



**Nunavut Canada**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT**

**Nunavut Leadership Forum:  
Election of the Speaker, Premier and Ministers**

Official Report

**Friday, November 15, 2013**

## Table of Contents

Prayer.....	1
Adoption of Agenda .....	1
Nominations for Speaker.....	1
Acclamation of Speaker .....	2
Nominations for Premier .....	2
Questioning Candidates for Premier .....	14
Election of Premier.....	64
Nominations for Cabinet Positions.....	65
Election for Cabinet Positions .....	78

**Members Present:**

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Ms. Monica Ell, Mr. Joe Enook, Mr. George Hickes, Mr. David Joanasie, Mr. George Kuksuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Mr. Johnny Mike, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, Mr. Samuel Nuqingaq, Mr. Paul Okalik, Mr. Keith Peterson, Mr. Paul Quassa, Mr. George Qulaut, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Tom Sammurtok, Mr. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook, Mr. Peter Taptuna, Ms. Jeannie Ugyuk.

>>*Meeting commenced at 10:00*

**Prayer**

**Clerk** (Mr. John Quirke): Thank you, members. I call the meeting of the Nunavut Leadership Forum to order.

Before we proceed with today's agenda, I call upon the Member for Quttiktuq to deliver the prayer.

>>*Opening Prayer*

**Adoption of Agenda**

**Clerk:** Good morning. *Ullaakkut*. It is my duty to convene today's proceedings of the Nunavut Leadership Forum for the selection of the Speaker, Premier and Members of the Executive Council.

All members have copies of the procedures for the leadership selection process in front of them. The procedures have been agreed to by the Full Caucus.

A copy of today's agenda is also in front of members. Do members agree to adopt the agenda?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Nominations for Speaker**

**Clerk:** Thank you. I will now open the floor for nominations for the position of Speaker. Member for Netsilik.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to nominate the Member for Amittuq, George Quviq Qulaut.

**Clerk:** Thank you. Does the Member for Amittuq accept the nomination?

**Mr. Qulaut** (interpretation): Yes, I accept.

### Acclamation of Speaker

**Clerk:** Are there any more nominations? There being none. Thank you. Member George Quviq Qulaut, please proceed to the Chair.

>> *Applause*

### Nominations for Premier

**Chairman** (Mr. Qulaut)(interpretation): Thank you, members. I wish to take this opportunity to thank all members for their support. We will have a lot of responsibilities that we will have to deal with.

I will now open the floor for nominations for the position of Premier. Member for Netsilik, Jeannie Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to nominate the Member for Kugluktuk, Peter Taptuna, for the position of Premier. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Member for Kugluktuk, Peter Taptuna, do you accept the nomination?

**Mr. Taptuna** (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Chairman, I accept.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Are there any other nominations? Member for Arviat-Whale Cove, George Kuksuk.

**Mr. Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to nominate the Member for Pangnirtung, Johnny Mike, for the position of Premier. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Member for Pangnirtung, Johnny Mike, do you accept the nomination?

**Mr. Mike** (interpretation): I decline at this time. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. The member has declined the nomination. Are there any other nominations? Member for Pangnirtung, Johnny Mike.

**Mr. Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to nominate Paul Okalik, Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Paul Okalik, do you accept the nomination?

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Yes. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. The member has accepted the nomination. Are there any other nominations? Member for Baker Lake, Simeon Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to nominate Paul Quassa, Member for Aggu.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Member for Aggu, Paul Quassa, do you accept the nomination?

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Yes, I accept. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. He has accepted the nomination. Are there any other nominations? Thank you. There being no more nominations, we will now proceed to the candidates' remarks.

Each candidate has up to 20 minutes to make remarks.

We will proceed in alphabetical order by surname.

Firstly, Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Paul Okalik, you can proceed. I apologize. I didn't hear you.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): I would like to know where I'm going to be, whether at the witness table or in my chair.

