue to do our part in helping to prevent this virus from entering our communities. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Sheppard. Are there any other Members who wish to give a statement today? Okay. Seeing none, we will always appreciate and enjoy listening to the Members statements and the updates from the communities and just the support that we have for each other. It's very-, it's much needed in this time of a global pandemic, to support each other and love each other and be kind. With that, we move on to Item Number Five, "Returns to Oral Questions". Are there any returns to oral questions today? Seeing none, we will now move on to Item Number Six, which are "Oral Questions". Okay. Under Special Standing Order 36.2, I will determine the order of oral questions as submitted by Members. I will call upon the Members to ask their questions. Members can also submit written questions under Special

Standing Order 36.1 in a virtual Assembly. I now call upon Ordinary Member Mr. John Andersen for Makkovik.

MR. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question this morning is for the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, the Honourable Greg Flowers. Has there been any hunting done of the George River Caribou herd from any groups outside of Nunatsiavut? We hear of hunting of the Red Wine caribou herd in southern Labrador, and I know Natuashish has been taking caribou while our beneficiaries have to follow NG's lead in keeping the ban on the hunting herd. Can you fill us on the happenings of the George River Herd?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Ordinary Member Andersen. I now call upon the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Mr. Greg Flowers.

MR. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And thank you, Ordinary Member for Makkovik for the question. It's a hard question to answer because I would have to say that, as we all know, it is illegal to hunt George River Caribou. It's been ongoing now for eight years. The Province put a ban in place for all Indigenous Groups in Labrador to abide by and I guess we can only say what we see, and we all know of community of Natuashish-, we hear rumors, we hear things. But we know that the Province put this ban in and the Province is, I guess, for lack of a better word, entitled to check on the George River Caribou Herd. I know that they were going to come up and do some fly overs with choppers and do some investigation. That didn't happen because of Covid and the protocols around that. So, I guess to answer your question, we, I guess cannot state publicly, but we

know that there is some hunting going on, and just to furthermore, we did-, myself and my Deputy Minister, did meet with the Chief-, the Grand Chief and had a conversation on our concerns around the George River Caribou and the illegal hunting. It was, you know, a good meeting. They were going to get back to us on it. They said that, I guess, UPCART which also is all Indigenous Groups in Labrador and Quebec make up this UPCART that, you know, they did pull outta the UPCART. They did say at that time, according to what my Deputy Minister has alluded to me, that they said that they would harvest one percent of the George River Caribou for ceremonial purposes. If they're keeping to that number, we can only speculate on what actually is happening there. Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, Minister Flowers. Do you have a supplementary question, Ordinary Member Andersen?

MR. ANDERSEN: No, Madam Speaker, and thank you, Minister for your answer.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, very much. I now call upon AngajukKâk for Makkovik Inuit Community Government, Mr. Barry Andersen.

MR. ANDERSEN: Thank you, and thank you, Madam Speaker. It has been over a year now, since the Ordinary Member of Makkovik was elected and sworn in. My question is to the First Minister, I'm sorry. So, First Minister Edmunds, would you consider giving Makkovik a seat on the Nunatsiavut Executive Council by committee, to give Makkovik a voice in this very important table in our system of Government? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, AngajukKâk Andersen for your question. I now, call upon First Minister, Mr. Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker, and thank you to the AngajukKâk for the question. I will state that all seats that we have on the Executive Council are currently filled. We have a full plate of Ministers who are overseeing their departments. It has been a year since Ordinary Member Andersen has been a part of this Assembly, and during the time when we did have a cabinet shuffle, I wanted to give the Assembly the assurance that any person who was eligible to serve as an Ordinary Member was a part of those discussions. But again, we have every seat allocated on the Executive Council and we're not in a position to bring any additional Ministers into our NEC. *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, First Minister Edmunds. Do you have a supplementary question, AngajukKâk Andersen?

MR. ANDERSEN: Not really a question, I guess, but I would really would like to have the First Minister keep this in mind because its...

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: I have to interrupt you. I'm sorry, AngajukKâk Andersen, do you have a supplementary question?

MR. ANDERSEN: No, okay. That just (audio cuts out).

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you. I now call upon AngajukKâk for the Hopedale Inuit Community Government, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question this morning is for Minister Tony Andersen, Finance and Information Technology. It's wonderful

news to hear that we've had extra funding for our communities. My question to you is, will there be a Joint Management Committee meeting coming up shortly? Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, AngajukKâk Flowers. I call upon Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology, Mr. Anthony Andersen.

MR. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker and Madam Speaker, I thank the AngajukKâk from Hopedale for her question. Certainly, one of the things that has to be done before the Joint Management meeting can be called and that is the Budget that I will bring before the Assembly this afternoon, has to be passed so that we can move forward. I wanna give assurance to the AngajukKâk from Hopedale and to the other-, all ICG's, that very quickly, if the Budget is approved-, is passed today by this Assembly, I will very quickly start the process for the next Joint Management Committee, so that communities can, in a timely manner, move forward and prepare for the upcoming construction season. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, Minister Andersen. Do you have a supplementary question, AngajukKâk Flowers?

MS. FLOWERS:

No, I don't. Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you. I now, call upon AngajukKâk for the Postville Inuit Community Government, Mr. Glenn Sheppard.

MR. SHEPPARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, my question is for the Honourable Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Mr. Greg Flowers. Madam Speaker, beneficiaries of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims*

Agreement have been hunting polar bears for several years. For the most part, the market has been good or decent up until the last couple of years. My question for the Honourable Minister is, did your department have any discussion around the possibility of other options that may be possible for the marketing of polar bear pelt, other than sending it off to for auctions. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, for your question, AngajukKâk Sheppard. I now call upon the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Mr. Greg Flowers.

MR. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker and thank you, AngajukKâk for Postville for your question. I can say one thing, I guess-, no, we have not looked at other options for our beneficiaries who harvest polar bear. After we get our allocation of polar bears, which we distribute to our communities, the onus, I guess, is upon the hunters to do what they feel necessary for their polar bears. They can sell to auctions or they can sell to private individuals or whatever. But I know that from what I've heard, almost 200 polar bears went back to Nunavut from the fur auctions because of the lack of sales. And you're absolutely, right, there. You know, the market for polar bears has dropped considerably, but we have not discussed any, you know, internal, what we should do and maybe it's a point that I could certainly look into and see if we can come up with some alternatives. But as I stated, the onus is on the hunter to do what they like with their polar bears. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Minister Flowers. Do you have a supplementary question, AngajukKâk Sheppard?

MR. SHEPPARD: Thank you, Madam Speaker, no, I don't.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek.* I now call upon Ordinary Member for Canada, Mr. Roland Saunders.

MR. SAUNDERS: *Nakummek,* Madam Speaker. My question is for the Honourable Tony Andersen, Minister of Finance, HR and Information Technology. Mr. Andersen, with the Food Supplement Program being successful for coastal Labrador and Upper Lake Melville, how much funding is still available for the Canadian Constituency Members to ensure we receive equal funding?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, Ordinary Member Saunders. I call upon the Minister for Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology, Mr. Anthony Andersen. Thank you.

MR. ANDERSEN: Yeah, okay. Thank you, Madam Speaker and certainly, thank the Member for Canada for his question. Madam Speaker, if I understand his question correctly, but I must say that I believe that the Food Supplement Program has been successful not only in Nunatsiavut and Upper Lake Melville but in the Canadian Constituency as well. As well, in answering his question, there is no set amount of funding for any constituency. It is an application-driven process, Madam Speaker, so any application that comes in is considered in a fair way, no matter where it comes from. So, I hope that that answers the Member's question.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, Minister Andersen. Ordinary Member Saunders, do you have a supplementary question?

MR. SAUNDERS:

Yes, Madam Speaker, I do. Mr. Andersen, when will funding for this program come to an end? Will it be next month, the month after-, do you have any ideas when the funding will run out?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Ordinary Member Saunders. I call upon, Minister Anthony Andersen for Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology. Excuse me, Minister Andersen, I need you to unmute your microphone, please.

MR. ANDERSEN:

There we go. I am kinda old school at this thing. Thank you, Madam Speaker and I thank the Member for his question. The easy answer for me, I suppose would be to say, no, I have no idea. But that's not what the Member wants to hear, I'm sure. So, this funding, Madam Speaker comes from Canada, the Government of Canada, so, we hope that the funding will last for the duration of the pandemic. There have been talks that there is a-, although we have not received any funding at this time, but there could well be a third round of funding. And how much that would be or how long it would be meant to last, we don't know. We will, as a Government strive to ensure that there is adequate funding for the vulnerable, during this pandemic and continue to pressure Canada and our own Government of Newfoundland and Labrador as well to ensure that there are no hardships for beneficiaries, which include the beneficiaries of the Canadian Constituency, I may add-, to ensure that there is adequate funding. But I can't provide for the Member for Canada today an actual date when funding might end.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, Minister Andersen. Do you have a final supplementary question, Ordinary Member Saunders?

MR. SAUNDERS: No, Madam Speaker, I don't. And thank you, Minister Anthony. Thank you, very much.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, very much. I now call upon NunaKatiget Inuit Community Chair, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Canadian Constituency Ordinary Member asked part of my question. Thank you. This is for Tyler Edmunds, First Minister. In regard to the Food Voucher Program, could somebody apply again if their financial situation changed from when they applied in December due to Covid?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, Chairperson Kemuksigak. I now call upon First Minister, Mr. Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek, Uhalitik, and Nakummek* to the Chair for NunaKatiget. My understanding with the way that the program is structured is that if an individual's income does change, they can be provided the opportunity to re-apply. Obviously, as they re-apply, they would have to provide any updated financial information. So, my understanding is, yes, an individual could re-apply if their financial situation does change. *Nakummek,* Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, First Minister Edmunds. Do you have a supplementary question NunaKatiget Chair Kemuksigak?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: No, Madam Speaker. Thank you. And thank you, for the answer.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, very much. I now call upon Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency Ms. Susan Onalik.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek, UKatti.* My question is for the Honourable Minister of Social Health and Development, Gerald Asivak. You mentioned in your Ministers Statement this morning that virtual counselling is something that DHSD offers. Can you speak to the details of that and if Canadian Constituency can avail of that service?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, Ordinary Member Onalik. I now call upon the Minister of Health and Social Development, Mr. Gerald Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and Ordinary Member Onalik for your question. Technically, the Department of Health and Social Development has a mandate for mental health services within Nunatsiavut. And Prevention and Education Services based in Upper Lake Melville are based on the *Fiscal Financial Agreement*, with the Federal Government, Provincial Government and Nunatsiavut Government. Mental Health Services are Provincial responsibility. However, there are online resources available through the Department of Health and Social Development, Mental Health Facebook page and on our Share Point Government Site under Trauma and Addictions. These can be shared with anyone. Online counselling services are available, and I can forward the contact information through all the offices. They are based in every mental health and addiction office within Land Claim. Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, Minister Andersen. Do you have a supplementary question, Ordinary Member Onalik?

MS. ONALIK: Not at this time, *Nakummek*.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, as well. I have two other Members at this time wishing to ask another question and that would be Ordinary Member John Andersen and Mr. Glenn Sheppard, AngajukKâk for Postville. Do I have any other Ordinary Member who have not yet asked a question that would like to ask a question? Please raise your hand? If not, I'll move on to-, okay, I'd like to recognize Mr. Joe Dicker, AngajukKâk for Nain. Need you to unmute your microphone please, AngajukKâk Dicker.

MR. DICKER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to First Minister, Honourable Tyler Edmunds. This morning in your report for housing, you mentioned that the Director of Housing will be advertised when they plan-, the Housing Commission has a draft plan in place. My question to you, sir, is that when we passed the Act back in two years ago, one of the first things that was gonna be done was hire the Director so that a smooth transition can take place between-, negotiations can take place between the Director and Torngat Housing. Now, it seems like that's gone further back. My question to you, sir, is when do we expect that the draft plan will be approved? And when is that director going to be hired in priority? Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, AngajukKâk Dicker. I now call upon First Minister, Mr. Tyler Edmunds. *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker and *Nakummek*, to the

AngajukKâk for Nain for the question. The Member is absolutely correct in that the Director of Housing is going to be very crucial in ensuring that the NHC plan can be implemented and that the Commission can be successful. As I said in my statement earlier this morning, we intend to have the Implementation Plan for the NHC put through the Executive Council within the upcoming month. When we do that, the top of that priority will be to ensure that the Director of Housing, again, is advertised. That is effectively one of the first things that we need to do in the Implementation Plan. So, again, after it goes through the NEC, we'll make sure that that position is advertised. That's all I have to say on that issue, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, First Minister Edmunds. Do you have a supplementary question, AngajukKâk Dicker?

MR. DICKER:

Yes, I do. Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question to you, Mr. Edmunds, is what happens with the Torngat Regional Housing Association, now, in regarding to their current situation? Right now, I know that funding is extended for this year. Will this funding continue on until the negotiations have taken place and a settlement is reached? Thank you, Madame.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, AngajukKâk Dicker. I call upon First Minister, Mr. Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Madam Speaker and *Nakummek* to the AngajukKâk for the supplementary. As the Assembly may recall, within the *Housing Act*, the

original contribution agreement with Torngat was set to expire at the end of this fiscal year, March 31st, 2021. There was provision within that Act to give the NEC the opportunity to extend that *Contribution Agreement* if it feels it's necessary to do so, as we talk about the transition again between Torngat and the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission. Our-, again the *Contribution Agreement* between Torngat Regional Housing Association and NEC is in the process right now. We would expect, then, that the *Contribution Agreement* for TRHA would stop after this fiscal year, and that the Housing Commission would be operational come 2022 construction year. So, to answer the AngajukKâk's question plainly, after next year, those *Contribution Agreements* with Torngat, we expect them to stop and NHC will be in operation in its place. *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, First Minister Edmunds. Do you have a final supplementary question, AngajukKâk Dicker? I may need you to unmute your microphone if you have another supplementary question.

MR. DICKER: Yes, I do. Just to be clear, Minister Edmunds, are you saying that the funding is going to stop this year until negotiations take place? Did I understand that? Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, AngajukKâk Dicker. I now call upon First Minister, Mr. Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS: The idea is that Torngat will be funded for this year. We don't want any gap to exist in the construction of homes. We wanna make sure that as

we work on the Implementation Plan for the Housing Commission, that Torngat will still be in a position to provide homes for our beneficiaries. So, they will be funded this year. If we can finalize the *Contribution Agreement* in the 2022 construction year, the funds for Torngat would stop. *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, First Minister Edmunds. Are there any other Members wishing to make a statement? I'll canvas one more time. Seeing none, I now call upon Mr. John Andersen, Ordinary Member for Makkovik for his second question.

MR. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question for First Minister, Honourable Tyler Edmunds. At the February 21st, 2021 Assembly meeting, I asked the Minister of Education and Economic Development, the Honourable Carlene Palliser a question about funding for Infrastructure Vocation Training. Part of her response is that the Inuit Crown Partnership Committee, ICPC, meets with the Federal Government to negotiate funding for programs for NG, one of them being funding infrastructure. I understand that our Deputy Minister of Nunatsiavut Affairs, the Honourable Darryl Shiwak sits on that committee. Can you update us on where discussions for Infrastructure for vocational training is, at this time, with the Inuit Crown Partnership Committee and the Federal Government, or as if a request for training infrastructure for Nunatsiavut made it to their agenda? Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Ordinary Member Andersen. I now call upon First Minister, Mr. Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Uhalitik, and Nakummek, to Ordinary Member Andersen for the question. The Minister of Education was correct in stating that Infrastructure has been identified as a priority through the ICPC process. And all Inuit regions are working with ITK to ensure that the infrastructure gap can be closed between Inuit Nunangat and the rest of Canada. Each Inuit region has been asked to identify a set of infrastructure priorities this past year, that could be funded under the ICPC process which would either elevate the priority of this project under existing Federal programs or there would have to be new funding opportunities for these projects, either through new programs or potentially funded under the Canada Infrastructure Bank while Housing and Municipal infrastructure like water and sewer projects are top priorities, the list emphasize specific projects. And the projects that were submitted from NG included the Nain Airstrip feasibility studies, feasibility studies to upgrade or extend current air strips, broadband infrastructure upgrades, the Hopedale Shelter, Seniors units and training facilities which the Member speaks of today. There are many other areas of infrastructure which are needed in our communities as well, however these are the projects that we've submitted for consideration under the ICPC process. We have progressed in several of these projects this year, Madam Speaker. We are working our way through funding for the Nain Airstrip feasibility studies under the NPCF. We have secured funding to create 12 senior's units and we've procured funding to complete the Hopedale Shelter. As Minister Andersen updated earlier, his department

is working on moving forward with broadband infrastructure through the Universal Broadband Fund. We have not secured a specific pot of funding to move forward on the training facilities yet, Madam Speaker, but it is an item that we are determined to fund. And I can assure Ordinary Member Andersen that it is most definitely on the agenda. We know the importance of having a strong, capable workforce so that Nunatsiavut (inaudible) can be better positioned in the workforce and we are committed to finding a way to have Inuit trained by Inuit in Nunatsiavut. *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, First Minister Edmunds. Do you have a supplementary question, Ordinary Member Andersen?

MR. ANDERSEN: No, thank you, Madam Speaker and thank you (audio cuts out).

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: (Audio cuts out.)

MR. SHEPPARD: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question, Madam Speaker is for the Honourable President Johannes Lampe. In a press release, Madam Speaker, probably less than a week ago, our President issued a related to some caribou hunting on the South Coast of Labrador. In that press release, Madam Speaker, it made mention of asking beneficiaries of adhering to the ban what's already in place to help protect the caribou herd. My question for the President this morning, Madam Speaker, would be, do the President think that asking beneficiaries to adhere to the band that's currently in place, is enough to protect the George River Caribou herd? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, AngajukKâk Sheppard. I call upon Honourable President, Mr. Johannes Lampe.

MR. PRESIDENT: *Nakummek, UKatti*, and thank you, AngajukKâk for Postville, Sheppard. Yes, and we have since 2014-, I've been asking our beneficiaries to refrain from hunting the George River Caribou herd and most certainly to follow the rules that the Provincial guide would have. They've been given since the moratorium has been put in place. And most certainly, we have been following the illegal harvesting that has been happening and for the Labrador Inuit and some of our beneficiaries have been harvesting the George River Caribou herd. And I will certainly will keep too asking that the harvesting of the George River Caribou herd not be done. And most certainly to look at the other herds that are being harvested by other Indigenous groups and we are certainly going to keep asking to have our beneficiaries follow the rules that the Province or the moratorium ban that has been put in place. *Nakummek, UKatti*.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, President Lampe. Do you have a supplementary question, AngajukKâk Sheppard?