**Chairman**: Yes. (interpretation) In English, (interpretation ends) the Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Paul Okalik, you may proceed to the witness table.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Good morning. I welcome all of you to the Chamber.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to congratulate you and recognize your courage in taking the important role of maintaining the dignity of this Chamber.

I want to humbly thank Mr. Mike for nominating me for the position of Premier. I am truly grateful that the Member of the Legislative Assembly from my beautiful hometown of Pangnirtung has asked me serve. My hometown is the most beautiful place in all of Nunavut.

In October, I made a commitment to the residents of Iqaluit-Sinaa to represent their concerns, particularly their concerns around education and mental health services. I pledged to use my education and skills in law and political science and my experience in government for the benefit of our citizens. The good people of Iqaluit-Sinaa placed their confidence in me and I was rewarded with my fourth term as a Member of the Legislative Assembly.

When you are committed to public service, there is no greater honour or responsibility. To my fellow members of this legislature, in this place, we are equals. Our government requires us all to work together if we are to succeed. Again, our government also calls on us to elect our own leadership to realize our shared commitment to Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) I am motivated by the encouragement I have received from my fellow members to let my name stand for Premier. You have told me your support is based on what I have to offer and not where I was born nor where I happen to live. That is very important because the challenges facing our territory have no borders.

Nunavut's education system is failing our students. Too many Inuit remain jobless. We need to find innovative solutions to our housing shortages. These problems affect Nunavummiut regardless of race, language, or community. We must create solutions that keep all of our citizens in focus. This is serious work that requires commitment day in, day out.

With the honour of the position of Premier comes the responsibility to put the interests of all before the interests of one. This applies to both communities and individuals. With humility, I accept the nomination for Premier because I believe we can achieve the goals we set for ourselves. We can act in the common good and find our common ground. We can unite our unique expertise and backgrounds because we all share the same dream, a dream to claim our territory's future for our children.

Mr. Speaker and fellow members, today is not a day to lay out a fully detailed plan of where our government will go in the next few years. That direction is something we will set together. I do believe, however, that the person who you choose to head your government must have a clear sense of priorities and be able to listen, learn, and lead immediately upon being sworn in. Our constituents put us here to act on their behalf and the hard work should begin now.

We have a right to know the priorities of anyone who presents themselves as a candidate for Premier. These are mine:

We must invest in education as a lifelong pursuit. The foundation of lifelong learning begins with quality early childhood education. Every child should have access at \$10 a day.

We will expand the daycare centres that are working, like Iqaluit's Tumikuluit or Arviat's Pirursaivik, Arviat's Head Start program. Elsewhere, we will provide the tools and support to build new centres.

I am inspired by the leadership we have seen in Sanikiluaq where high school students, under the supervision of a carpenter, built the school's daycare for class credit.

Early childhood education curricula must be coordinated so that children start school recognizing that learning is fun and grounded in their identities.

In the early days of Nunavut, we built new schools around our territory. Now it's time to revisit what is happening inside them.

Social passing is not serving our students. I know that Nunavut students have potential like all others. Even if graduation rates decline in the short term, improving standards is an investment in our future.

There are no more excuses for not having Inuktitut language curricula. How can we expect our youngest citizens to learn with imported materials? We must make subjects more relevant to our environment and our culture.

Today, there aren't enough schools offering academic programs. Completing high school should be a ticket to advance. For that, we need a standardized academic high school curriculum and assessments. Those who do go onto post-secondary studies need more support to reflect the cost of living. This is a short-term investment. There are jobs to be had in government and they should be filled with Nunavummiut.

(interpretation) Inuit employment in the formative years of our government climbed steadily. However, progress appears to have stalled.

At the Department of Environment, the Inuit employment rate is in the 30 percent range. These are the people making wildlife decisions on our behalf. By enhancing the successful Environmental Technology Program with two additional years, Nunavummiut will hold degrees in environmental science. Inuit will gain employment in the Department of Environment and add Inuit traditional knowledge to wildlife management.

We must deliver a law program again. All 11 graduates of the Akitsiraq Law School program are contributing to our territory as lawyers and community leaders.

(interpretation ends) Don't misunderstand me. There are many good people who choose to make Nunavut their home. They bring their heart and energy to making this a better place to live, and I welcome them. Being welcoming, however, cannot hide the fact that the government needs to reflect the people that it represents.

I have a record of achievement in creating the educational and employment opportunities for the people of Nunavut. A representative health care profession makes business sense. That's why we started the Nursing Program. More Inuktitut-speaking health care providers will allow for more accurate medical diagnoses.

We have to be smarter with our health care dollars. Simply devolving addictions counselling to our small hamlets hasn't made addictions go away. We need to put forward strategic resources to reduce the damage that addictions cause to our fellow citizens.

Suicide is too personal to point fingers, but I will say that we must work together to realize significant reduction for our territory.

Across Nunavut, we need four mental health nurses to support the good work that our mental health workers are already doing. The money for mental health workers is already budgeted, but the positions remain vacant. There can be no more excuses. We must fill these positions.

At one time, Nunavut invested heavily in an evidence-based intervention program called ASIST. It helped, but many of those who were trained have lost their certification. We must resurrect this program and provide the support for local delivery. We can make a difference and our citizens can live happy and fulfilling lives.

(interpretation) A healthy community also needs a robust economy that creates opportunities based on community assets and the skills of our citizens.

In 2007, I asked deputy ministers to learn Inuktitut and take classes at the Pirurvik Centre, for example. We turned to the Pirurvik Centre to develop an immersion class. Today, an expanded program is delivered across the territory employing local instructors.

There are people in Nunavut and around the world who are prepared to pay a small fortune for garments made of muskox wool. We must seize the value-added opportunities for muskox harvest.

Local food production can provide jobs and food security. I have noticed on Facebook that there have been significant sales for precious caribou meat from Repulse Bay and Taloyoak. I want to assist these communities in developing this business further in a sustainable way.

We also know that we have an abundance of fisheries and other natural resources throughout our territory. These precious resources are readily available in many of our communities and can be sources of income for our citizens.

I have studied the good work of the NNI review committee and look forward to improving the policy.

Public housing tenants continue to be a pressing issue for our territory and the tenants have been paying maximum rent for years and they must be rewarded. We will implement a rent-to-own program.

(interpretation ends) We will spread the success of the Habitat for Humanity program to other communities of our beautiful territory. Doing so will build new affordable homes and develop much needed construction skills for our communities.

(interpretation) Our communities are the cradles of our living culture. I am inspired by the leadership in Gjoa Haven where the Inuit organizations, governments, and the hamlet built a multi-purpose centre and Nattilingmiut history has been repatriated from Norway.



In the small community of Clyde River, we built Piquusilirivvik to keep our culture alive and teach traditional values and skills, yet students are not eligible for financial assistance. That's just not good enough.

(interpretation ends) Making the tough calls and making sure you represent Nunavut-wide interests is never easy, but when our good citizens voted for Nunavut, they were choosing local control and the survival of our language and culture. To make that work, we need local jobs, services, and infrastructure so that communities are vibrant.

Decentralization was one of those hard choices. As we implemented it and again, I was criticized in the media and in the halls here in Iqaluit, but it created jobs across our territory. Inuit employment is higher in those offices and we're all benefiting from it.

Another example was in Baker Lake, where we had to make changes to our tax system to permit development of a mine. Today, the community is bearing the fruits of our decision.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker and my fellow candidates, I am very humbled to be here. I also want to state to you that I will work with you even as the leader of the government. We will have to make sure that we make our tasks clear to the public out there and act as direction for our staff.

It is the duty of leaders to be inclusive of everyone and be guided by the wishes of our constituents. I believe that we can be strong by working together. Regardless of whoever is chosen, the Premier will succeed only by working with everyone.