MR. SHEPPARD: Thank you, Madam Speaker, no, I don't. And thank you, Mr. President for the response.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, as well. I'll canvas the floor for any more oral questions? I recognize AngajukKâk Joe Dicker for Nain Inuit Community Government.

MR. DICKER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question at this time is to Honourable Minister of Education and Economic Development, Carlene Palliser. As

you know, Minister, the work force over at Voisey's Bay has increased a lot in the past two years. I would like to know if your department has any statistics showing the percentage of our beneficiaries or Aboriginal people working as a part of the workforce over there? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk Dicker. I now call upon the Minister of Economic Development, Ms. Carlene Palliser.

MS. PALLISER: Thank you, AngajukKâk Dicker for your question. Right now, I don't have any statistics on that but I'm sure that I can get that information for you. I'm not completely sure, but it may be a question to direct to the Department of Lands and Natural Resources? Thank you, Madam Speaker

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Okay. Thank you. I'm not sure if there's anything the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources maybe could add?

MR. FLOWERS: Thank you, AngajukKâk for Nain. At this time, Madam Speaker, I certainly know that we are at full capacity in Nain, and we have a lot of our beneficiaries that are employed with Redpath at South Camp and also at the North Camp. But I do not have those statistics in front of me, Madam Speaker. I would certainly talk with our Minister of Education and Economic Development to see if we wanna-, if she want to, we can respond or she can respond jointly too, since the question was asked to her. But I certainly could help fill in the gap. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, Minister Flowers. Do you have a supplementary question, AngajukKâk Dicker?

MR. DICKER: Yes, Madam Speaker. Could that information be shared with the Assembly, please? Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you. I call upon Minister of Education and Economic Development, Ms. Carlene Flowers *[sic]*.

MS. PALLISER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yes, that information can be shared once I can find the information for you. Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek.*

MR. FLOWERS: Thank you, Madam Speaker, but I think you called her Carlene Flowers?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: I'm-, excuse me. I sincerely apologize, Minister of Education and Economic Development, Ms. Carlene Palliser. I sincerely, apologize. I now call upon-, sorry, AngajukKâk Dicker. Do you have a final supplementary question?

MR. DICKER; No, I don't. Thank you, Madam Speaker

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, very much. My apologize for my little errors this morning. I now call upon the AngajukKâk for Hopedale Inuit Community Government, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question this morning is for President Johannes Lampe. In our last Assembly sitting, I presented a petition on behalf of some Members regarding the Food Supplement Program. And it's my understanding that there was a Committee to be struck to deal

with this issue. And I would like to know, has there been anything done to date? Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, AngajukKâk Flowers. I now call upon the Honourable President, Mr. Johannes Lampe.

MR. PRESIDENT:

Nakummek, UKatti. *Nakummek,* AngajukKâk for Hopedale Flowers, and yes, we are working on it. We're on this and most likely, where beneficiaries are having concerns or issues on the Food Supplement Program due to Covid. But we do have 60 days to respond to the petition that you Tabled, AngajukKâk for Hopedale. And then we are still working on this issue. But we will provide a response before the 60 days is up.
Nakummek, UKatti.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, President Lampe. Do you have a supplementary question, AngajukKâk Flowers?

MS. FLOWERS:

No, I don't. And thank you, for your answer, President Lampe.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek. I will canvas again for are there any other oral questions for today? I recognize the AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Ms. Charlotte Wolfrey.

MS. WOLFREY:

Nakummek, UKatti. My question is for the Honourable President, Johannes Lampe. I'm asking this question. Now, I know there's a pandemic on the go, but we have big concerns in our community that since the Food Supplement Program, the prices have raised really high here. And people in Rigolet often times rely on travel to Goose Bay by snowmobile to get some groceries. Do you have any idea when the

recommendations, I guess, for the restriction of travel between communities on snowmobile might be lifted? *Nakummek.*

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Wolfrey. I now call upon the Honourable President, Mr. Johannes Lampe.

MR. PRESIDENT:

Nakummek, UKatti, Nakummek, AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Wolfrey. Yes, and most likely where beneficiaries or residents of all the communities are traveling, food prices may be better than in our communities. We are still working with the Chief Health Officer and most certainly on the travel restrictions issues and we'll-, once we know-, we are right now at Level Four and so once we have more information to share with the elected members or the communities, we will certainly provide that information to-, not just to Rigolet but to all the other communities. And thank you, for that question, AngajukKâk Wolfrey. We are on this. *Nakummek.*

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, President Lampe. Do you have a supplementary question, AngajukKâk Wolfrey?

MS. WOLFREY:

Nakummek, UKatti, yes, President Lampe, I would just like to know like in what level would you be suggesting that we might be able to travel between communities-, between Level two, level three? You know? Can you give me some kind of an idea? Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Wolfrey. I call upon the Honourable President Johannes Lampe.

MR. PRESIDENT:

Nakummek, UKatti, Nakummek, AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Wolfrey. I have been involved in conference calls with the Premier and also the Chief

Medical Officer of Health to look at these different levels of coming back to normal if that will happen to Nunatsiavut, or the Province. And most certainly, I don't know the answer to the question of what level we will get back to the normal of being able to travel whether it's between communities within Labrador or within the Province. But once I get the opportunity to again as the Premier or the Chief Medical Officer of Health, of that answer, I'll provide that. *Nakummek*.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, President Lampe. Do you have a supplementary question, AngajukKâk Wolfrey?

MS. WOLFREY: *Nakummek*, UKatti, (speaks in Inuttitut.)

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Okay. *Nakummek*. Are there any other oral questions? Okay. Seeing none, we will now move on to Item Number Seven, "Written Questions". Do we have any written questions today? Okay. Seeing none, we will now move on to Item Number Eight. "Returns to written questions". There are no returns to written questions today. We'll move on to Item Number Nine, "Petitions". Seeing none, we'll move on to Item Number 10, "Responses to petitions". There are no responses to petitions today. (Video pauses.) There are no reports of Standing and Special Committees today. At this time I would like to convene for a recess at 10:40 a.m. We will be back at our desks to resume at 10:55. Thank you, very much.

[Recess]

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: We're now back in Session at 11:00. We're on to Item Number 12, "Tabling of documents". I would like to recognize the Minister of

Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology, the honourable, Anthony Andersen.

MR. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I would like to Table the 2019-2020 Annual Report for the Department of Finance, Human Resource and Information Technology.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Honourable Minister. The Tabled Document will be numbered as 05-49.1. Are there any more documents to be tabled today? Seeing none, we will move on to Item Number 13, "Notices of Motions". There are no notices of motions, so we will now move on to Item Number 14, "Notices of motions for the first reading of bills". There are no notices of motions of first reading of bills today. We will now move on to Item Number 15. And before we actually start, my apologies, I was supposed to let all of our Members know I had a request from our translator that we please try to keep it in mind when we are speaking, try to slow down a little bit as he is translating in real time. So, my apologies to our translator for that and I hope I'm not speaking too quickly, and I ask that everybody try to please be cognizant of our translator and try to speak a little bit slower. Thank you, very much. We are now on to Item Number 15, "Motions". I would like to recognize the Nunatsiavut Treasurer, the Honourable Anthony Andersen for Motion 01-49.1.

MR. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. My 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 2021-2022 has been Tabled in the

Assembly, and whereas the Financial Plan should be considered by the Assembly, now, therefore, I move, seconded by the Ordinary Member for Postville, Mr. Tyler Edmunds, the Tabled Document 01-49.1, The Financial Plan for 2021-2022 be moved into Committee of the Whole for discussion in conjunction with Bill 2021-2022, *The Budget Bill 2010* and that Ms. Rexanne Crawford, the Controller of the Nunatsiavut Government be called as the witness.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, Minister. The Motion is now in order. Minister Andersen, would you like to speak to the motion?

MR. ANDERSEN: No, Madam Speaker. I have no wish to speak to the motion at this time.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek.* Does anyone else wish to speak to the motion? Seeing none, if no other Members wish to speak to the motion, does the Minister wish to make final comments and close debate?

MR. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have no final comments, Madam Speaker, and I do wish to close debate.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek.* So, that concludes debate. All those in favour, please raise your hands? *Nakummek.* Anybody oppose the motion? None opposed. The motion is carried. The Financial Plan will be considered in Committee of the Whole at the appropriate time. I would now like to recognize the First Minister, the Honourable Tyler Edmunds for Motion 02-49.1.

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek,* Madam Speaker. My motion is as follows, whereas under current Nunatsiavut electoral law, electors residing in the Canadian

Constituency cast ballots in elections for Ordinary Members and for President by mail, and whereas over time, various Members of the Assembly have heard concerns from some beneficiaries that the process of mail-in voting is flawed due to reliance on timely postal delivery and whereas the Nunatsiavut electoral officer has also raised concerns as to whether the current voting process in the Canadian Constituency is the most secure means of voting as well as the most effective way for electors in the Canadian Constituency to exercise their right to cast votes in elections, and whereas the Assembly can appoint a special committee to consider any matter referred to it by the Assembly, now, therefore, I move, seconded by Ms. Carlene Palliser, Ordinary Member for Rigolet, that the Nunatsiavut Assembly, hereby establish a Special Committee on voting alternatives for the Canadian Constituency. And further, that the following persons be appointed to the Special Committee, Ms. Marlene Winters-Wheeler, Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Barry Andersen, AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Roland Saunders, Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, and Mr. Mark Gillette, Director of Legal Services for the Nunatsiavut Government. *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

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

MR. EDMUNDS:

Yes, Madam Speaker, I would like to speak to the motion. Madam Speaker, throughout several reports issued by the Nunatsiavut Electoral Officers following the General and Presidential elections, there were

concerns around the low rates of return in the Canadian Constituency.

As the Assembly is aware, this Canadian Constituency is the only one that relies solely on mail-in ballots which becomes an issue as many individuals do not keep their addresses up to date with the Registrar, Madam Speaker. Reports from previous NEO's also highlight Section 4.11.1(f) of the *Constitution*, which speaks of, "free and fair elections" and focuses on the methods of voting, whether in person ,by mail, or electronic means, that this clause should be addressed. There have also been inquiries around this table, Madam Speaker, from several Members about the possibility of alternative means of voting to encourage higher voter turnout. *UKatti*, events like this pandemic have also highlighted how increased pressures on the mail system are particularly worrisome when it comes to the timely delivery of mail-in ballots. As we meet and speak here today, Madam Speaker, there's a obvious departure from our standard operations. A new response has been created by the Assembly and support staff to find a way for us to meet, speak and conduct our business. An exercise then should be undertaken to look at the current state of electronic voting or alternative measures and see how this compares to the security, efficacy and administration of the current mail-in ballot system implemented in the Canadian Constituency. The Rules and Procedures Committee then felt it best to strike a Standing Committee to look at this issue and we have a list of elected officials and our Director of Legal Counsel who have agreed to sit on that Committee, if the Assembly adopts this motion today. In considering the exercise to

look at alternative voting, Madam Speaker, the RPT also discussed if this exercise should be applied for other constituencies, however it was felt that administering an election in Nunatsiavut, even Upper Lake Melville can largely be accomplished with in-person voting given their geographies, and in-person voting is the most proven electoral process. Additionally, Madam Speaker, the committee that will be struck, should the Assembly support this motion, will table a report on its findings and whether alternative methods of voting can be adopted for this constituency. This report could help guide further discussions on voting in the future, Madam Speaker. As stated in the motion, the committee is given the ability and should consult with the NEO. The committee also has the ability and will be given resources to use professional services in conducting this work as well. I trust that the officials and staff who are on this committee will be able to effectively deliver on the terms of reference and have a report tabled to the Assembly later this year, Madam Speaker. *Nakummek.*

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, First Minister Edmunds. Does anyone else wish to speak to the motion? (Audio muted). I call upon AngajukKâk Joe Dicker for Nain.

MR. DICKER:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Without prejudice, to yourself as Speaker, when this motion was made, you were still the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville area. Now that you are in the role as Speaker of the Assembly, does that change the appointment to a Special Committee? Is the Speaker allowed to be on Special Committees? That is my question. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, AngajukKâk Dicker. Does the Ordinary Member Tyler Edmunds wish to speak to the question?

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek, UKatti, and Nakummek*, to the AngajukKâk for that question. As the Member is aware, there's two types of Committees that can be created within our Assembly, "Standing in Special Committees", obviously "Special Committees", have a very specific purpose and they have a set life to them. They don't last for the duration of the Assembly. With respect to the Speaker sitting on the Special Committee, there's nothing prohibiting the Speaker to sit on this committee and do the work that is tasked of her. *Nakummek*.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, Ordinary Member Edmunds. Does anyone else wish to speak to the motion? I call upon AngajukKâk Wolfrey for Rigolet.

MS. WOLFREY: I got a question. Am I allowed to ask a question to Honourable Tyler Edmunds? Okay. So are there gonna be any ways that the beneficiaries can get involved in this question to get anyone else's opinion, or is it just gonna be specialist NEO and committee members?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, AngajukKâk Wolfrey. I now call upon Ordinary Member Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek, Madam Speaker, and Nakummek*, AngajukKâk Wolfrey for that question. Obviously, the terms of reference are there. They're very clear in what is expected of the committee. It's clear that as the AngajukKâk says, they can use professional services. I don't know if there's anything against consulting the public, if, you know, the-, while it

isn't explicitly mentioned in the terms of reference, you know, maybe that is a direction that the committee might feel is necessary. And I'm sure if there's any sort of engagement or information that the committee would receive from the public, I'm sure that they would use that within their-, as they speak to this issue as well. But again, the terms of reference are very clearly outlined. It's not explicit on public engagement. So, I don't really have a clean answer. But as far as I'm concerned, there wouldn't be anything prohibiting them from maybe using any sort of information from the public, either.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, First Minister Edmunds. I'll call upon the AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Ms. Charlotte Wolfrey.

MS. WOLFREY:

Just one other piece of advice. I sat on a committee once that kind of-, we were looking at elections, so I'm suggesting that maybe you look for those minutes and see the concerns around that time because there were concerns around that time. So, I'm just suggesting that maybe those could be looked at too.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Wolfrey. Is there anybody else that would like to speak to the motion? I call upon Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Ms. Susan Onalik.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Chair. I'm wondering if there's an opportunity for myself to also be included on this committee as it's new information and new to my role?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you. Can I call upon First Minister Tyler Edmunds?

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Madam Chair and thank you to the Ordinary Member for the question. Again, the Rules and Procedures Committee did meet and look at who within the Assembly could do the work that's being asked here. There is, I think, set numbers within our Standing Orders in terms of say, how many non-elected officials can serve on these committees. I think it's a 25 percent ratio. And when we looked at our Assembly Members at that time, we, again, we felt like we had a good number to be able to conduct this work. But the motion as it is presented, those are the names that the RPC has considered.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Okay. *Nakummek*, Minister Andersen [*sic*]. Is there anybody else that would like to speak to the motion? Okay. Seeing none, does the Minister wish to make final comments and close debate?

MR. EDMUNDS:

I have no additional comments, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Okay. *Nakummek*, First Minister Edmunds. I would like to recognize the Nunatsiavut Treasurer, the Honourable Anthony Andersen.

MR. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Honourable Speaker and Members. Whereas the Consolidated Financial Statements of the Nunatsiavut Government for the year ended March 31st, 2020, and to report on the Audited Annual Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended March 31st, 2020 have been tabled in the Assembly. And whereas, the Assembly should consider these documents in Committee of the Whole with witnesses from the auditors, now, therefore, I move, seconded by the Ordinary Member for Postville, Mr. Tyler Edmunds, that Tabled Documents O3-

49.1 and 04-49.1 be referred to Committee of the Whole for consideration with witnesses, Mr. Paul Janes, and Ms. Lori Efford from Deloitte and the Controller of the Nunatsiavut Government, Ms. Rexanne Crawford. Hope you heard me.

MS. WOLFREY: You're on mute.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: My-, yeah, I understand. My apologies. I was just advised by our Legal Department that I skipped a step and I sincerely apologize that I did not ask for a vote on the motion from our First Minister, Tyler Edmunds for the motion 02-49.1., "Establishing the committee for voting alternatives for the Canadian Constituency." So, my sincere apologies. We will now be doing a vote on that motion. All those in favour of the motion as it stands, please raise your hand. Thank you. Any opposed? Thank you. All good. Thank you, very much. My sincere apologies, yet again. And that motion has passed. Okay. And we just finished, thank you, with our Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology. Your motion is now in order. Honourable Minister, would you like to speak to the motion?

MR. ANDERSEN: No, Madam Speaker, I have no wish to speak to the motion.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Does anyone else wish to speak to the motion? No? If no other Members wish to speak, does the Minister wish to make final comments and close debate?

MR. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have no final comments and I do wish to close debate.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you. *Nakummek*. That concludes the debate. All those in favour of the motion please raise your hand. All those opposed? The motion is carried. These documents will now be considered in the Committee of the Whole with the witnesses stated in the motion. With that being said, we will take a short five-minute break to allow the witnesses to join us virtually. So, I please ask that you mute your microphone and stay close by. We'll just be a short five-minute break. *Nakummek*.

[Recess]

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Now 11:35 a.m. and we are now back in Committee of the Whole. I would like to invite the auditors, Mr. Paul Janes and Ms. Lori Efford and Ms. Rexanne Crawford, the Controller of the Nunatsiavut Assembly, to address the Assembly. The floor is now yours, Mr. Janes.

MR. JANES: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thanks for having us here today. I know it's a little tougher under these circumstances, but we appreciate you inviting us to your Assembly to discuss the results of the 2020 audit. So my colleague, Lori Efford will walk you through the document you're currently viewing on screen which is our Audit Results Report. Happy to take questions at any point in time, should anybody have any. Feel free to stop us as we go. Once Ms. Efford is finished with presenting the first document, I'll then walk you through the Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended March 31st, 2020. In similar fashion that we have done in past Assembly meetings and of course please stop me as I walk through those if anybody has any questions. So, Lori, I'll turn it over to you.