Looking at our past, it is only by working closely together that we are here today. As an Inuk, I am extremely appreciative of the elders who continue to advise me. I will assure you that I will rely on their good counselling during our term.

We don't know what is going to occur today, but I want everyone to know that I look forward to working closely with each and every one of you. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): We will proceed to the next candidate. Mr. Paul Quassa, Member for Aggu, you may proceed to the witness table.

Thank you. Mr. Paul Quassa, Member for Aggu, you may proceed with your remarks.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, elders, my fellow MLAs, and of course, Nunavutmiut, first of all, I want to thank the residents of Igloolik for having confidence in me to serve as their MLA for the Aggu Riding for the next four years.

I want to congratulate all of my fellow MLAs with whom I will be sitting and working with.

I want to especially thank my wife, Elisapee, and my family for constantly being there in support of what I am doing.

It has been 20 years since our Territory of Nunavut was formally created. Nunavutmiut had and still have very high expectations of change for the betterment of our lives and communities. Nunavutmiut, of which the majority are Inuit, want a leader who understands them, who can communicate and listen to their views and issues.

When it comes to the operation of the government, we first have to know who is involved. MLAs will have to work together and support one another. I will now talk about who I am. (interpretation ends) You also need to know what our government priorities and focus must be and how this government will be fiscally accountable and focused on Nunavutmiut. Fellow MLAs, as your Premier, my goal will be that we develop Nunavut together.

(interpretation) As many of you know, I was formerly known as E5-1231. We all remember those. My real name is Aarulaaq Qunngaasallurittuq, but I am known as Paul Quassa.

I was born in an igloo at Maniittuq, which is 30 miles from Igloolik. My late father was Francis Taannaruluk, who was born in the Kivalliq region. My grandmother Uviluq came from the Nattilik region from a camp near Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven. My grandfather came from Tununiq. I am married to Elisapee, who was born in South Baffin. I believe that is my strength, having connections in all of our three regions and being one that can understand and speak the majority language of our beautiful territory.

(interpretation ends) I graduated grade 12 in 1973, and then furthered my post-secondary studies at Algonquin College in Ottawa. Right after that, I started working as a youth when discussions of creating Nunavut and creating the Nunavut territory were at its early stage. I have been a journalist, negotiator, and politician both at the community level and at the national level. In our community of Igloolik, I have been the mayor for two terms since I moved back to my hometown.

Throughout my life, I have had many choices that I have learned from and have shaped my ability to understand challenges each of us may face from time to time. I also believe that, walking the path of my life, I have gained the strength and knowledge of what it takes to be a Premier and lead this territory into self-reliance.

(interpretation) I would be remiss not to acknowledge all the elders and people who have given me guidance and paved the way for all of us to be where we are today, people who have passed on like Louis Pilakapsi, Mark Evaluarjuk, John Maksagak, and Ben Ell, to name a few, who were the real leaders. These were the leaders of the north. For Nunavut to maximize its potential, we must acknowledge the past foundation of our ancestors and traditional knowledge, understand our present opportunities, and have the future vision to develop the strategies of self-reliance and sustainability.

The Government of Nunavut needs to serve our residents respectfully and meet its obligations under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement with our partners in the spirit of active cooperation. Our government must demonstrate accountability by conducting our business with openness and honesty and by encouraging public input and feedback. People come first.

(interpretation ends) Our resources must be used in the most effective way, with structures and activities flowing seamlessly. Examples of where we need to act immediately are with the delivery of health, mental health, and social programs, bringing our care, programs, and infrastructure closer to home.

Government needs to conduct a review of income support and related social programs. We have to stop what is not working and implement a revised program, putting in place a program that supports individuals and families to achieve self-reliance.

(interpretation) We need to focus our energy on making our communities healthy and vibrant and to ensure that our territory is on par with the services and expectations that our Canadian neighbours expect. Look at our communities now. Our populations are growing. In fact, we are the fastest growing population in Canada, yet the local infrastructure is not meeting the needs of our communities. We have to think of and look at other means to meet the needs of our communities.

We are not just a territory, but a distinct territory full of opportunities, with a lot of room for improvement in the lives of our residents. We need to ensure that programs which we deliver as a government work at the community level, such as social services, known as family services. We need to look at ways that will ensure our future generations will be successful in life.

(interpretation ends) As the Premier, I would commit to each Nunavutmiut an open, transparent leadership style that stays connected to residents. I value and will continue to seek guidance from our respected and knowledgeable elders, each Member of the Legislative Assembly and our people, and of course, the international communities.

I believe we need to look outside of our territory at times, such as our circumpolar communities, to learn what works for them that can work in our territory. We have an opportunity where we can look for things that can work for our territory and certainly, as the legislature of our territory, to be creative.

(interpretation) Again, the government must conduct business with openness and honesty and encourage public input. This is critical if we are to be entirely effective. As a government, we must work collectively with federal partners, Nunavut Tunngavik, and international communities for the well-being of Nunavutmiut.

Economic opportunities need to be embraced. Nunavut needs to participate actively in the development of our economic resources while protecting our pristine environment with possible resource development.

Canada is a country with many unique landscapes and many people of different backgrounds. Nunavut is unique and part of that, yet distance separates us from each other here in the north and also from our fellow Canadians.

The youth are the future and we are the present generation that will help to shape the future they will inherit.

As I stated earlier, we need to work with the other provinces in order to work with our communities. We need to think outside of the box. (interpretation ends) Our numbers in the north are small, but our needs are great. When the communities in Canada understand these needs, they can mobilize support that can move southern governments to action.

Governments' policies are shaped all over the world by this public engagement. We shall and can harness this power and use it to shape a more equitable distribution of resources to meet our unique needs. We cannot and must not continue to be a developing world territory in a modern developed Canada.

Under my leadership, I will not permit the Government of Canada to ignore the needs of so many of our Nunavutmiut. We will harness the power of the people to change the policies of the politicians. I can say that I have done this through the negotiations of Nunavut and I believe I can do it again for the betterment of our territory.

(interpretation) As Premier, the government has to be open and open to new ideas. We must be continually open to our elders, fellow Inuit, and communities. Education and employment should be our priorities. We need a Premier who can speak and understand Nunavutmiut because we have different dialects, but the language itself is very strong. We need a Premier who is able to communicate with the people of Nunavut.

I believe that my priority is to work closely together. We are people, whether Inuit or non-Inuit. Because Nunavut is a vast territory, I would like to work closely with each and every one of you. That's why I had accepted the nomination to the premiership.

I would like to thank my colleagues and Nunavutmiut for listening to my speech. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Member Paul Quassa. You may return to your seat. (interpretation ends) We will now proceed to the next candidate. Member Mr. Peter Taptuna of Kugluktuk, you may proceed to the witness table.

Thank you. Member Mr. Peter Taptuna of Kugluktuk, you may proceed with your remarks.

**Mr. Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Congratulations on your appointment to the Speaker of the House. I also extend congratulations to my colleagues around the room here on your successful election to the Fourth Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, colleagues, and Nunavummiut, thank you for the privilege to serve as an elected official at the territorial level for the past five years.

I am honoured by the nomination for premiership and I am humbled by the opportunity for you to consider my continued public service in a greater capacity. I would like to thank Ms. Ugyuk, MLA for Netsilik, for putting my candidacy forward.

(interpretation) I'll be speaking in Inuinnaqtun. I would like to express my gratitude to the residents of Kugluktuk, who I represent, for their continued support and encouragement.

(interpretation ends) This marks the beginning of our Fourth Assembly, an opportunity to set a course for the future by working together to tackle challenges and bring a better quality of life to Nunavummiut.