MS. EFFORD:

I'm actually, gonna start on the page titled, "Our audit explained", Paul. And just for everyone's knowledge, I'm going to focus on the items that I think are most important to you, but as Paul said, if you have any questions whatsoever, just feel free to stop me and ask. So, in terms of audit scope and in terms of the engagement, just to reconfirm our scope-, so we performed an audit on the Government's Consolidated Financial Statements in accordance with Public Sector Accounting standards for the year ended March 31st 2020. We'll discuss significant audit risks a little further on in this report. Moving down to, "Materiality". Just in case you aren't aware, materiality is a concept whereby any errors greater than this amount is thought to change or impact decisions made by users. Materiality levels are determined on the basis of total revenues for the current year, which is consistent with the prior year. And our materiality for the year ended March 31st, 2020, was 1.3 million. We are required to report errors greater than five percent to yourselves. So, we will report any errors greater than 65,000. So, moving to the next page-, can you move to the next page, Paul, please? In terms of, "Status in outstanding matters", we are actually finished, and we have issued or rendered out audit opinion on the Consolidated Financial Statements. Our audit opinion was dated February 26th, 2021, following approval of the Financial Statements by the Executive Council. We'll look at uncorrected misstatements once we get to Appendix Two. In terms of, "Going concern", Going concern, for those who aren't aware, looks at the

ability of the Government to continue to operate for the next fiscal year or 12 months, based on the procedures...

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Excuse me?

MS. EFFORD: Yes?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: I'm sorry, Ms. Efford, I've been handed a note, asking you if you could please slow down just a little bit for our interpreter.

MS. EFFORD: Okay, no worries.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: I'm sorry.

MS. EFFORD: That's okay.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you.

MS. EFFORD: Okay, I'll start back at "Going concern". So, Going concern looks at the ability of the Government to continue to operate for the next fiscal year or 12 months. Based on the procedures we performed, there were no material uncertainties related to the Government's ability to continue to operate, and that's a good thing. That's where you wanna be. You do wanna be a, "Going concern", so that's good. "Business insights". We did not identify any findings as a result of a process deficiency or a breakdown of an internal control over financial reporting. And we'll speak to "Uncorrected Disclosure and Misstatements", a (audio cuts out) in Appendix three. So if we're turning to the next page, "Fraud Risk". We identified our fraud risks at the onset of the engagement, based on information known at that time. Based on the audit procedures performed, our fraud risks remain appropriate and we did not identify

any instances of fraud. In terms of, "Independence", we can confirm we are independent, and we have included an independence letter in Appendix One" of this report. Moving down the page to, "Significant Accounting Practices, Judgements and Estimates". These items would be very consistent with the prior year and they're what is presented in your Financial Statements. And these estimates are all in accordance with the applicable accounting standards. And just to reiterate our conclusion, we have issued an unmodified or a clean audit opinion on the statements of the Government for the year ended March 31st, 2020. Moving to page five, the next one, please, Paul. So, "Significant Audit Risks". Our significant risks are consistent with that of the prior year and that's because there's really been no change to the Government in terms of Financial Reporting perspective that would warrant another significant risk. So the first significant risk is management override of controls. And that looks at the ability of the financial controls of the Government to be overridden and financial information to be manipulated. It is a risk that's present in all entities that we audit, and it's considered to be a fraud risk. To audit that risk, we discuss fraud with management and the Executive Council. We (audio cuts out).

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

I think we're having a little bit of issue hearing you, I think, Ms. Efford. I know, I am. There's a bit of an echo.

MS. EFFORD:

Can you hear me, now?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

That's a bit (audio cuts out.)

MS. EFFORD: Can you hear me?

MS. WOLFREY: Not everybody got their mics muted. That's the problem, I think.
Everyone except the person speaking needs to mute.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Everybody's now muted, Charlotte. Thank you.

MS. EFFORD: Thank you. Just to reiterate, am I okay? Can you hear me okay? Yeah?
Okay. I'm not sure where you weren't able to hear me, so I'll just walk through our Audit Response again. We discussed fraud with management and the Executive Council. We tested a sample of journal entries, just to make sure they were properly approved and supported. And we discussed whether there were any significant, unusual transactions with management and there were none. And we looked at Management Estimates for possible bias. And again, there was none. So, we can conclude there were no material misstatements as a result of management override of controls. So, moving to the next risk, "Personal Expense Claims". This is also a fraud risk. And it looks at whether expense claims are for a valid business purpose. So, to audit this risk, we reviewed a sample of expense reports for proper authorization and supporting documentation. And we can conclude there were no material misstatements as a result of this risk. So, in terms of Covid-19, while Covid-19 itself was not a significant risk, we did ensure that the impacts of Covid-19 did not have a material impact on the Government operations. So, we looked at things such as cash flow, potential impacts to funding and we reviewed the Going Concern and we can conclude there were no material impacts as a result of Covid-19 to the

Government. Covid-19, as you may be aware, did have a significant impact on our audit. We did everything remotely and many things were done virtually. However, throughout the entire process, management was very responsive. They worked with us to try and solve issues as efficiently as possible and navigate the audit and it made things run more smoothly, so for that, we're very grateful. The next page is entitled, "Other Reportable Matters". I won't go through this in detail. This would be pretty consistent with what you've seen in the past and it's a required checklist, I guess, for lack of a better word, of items we are required to disclose. The one thing I would say, is that there is nothing of concern in any of these items. So, moving down to the Appendixes-, can you move down please, Paul? Appendix One is, our Independence Letter, which just confirms we are independent. Appendix...

MR. JANES: Lori, I think Charlotte may have a question.

MS. EFFORD: Sorry, go ahead, Charlotte.

MS. WOLFREY: Yeah, I got a question on the page before. I think it's numbered page five about personal expense claim risks. You just said that-, in there you say, "We take a sample", but you're not just talking one sample are you? Like are you talking several samples to look at or do you just look at one?

MR. JANES: Yeah, we would do a calculation based on the dollar value of the expense item and our materiality. So, it's a mathematical kind of statistical calculation that our audit methodology is based off of and based off of that, and the fact that it is a significant risk, it would give us a number or

suggest a number to us for our testing. And that's what we would use to determine how many. But it is more than one, yes.

MS. EFFORD:

Thank you, Paul. If there's no more questions, can you move to Appendix two? So, Appendix two is entitled, "A Summary of Uncorrected Financial Statement Misstatements". So, this is items that we identified that weren't corrected in the financial statements. There was just one error to note, and essentially, when we were completing our expense testing, we noticed that there was a couple of items-, I think one related to licences and a couple of items related to the Advantage Program which were entirely recorded as an expense in the current year. So, the full cost was recorded as an expense. But the expense for the licence actually span over multiple years. So, what that means is technically, a portion of that cost should've been recorded as a pre-paid asset. So, the resulting error was an overstatement of expense by \$149,535 and an understatement of assets by the same amount. But the fact that that wasn't corrected does not materially impact your financial statements. Does anyone have any questions on that? Okay. Moving to the last Appendix. So, Appendix three is the, "Summary of Disclosure items past.". I won't go through all these things. They would likely be familiar to you, as they'd be consistent with the prior year. These are items that are required by the Public Sector accounting standards, but they mainly relate to additional verbiage in your statement, so they wouldn't impact the actual numbers on the face of the statements. The one thing I would say is that while the disclosures are omitted from the statements, they do

not materially impact the statements as they are not thought to, I guess, influence decisions made by users. So, that is actually the end of my report for the 2020 fiscal year. Does anyone have any questions? Not that I can see, though, 'cause I'm in a view where I can't.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: I'm just looking here, Lori. If anybody has any questions, can you please raise your hand? I do not see any questions, Ms. Efford, Lori.

MS. EFFORD: Okay, thank you. So, I guess with that I'll turn it over to Paul to go through the actual Consolidated.

MR. JANES: Thank you, Lori. As I will now walk everybody through the Consolidated Financial Statements for March 31st, 2020. I believe everybody has a copy with them and in front of them. I'll go through this highlighting the year over year changes, the reasons for the change and if anybody has any questions, feel free to stop me. I see some with their hand raised. So, go ahead.

MS. ONALIK: Thanks, Paul. Are you still able to share your screen?

MR. JANES: Lori, could you share yours potentially, 'cause my version is severely marked up with my comments that I'm about to address. So, I don't wanna share that version, but...

MS. EFFORD: Okay. You'll just have to give me a couple of seconds to get the statements. Just bare with me for a moment.

MR. JANES: Yeah.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: You don't have this, Susan?

MS. ONALIK: I think it's beneficial for anybody watching to be able to follow along with us.

MR. JANES: Yeah, sure.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: I see Marjorie has a question? You have a question?

MS. FLOWERS: It's not a question. It's just-, if we were in the Assembly sitting physically, people in the gallery wouldn't have access to what we have here. That's just a comment that I'm making.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you.

MR. JANES: Okay. I can see Lori's now sharing the statements. Lori maybe I'll just suggest maybe if you can reduce the size so we can see it a little bit on the screen. And then I'll start with the page titled Management's Responsibility for Financial Report, which I think is the third page of the documents if you have it printed in front of you. So, Management's responsibility for Financial Reporting just lays out by the Nunatsiavut Government as to what the responsibilities are of management and their responsibilities for financial reporting and the financial statements and notes that the financial statements were audited by us for the year ended March 31st, 2020. The next two pages are Independent Auditor's report. As Lori mentioned, we issued our audited opinion with the date of February 26th, 2021 and our audit report is our standard. Our audit opinion is unmodified in any way and so it is what we consider a clean audit opinion on the Financial Statements. And no changes in wording from prior years. Next would be the Consolidated Statement of

Operations and Accumulated surplus. So, your Consolidated Statement of Operations highlights the revenues and expenditures for the year ended March 31st, 2020. As I mentioned, I'll go through some highlights of these amounts year over year and should you have questions feel free to stop me at any time. And I also will note that I can't see in the view that I'm looking at-, I can't see everybody's face so, feel free just to interrupt me if you wish. To start at the top, from a revenue perspective, the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* revenue was at 75 million in the current year, an increase of almost 20 million as it was just under 55 and a half million in the prior year. A couple of reasons for the increase-, the Inuit Housing Funding increased by almost 4million year-over-year and then it also there was an additional negotiated increase that would've been included in that. And governance funding, an increase of 14 million. There's also some different Inuit Pathways and Health-, Department of Health funding that is now included in the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. And you'll notice down below that some of that funding has decreased year-over-year and the reason for-, the main reason for that is that it's now included in your *Fiscal Financing Agreement* whereas in the past, it was separate. The next line, you'll see a significant change from Interest and Investment income. So, in the current year it was 17.3 million and in the prior year it was 28.3 million. And this line represents the realized income that you would have from your investments. So, there's also a secondary part of that from an investment perspective, which is the unrealized gain that you would have. And the difference between the

realized and unrealized from a gain perspective is purely the fact that one has been sold. So, therefore you have realized that change in value. And an unrealized means that it has gone up in value, but you still hold it. So, until you sell it, you haven't necessarily captured that value, because it's still-, the investments can still change with market fluctuations. And I'll speak to that a little bit more when we get to the Statement of Financial Position, and note the change in the value year-over-year for the investments. So just the next few lines are fairly static year-over-year from an increase-decrease perspective. I will highlight half-way down kinda the revenue items, the Indigenous Services Canada and Health Canada funding, as I mentioned, has decreased. Some of this is due to last year there was some more programs that didn't happen in the current year. But also, as I mentioned, some of that funding is now included with your *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. So, that speaks to the decrease there. Third line from the bottom on the revenue is the Mining Tax Royalty. So, last year there was in 2019, there was a significant payment made by the Province to Nunatsiavut which was for mining tax revenues. In the current year that did not take place, and I think last year there was a bit of an audit done by the Province which necessitated that payment being made. And in the current year what you're seeing there really is the mineral rights payments for 2020.

MS. WOLFREY:

Excuse me, Paul.

MR. JANES:

Sure.

MS. WOLFREY: Do you know if that big payment there, that 10 million was from the court action or the court-, anything to do with the court saying that they owed us money?

MR. JANES: No, I don't believe so. I think it's just part of the audit that took place by the Government of the years of operations of the mine and that was what was owed based off of that audit. And I'll ask Rexanne to correct me if I'm wrong.

MS. CRAWFORD: It-, we-, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has appealed the decision on the Mining Tax Litigation, so there have been no payments to date from that. What the \$10 million represents, is the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador undergoing a revenue, and expenditure audit on Vale and their former predecessors from I think 2002 or 2005 up to 2011. And as a result of that audit, we did receive a \$10 million payment. There was also another question, Paul. I saw Joe raise his hand. Joe, do you have a question?

MR. JANES: No, okay. Okay. Thank you. I'll continue on. So...

MS. CRAWFORD: Paul, sorry, Glenn Sheppard is raising his hand for a question.

MR. JANES: My apologies. Go ahead, Mr. Sheppard.

MR. SHEPPARD: Thank you. Just a quick question there, Paul on the *Tasiujatsoak Trust*. I noticed quite the difference there of 2019 and 2020. Could you explain, please?

MR. JANES: Yeah, I don't think there's any one factor. And I'll ask Rexanne to confirm if I'm right-, that driving that. What you will see when we get to the

deferred revenue is that there is some-, their funds are coming in from the *Tasiujatsoak Trust*, just not necessarily the projects that they were funding had taken place in 2020, so therefore there's a bit of a decrease in the revenue. But there is a change in-, the funds were still coming in from *Tasiujatsoak Trust* and they sit in deferred revenue at the end of the year, which means, essentially what I've just said-, is that the cash has come in. But until the projects happen and the revenue is actually realized, it sits in deferred revenue. And at the time that the projects will actually take place, that money will switch into revenue and you'll see it here on this statement.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Glenn, the only funding that we receive from the *Tasiujatsoak Trust* is related specifically to proposals that they approve. So, as we all are aware, you have to submit your applications or proposals in, I think it's March and September. And it's the same for the Nunatsiavut Government. So, the funding there just specifically relates to what projects we have been undertaking that the *Tasiujatsoak Trust* has funded.

MR. JANES:

Thank you, Rexanne. Switching back to the "Statement of Operations", the last line under Revenue is the, "Share of earnings from affiliated business entities". And this is the income that you would realize from the *Inuit Capital Strategy Trust*. And there's two components of this amount. And you'll see that it's decreased from 2.1 million last year to just under 400,000 in the current year. And there's-, as I mentioned, there's two components that make up that value. One is the actual income from an accounting perspective that the entity holds-, or entity has, sorry. And

then the other part of it is that due to the tax legislation, there's certain amounts that the Trust has to allocate out to the beneficiaries at the end of each year if it makes taxable income, based on the tax legislation. And so, in the current year, they had about a \$2 million increase from the perspective of taxable income which increases your value of the receivable, which you'll see on the next page when I go through it. And then there was also a loss from an accounting operational perspective and so the investment was written down by about 1.5 million as well. So, that nets-, the \$2 million increase and the \$1.5 million write-off, nets to the number that you see here of \$393,000. And I'll explain that a little bit more when we switch to the next page. I think it'll help you visualize a little bit better. Turning to expenditures, now. So, the first line there, "Salaries and Employee benefits". So, salaries and employee benefits have gone up in 2020, from \$25.2 million-, sorry, compared to just over \$23 million in the prior year. There was an overall wage increase for most employees of two percent. And as well, there was an increase in the Department of Health salaries of about \$1.3 million-, a lot to do with part-time or temporary workers that were used throughout 2020. From a fiscal financing perspective on the Expenditure Line Item, was 22.7 or just under 22.7 million in 2020, versus 14.8 in 2019. And a couple of driving factors there is there was an increase in capital funding to the Inuit Community Government, so 4.1 million as well as an increase of 1.4 million to the school board, as well as 1.4 million increase to Torngat Housing. And that makes up the majority of the difference year-over-year. Professional fees

increased from 5.3 million to 6.2 million in 2020. So, there's a couple of factors there. One just being that there was a greater use of consultants and also with the litigation that was happening during the year, there was an increase in legal fees in 2020 from 2019 as well. A few lines further down you'll see amortization has increased. So, that has a total of 2.6 million in 2020 compared to 1.7 in the prior year. And amortization is the charge from an accounting perspective for the use of your capital assets. So, it's meant to show that most assets over time will decrease in value. And this decrease in value is written off to your statement of operations as a charge called amortization. The reason for the increase in the current year is that you have more assets, more capital assets and therefore that charge (inaudible) income statement for those assets increases year-over-year. And I'll speak to the increase in capital assets when we get to the next page in a few moments. Another one I'll highlight is, "Rent and maintenance", went down significantly, from 3.2 million in 2019 to 1.8 in 2020. The main reason for that is that in 2019 actually, there was an increase from 2018 of about 1 million for rent-, for maintenance. A lot of that was driven by the maintenance that was done on the efficiency units. And so the 2020 number is actually getting back to a more normal level in 2018 and 2019's actually the outlier. So, just a return to kinda normal rent and maintenance charges in the year that we ran the audit. Next page, Lori, if you could. So, it highlights the total expenditures were 88.5 million in 2020, for...

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Excuse me, Paul? I see Joe waving his hand.

MR. JANES: Sure. Sorry, go ahead.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: No, it's okay. Go ahead. Hi Joe, I need you to unmute your microphone, please.

MR. DICKER: Thank you. Sorry, about that. Can we go back to "Travel", under "Expenditures"? I expected that travel would decrease significantly in 2020 because of the pandemic and where we had lots of travel restrictions imposed on Nunatsiavut. Could you explain why it only went down by \$300,000 from 2019 to 2020?

MR. JANES: Yeah, I think you'll-, and I'll let Rexanne comment if she wishes, but I assume you'll see a lot more change in the upcoming fiscal year, Joe, in March 31st, 2021. I'm assuming that it would've been a pretty limited impact with Covid-19 and the pandemic really only impacting probably the last month, month and a half of the year that we're auditing here, 'cause this is March 31st 2020.

MR. DICKER: Okay, thank you.

MR. JANES: Yeah, so, I think it's probably just a timing issue of the year we're looking at here, versus, obviously, what we've been under for the last 12 months.

MR. DICKER; Okay. Understandable. Thank you.

MR. CRAWFORD: Just to add a little clarity, Joe, March 17th, I think last year, we were sitting at the Assembly in Hopedale and it was the next day that we imposed restrictions. Maybe even-, there might've been some limited restrictions the week before. So, we would've only captured about two to three weeks of no travel in the last fiscal year.

MR. JANES:

Okay, so, I'll just highlight your total revenues for 2020 were 126,500,000 versus 132 million in the prior year and total expenses were 88.5 million in 2020 versus 77.6 million in 2019, which brings you to an annual surplus. So, the annual surplus is the amount of revenues you have in excess of your expenditures for the year, and it sits at just over 38 million in 2020, compared to 54 million in 2019. And, obviously, the difference is made up of all the different changes that we would've just highlighted. From an accumulated surplus perspective-, so accumulated surplus is all of your annual surpluses to date, from the start of Nunatsiavut to now. And so, at the beginning of the year, or at the end of last year, your accumulated surplus was just under 583 million, and in the current year you sit at just over 630 million. So, your annual surplus and your accumulated surplus are two significant measures of financial health for any organization. And you're dealing with a very large annual surplus for the last two years that you can see here as well as a very healthy accumulated surplus of 630 million. So, it does speak to the overall financial health-, very positive financial health of the organization at the end of March 31st, 2020. So, we'll flip...