Mr. Chairman, I see lots of new faces here, which means new ideas, new perspectives. I also see experienced faces around the table here. This combination presents a real opportunity for us to harvest this collective knowledge and put it to work for all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that leadership is built on the voice of the very people we serve. Mr. Chairman and colleagues, as you consider my candidacy for Premier, a role that I believe is founded on building consensus and moving forward to reach shared goals, it's about taking responsibility and delivering results that are built on integrity while facing the challenges head-on, it's about seeking opportunities for us to grow as a territory economically, socially, and culturally, it's about working diplomatically with our stakeholders, Inuit organizations, our municipalities, and our federal colleagues to build bridges that bring together our different points of view and deliver on these promises, it's about actions and outcomes, not visions and wish lists, and most of all, it's about us, it's about Nunavummiut, not individuals.

(interpretation) My parents are elders and still value hard work and respect. I grew up hunting, trapping, and living off the land. We spent time on Victoria Island and when the Hudson's Bay outpost camp closed, we moved permanently to Kugluktuk. We have also been trapping out on the land. When the Hudson's Bay Company outpost camp closed, we moved to Kugluktuk by dog team.

(interpretation ends) My parents' leadership taught me about setting goals, staying focused, and working towards them. This knowledge has led to successes in my career and made me a proud father and husband. I have grown professionally and personally.

I started in the oil and gas industry at a very young age and eventually served as part of the first all-Inuit drilling crew in the western Arctic. I have worked in the mining sector and became a certified heavy duty mechanic through a journeyman apprenticeship program. I have spent many years on the hamlet council and was a Member of the last Legislative Assembly.

These types of values and ethics were instilled through our traditions. We all know that times have changed. We can be proud of our culture while using it as a guide to meet the challenges of today. We can build a better future.

I believe in building more opportunities for education. We need to create policies and programs that support different learning styles from elementary to post-secondary education. This also applies to technical and vocational training. We need to teach skills across a wide range of settings.

It is proven that investing in education in the early years of a child's development is the single most effective way to directly reduce poverty. It's not just about skills and reading, writing, and math; it's about teaching the fundamental basics to our children and giving our children the tools that they need to succeed as they move forward through the education system. It's about providing our teachers and educators with the necessary supports to deliver exceptional education that meets the needs of a variety of learning levels and styles.

Mr. Chairman, education creates opportunities for long-term, prosperous economic growth. It improves health outcomes and our ability to better look after our elders and children. It increases our ability to be self-reliant and increases the capacity for earning more household income, which leads to growth in our communities and encourages small business activity.

We need to take a hard look at our economic future and capitalize on responsible investment across all sectors. These sectors include industries like tourism, arts, fishing, oil and gas, and of course, mining. A balance is needed to ensure we do not spread ourselves too thin or create unrealistic expectations.

Continued work is necessary with our federal counterparts and other stakeholders to expand and increase revenue in our exports, fisheries, and resource exploration and extraction.

Mr. Chairman, infrastructure such as marine and airports and efforts to reduce fossil fuels must be improved and developed to support our economic growth.

We need to support our hunters and trappers and continue to advocate for sustainable hunting and exporting practices.

We need to reaffirm our position on economic impacts of the European policies that threaten our sustenance.

Development must be done responsibly so our lands, waters, and wildlife continue to flourish with limited impacts.

Mr. Chairman, we need to diversify our economy by increasing investments and opportunities for small businesses, the arts, culture, and tourism while benefiting Inuit

employment across all of these sectors. It is pivotal that social supports are in place to manage the impacts of our endeavours. We desperately need to manage the social challenges we currently face around mental health, suicide prevention, food security, and of course, housing. I, too, share the same concerns as our citizens, I hear my fellow Nunavummiut and what they would like to see happening in education, poverty, health, economic development, and infrastructure.