MS. CRAWFORD:

Paul, before you go forward, another question. Patricia.

MR. JANES:

Sure.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

I just wanted to ask a question. Under the, "Rent and Maintenance", it's gone down a lot, and, "Heat and light", it's about the same. Have you noticed a difference in cost since we started building our own buildings, as

opposed to renting them? I know there's operation and maintenance and depreciation, but have you noticed a cost-saving?

MS. CRAWFORD:

Hi, Patricia. I'm not sure I can answer that question. I haven't really done the analysis on that particular item to see if there's a difference between us building our buildings, and the cost of electricity. But I can take that away and see if we can provide an answer to that for you.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Thank you.

MR. JANES:

Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Charlotte has a question, as well.

MR. JANES:

Sure.

MS. WOLFREY:

So, Paul, because we're live and this is all being seen all over the world, I guess, can you explain our surpluses and what they are because people gonna think we got 630, 364,212 in the bank to spend right now. So, can you give us a little bit of a quick reference to tell us what that is?

MR. JANES:

Sure, I'll do my best. So, your accumulated surplus-, you're right, doesn't necessarily, mean, that there's that level of cash sitting there to be able to spend. What it does say is that there is an accumulation of earnings over past years to the tune of that \$630 million number. That does put the entity in a health position for the future. And if you were to go out and spend \$630 million in the next year and we were here talking about your financial health, I'd be giving you a much different scenario and saying that, "No, now, you're not in a good place." I think it's, you know, it's about the longevity of an organization and any organization, a Government or a for-

profit or even a not-for-profit entity, always wants to maintain some level of accumulated surplus. It's not necessarily my position to tell you what level of accumulated surplus you should have, but you know, I would make the comment that that accumulated surplus does put you in a very good, healthy situation for an organization your size with the demands and obligations that you would have going into the future. And I think we'll speak to that a little bit more when we get to the next page and talk about the different financial assets and financial liabilities that you would have as an organization as well.

MS. CRAWFORD:

If I could add a few other points. And thank you, Charlotte, you know, for reminding us that there are many other individuals also viewing this Assembly for the first time. The Consolidated Audited Financial Statements are composed for a number of entities, so it is not just the Nunatsiavut Government. The *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Settlement Trust* and the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Implementation Trust* make up a significant portion of that accumulated surplus. And those, the surpluses and accumulated surpluses from those two entities, fall under the mandate of the two respective Trust deeds. So, I think that's one point to consider and remember when you're reviewing a Consolidated Financial Statement, is that that is a significant component of these financial statements. In terms of surplus, and I know we've had this conversation at the Assembly in the past as well, is to remember that a surplus also includes non-cash transactions. So when you look and see a surplus of-, Annual Surplus of 38 million, this is not all cash or this doesn't equate to

cash in the bank. You can't say, "Okay, well, the Government has a surplus of 38 million. They've got \$38 million in cash. So, those are two nuances that I think are very important for people to understand as they review these statements. And I see Charlotte has another question.

MS. WOLFREY:

No, just another point, Rexanne, thank you. And that's what I wanted people to know. And also, the *Trust* has obligations that they have to live up to. They just can't go and spend all that money the one time. That's all I was trying to put out there, that, you know, that-, thank you, for saying that. That makes it clearer, thank you.

MR. JANES:

And if I could just add to that, 'cause I think those-, that's they're great points that were made, Rexanne. The Accumulated Surplus Number as we mentioned is a large number. But if you Note Nine to the Financial Statements, which is on Page 16 and you don't all need to flip there right away, but for future reference, does break out the total surplus for the organizations, and that of the *Trusts* as well. And, you know, there's almost just over 220 million of that \$630 million number is accumulated surplus and/or what we call Accumulated Remeasurement Gains which is on the investments. That belongs to the *Trusts*, that sit in the two *Trusts*. Okay.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Thank you. There was one other question, I believe from Barry?

MR. ANDERSEN:

Okay, yeah, not so much as a question but just a comment that all these documents that they're talking about, they're all public documents and are available at all the NG offices, I think. And for any interested members of the public, these documents are available. It's not that the NG has shown

this stuff for the first time or anything like that. Just wanted to point that out as well.

MR. JANES:

Okay. I'll start again and walk through the Consolidated Statement of Financial Position. So, this statement shows your financial assets, liabilities, non-financial assets and then as we just discussed, the Accumulated Surplus of the organization as well. So, I'll start with, "Cash", so, for Cash and Cash Equivalents, there's 91.5 million in the current year compared to 75.8 million in the prior year. There's no real kinda one factor you can point to for increase and decrease in cash. What I would say is in a couple of pages, I'll highlight the statement of cash flows, which actually, does highlight all the different ins and outs throughout the consolidated statements for the cash balance, and what would make up that increase, year-over-year. But there's not really one item that I can point to, to say, "This is why cash has gone up." Part of it is your Accumulated Surplus, year-over-year, but that's not the only factor, as Rexanne mentioned in her comments a moment ago. There's a lot of different cash and non-cash items that affect that Accumulated Surplus Item. So, the Statement of Cash Flow actually breaks that down a little further. A couple of lines down would be "Restricted Investments". So, the investments sit at market value of almost 525 million at the end of 2020, a significant increase from 2019 of 446 million. And a significant amount of that change-, about 54 million of it in the current year had to do with market gains that those investments made. Those would be what we consider unrealized market gains because you still hold those investments, haven't sold and realized

the gain yet. And as we know, the market is open to all kinds of volatility, both up and down. And that's part of the increase and decrease that you see year-over-year in your investments. But I would say a \$54 million increase in 2019 to 2020 is a very, very good performance on your investments and a very healthy increase in market value year-over-year.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Paul. Can I just-, I got another note to ask you to please slow down a little bit for the translator. Sorry. Thank you.

MR. JANES:

No, no worries. Will do. The next two, Line Items being the Due From the *Labrador Inuit Capital Strategy Trust* and the "Investments at modified equity", I'll speak to together. And this will go back to my comments as well when we talked about the-, on the Statement of Operations, the income that was noted there in 2020 from that. So, there was a due from *Labrador Inuit Capital Strategy Trust* of 8.3 million, an increase from 6.3 million last year. And that increase, as I mentioned is to do with the income that's noted from a tax perspective under the Tax Law that the Trust follows. And so, every year when the Trust Tax return is filed it is-, there's an amount that needs to be allocated out to the beneficiaries of the *Trust*. And the main beneficiary of the *Trust* is the Nunatsiavut Government. So, it allocates its income out and creates this receivable from the *Trust*. The other alternative of not allocating that income to the Government would be to leave it in the *Trust*, from a tax perspective and then that money would then get taxed and part of that income would then, obviously dissipate as a payment to the Federal Government. So it's allocated out to the Nunatsiavut Government under

the most efficient way, from our perspective of it not being taxed by the Federal Government and that's what drives that receivable. The investment that's there of \$1 and was 1.5 in the prior year, has to do, as well, with your control of the *Inuit Capital Strategy Trust* and the decrease in value had to do with the fact that it did have an accounting loss in 2019 year-end, 'cause it would be a December year-end. And then that loss therefore, gets reflected as a loss on your statement of operations and a decrease in the value here that you will see in the investment. And again, those two net for the \$400,000 that I highlighted on the "Statement of Operations." So, it gives you a Total Financial Assets of just over 719 million compared to 619 million in the prior year. On the liability side, the deferred revenue, you can see, is 43.8 million in 2020 and 37.7 million in 2019. And this is highlighted a little bit more in Note Five to the Financial Statements, which we will get to. But it's mainly due to an increase in Funding from the Government of Canada, ITK and Health Canada. And really, what deferred revenue represents is that cash has come into the organization, but it hasn't been recognized as revenue yet underneath your accounting policies that you follow. And I think the main reason for the increase in 2020, was that a lot of that cash did come in late in the year, and therefore wasn't recognized as revenue yet-, and more so than it did in 2019. A couple of the lines further down, "Notes Payable". So, you see a zero-dollar value there in 2020 compared to the 4.4 million in the prior year. This note payable was due to the Federal Government of Canada and as we've discussed last year, the

amount had been forgiven by the Government and therefore is no longer shown as a liability in 2020. From a non-financial asset perspective, just kinda three quarters of the way down the page, I did mention on the "Increase in amortization charge", that the tangible capital assets had increased significantly year-over-year. So, there's about \$8 million in capital additions in 2020, so an increased capital spending. So, it's 3.5 million of that which is the DHSD building in Hopedale, there was 2.4 million in housing in Nain and an additional \$1 million in the cultural centre in 2020, as well. And that's netted off by the amortization charge as well, that I mentioned earlier-, like gets you to the overall increase here year-over-year. "Deferred Expenditures, Land Claims"-, so, these were expenses during the Land Claims Negotiation and were deferred over a 10-year period and amortized an expense to your statement of operations, over that period. And in the current year, it as the last year that you would've had that expenditure of 3.3 million and obviously, no longer sits there as an asset for the future either. The only other item I'll highlight on this page is the Accumulated Remeasurement Gains number which is added to your accumulated surplus to get to the overall surplus for the organization. And so, I will note that the Total Accumulated Surplus here is 723 million-, 93 million of which is the Accumulated remeasurement gains and 630 million of is the Accumulated Surplus that we've already spoke to. So I will turn to the next page just to speak a little bit more to the Accumulated Remeasurement Gain. As you can see here, we had an accumulated remeasurement gain at the beginning of

the year of just under 40 million. And as I mentioned when we were talking about the increased investments, you had an unrealized gain in the current year of \$54 million compared to an unrealized loss in 2019 of just over \$15 million. So, it is a significant increase in the value and it sits in this accounting terminology for lack of a better term, for Accumulated Remeasurement Gain until the actual investment would be sold, and then you would actually realize the gain. And then it would actually hit your Statement of Operations. But that increase, obviously, gets you to a total of 93 million for Accumulated Remeasurement Gains which, if I could try and make it simpler from a term perspective, represents the total amount of gains that you have in investments since you've held those investments. And so it does fluctuate up and down, depending on the buying and selling of different investments held. But it represents the overall market gain in the value of the investments that you hold as of March 31st, 2020. So, there's the book value of those investments would be \$93 million less than what they're showing on your Statement of Financial Position, currently, at the end of 2020. The next page is your Consolidated Statement change in the Financial Assets and I should've highlighted this on the Statement of Financial Position but your Financial Asset position is essentially-, your Net Financial Asset position, sorry, represents the amount of financial assets you have in excess of liabilities that you also have. So, it shows the-, it's a key financial measure for Governments and shows the ability of the Government to discharge its liabilities and obligations that it has. And this statement shows all the

different kinds of decreases and increases in that Net Financial Asset number which I won't go line-by-line in, but needless to say, you're in a very healthy financial position to the impact of 665 million because that's your Net Financial Asset position at the end of the year, which again, represents the amount of financial assets that you have at your disposal to be able to discharge the liabilities that the organization has or owes to other parties. The next page is your Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows, as I mentioned when we were talking about the \$91 million in cash on the statement of Financial Position. This would highlight all the increases and decreases in cash flow during the year. So, just to highlight a few, we mentioned there's a \$38 million annual surplus. The next few line items there are some of those non-cash items that Rexanne described in earnings to try and normalize that number to more of a cash flow number rather than a pure annual surplus number under the accounting rules. You can also see kind of a quarter of the way down the page, your Capital Transactions. So, there was-, as I mentioned, there was almost \$8 million in capital additions in the current year. There was capital transfers from the Federal Government of 9.3 million and then there was some acquisition of investments to the tune of 27 million as well, which is the other part of the increase in investments during the current year on top of the increased market gains that we've already previously discussed, which gets you to an overall increase of 15 million and a total cash of just over 91 million at the end of 2020. The next number of pages is what we would describe as your Notes to the

Consolidated Financial Statements-, Note One being a description of the operations of the Nunatsiavut Government. Note two is multiple pages long. I won't go through it in detail, only to highlight that it does say that-, it does outline your accounting policies. There has been no change to your accounting policies year-over-year. It also highlights the different entities that are included in your Consolidated Financial Statements as well, on the first page of that note. But I won't read through those in detail, at risk of putting you all to sleep, and anybody that's viewing, as well. So, I'll save you that. The next page that Lori's viewing there is just further notes. So, the notes are meant to be further description of basically a lot of the Items that I've already discussed and went over and meant to provide further detail to the readers of the statements on some of the numbers. So you can see Note Three and Note Four just highlight investments, the decrease in the investment at modified equity as well as the accounts receivable. And really there was a \$2 million increase in your accounts receivable. That's just timing of transactions and nothing-, no one significant factor driving that year-over-year. I did mention the increase in deferred revenue which you can see in Note Five and with most of the increase coming from the Government of Canada Funding and Health Canada Funding as well. Note Six just outlines the details of the *Trusts*. Note seven talks about the note payable, and the fact that it was forgiven by the Government in that last payment that you would've made, wasn't an actual cash flow payment. It was actually forgiven by the Government. Note Eight highlights your Tangible Capital Assets

which we did talk about the \$8 million or almost \$8 million in additions during 2020. Next page, at the top you can see Note Nine is the Accumulated Surplus. And this is the note I referenced earlier in our discussion and highlights the different items that make up your total Accumulated Surplus of 723 million. So there's unrestricted and internally restricted funds. There's Accumulated remeasurement gains, which again, is the amount of market gain in your investment value that you've accumulated. There's some capital reserves and then there's the actual accumulated surplus of the two trusts, being the *Implementation and Settlement Trust*. And then there's some further breakdown of the \$93 million number of Internally Restricted Funds further down below which highlights for the reader. The other notes, Note 11, 12, 13, are really no change in wording or-, and even 14 from year-over-year. Everything is pretty stable. Note 16 highlights the related party transactions and the nature of those which is a required disclosure. And Note 17 would be new in the current year which we just highlight that Covid-19 was obviously now subsequent-, not necessarily subsequent to year-end but right at year-end and the impacts that that has on the world economy and nobody really at the time for this fiscal year, nobody really knows what the overall outcome will be. But as Lori mentioned we did do some audit procedures around that and didn't see a material impact for your organization at this time. So that's it for the statements, unless somebody has some further questions. I'm happy to try and answer.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: I see Patricia has a question. Patricia, do you have a question? I thought I saw your hand go up?

MR. JANES: I think we may have lost her. I don't see her on the screen.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: I think-, I know, I'm just trying to scroll through my screens and I don't see Patricia anymore. We may have lost her. While we're waiting hopefully, Maxene can you maybe just run and check on Patricia, please? Does anybody else have any questions? Just scrolling through our screens while we are there. I think we did lose Patricia. I definitely don't see her anymore. There we go. Okay. I think we have lost Patricia for sure. Maxene has gone to check on Patricia. And does anybody else have any questions while we wait? I don't think so. Joe, did it-, is your hand up? I need you to unmute please, Joe.

MR. DICKER: No, I don't. I just moved my pen, that's all.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you. So, Maxene, you can go ahead.

MS. WINTERS: Patricia lost her connection but she was wondering about the Housing Hub and the Supportive Living Funding. Where would that be located in these numbers?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Rexanne can answer that.

MS. CRAWFORD: Oh, yes. That would be under the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation in the Financial Statements.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you. Okay.

MS. CRAWFORD: Just as a final comment in terms of questions, I understand that this has been a lot of information-, a lot of financial information. So, as you're reflecting on the Financial Statements and the audit report and you have questions, please feel free to email me or the Minister and we will do our best to address any questions you have as you go back and reflect over those Financial Statements.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, very much, Rexanne. Okay, seeing no more questions I will turn the floor over to the Honourable Minister, Mr. Anthony Andersen.

MR. ANDERSEN: Thanks, Madam Chair, I guess. I guess we are still in Committee of the Whole?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: We are. Yes, we are.

MR. ANDERSEN: Well, thank you, Madam Speaker and let me say thank you to our auditors from Deloitte as well as the Controller, Rexanne and from the questions and comments from the Members as well. I am in a position, Madam Chair to make a motion. Whereas the...

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Yes please. Go ahead. Sorry.

MR. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Whereas the Nunatsiavut Assembly has considered the Consolidated Financial Statements of the Nunatsiavut Government for the year ended March 31st 2020 and the report on Audited Annual Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended March 31st, 2020, now, therefore, I move, seconded by the Ordinary Member for Postville, Mr. Tyler Edmunds, that the Nunatsiavut Assembly

accept the Consolidated Financial Statements and the Report of the Auditors, Deloitte LLP, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2020.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, Minister. The motion is in order. Honourable Minister, would you like to speak to the Motion?

MR. ANDERSEN: No, Madam Chair, I have no comments to make.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you. *Nakummek*. Does anyone else wish to speak to the motion? Seeing none, does the Minister wish to make final comments and close debate? Oh, sorry, I see Charlotte.

MS. WOLFREY: Yeah. I don't know if I was gonna speak to the motion but are we in the Committee of the Whole and can we do this while we're in the Committee of the Whole, yes?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Yes, Charlotte, my understanding is that we can make a motion in Committee of the Whole, right? First Minister Tyler Edmunds, I see you're nodding your head? We can make motions in the Committee of the Whole? I asked that question yesterday.

MS. WOLFREY: Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*. It's all a learning process for all of us. Okay, so does the Minister wish to make final comments and close debate?

MR. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Madam Chair, I have no final comments and I do wish to close debate.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you. That concludes the debate. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand? *Nakummek*. Any opposed? The motion is

carried. I would like to genuinely thank the auditors and our Controller, Ms. Rexanne Crawford, our auditors Mr. Paul Janes and Ms. Lori Efford for your patience and your time. This was definitely a first for us and I truly appreciate your patience and your flexibility while we work through this and I thank you, very much. And thank you.

MR. JANES: Thank you. Our pleasure.

MS. EFFORD: Thank you, for your time. Have a wonderful day.

MR. JANES: Bye-bye, now.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Bye. Thank you. Okay. So, we are now back in the Assembly. And with that being said, at 12:40 p.m. I will now call a lunch recess. I ask that given we still have a few more agenda items on our plate that we take-, that we're back at our desks for 1:50 p.m. Thank you. And we are now adjourned till 1:50. Thank you.