Mr. Chairman and colleagues, there is no one-size-fits-all response nor is there a magic wand that gives us the solutions. We must harness the achievements of previous assemblies and continue to build on accomplishments. We must learn from our previous mistakes, make progress, and shape programs, services, and policies based on knowledge and evidence.

During the Third Assembly, we faced difficult challenges to balance the budget and to build critical infrastructure throughout Nunavut while continuing to provide the programs and services that Nunavummiut need. In the face of these challenges, we have managed to overcome this adversity and I am proud to have contributed to our successes.

Mr. Speaker, when the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation received a denial of opinion, we immediately got to work. Of course, after a few short years, we turned the corporation around to where we are today: a clean audit opinion and, more than that, the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation is now stronger than ever. The result of that means increased loans to assist our small business partners throughout our Nunavut communities.

In the last Assembly, through our efforts and with the support of our federal colleagues, we negotiated an additional \$100 million in capital funding for social housing by proving we have taken on corrective measures to address the over-expenditures of the housing corporation.

Also another thing, by changing our housing infrastructure model in planning, building design, and construction, we ensured that we could gain the most benefit from our most recent federal investment. In the New Year, construction begins and we will see the benefits of the three-model approach.

We introduced a public housing rent scale that is more responsive to the needs of our tenants and we created a board of directors to provide oversight and accountability across the corporation. We laid out a clear direction and a framework to address critical housing needs. Prudent, careful, and responsible stewardship brought us to where we are today.

We have made countless investments in airports across the territory, with the Iqaluit airport project seeing a significant federal contribution. The federal contribution of more than \$70 million to the Iqaluit International Airport project is Nunavut's first under the P3 Canada Fund. This funding is absolutely critical to ensure the success of this much needed expansion and also to lay the foundation for future major infrastructure projects.

We must take appropriate and fiscally responsible decisions. It's no longer about being reactive. This new Assembly needs to be proactive, take action, and uphold the best interests of all regions throughout our territory.

Mr. Chairman, we need to stop creating strategies that collect dust on the shelf. This well-intentioned approach strains our capacity, stretches us too thin, and could result in very little return. I've got to remind you that strategies are useful, but they must be founded on realistic goals and achievable results and measurements to identify our progress. We need to make realistic decisions and prioritize the overwhelming need to create sustainable changes.

There is no doubt that we, as a government, will have to make tough decisions. That's why our constituents put us here. Through my leadership, I commit to listening to your concerns and applying sound judgment. The price of success is hard work and dedication. I can't promise to be all things to all people, but I always will give the best effort to meet the task at hand and all the challenges we face in Nunavut.

Our successes are only achieved by a combined effort of this Assembly and as a direct result of each and every Member of this House. Therefore, I am asking for your support to lead in this effort. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. Before commencing the question period for candidates, we will take a 10-minute recess. Thank you.

I invite all members to join me in the lounge for light refreshments. Thank you.

Our guests and visitors are invited to help themselves to tea and coffee in the foyer. Thank you.

*>>Meeting recessed at 11:08 and resumed at 11:27*

### **Questioning Candidates for Premier**

**Chairman:** Thank you, members. The Nunavut Leadership Forum will start again. I will now review the procedures for the question period for candidates for the position of Premier.

Each member not standing for the position of Premier may ask up to two questions. Each candidate may then respond in turn to the question. Questions need not be asked at the same time.

As the Chair, I will exercise discretion with respect to varying the order that candidates are invited to respond to questions and I will enforce reasonable limitations on the length of questions and answers.



Do any members have questions for the candidates? Thank you, Member Ms. Pat Angnakak, Iqaluit-Niaqunngu. You may proceed with your question.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you. My first question is for all candidates. The global economy sometimes faces challenges, and Nunavut is almost completely dependent on the federal government for transfer payments. It might be unrealistic to expect Ottawa to provide increased funding to the Government of Nunavut and it may, at some point, be necessary for the GN to cut its own spending.