[Recess]

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: We are reconvening at 2:00 p.m. We are now on Item number 16, "The first reading of bills". The first reading of the 2020 Budget Bill 2021-02. I would like to recognize the Nunatsiavut Treasurer, the Honourable Anthony Andersen. Excuse me, Minister, I need you to unmute your microphone, please. *Nakummek.*

MR. ANDERSEN: There we go. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move, seconded by the Ordinary Member for Postville, Mr. Tyler Edmunds, that Bill 2021-02, the Budget Bill, 2021, now be introduced and read for the first time.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Would you like to introduce the Bill, Minister Andersen?

MR. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Indeed, I would like to introduce the Bill. Madam Speaker, it certainly is different times, having to present our budget in a Virtual Assembly. I remember last year, my first budget was-, we were in and out of Hopedale in one day and we all wished that things would improve. I can't say that it has, but certainly, as you mentioned earlier, Madam Speaker, this Virtual Assembly has given beneficiaries in other parts of the country an opportunity to see how our business is conducted. And I was so proud, Madam Speaker last evening that my eight-year-old granddaughter who's a beneficiary in the Canadian Constituency from St. John's was able to watch the proceeding yesterday afternoon and for me that was quite something when I spoke to her last night and yesterday afternoon when I appeared on the screen, she asked her mom, is Grandpa famous? And maybe only in my own eyes that I'm that famous, but you know, there are drawbacks to virtual gathering but certainly there's an opportunity for Members in other parts of the country to see us. Madam Speaker, it is, indeed a great privilege and honour for me to deliver the Nunatsiavut Government 2021-2022 annual budget, my second as Minister and Treasurer. Madam Speaker, on December 1st, 2005, the Nunatsiavut Government set an aggressive agenda, one that would (inaudible) the support of our people and our communities as we continue transition into a modern society by building much needed infrastructure, developing and advancing new programs and services, protecting our rights and our titles, our culture and positioning ourselves to meet the challenges that are yet to come. For

many, Madam Speaker, achieving self government seemed like an impossible dream. But for those of us who were around during those early days, who took on the challenge, realized that very quickly, as a Government and as a People, we're the only ones who control our own destiny. We saw in our communities, and in our people, the power to rise above any challenge, Madam Speaker and to stand together to ensure we provide social and economic growth and stability. I believe we have a solid Government Madam Speaker, one that is clearly focused on the future, the future where our people and communities can enjoy the same level of programs and service delivery that those take for granted in other parts of the Province and the Country-, a future where we can ensure future growth and prosperity by investing in badly needed infrastructure-, a future we can all be proud of. This Budget, Madam Speaker, is about closing the gap on some of our most pressing needs. It reflects the confidence we have as a Government in delivering for the future. The health and safety of our communities, Madam Speaker is of paramount importance. All have aging water and sewer systems, in desperate needs of upgrades and replacement. This budget, Madam Speaker, will help address the most pressing needs with \$7.5 million being set aside specifically for water and sewer projects within Nunatsiavut communities. The money will allow the Inuit Community Governments to replace and upgrade aging infrastructure as well as install services for future housing developments. New subdivisions. We'll see new homes built, resulting in less overcrowding and homelessness, as

well as providing an opportunity for beneficiaries to return home to their homeland. The lack of housing and private rental market in our communities, Madam Speaker, also has an impact on our Government's ability to expand programs and services. It has hampered our ability to recruit and retain employees as well as transitioning positions to the Labrador Inuit Settlement area. Getting pretty dried out already here, Madam Speaker. In order for us to help address this infrastructure need and to better position the Government to improve programs and service delivery, this Budget commits to funds to begin the design and construction of staff housing units in Nain and Makkovik this year. It is our goal, Madam Speaker, to provide adequate staff housing units in all of our communities by the end of five years. With the growth of our Government, Madam Speaker, comes demand for additional office and program space. Nunatsiavut Affairs has addressed the need and demand in each community and had developed a five-year plan which begins with the replacement of the Department of Health and Social Development community office in Rigolet, the design and construction of additional office space in Nain, and additional office space in Makkovik. In March last year, we successfully concluded the renewal of the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. The renewal was effective April the 1st 2019 and included significant increases in funding for governance. Those funds are meant to cover the administration activities of operating a Government, Legal, Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology and Elections, to name a few. With this FFA renewal, Madam Speaker, we'll be able to

increase funding for operations of Inuit Community Governments.

Adequate and stable funding will allow each Community Government to address their current needs and prepare for future opportunities.

Madam Speaker, these additional Government funds are also supporting the addition of a new position within the Human Resource Division. The Nunatsiavut Civil Service is steadily growing in size and complexity. And now requires a full-time dedicated Director of Human Resources to oversee this functional area. The Global Pandemic, significantly impacted the Nunatsiavut Government plans for the 2020-2021. Projects, programs and initiatives were delayed and in some cases not started, as we turned our focus to responding to this pandemic and its impacts on Nunatsiavut. The pandemic highlighted the energy security issues faced by Labrador Inuit on a daily basis. Madam Speaker, prior to the pandemic, the Nunatsiavut Government finalized the Nunatsiavut Energy Security Plan with several initiatives being developed. Projects such as the Nain Wind Microgrid and installation of high efficiency woodstoves will improve the efficiency insecurities in our communities. Funds under this budget have been appropriated to continue to address energy security initiatives. As you know, Madam Speaker, many of our people still experience high levels of food insecurity in our communities. The impacts have been much more visible since the start of the pandemic. This budget will provide the Department of Health and Social Development with funds to allow for the continuation of programs, as well as to recruit an additional permanent position to continue to

implement initiatives and programs to deal with food insecurity. These plans were important a year ago, and due to the challenges caused by the Global Pandemic, were not able to be action. Nunatsiavut Affairs was able to begin its project on Inuit Ancestry as well as have the necessary workshop to support this initiative. This is still a critical need for the Registrar of the Beneficiaries Office. To that end, funds have been set aside to hold those important workshops during the upcoming fiscal year. As well, Madam Speaker, we have again budgeted for new positions for Intergovernmental Affairs and Finance. The Nunatsiavut Government is in the final stages of a workplan for the establishment of the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission, Madam Speaker, and on target to meet the deadlines of March the 31st 2022. It is extremely important there be no gaps in construction of homes, as we transition from Torngat Regional Housing Association to the new Commission. As such, we have committed \$2.9 million for Torngat Regional Housing Association to build houses in Nunatsiavut this construction season. Funds continue to be restricted for the use of Nunatsiavut Housing Commission for its establishment and implementation of programs and services. In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I want to thank our staff for their time and efforts in ensuring that we make decisions that respect the core values of Labrador Inuit-, decisions that allow us to shape our future in a way that reflects our culture, all while being fiscally responsible. Without our dedicated and committed staff, Madam Speaker, it would not be possible to present this Financial Plan or to achieve the goals outlined this coming

year. While I have highlighted many of the new initiatives for the upcoming year that Nunatsiavut Government is continuing to support ongoing program of each department. (Inaudible) 05:27:37, Madam Speaker, as well as announced last year, that Nunatsiavut Government has budgeted a two percent increase in the salaries this fiscal year, and an additional two percent for the '22-'23 year. This will allow our staff to keep pace with inflation. Finally, Madam Speaker, I want to assure the Assembly, and indeed all beneficiaries of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement* that as a Government we will continue to find ways to close the gap on many of our pressing needs. We will improve infrastructure such as water and sewer in our communities. We will continue to address housing needs and concerns and we will continue to find innovative ways to address energy and food security. As I stated earlier, Madam Speaker, that Nunatsiavut Government has made tremendous progress on many fronts, since being established, just over 15 years ago. The 2021-2022 Budget will ensure we will remain on track and continue to meet the challenges that await. In addition to that, Madam Speaker, I just, as a final note, I have to add, that the gap, is by no means closed, but we are closing it. As the First Minister outlined it in some of his Ministerial statements, transportation also remains an obstacle in closing that gap. Our inferior transportation system of in all modes needs to be certainly addressed in the future, both in air, water and land. Thank you, Madam Speaker. And thank you, Members.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, Minister Andersen. The motion is in order. I'd like to clap as well. Thank you, for that. The motion is in order. Does anyone wish to speak to the principle of the Bill? No other Members wish to speak? Does the Nunatsiavut Treasurer wish to conclude debate? I ask that Minister Andersen that you please unmute your microphone? Thank you.

MR. ANDERSEN: You've always got to remind me every time. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I do wish to close debate.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, Minister. That concludes debate on the First Reading. Is the Assembly in favour of approving Bill 2021-02 on first reading? All those in favour, please raise your hand? *Nakummek*. Any opposed? Seeing none, the motion is carried and accordingly, Bill 2021-02, the Budget Bill 2021 has had first reading. I would like to recognize the Nunatsiavut Treasurer, the Honourable Mr. Anthony Andersen.

MR. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam 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 2021-2022, the Budget Bill 2020-2021 today. Madam Speaker, I apologize. I did make a slight mistake. And I would like to start over again if it's for the Hansard, certainly, we're not to give an incorrect date.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: That is okay. You can go ahead.

MR. ANDERSEN: Thank you, again, Madam Speaker. Madam 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 2021-2022, the Budget Bill 2021, today.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you. *Nakummek*. In accordance with Standing Order 54.3, the Minister is seeking unanimous consent to waive Standing Order 54.1(d) to proceed with the second reading of Bill 2021-02, the Budget Bill 2021 today. All those in favour, please raise your hand? *Nakummek*. Any opposed? None. There is none. Minister, you have unanimous consent so the second reading at the appropriate time. We now move on to Item 17, "The Second Reading of Bills." I would like to recognize the Nunatsiavut Treasurer, the Honourable Anthony Andersen for Second Reading of Bills.

MR. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I would like to make a motion in accordance with Standing Order 42 to allow for consideration of Budget Bill 2021 in Committee of the Whole. Therefore, I move, seconded by the Ordinary Member for Postville, Mr. Tyler Edmunds, that Bill 2021-02 be referred to Committee of the Whole for consideration with Controller Rexanne Crawford as a witness.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Honourable Minister. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion please raise your hand? *Nakummek*. Any opposed? Seeing none, the motion is carried. We will now take a brief, five-minute break to allow our Controller, Ms. Rexanne Crawford to join our meeting. And when we return, we will be moving into Committee of the Whole. So, please, five-minute break.

[Recess]

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

...now to the Committee of the Whole at 2:25 p.m. We are now in the Committee of the Whole to consider the Financial Plan of 2021-2022, along with the Budget Bill 2021 and I would like to invite Rexanne Crawford, the Controller of the Nunatsiavut Government to join us as a witness of the Committee of the Whole. So, thank you, Ms. Crawford for joining us. As the Members are aware, the procedure for second reading will be done with a page-by-page and clause-by-clause review of the Budget Bill . The Financial Plan is important for us to discuss today. It helps us explain the Budget Bill. It will be considered first today during our Committee of the Whole discussions and I will ask for the Assembly's acceptance of the Financial Plan at the conclusion of its review. After acceptance of the Financial Plan, we will move into the Annex of the Bill, the *Budget Act*, Annex A. Then onto the clauses of the Budget Bill. We will now ask the controller to do a page-by-page explanation of the Financial Plan before we go into the Budget Bill. Thank you. I turn it over to Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Thank you. The Department of Finance, HR and IT are responsible for the Annual completion of the Budget Bill on an annual basis. And we've put together this Financial Plan document to help explain the numbers behind the Budget Bill. So if you turn to page three of the Financial Plan, we'll begin with the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*, Section One of the Budget Act Annex. So, the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*, or as commonly you'll hear it referred to as *FFA*, sets out certain programs and services

that the Nunatsiavut Government must provide. However, the FFA does give us the authority to set the dollar amounts for each of these programs and services. It also gives us the ability to carry over funds that are not expended in any fiscal year. This flexibility allows us to plan for projects that are multi-year and/or could cost a lot more money than we would receive on an annual basis. So, all funds that have not been expended in a prior year are budgeted in the upcoming year. This permits the Nunatsiavut Government to expend the funds as plans are finalized. As we all know, if the funds aren't budgeted, we can't spend it. It's under-, it's a fundamental part of our law. And so, we can't-, even if we don't have all the plans finalized for these *Fiscal Financing Agreement Funds* for any of our internally restricted funds, we bring the funds into revenue so that we-, as plans are finalized and ready to be executed, we have the funds there and can be expended, rather than having to wait to come back to another Assembly with an additional money bill. So, as we noted earlier, the renewal of the third FFA concluded March 30th, 2020. It was effective as of April 1st, 2019 and we received the funds at the end of that fiscal year. So, there was a considerable amount of funding for that first year of the FFA that was not expended. And as a result, ended up being carried forward into this coming year. So, we have currently \$61 million in internally restricted funds related to FFA. Of these funds, there's approximately 18.7 million related to housing initiatives, 11.3 million for educational programs and services, 2.7 million for economic development initiatives, and 28.2 million for governance. There was

additional governance funds received at the end of March 2019. And again, a significant bump up in our governance funds under the renewal of the *FFA*, which again we didn't receive until the very end of March 2020. The *FFA* funds-, under the schedule in the *Budget Act*, you'll see various categories. So, we have \$17.2 million of the *FFA* budgeted for general operations of the Nunatsiavut Government. A significant part of that relates to governance activities as well as certain programs and services under Education, Language and Culture, Renewable Resources such as fisheries and Economic Development. We have, as the Minister referred to in his Ministerial Speech, we have allocated additional funds for governance to each of the Inuit Community Governments. So in the 2019-2020 year, the total governance funds allocated was \$2 million. An additional half a million dollars was allocated, so \$100,000 per Inuit Community Government, during the 2020-2021 fiscal year. And due to the conclusion of the renewal of the *FFA*, this amount allocated to the ICGs has been increased by a further 1.125 million. This brings the total amount of funds for the ICGs to \$7,112,000. The allocation for Inuit Community Governments is broken down into two components. So one is the core governance amount which relates to governance activities. The other amount relates to services and the operations of the Government of an Inuit Community Government and running their community. And that amount is allocated based on the number of commercial and private dwellings in their community. We undertake an exercise looking at that allocation. We think that...

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Excuse me, Rexanne?

MS. CRAWFORD: Yes?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Sorry, I just got handed a note asking you to slow down a little, please, for Gus?

MS. CRAWFORD: Yes. I'm sorry, Gus. As I was saying, we do this allocation on the operational side, based on the number of commercial and private dwellings. We ask for those information to be sent by the ICGs. And as we were preparing for this budget, we realized that there may be an error in this allocation-, a minor error, not enough for us to go back and amend the numbers in this *Budget Act* but to go and revisit the allocation by private dwellings to ensure that all the ICGs are receiving the appropriate amount of funding. The reason I'm bringing this up is that there could be some additional funds flow to one or more of the ICGs and this would come from the other governance pocket of money within the *FFA*. So it'd just be moving from one category to the other. And again, as I noted, we'll-, once this budget is approved and before the funds are allocated and sent out to the communities, we'll make sure that the right amounts are being sent. And as the Minister mentioned earlier, there's a significant amount of money-, a significant need for the Inuit communities for funds for capital works. One of the most pressing needs is water and sewer projects, as it's a health and safety issue for our residents of our communities. So the Nunatsiavut Government is allocating an additional \$7.5 million specific for water and sewer projects. And the allocation between the communities and projects will be

determined by the Joint Management Committee, who makes all the decisions on the allocations of capital works projects in the communities. The total amount available for capital works projects under the *Budget Act 2021*, is \$12,618,000. Housing continues to be a priority for the Nunatsiavut Government and as we know, the *Nunatsiavut Housing Act* has been approved and a significant amount of work has been done on developing the work plan for the new Commission. The NG's on track to have the Housing Commission up and running by March 31st, 2022, at which time, the Internally Restricted Funds allocated to housing would be used for the operations of the Commission and its programs and services. The NG has, though, engaged the Torngat Regional Housing Association to construct homes during the 2021 construction season so that there are no gaps in new home construction during this construction season. Are there any questions on the section on the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* before I move on?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: (Audio muted.)

MS. CRAWFORD: Charlotte, you have a question?

MS. WOLFREY: Yeah, Rexanne, you said-, I heard you say that there might be corrections to the amount that the Inuit Community Governments are receiving?

MS. CRAWFORD: Yeah, I actually think that the amount for Makkovik is not reflected accurately. I think it should be higher, and so, I don't have the exact number. I think it's about \$27,000 it should be higher by, based on going back and double-checking. So, I want to double, triple and quadruple

check that number to make sure that Makkovik receives their appropriate funds. All other ICG numbers to me, look correct. But it would not result in any funds less than what's in this document at this time.

MS. WOLFREY: Okay. That's what I was frightened of. Thank you.

MS. CRAWFORD: Joe?

MR. DICKER: Thank you. Just to be clarified and I'm not sure if this is the right venue to, or area to be asking but this 2.354 increase for the Nain allocation for 2021-2022, like we said in our previous teleconference, we've already got our Budgets approved by our Community Councils. So we can add that increase to our regular budget to use for this fiscal year?

MS. CRAWFORD: Should the *Budget Act* be passed, this will be the money that you will be receiving from April 1st 2021 to March 31st 2022. And it would be up to your Council as to how you want to budget and use those funds.

MR. DICKER: Okay. Just wanted to be clear on that and thank you, very much.

MS. CRAWFORD: I think Charlotte has another question.

MS. WOLFREY: I think that we were given that 1.134 when we did our budget because when I looked at our budget it's already in there. I thought we had another \$70,000 but I think you guys gave us that figure.

MS. CRAWFORD: I'd have to go back and double-check our prior correspondence. I didn't think that it was until we communicated it last week, but I'll have to double-check.

MS. WOLFREY:

Thank you, Rexanne. The figure is in our budget for sure, so I got it from somewhere. Thank you.

MS. CRAWFORD:

If there are no further questions, I'll move on to page six which begins, "Section two of the Annex". And this topical area is called, "Owned source revenues." So, besides the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*, the Nunatsiavut Government does have other sources of revenue. These are consistent with prior years and would be familiar to many of you. We do have an agreement with the Government of Canada in which we receive 95 percent of the Federal Income tax collected from residents of Nunatsiavut. For the upcoming fiscal year, we have budgeted 6,229,000. We also have an agreement with Canada and the formula is a little bit more complex, but outlines the amount of GST we collect and gets remitted to us in a particular year. We have budgeted 1.513 million for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Other sources of income are, "Interest and investment income". This is income earned on our bank accounts as well as our investment portfolio that we have ourselves - not the Trust money, but our excess cash that we invest within investments in order to earn higher income on it. The Government also has a "Fisheries and Environment Fund" which is currently valued at \$6, 049,000 and we budget this entire amount every year as well as an offsetting program expenditure. And this is because, as we all know, by being involved in some way shape or form in the fishery, that opportunities related to the fishery, such as purchases of vessels, licences, quotas, I'm not sure if I'm getting all the terminology right-, but those happen at very short notice,

and we don't, and wouldn't have time, in order to get back to an Assembly to get the proper authorities in order to act on those. So to be proactive, the revenue and the expenditure are budgeted each year to allow us to avail of opportunities should they arise. Other revenue includes items that are smaller in the amounts, but are funds we receive from the *Tasiujatsoak Trust* for a particular position, access fees from fishers, from fishing-, using our licences, and rental revenue received in the prior year. And I always like to point out that we don't budget any mining or mineral royalties unless we need to. We have reserved those amounts because currently we are not receiving any mining taxes from Voisey's Bay at this time. We receive a very small amount for mineral rights tax. Are there any questions on our Own Source Revenues?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

I don't see any questions, Rexanne. I do have a question, actually, just Josh, very quickly, before I-, that you ask your question, Josh, I just noticed that in the top left corner, it says, "Recording is paused"?

MALE:

That's okay.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

That's okay? Rexanne, Joe has a question.

MR. DICKER:

Yeah, we just wanted clarification, more than anything else, Madam Chair. Rexanne, you mentioned that (audio skips) receive from any mining or mineral right royalties. Is that because of the court case that's going on, though, with regards to the-, or the judgement that was made by the Supreme Court against the Newfoundland Government?

MS. CRAWFORD:

It is not as a result of the litigation, but it is why we went and proceeded a lawsuit against the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. They have determined that once the commissioning of Long Harbour occurred, that expenses related to Long Harbour could be used to offset the mining royalties that we receive directly from the Voisey's Bay area. And so it is for that reason why we aren't receiving mining royalties at this time due to that calculation and you're correct, it is the reason why we had it into, and filed a Statement of Claim against the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

MR. DICKER:

Nakummek.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Turning to page seven. This covers two other schedules in the Annex. One is the "Projected Budget" and "Five-year plan." A couple of key points on the projected budget is that we do budget a percentage of the total departmental expenditures and reserve it in a contingency fund, that we have to maintain as per the *Labrador Inuit Constitution*. So, a total of \$662,000 have been reserved under this budget to be put into the Contingency Fund. And it brings the Accumulated Contingency Reserve to \$6,171,500. The *Labrador Inuit Constitution* gives the authority for setting the budgets for the Inuit Community Corporations, to the Executive Council. And the budgets for the ICCs were approved late last fall for the upcoming year for a total of \$161,500 between the two corporations. The other point to note, you'll notice that it would say, OSR. I'm gonna look at the exact terminology. The clawbacks that Canada takes as a percentage of our Own Source Revenue is budgeted at zero. While we are undergoing

a collaborative fiscal policy process with the Government of Canada and other self-governing Indigenous Governments in Canada, the Government has suspended the OSR policy. So, we have not had to make a payment back to Canada on our OSR for I believe it's five years now, and that is ongoing until all the policies are completed, including an OSR policy. The five-year plan shows fluctuations due to inflation as well as capital asset projects and elections for the Nunatsiavut Assembly, either the General Election or a Presidential Election. Are there any questions on this page? All right. We'll move on. The next section of the Financial Plan covers the Departmental Budgets. And so, each department has a plan. They have a mandate under the organizational order and they have budgeted items to help them achieve goals under their order and their plans for the year. The first point to note is that as the Minister spoke to in his speech, employees are the key to success for the Nunatsiavut Government, the key to the programs and services that we deliver, and the support we give our beneficiaries. So, to reflect the commitment of the NG to its Civil Service, there is a two percent increase in salaries budgeted for the upcoming year. The Nunatsiavut Secretariat is responsible for the planning and priority setting of the NG, developing the legislative agenda, as well as intergovernmental relations and communications. So, in the upcoming year, the department will continue to support the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and the Inuit Circumpolar Council activities, as well as participate in the Inuit Crown Partnership Committee which was established on February 9th, 2017. There have been additional funds budgeted to support data

management needs, establish a library of Labrador Inuit and Nunatsiavut Government reports and resources. The Secretariat is the lead in energy security and has a Nunatsiavut Energy Security Plan. It is a major priority for the department, and they have funds budgeted to support position as well as funds for initiatives, under the Nunatsiavut Energy Security Plan and to help leverage additional funds for initiatives. In the past year, well, I guess in this fiscal year we are in, the department had planned to establish a new position of intergovernmental relations which would be specific for supporting the Inuit Community Governments as well as the relationships between the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Government of Canada. This will be, as you heard in the Ministerial speech, there are several items that did not get fully implemented or started this year simply because the focus was on responding to the global pandemic, and its impacts on Labrador Inuit. So this one is in the process of its recruitment stages and it is an area of importance for this department. So, they continue to budget for this position. The department is also responsible for external public information, communications and the operations of Nunatsiavut Visual Design. And there has been no change in their plans for those two divisions in this upcoming year. Are there any questions on the plan for Nunatsiavut Secretariat?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Hi, Joe, I see you have a question for Rexanne. I will ask, please, that you centre your camera, please, so you're about centre into the screen so that when people do get to see you on screen, they actually get to see you.

Thank you, so much. Okay, Joe, you can go ahead with your question for Rexanne. Thank you.

MR. DICKER:

Yeah, I'm looking at papers to the side. (Audio mutes.)

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Hi, Joe. Sorry, you're muted. Thank you.

MR. DICKER:

There you go. Okay? Thank you. The last Nunatsiavut Secretariat, you say that this department is responsible for external public information, communications. And there's not gonna be no changes to that-, is there a reason for that because I asked this question because I believe that all of the ICGs would like to have communications improve from what it is today. We need to know more what's going on. And this here doesn't change anything. Is there a reason why the communications budget was not increased, or another person was not hired to increase the communication from Nunatsiavut Secretariat to the public or to the beneficiaries?

MS. CRAWFORD:

So the current budget for communications has the Director, a communications assistant plus the six communication liaison officers and operational funding for the purposes of running supplies, phones, et cetera. I think your question may not be financially related or looking at dollar value, but maybe more as an item of communications between the Government to the Inuit Community Governments. I will point out, as I mentioned above that they are in the process of recruiting a position to help with intergovernmental relations which may address-, I'm not entirely sure, 'cause I'm not involved in the job description duties and responsibilities section-, may assist with that matter you're raising.

MR. DICKER: Okay. I will speak to that at a different venue. Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, Joe. Does anyone else have any further questions on that section? Charlotte, I see your hand. Go ahead.

MS. WOLFREY: Yeah, I was just gonna say, Rexanne, I think that position is really needed. The connection between NG and the Inuit Community Governments and sometimes we need assistance with different things. So, I think that position is really needed. And the quicker we can fill that, the better the communication will be, I think.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, Charlotte.

MS. CRAWFORD: Thank you. All right. Are there any other questions on the Secretariat Departmental plans? I'll move on to Nunatsiavut Affairs. So Nunatsiavut Affairs is responsible for the implementation of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement*, housing, Legal Services, the Office of the Registrar of Beneficiaries, and Public Property. So not a significant plan in their operations from 2020-2021. Again, due to the global pandemic, some initiatives were delayed or unable to be implemented. So the Office of the Registrar of Beneficiaries, had planned, in this fiscal year we're currently in, to undertake a project related to Inuit ancestry. And with this, would've included an additional workshop with the Membership Committees and the Inuit Appeal Board. This was not able to take place this year, and their plan is still to continue this or to start this project in the upcoming year. With the growth of the number of public properties, as well as our plan to continue to grow the number of public properties we have, the

department is in the final stage of recruitment of a Director of Infrastructure. And this position will help with the strategic planning and take the lead on major infrastructure projects for the Nunatsiavut Government. I'll pause there if there are any questions on the Departmental Plans for Nunatsiavut Affairs.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Don't see any questions, Rexanne.

MS. CRAWFORD:

All right. So I'll move to my department, Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology. So, we're responsible for all the financial affairs, the human resource needs and supplying and managing the information technology needs and resources of the Nunatsiavut Government. So under the 2020, 2021 fiscal year, we had planned new positions to be added to our department. And again, due to operational constraints, as a result of the global pandemic, we were unable to move forward with these positions. We do still feel that these positions are necessary to have much more efficient and effective operations. And as a reminder, these three positions were, a Budget and Financial Analyst to assist with the management of financial components of the capital works projects for both NG and the Inuit Community Governments. And this position would assist with regular monitoring of our divisional and departmental, as well as project budgets, a purchasing clerk and a shipper receiver. The Human Resource Division has budgeted for a Director of Human Resources. With the continuing growth of the civil service, there is a requirement to now have a full-time dedicated Director of Human Resources. I can-, I have been acting Director of HR for a long time and had it as part of my other

duties. However, we have so many complex facets to our civil service, and it's growing in its complexity and in its size. But they do require a dedicated person to this position. So we have budgeted to have for this position. We've also budgeted for an additional administration position to be placed in Nain, probably at our Administration Building. And we continue to budget \$25,000 just for a Summer Student Program. Under Information Technology, one of the things you'll note as you look at our Departmental Budget, is we do have funds allocated under Capital Assets. And these are just support purchases related to data storage, backups and infrastructure at a cost of \$145,000. There is also a significant amount of money budgeted for subscriptions, for licences, such as our Microsoft Volume Licence, Blackberry licences, anti-virus licences - just to name a few. I'll pause here to see if there are any questions on the Departmental Plans for Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

I think Joe has a question.

MR. DICKER:

Okay. I'm unmuted. This new position that's, like you said, it is needed, is that open to where it's gonna be based? Is it gonna be based in the administration office or is it out of Goose Bay or out of one of the other Nunatsiavut communities?

MS. CRAWFORD:

Joe, which position are you referring to? We just spoke about five.

MR. DICKER:

I'm looking at the one that you're currently filling in, the Director of Human Resources, I think it is.

MS. CRAWFORD: Nunatsiavut. We haven't determined if it would be set for a particular Inuit community or if it would be open to all of Nunatsiavut, but we do know that it is very well needed. Are there any other questions on the departmental plans?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Hi Marjorie. Go right ahead with your question, please.

MS. FLOWERS: Thank you. My question is-, I've asked it before, and it has to do with IT support for the Inuit Community Governments. Will we be getting IT support for Inuit Community Governments?

MS. CRAWFORD: I know we've had these discussions as well. It's not something that would be built into this Budget, but would be looking at within existing capacity of what we already have. I'll take note of your question and discuss it with the Minister so we can, you know, have either a separate meeting outside of the Assembly and Budget to discuss your request.

MS. FLOWERS: So if it's not in this Budget, does it mean that it won't happen this year?

MS. CRAWFORD: No, not necessarily. One of the things we had looked at and contemplated when we talked previously about it, was supporting with existing resources, and then depending on the demands, would we have to add additional resources? So that's kinda the, you know, if there's an analysis in a business case that has to be done for any other positions, but without knowing the exact needs, it's hard to budget additional positions. So should we be able to support ICGs, it would be done, initially, within the current staffing component.

MS. FLOWERS: Okay. Thank you.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Just making a note so that I don't lose track of my questions. All right. I'll move on to the Department of Lands and Natural Resources. The Lands and Natural Resources is responsible for Labrador Inuit Lands and all natural resources within, both renewable and non-renewable, the management and regulation of Inuit harvesting, protection of the environment, establishment of exploration standards and the approval of workplans, the establishment and management of protected areas in Labrador Inuit Lands, and the implementation and administration of impacts and benefits agreements. So that's the mandate of the whole department. There are currently no significant changes planned for the Lands Division or the Non-renewable Resources Division. Jointly, they still planned to continue to conduct inspections of various sites in Labrador Inuit Lands with potential environmental concerns as have been recommended by the Community, Land and Resource Committees. Program expenses for Renewable Resources has had another significant increase. And again, it's as we spoke of on the Revenue Section. It's related to the Fishery Fund. So we budgeted the revenues for the Fishery Fund and we offset it with the exact amount in their program expenditures relating to being able to avail of opportunities related to the fishery. The Renewable Resources Division is continuing to participate in research projects, in particular, related to the Torngat Mountain Caribou herd, an also in conjunction with the Torngat Secretariat, the Annual Fishery Workshop. The Division undertook a review of its capital assets and has developed a plan for replacement of its vehicles and boats. In the

upcoming year, there is an allocation for a purchase of one vehicle and for two boats. And each year, for the next number of years, you'll continue to see the implementation of this replacement plan. The Environment Division's current plans for the upcoming year include the following programs such as the Northern Contaminants Program, the Lake Melville Baseline study, Sustainable Communities Initiatives and Imappivut, just to name a few. I'll pause here to see if there are any questions on the plans for Lands and Natural Resources. Charlotte?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Charlotte, you have a question, yeah?

MS. WOLFREY:

Yeah, Rexanne, I hope the budget for the vehicles are gonna be for new vehicles, not old second-hand ones like they had years ago that was here in the community for a week and break down.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Yes, the plan, I believe, is to purchase new vehicles. Oh, Greg's giving me a signal that it is for new vehicles and new boats, not to put in the types of vehicles that you've referred to. All right. Moving on to Health and Social Development. The majority of funding for the operations and programs and initiatives under Health and Social Development are funded by the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. That being said, there are some funds budgeted under Section two from our Own Source Revenues to support the department. Food Security is a huge priority for the Government. And they have more programs being developed and implemented. A lot of plans, a lot of initiatives ongoing over with food security. So their budget request includes some program funds that will help them leverage even more funds, as well as the creation of another permanent position.

Currently, in Hopedale the position is a temporary position of Community Food Worker and they have budgeted to make this a permanent position. There are no significant changes in the plans for Programs and Services for Family Services, Youth, Elders and Status of Women under this budget. They do continue to receive additional funds under *Contribution Agreements* in order to action various initiatives. So I'll pause here to see if there are any questions on the plans for Health and Social Development.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

I saw Patricia's hand go up first, then I saw Joe. So we can do Patricia first please, with your question?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Thank you, Madam Chair. My question is just around funding. The, "Child First Initiative", is that included in the *FFA* or is that a separate funding arrangement?

MS. CRAWFORD:

That comes under a separate *Contribution Agreement*. It's not part of the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

And also, the Supportive Living and the Homeless Shelters, is that also in a separate agreement or a private agreement?

MS. CRAWFORD:

Yeah. They are not funded by our Own Source Revenues. They are funded with a *Contribution Agreement* from Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation. I know you had been unfortunately, disconnected this morning when we reviewed the Financial Statements. So when you look at the Financial Statements, you'll see an amount for the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation and that is our funding for Supportive Living Program as well as for the Emergency Shelters.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Okay, now, Joe you had a question as well?

MR. DICKER: Yes, it's regarding the Food Security. I'm a little bit-, I need some clarification, I guess. Prior to talking about the departments here, we talked about through the *FFA*, earlier, that there's gonna be a recruit for a new position dealing with Food Security. I'm not sure if that's gonna be Nain or if that's for overall Food Security Program and here in the Health and Social Development you're talking about Food Security continuing to be a priority. Are those two married to each other or is that two separate positions?

MS. CRAWFORD: Joe, I think that this is the first time we have spoken about Food Security in reviewing this Financial Plan. I know in the Ministerial Speech he did talk about Food Security being a priority area of the Government and the addition of a new permanent position. We currently have-, we had two full-time permanent positions already-, one based in Nain, and we have a Policy Analyst who works at the regional level. And we had a temporary position in Hopedale as Community Food Worker. So the next step for them was to make this position permanent, and then they will be obviously, reviewing the other communities. I can't speak for their plan in total. I just can speak for this particular plan on the permanent position side. I'm sure if you needed more questions on the Food Security Plans, we can bring more information to you. But in terms of this Budget, they are budgeting a permanent position for Hopedale. They already have one in Nain.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you. Are there any other questions?

MS. CRAWFORD: Other...

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Sorry, Rexanne. I don't see any other questions on the Department, Rexanne.

MS. CRAWFORD: All right. I'll move on to Education and Economic Development. So they are responsible for establishing and administering education and economic development policies, programs, and services of the NG, and for promoting economic development of Nunatsiavut and the education of Inuit. The Department continues to implement programs in relation to education, capacity building and development of economic opportunities. So they budget for such programs as a Wage Subsidy Program, the Community Economic Development Program and programs related to the development of Inuit businesses. I will note that the funding for the Community Economic Development Program was decreased in this fiscal year. It was based on the historical use of this fund for the last number of years and it has not been used to its full capacity. For this reason, as well as the fact that there is a significant amount of funds available for economic development under the *FFA*, the allocation was reduced to \$150,000. I'll pause here to see if there are any questions on the Departmental Budgets for this upcoming year.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Hi Joe. You have a question for Rexanne?

MR. DICKER: Yes. Does the Department of Education and Economic Development, is that the same department as the Postsecondary Student Support

Program and the funding allocations that's given to that program and the Inuit Pathways? Thank you.

MS. CRAWFORD:

So the Postsecondary Students Support Program and the Inuit Pathways programs are programs under the Department of Education and Economic Development. Their funding partly for Inuit Pathways comes under the *FFA* and partly it comes through a *Contribution Agreement* with Service Canada. And the funding for the Postsecondary Students Support Program comes under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*, the *FFA*.

MR. DICKER:

Okay. Can I ask a further question to that, please?

MS. CRAWFORD:

Of course.

MR. DICKER:

(Inaudible) people who know me know that I've been advocating for more funding for the students that are out there because of the cost of living went up but the allocation, I guess, to the students remained the same for a number of years. I understand that some increases were made in the past year or so, but that money was new money, but money that came from within the Department. Now with the extra dollars, I guess, from *FFA*, will those living allowances, I guess, is the best word I could use, for the students, will that increase to help them catch up with, you know, the high cost of rental and the other things that they need to be stress-free from pursuing their education?

MS. CRAWFORD:

To answer a little part of the question and I will turn it over to the Minister to answer the remaining part. So there has been no new money received under the *FFA* and this renewal for Postsecondary education.

There was, however, Inuit Postsecondary Strategy for Education was approved nationally, and there are additional funds flowing to the Nunatsiavut Government under this program. Again, those are separate agreements outside of this *Budget Act* and outside of the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. In terms of the particulars on your questions about the amounts students receive or could receive, while its not really part of this *Budget Act*, I believe the Minister can speak a little bit to it because I believe she had it in her speech earlier either today or yesterday. So if you don't mind Minister Palliser, I'll turn it over to you?

MS. PALLISER:

Thank you, Rexanne, and Joe, I announced today that there's new supports for students that was recently approved by NEC. Students attending postsecondary studies will now possibly qualify for rent support, childcare subsidy and a living away from home allowance. For the amounts, it'll be different if you are single versus someone with dependants, but I can get you the information if you want to know more.

MR. DICKER:

Thank you, Minister Palliser. I think that my computer was being worked on when you made your report this morning, so I thank you for that, and I'll talk to you maybe tomorrow on that or look for more information. Thank you.

MS. PALLISER:

You're welcome.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Thank you, Minister. Before I move on to the last department and administration, I will just see if there are any further questions on Education and Economic Development? All right. So Language, Culture

and Tourism, they're responsible for administering the cultural and linguistic affairs of the Inuit and of the Nunatsiavut Government. This includes policies, programs and services for the preservation, use, and development of Inuttitut. And as the Minister spoke earlier about the new Language Strategy that has been approved-, the protection and management of archaeological and historic resources, and protecting and developing the cultural heritage of Inuit and fostering Inuit creativity through the arts. The Department also administers the Government policies, programs and services in relation to tourism, promotes tourism and strengthens Inuit participation in the Tourism Industry. It also encourages economic growth and employment throughout Nunatsiavut in the area of Tourism. As we heard earlier, the new Language Strategy has been approved and this comes from the Language Summit plus various other documents and research and what they have done-, which has resulted in many ideas, recommendations and plans on how to revitalize and strengthen language in Nunatsiavut and for all Labrador Inuit. Currently, there are two full-time language staff in Nain and one in Hopedale. The Division continues to recruit an Inuttitut instructor for programs. And with the opening of the Illusuak Cultural Centre, they have planned funds to help with its marketing so that it is marketed and used to its fullest extent. And as a result, they have budgeted funds for a consultant and also for programming. They continue to plan and offer many of the programs they've done in the last couple of years-, the last number of years, actually, such as the Inuttitut Radio Hour, on the

OKâlaKatiget Society Radio station, the Language Nests, Master Apprenticeship Program, the Interpreter Translator Annual Workshops, the Heritage Workshop, et cetera. Archaeologists are continuing to work on projects that are familiar to us such as the Digital Outreach and Oral History Initiative, the Labrador Kayak Revival Project, the Model T Salvage Project, the Annual Heritage Forum, Place Names project, and the Identification and Designation of Historically Significant Buildings in Nunatsiavut. The Tourism Division is focusing on Implementation Plans with community sessions planned, as well as the development of an experience development network. They have funds appropriated for market readiness programs, experience packages for Nunatsiavut as well as a commitment to the operations and youth leadership programs in the Torngat Mountains Base Camp and Research Centre. Hebron continues to be a very important part of Labrador Inuit History. As such, the Tourism Division continues to plan and budget funds for the continuation of the Hebron Ambassador Program and the Hebron Restoration Project. And they continue to contribute \$75,000 to the activities of the Torngat Recreation Commission. The administration part of the Budget is very short. So before I take questions on Language, Culture and Tourism, I just wanna note that we do make every effort to keep our administration costs at a minimum level. There is a three percent increase in the expenses this year, and that really is related to escalating costs and inflation, not for any extraordinary or different items that we're planning

under the Administration Budget. So I'll pause here to take questions on Language, Culture, Tourism and, or, on the Administration Budget.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

I don't see any questions, Rexanne.

MS. CRAWFORD:

All right. We turn to the next page. The Nunatsiavut Assembly budget was approved at the January sitting and so, I will not spend any time reviewing over those numbers there. It is included in the Financial Plan. But the biggest thing to note is that it already has been approved. The Implementation Plan-, so the Nunatsiavut Government, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Government of Canada finalized the renewals of the Budgets of the Torngat Joint Fisheries Board and the Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-management Board. So this budget in this *Budget Bill* reflects the NG's commitments to that board. And these two boards are, I guess, born from our *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement* under Chapter 12 and Chapter 13. Are there any questions on the Implementation Plan Budget?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Hi Charlotte. I see your hand. You can go ahead and ask your question.

MS. WOLFREY:

Rexanne, I'm trying to in my mind think about what implementation is. It's certainly more than three boards that are listed there, like I thought implementation was a vehicle that we could use to get jobs back to our communities by implementing the *Land Claims Agreement* by moving the entities back to Land Claims included a relocation plan-, those kind of things. So I was very-, unless I'm wrong, this Implementation Plan stuff there is very limited to what I can recall what implementation meant.

MS. CRAWFORD:

So this section of the Budget Bill specifically refers to a 900-page document that was agreed to between three parties when we settled the *Land Claim Agreement*. And it is about implementation of the provisions under the *Land Claim Agreement*. There is an Annex D in that plan. And I'm not kidding, it's 900 and forty-something pages. The Annex reflects the budgets for the Co-Management Boards, the Torngat Joint Fisheries Board, the Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-Management Board. There's a small amount of funds for a Dispute Resolution Board as well as a very small amount for I think it has to do with lands and the words are just escaping my head right now. I think what you're referring to would be incorporated in other facets of all the budgets in terms of, "How is the Government implementing and moving forward as a Land Claim Agreement holder in self-Government. But that's not what that section here of the Budget is about.

MS. WOLFREY:

Okay. That's a misunderstanding on my part. I might be using the wrong word for implementation but okay.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Are there any other questions before I move on to Capital Infrastructure? So on Page 13, "Capital Infrastructure", this is about Capital Infrastructure plans specifically for the Nunatsiavut Government. So we have undertaken a review of our requirements for offices, storage facilities and staff housing. And we have developed a five-year plan to look at the needs of each of our communities. So as the Minister spoke to earlier, we do have a significant need for staff housing. So we have developed a five-year plan and at the end of the five years, there will be staff housing

in all of our communities to help with our recruitment and retention of our employees. Our staff housing is not just for those who are not, I guess, from Nunatsiavut and coming to work for us, but also for people who live and work in our communities who want to come home to work in our communities and work for the Government-, who want to-, are young professionals who are coming out of university and want to have-, you know, work and live independently in their communities. So this year, our plan is to begin in Nain and Makkovik and then work our way through the other communities, so that at the end of four or five years, all communities will have additional staff housing units available. We also have a growth, with our needs for office space and program space. We did receive funding under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*, under a particular fund called, "Gaps Closing Fund". And this is specific. We had to submit a proposal. There was a need identified for multi-purpose buildings in Nain and Hopedale for programming and we will be beginning in Nain for the design and site work for the multi-purpose building will begin hopefully, in this year. And with the plan for construction into the upcoming year. In Hopedale, the construction of a storage building will be completed, and we will be hoping and planning to address the significant needs for offices that we need in Makkovik at this current time. And Postville will see the design of an office extension to their current building, as well as hopefully start the site work. And in Rigolet, we're in the final design, or in the design stages of a new community office to replace the aging infrastructure there for the

Department of Health and Social Development. And overall, an assessment will be completed on all NG buildings to determine the feasibility of installing air conditioning in those buildings that do not have air conditioning in it right now. Something that is outside of this Budget-, so this is what we're budgeting with our own funds. And I believe the Minister did refer to it earlier is, you know, work on the Nain Airstrip. There is some funding or proposals and applications going in for funding to look at studies for the Nain Airstrip. You know, there's marine infrastructure going into a couple of communities and this is being funded through a separate *Contribution Agreement*. It's not coming from our *Budget Act*. But I did feel it was important just to highlight a couple of those points. So what we have in this *Budget Act* is what we're funding, either through our *Fiscal Financing Agreement* or through other sources of funding. I'll just pause and see if there are any other questions.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Hi, Joe. You have a question for Rexanne?

MR. DICKER:

Yes, for information purposes, I guess, with regards to the report that the First Minister reported on this morning, is there going to be an opportunity for the public to see how much the Nunatsiavut Government is contributing to that application? And where can we find it, if it is?

MS. CRAWFORD:

I will turn that over to Tyler, since he's the First Minister.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Which application, Joe?

MR. DICKER:

The-, on March 15th, I believe, that the Federal Government is going to make an announcement or to see if the next phase is going to be kicking in. And the application that the Nunatsiavut Government might be a part of, I was wondering if were any dollar amounts that could be thrown out, or how do you call it-, put out there for information if somebody asks how much are we contributing?

MR. EDMUNDS:

Oh, the National Trade Corridor-s Fund? That's what we're talking about? So again, as I spoke to this morning, its design is the 50:50 cost-shared agreement with the Province contributing 50 percent and the Government of Canada contributing 50 percent. I can't recall if it comes from the Department of Transportation or where exactly. So one of the parts of the Comprehensive Proposal that we did submit, as I think I alluded to this morning, is that we have to identify a Project Manager. And there is a component in that application that talks about the potential for cost overruns as well. So we don't believe that we're gonna be entering into any cost overruns should we be successful under the NTCF. But we do-, we have identified some dollars, should we encounter that situation. But again, it is a 50 percent cost-share proposal between the Federal Government and GNO.

MR. DICKER:

Thank you, Madam Chair for letting me ask that question. I'll leave it until after March 15th and we'll see what's happening, then. Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, Joe. I see the AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Charlotte Wolfrey has a question.

MS. WOLFREY:

Yeah, I'm just gonna try to ask a question and I want to say it up front, it's without prejudice. But when I look at the Budget and so much stuff approved lets say for one or two communities, I hope we're gonna have our own construction companies because we're not gonna have enough room for two or three different contractors and all their workers to come into the communities to do all the work that we've outlined to be done. So, you know, I hope there's some thinking around that, I guess, what I'm saying, is when we're approving-, when there's approval of infrastructure and big-ticket items like that, that we think about what our capacity is in our communities-, how is those contractors or however we're gonna do it. I just wanted to make that point. And it's without prejudice. I know every community needs these projects. But I'm just trying to put some kind of a spin onto it where we're thinking about what's really realistic and what can get done.

MS. CRAWFORD:

I know Charlotte, when we did review and prepare the five-year plan, we were very careful that-, and there were conversations about, could we address everything in one particular year or not. And we did make our best efforts to try to not front-load everything. I don't know if my Minister also wants to comment on this?

MR. ANDERSEN:

Yeah. Thank you, very good question, Charlotte and it is in our mind and certainly the First Minister's department which is responsible for infrastructure have had conversations even with his Deputy Minister before we go to the Joint Management. When we are doing planning and setting up even the five-year plan, we have to be aware and, you

know, is there land, for a start, in a community to build such a building or housing even? And so those have to be addressed with communities. As well, over the last couple of years, and First Minister Edmunds is well aware of this, even to deliver a housing program, a repair program, we have to ensure that there is room or accommodations for contractors to set up to do their work. So a very good point and we can do it-, I'm sure First Minister Edmunds would agree with me, that this is something that we have to work with the ICGs on to ensure that the work can be done.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Mr. Andersen. Rexanne-, or does anyone else have any questions? I don't see anymore. Sorry, I just saw Glen put his hand up. My apologies, Rexanne.

MR. SHEPPARD:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Could I make a comment-, not so much a question, but I'd just like to thank, I guess, Rexanne the Controller for breaking this down more-or-less in layman's terms so we could understand this picture a bit better. One thing I noticed during-, going through all the departments, unless I missed something here, and a lot of times, as a Government we're known to preach health and safety. And when I say health and safety in relating to this, I'm referring to liability when it comes to the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, and we only have one conservation officer in our communities that go out in the boat on the snow mobile all alone. These days we don't see that or we should not do that. That's what I'm hearing. So I'm just wondering if there's some dollars or something I missed there that might be adding

the second conservation officer for our communities for the sake of safety? Thank you.

MS. CRAWFORD:

At this point, there is nothing in the Budget to add an additional conservation officer for each of the communities. I will take that-, your comment on the health and safety and I know the Minister is here as well, of Lands and Natural Resources. We'll take that back and raise the issue with-, and the concern with the Deputy Minister and take it back under advisement.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

My apologies. I see Susan has a question, Rexanne. I accidentally muted you, so I apologize. Susan do you have a question?

MS. ONALIK:

Hi, thank you, Madam Chair. My question is regarding the new Language Strategy that's being implemented, but yet when we look at the budget and allocation, Language, Culture and Tourism, their numbers are considerably a lot less from other departments. And I'm wondering with the new Language Strategy that's being developed, you know, what are we going to see in regards to more programs and services in that area?

MS. CRAWFORD:

I may have to turn you over to the Minister, but my understanding from the discussions as we led up into this Budget preparation and bringing it here, you know, the Strategy was just approved. And so there are a number of planning items that need to be undertaken. They do feel they have adequate funds to address what programming they may want-, that are planned for this year. And we may see in future years, as the Strategy

becomes fully implemented and developed and the programs and initiatives under it, see additional funds being requested in future years.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Mr. Lyall, did you have anything to add?

MR. LYALL:

No, not really. It's been covered quite well by Rexanne. There's a number of programs that we're working on in the Tourism Division. We're still trying to come up with some of the five-year strategies as well in that department. There's been a lot of delays over the last year, year and a half because of the Covid. There were lots of meetings with the Province and Tourism Divisions across the country that we haven't been able to talk face-to-face with, however we're doing it by telephone which is not the same. However, I will make sure that someone gets back to you and give you some idea exactly what our department is doing in those areas. Thank you.

MS. CRAWFORD:

And just to add to that. I know there has been increases in some of the funding for Language Programming and additions in positions over the last few years leading up to the Strategy. But again, the plan that they have for this year is really, as the Minister spoke to is taking the Strategy and looking at what initiatives, what policies, what programs need to be added to their current offerings.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Rexanne. Does anyone else have a question? I don't see any other-, oh, hi, John. Go ahead. I just need you to unmute your microphone please, John.

MR. ANDERSEN: Under Education and Economics, it says that Economic and Development Program has been decreased in the Budget. Is that referring to infrastructure? It hasn't been spent in the last five years.

MS. CRAWFORD: They had a specific program that they call the Community Economic Development Program. Before it was budgeted at, I think it was almost \$300,000 and we have reduced it to \$150,000 which reflects the actual expenditures over the last five to seven years. And we felt at this time it was appropriate to do so, because they do have-, let me just get the total amount here and not mis-speak. Under their *Fiscal Financing Agreement* funds, there is a balance of \$3.591 million that they can also use for economic development initiative. So I'm not sure in terms of infrastructure what your question may be, but it's-, the funding that we reduced was not related to infrastructure, but related to a specific program area.

MR. ANDERSEN: Okay. Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Okay. I see Susan has another question.

MS. ONALIK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just going back to page seven and looking at-, there's a paragraph there, the fourth from the bottom. It talks about a liaison between NG and Labrador Inuit residing in urban areas. Would you be able to send me more information on that. I recognize that I am new and I do have a learning curve, but I'd like to know a bit more about what that entails.

MS. CRAWFORD: Yes. But specifically, those provisions come from the Labrador-, *Inuit Labrador Constitution* and speaks to the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation and the Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation. But I will send you a reference to that particular section afterwards.

MS. ONALIK: Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you. Does anyone else have any further questions? I don't see any further questions on the Financial Plan. Just very quickly, before we move to the Bill, I'd just like to get a show of hands in agreement from the Assembly in favour of accepting the Financial Plan for 2021-2022 please. Thank you, very much. I do appreciate that. We are now moving to our Budget Bill, correct Rexanne?

MS. CRAWFORD: That's correct.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Okay. So thank you. Hi Patricia, you have a question?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Could we have a short break?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Sure. We can take a 10-minute break. I ask very strongly that we take 10 minutes and that you're back at your desk by 3:52 p.m. Thank you.

[Recess]

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: It's 3:55 p.m. and we're now back into the Committee of the Whole. I would like to call the Members' attention under the Budget Bill to page seven, Annex A. Looks like this (indicates), okay? So we now have to do a-, so reviews the Annex A. Are there any questions on that? And Rexanne is there as well, available for, I guess, question or comment. Is that correct, Rexanne?

MS. CRAWFORD: Yes. So this page is a summary of the total of where the funding is being allocated, so whether its under the administration of the Government or it's under Programs and Services under the *FFA* outside of departmental operations. And the total amount is \$157 million.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: So are there any questions on this page? Seeing no questions, are we all in agreement? Can I get a show of hands, please, on page seven? Thank you. *Nakummek*. We now turn to page eight. And the same question. Rexanne, you wanna go ahead?

MS. CRAWFORD: Sure. Again, some of these opening pages are just summaries which lead into the details behind it. So this, again, just summarizes the revenue by Section One and Section Two of the budget-, of the Annex as well as the expenditures under Section One and Section Two.

MS. WOLFREY: Excuse me, Madam Speaker. Are we doing a page-by-page review of the bill here? I'm kind of-, I kind of lost track of what we're doing.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: My apologies, Charlotte. We are in the Bill, as stated earlier. We are in the Bill. We just finished page seven of Annex A. If you go to page seven, Charlotte (indicates), it's got the listing. Can you see that?

MS. WOLFREY: Yeah, I got the pages...

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Okay.

MS. WOLFREY: ...but I didn't quite understand what we were doing, that, 'cause this we're in-, we're now into the Bill. We were in the kind of-, I thought it was the Financial Plan first and now we're into the Bill, is it?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Yes. My apologies and thank you for clarifying that. We are now onto the actual Budget Bill. So we just reviewed page seven, Annex A. We are now on page eight of the Bill. Are there any questions for Rexanne? Patricia, you have a question?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Yes, Madam Chair. I got confused a little bit, the same as Charlotte. I had a question on Annex A, page seven and I missed it. Could I ask it now?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: If that's okay with our Controller, Ms. Crawford?

MS. CRAWFORD: Yes, you may. Go ahead.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Okay. I remember, you know, in the past, when we used to go through our Budget, there was a small amount budgeted under Lands and Natural Resources for Fishery (inaudible) and there was a small amount budgeted for language programming. But they're gone now. (Inaudible.)

MS. CRAWFORD: Yes. That's a very good question. So the presentation has changed a little bit this year. In prior bills you would know that Section Two covered our *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. In this fiscal year, we've moved it to Section One and put the *FFA* funding up front. As well as when we get to the page, uh, the Schedule, the first page of Section One, you'll note that we do an allocation to general operations of the Government because these particular funding areas are covering areas in the regular operations of the Government. And those are items, Patricia, such as you just pointed out. The funds we receive for our Conservation Officer program, our English River counting fence program, they do come in

under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*, but we then allocated it into the administration of the Government and the same with language.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Sorry, Susan, do you have a Budget question?

MS. ONALIK:

Just for learning purposes, why did we jump right to page seven?

MS. CRAWFORD:

Marlene, if you would like me to address that, I can. We start with the Annex because the Annex outlines the numbers and the planning for the Budget. It's actually the living document. Whereas, if you started at the clauses upfront and approved the amounts in those clauses, it's a very summary in the body of the Bill. So the process has been, for a number of years, to start at the Annex, get approval on the Annex, and then we go to the body of the Bill.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Okay? So right now we are on page eight of the Annex. Are there any questions on page eight for Rexanne? Seeing no questions on page eight, can I get approval for page eight please with a show of hands?

Nakummek. We are now on to page nine of the Bill.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Madam Speaker, if you don't mind, I could speak to what this schedule is.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Sure.

MS. CRAWFORD:

So this schedule is the Schedule of the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* dollars. And as I noted to Patricia Kemuksigak's question just then, this used to be Section Two. We've moved it up to Section One. And so it outlines the Annual Fiscal Grant that we do receive under the Government of Canada, plus our Internally Restricted funds. And then it

outlines the expenditures by different areas. And we do have a section where it says, "Amounts allocated to Section Two." And Section Two are the Departmental Budgets, and the administration side of the Government.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Ms. Crawford. Are there any questions on page nine of the Bill? Okay. Seeing no questions, can I get all those in agreement please raise your hand for page nine? *Nakummek*. We are now on to page 10. Ms. Crawford if you wanted to give a brief overview, please.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Sure. As per, I believe it's *Inuit Constitution* and it may also be under the *Financial Administration Act*, we do have to include a Schedule of the funding being allocated to the Inuit Community Governments. This Table reflects what was actually remitted in the last fiscal year and what the new numbers are budgeted for the upcoming fiscal year. And we did speak to this as part of the Financial Plan.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you. Are there any questions on page 10? Seeing no questions, can I please get approval for-, agreement for page 10, please? Raise your hands? Thank you, very much. *Nakummek*. We are now on to page 11. Ms. Crawford if you wanted to give a brief overview of that page, as well, please?

MS. CRAWFORD:

Yes. This is beginning of Section Two, and it outlines the Sources of Revenue for the Operations of the NG and some programs and services outside of the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. We do have, again, the same amount for *Fiscal Financing Agreement* that comes from Section One for

allocated to the operations. We have our Personal Income tax, our Fisheries, and Environment Funds, Interest and Investment Revenue. Fifty percent of the income earned from 2020 for the Implementation Trust Fund, the GST, and other revenue. And we spoke to the details of the majority of this as we went through the Financial Plan. I do want to point out, I notice the title says, "Section One", and it should say, "Section Two".

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

That's a typo for that. So, "Section Two". I'll get that fixed. Are there any questions on Page 11 for Ms. Crawford? Seeing no questions, is everyone in agreement with Page 11? *Nakummek*. We are now on to Page 12 and if you wanted to give a brief overview again, Ms. Crawford, please?

MS. CRAWFORD:

Sure. Under the Financial Plan, we did discuss the "Projected Budget", which outlines such items as the Contingency File and the OSR claw-back, the Inuit Community Corporations and also on the next page, Page 13, is our five-year-, what was-, it looks at five years, two years before and two years ahead. And the fluctuations there due to capital infrastructure plans, election years under the Assembly, and has slight inflation built into those expenditures.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, Ms. Crawford. Are there any questions on Page 12 of the *Budget Act*, for Ms. Crawford? Seeing no questions, is everyone in agreement with Page 12 of the *Budget Bill*? Please, hands? Thank you. We are now on to Page 13 of the *Budget Bill*, Ms. Crawford, if you'd like to give a brief overview?

MS. CRAWFORD: Yes, this is the one that looks two years behind us and two years ahead of us. It reflects adjustments related to inflation, Capital Infrastructure plans. The differences in the costs at the Assembly are basically due to whether it's an election year or not, because there are much more costs during election years.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, on Page 13. Are there any questions for Ms. Crawford? Seeing no questions, can I please get an agreement or approval on Page 13-, a show of hands, please? Thank you. We are now on to Page 14. Ms. Crawford, again, please.

MS. CRAWFORD: When we went through the Financial Plan at the beginning of the Committee of the Whole, we went through the Departmental Plans and any significant changes in their budget request. And so what this table is, it puts in numbers, what we've already spoke about in terms of their plans. And then totals it up for the entire Government.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you. Do we have any questions on Page 15 for Ms. Crawford? I see Ms. Onalik has a question. Go head.

MS. ONALIK: Not a question, but it jumps from Page 13 to Page 15.

MS. CRAWFORD: My page numbering shows 14 on the bottom. I have 13 for the Projected Plan and I have 14 for the Departmental Budget.

MR. EDMUNDS: In the document, the 90-page document that was sent out, Page 14 of the Annex comes after Page six of the actual bill. So it is the first page that you should see after the actual Bill in our document.

MS. CRAWFORD: I'm gonna show you what it looks like (indicates to camera.) Has everyone found that page? Thank you, Tyler.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, yes, thank you, very much, Tyler. So it is, actually, in the document before page seven in the document. So if you straight printed your document, it would be before Page seven. And Patricia has a question? I see Joe after Patricia.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Madam Speaker, I mean Chairperson. No Madame, sorry. I noticed that there's quite a lot that was budgeted for travel. If-, and I'm guessing you must've saved a lot in travel, this fiscal year because there wasn't as much travel, do you anticipate it might be the same way next year?

MS. CRAWFORD: When we went through our planning for this upcoming year, we made a conscious decision to leave things status-quo in terms of our travel budgets. And you're right-, you're very right. We have saved some significant amount of money in this fiscal year we're currently in. But we felt because we did not know and had no crystal ball to look into in terms of the global pandemic, if restrictions are lifted half-way through the year and if there are certain meetings we have to attend, we do still need a travel budget. We felt it conservative to leave it status-quo because it's very hard to make any decisions or adjustments not knowing how vaccinations are going to roll out, what it would mean for the borders of Newfoundland and Labrador and in terms of travel, you know, in my personal opinion, I think you're gonna see a change and travel and how business is conducted in the future. I think you'll still see a lot of virtual meetings, but I don't 100 percent believe that there won't be any travel

once we come out the other end of this global pandemic. So we just felt it was-, without having anything to go by, we would leave it status-quo.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you. Is that good, Patricia? Yeah? Okay, thank you, and now I have Joe with a question for Rexanne, and then I have Charlotte.

MR. DICKER:

Thank you. I'll just ask a second part to the question that Patricia asked, 'cause she asked the exact same question, but what I would like to be informed is the money that you don't spend on travel now, is that going to go forward to the next year's budget for travel?

MS. CRAWFORD:

No, it does not. Our *Budget Acts* are only in effect on to March 31st of each year. You'll not that as we go through the body of the *Agreement*. So what we don't spend, we don't have the ability to carry those funds forward into the next fiscal year.

MR. DICKER:

So what happens to the money that's not spent? Where does it go?

MS. CRAWFORD:

That stays in what our legislation calls the Nunatsiavut Fund or our bank account and we bring it forward into future years for budgeting.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Okay. Thank you. I now have Charlotte on the list, and then Susan.

MS. WOLFREY:

I think Joe asked my question but I'm-, I don't know why if you put \$5 million in for travel and we didn't spend \$5 million, then we could use that money somewhere else in the communities, why couldn't it-, you know, we already budgeted as far as we were concerned, it was already spent, so why couldn't it go somewhere else?

MS. CRAWFORD:

We always have the ability, once the funds are budgeted within your department, you do have the ability to move things-, if operationally, you

require it, you can move funds between budget line items. And so at this point, in terms of-, 'cause there's-, you're asking two questions. One we're looking at a Budget, but you're also asking questions in terms of what we're actually doing fiscally in this current year we're in. So I'm cognizant of whether it's a question for the budget or a question for this current fiscal year. Legislatively, once the budgets are approved, we do have the authority, within our own departments to move funds between categories, or we can bring to the NEC if there's a larger project that may need additional funds to look at where there are savings in our budget and move funds around. I can't speak to specifics in this fiscal year and I'm not sure, Charlotte if this question is relevant at this point, but it could be a question we could either-, I know open question period has gone by but it addressed outside of this Budget.

MS. WOLFREY:

Yeah, but March 31st will be come and gone before I can ask the question again. Thank you.

MS. CRAWFORD:

I know and I appreciate that as well.

MS. WOLFREY:

So the money is gonna be gone, is what I'm saying?

MS. CRAWFORD:

I do wanna be really clear in terms of budgeting because I know in the Federal Government system and in the Provincial Government system, they often use a word of, "Slippage", so you use-, if you don't use it, you lose it. So you see this mass scurrying of spending money at the end of March because they wanna keep it in their budgets. They don't wanna lose it. It's because when they do their budgets, they don't do zero-

based budgeting where each department looks at what they need and what they want and what they're planning to do. And they base their budget and submit it on that basis. In the Federal Government system, in terms of slippage, they tend to look at-, if you were budgeted \$5 million this year and you only spent two, well, we're only gonna give you \$2 million in the next fiscal year because that's all you say you need. It's a different method of budgeting and that's not the method we do. So because of the fact you didn't spend it this year doesn't mean it's a lost amount of money. It means that when you build your budget for next year, we'll use the example of the Inuit Ancestry. Because they couldn't execute it last year doesn't mean that, you know, too bad, you're not gonna get money to fund that project in the upcoming year. If that's important to your department and you build it into your budget and we have the funds to support it, it's built into the Budget and it's called zero-based budgeting.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Is that okay, Charlotte? Good?

MS. WOLFREY: Yeah, I'll write to her.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Okay. Thank you. Okay, the next person I have for a question is Susan Onalik.

MS. ONALIK: Thank you. You might have answered this earlier, but underneath, "Printing, promotional and subscriptions", each department has, you know, a fair amount allocated for that. But the Department of Finance and Human Resources is well over \$351,000. Can you explain why it is

that, that department alone has such a huge need for promotional, printing and subscriptions?

MS. CRAWFORD:

Yes. We did speak to it earlier. Subscriptions also include licences. So it includes all the Information Technology licences we have such as our Microsoft Volume Licence which is well over \$100,000 in itself. I think it's rising to the tune of, I think between \$120,000 and \$150,000. It includes our licences for our antiviruses, our Blackberry licences, just to name a few. The list is about 10 or 15 that are up for renewal this particular year.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you. Is that good, Susan? Yeah? Okay. Anybody else have any questions on this page for Rexanne? Seeing none, can I please get agreement for this page, please, page number 14, as I look at it with my small eyes. Thank you, very much. I appreciate that. We are now onto page 15.

MS. CRAWFORD:

This is the Schedule for the Assembly. This is the exact Schedule that was approved at the January 2021 sitting.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

So do we have any questions on page 15? Seeing no questions, can I get an agreement on page 15, please? Thank you, very much. We are now onto page 16.

MS. CRAWFORD:

As we spoke about earlier, the Implementation Plan is an agreed upon document between the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Government of Canada, and there are certain items under the Implementation Plan that we have agreed to one-third cost-share. And as I noted earlier, there was new Budgets approved for the Torngat Joint

Fisheries Board and the Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-Management Board. The new figures are built into this budget. And it also has a small amount for, "Land use planning", and "Dispute resolution". Again, this is our one-third portion of the budgets for those items.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, Ms. Crawford. Does anybody have any questions on page 16? Seeing no questions, can I please get approval for page 16 of the *Budget Bill*? *Nakummek*, everybody. On to page 17. Rexanne, if you'd like to continue, please.

MS. CRAWFORD: Page 17 is the summary of our Capital Infrastructure Budget, and it outlines the funds required for office buildings renovations as well as staff housing. The Financial Plan outlined in more detail, the plans for the upcoming-, for this fiscal year that we're budgeting for.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*. Does anyone have any questions on page 17? Seeing no questions, could I please get approval for Page 17? *Nakummek*, everybody. Okay. Now, we are moving to the clause-by-clause portion of the Bill, okay? So now we go to Page two, okay? I will not read the clauses, but I will do a clause-by-clause basis. So under Clause number one, "Short title", are there any questions? Seeing none, all those in agreement, a show of hands, please? Thank you. Under Clause two? And Clause two includes A and B. Any questions? Seeing no questions, can I please get approval? Thank you. Now move on...

MS. WOLFREY: Marlene.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Oh, I'm sorry.

MS. WOLFREY: Clause two included A, B and C, didn't it?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Yes, well, I was just doing-, yes, I'm sorry. I was doing it by the page.

MS. WOLFREY: Okay. I realize that now. Sorry, Marlene.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: No, it's okay. It's good to be clear. On page three, under 2(c). I'll just do it that way-, are there any questions? Seeing none, can I get approval, please, for 2(c). *Nakummek*. Under Clause Three, "Budget approved and adapted"? Are there any questions? Seeing no questions, Clause Three, is there approval? Can I get approval of Clause Three? *Nakummek*. Clause Four on page three, 4(a) and (b). I'll give you a minute to review. Are there any questions on 4(a) and (b)? Seeing none, can I have a show of hands for agreement for 4(a) and (b). *Nakummek*. To page four, Number Five. Are there any questions on Number Five? Seeing no questions, those in agreement for Clause Five please show your hands? *Nakummek*. Clause 6(a), (b) and (c)? Are there any questions on 6(a), (b) or (c)? Seeing none, those in agreement with number 6(a), (b), (c), please raise your hands? *Nakummek*. Clause number seven. Any questions on Clause seven? Seeing none, those in favour of Clause Seven? Thank you. Page-, sorry, page four number eight and 8(a)? Any questions on eight or 8(a)? Seeing none, all those in agreement with eight and 8(a)? *Nakummek*. Next page. Page five, 8(b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h) and (i), for the whole page, page five? Page five, are there any questions on page five, 8(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h) or (i)? Any questions? Seeing none, can I please get approval for 8(b) to (i). *Nakummek*. Next page. Also continuing with eight. Okay, we have 8(i) (a) and (b) on page six, top of

page six. Are there any questions? Seeing none, can I please get approval for 8(i) (a) and (b). *Nakummek*, everybody. My eyes are a little- , having a little bit of a hard time adjusting. We're on to 8(j). Any questions on 8(j)? Seeing none, all those in favour of 8(j) please show your hands? *Nakummek*. We are on to Clause Nine. Any questions on Clause Nine? Joe has a question on Clause Nine?

MR. DICKER:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Rexanne, you mentioned earlier in the Budget that payments to the Land Claims Negotiation loan was forgiven. What's this Clause saying to us?

MS. CRAWFORD:

It's a very good catch, Joe. We have no other payments to make to meet the payment obligations. There are none and wouldn't be any anyway. I'm not exactly sure what the next steps would be. In terms of this amendment, we could make an amendment to remove this clause and renumber the next clauses down?

MR. DICKER:

Can we have some opinion from Minister Andersen?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Yes, Minister Andersen-, Finance?

MR. ANDERSEN:

Yes, so according as the Controller said, we could amend but we could leave it here. It wouldn't mean that there will be any payments made. It would be just a clause that there won't be any payments but the clause will remain.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Yeah, the clause only gives authority to make payments and since we don't have to make payments, you won't have to make payments. And then we could have it removed in next year's Budget Bill.

MR. DICKER: Yeah.

MR. ANDERSEN: Yeah, so we will leave it there, Joe.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk Dicker for that. Okay. So all those in favour of Clause Number Nine, please raise your hand. We're on now to Clause Number 10. Are there any questions on Clause Number 10? Seeing no questions, all those in favour of Clause 10 please raise your hand. *Nakummek*, everybody. Clause Number 11. Any questions on Clause number 11? Seeing no questions, all those in favour of Clause 11? *Nakummek*, everybody. Okay, at the very bottom of the page six, it's just Number 12. Any questions on Number 12? Seeing none, all those in favour? Okay. *Nakummek*. Okay. So, what I will do now is-, now, thank you, everybody for the clause-by-clause review. We'll now do the-, find the page-, thank you, very much. I will now do the title, just read the title of the bill which is, "An Act to Implement the Consolidated Financial Plan of the Nunatsiavut Government for the fiscal year beginning April 1st, 2021 and ending March 31st, 2022." And just to make sure everybody's in agreement with the title? All those in favour, please? *Nakummek*. Okay. That concludes the clause-by-clause and Annex review of the Bill. Does the Minister wish to conclude the debate?

MR. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker, I do wish to close debate.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*. Thank you. That concludes debate. All those in favour of the second reading of the Bill 2021-02, the Budget Bill, 2021, please raise your hand in favour. Any opposed? *Nakummek*. The motion is carried.

And accordingly, Bill 2021-02, the Budget Bill 2021, has had second reading. I would like to sincerely thank the Minister, Mr. Anthony Andersen and the witness, Ms. Rexanne Crawford, the Controller of the Nunatsiavut Government. I thank you for your time, very much-, very much appreciated. Ms. Crawford for your time and your very knowledgeable answers. Thank you, and have a great day.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Okay. So Ms. Crawford has now left. We are now back into the Assembly. Excuse me. We are now on to Item number 18, "Assent to Bills." Honourable President, the Assembly has given second reading to Bill 2021-02, "The Budget Bill", and wish to present it for Assent.

PRESIDENT LAMPE:

Nakummek, UKatti, and Members of the Nunatsiavut Assembly, as President of Nunatsiavut I wish to assent to Bill 2021-02, the Budget Bill 2021 and hereby sign it into law. (Presents signed, sealed Bill for camera.)

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Honourable President for your signing and the seal and thank you to Isabella Pain for assisting with that. We will now move on to Item number 19 which is "Adjournment". I would sincerely like to thank all the Members and Ministers for their ongoing contributions. I would also like to thank the Assembly Members for their patience during this virtual Assembly. I think it was a learning curve for all of us and I sincerely appreciate all of your patience and guidance through this. I would also like to thank the staff that have worked with us for this whole year and

worked very hard in helping us put this Assembly together, working on the budgets, working on the Acts, things like that, that we have worked on the past couple of days. They've done a wonderful job, I think. This concludes our sitting. I would also like to thank everybody that has joined us virtually for the very first time in our Assembly. Unfortunately, the circumstances that brought us to this situation of a virtual Assembly are due to a global pandemic. I truly hope we will be back in Hopedale in June if it's safe to do so for our communities. I hope everybody who's watched has enjoyed and learned what our elected officials have been up to and the work that goes into doing this Assembly and I truly hope that they have a better understanding and enjoyed what they've learned over the past couple of days. I would also like to thank everybody who's helped make this Virtual Assembly possible-, that would be the IT Department, the Director, Robert Ford, the company that we have contracted in Ontario. They've been great. Once again, thank you, everybody for the Assembly Members for participating in the training the past couple of days. Thank you to Mary and Tabea. They're always wonderful. Thank you to Gus, our translator and with that, I would like to say, thank you, and this concludes our Assembly sitting. We are adjourned until the week of June 7th to the 11th with hopes that we are in Hopedale. *Nakummek*, everybody. Thank you.