In what specific areas would you reduce government spending in order to free up resources for higher priority areas? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I will now invite candidates to respond. We will begin with Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Speaker. (interpretation ends) That's a very good question. I would lead by example. I will cut two positions in the Premier's Office. From there, I will also look at the spending on consultants. The amount of money that has been spent on consultants is way too high and that money does not stay in our territory. We need to focus that money towards our own citizens and work with and consult with the members. Instead of looking outside our territory, we should be focusing on our own territory and how we can improve our economy and our standing within our country and the global community. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I will now invite candidates to respond. We will begin with... I will invite Mr. Taptuna

**Mr. Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, it's always difficult to meet the needs of Nunavummiut. In short, we have to make sure that we maintain the essential services, that being education, health, of course, and when it comes to that point, nobody, including the Premier, should be making any unilateral decisions on that. It will take all members' input. Of course, if there are layoffs in certain departments, the union will have to be consulted, and so forth. We have to determine the non-essential services first and go from there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. I will now ask Mr. Quassa to respond.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is very important and we have seen in various governments all over having to do budget cutbacks. I would review the matter with my colleagues and then I would be able to respond. We have to work together to respond to those.

One issue that I cannot forget is that the communities go through hardships. We need to make sure that the programs and services stay within the communities. Communities should be our priority as Members of the Legislative and as the Premier.

I would have to work with the cabinet and the Members of the Legislative Assembly to come to an agreed decision. No matter who is the government leader, we have to make sure that we collaborate if we're going to be doing budget cutbacks. It's important that we work together, especially when we have to do cutbacks. I believe that I would not be able to make that decision unilaterally. We have to work together and that will be my response. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Member for Tununig, Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning to Nunavummiut. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly. I have a question to the candidates. I am very proud of the fact that you accepted the nomination for premiership. I congratulate you and I expect that no matter who is selected, they will be a good Premier. That's what we expect to see as Nunavummiut.

There are various priorities in different communities of Nunavut. Employment opportunities are very important. That is the only means of surviving in Nunavut. My question is in regard to decentralized communities. Sometimes the communities don't believe whether they should be decentralized in the smaller communities. In the smaller, decentralized communities, that's part of our lives now.

What is your position on the Government of Nunavut's current decentralization policy and would you support reversing any of the decisions made by previous governments? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. (interpretation ends) Mr. Taptuna, please respond to the question.

**Mr. Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With some of these decentralization policies that we have, it's very difficult at times when we have small communities out there in our vast territory.

Mr. Chairman, again, through some of these budget constraints we're going to be facing, which every jurisdiction faces, we do have to try and make our programs, our employees, and our services available to the small communities. We do have to make them more efficient. Through discussions with the cabinet, our staff, and of course, the Legislative Assembly, there's always time and a place to make changes. As time moves forward, things change. It may be necessary to revisit these and make some changes to benefit Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. Mr. Quassa, please respond to the question.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, the Speaker. As the people of Nunavut, we have to look at all the communities as a government in order to treat them all equally. We have to make sure that we make good decisions as Members of the Legislative Assembly and to also respect the wishes of the smaller communities. With

larger communities, we have to look at where they can have decentralization of jobs because the bigger communities are not the only places in Nunavut. We have to look at the smaller communities as well.

There are also things that are out there that are not visible at this time, such as places that could be healing centres. We have to look at bringing those to the smaller communities and other things that might be brought up by the Members of the Legislative Assembly. The communities are part of Nunavut and these kinds of jobs have to be given to the smaller communities as well. As Members of the Legislative Assembly, we have to do that. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. (interpretation ends) Mr. Okalik, please respond to the question.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have some experience in this area and know that it has been positive for decentralized communities. I am proud of that and how it has created jobs in the communities. I will continue to support this initiative and be open to suggestions for improvements to decentralization. I will also work closely with our constituents and make changes whenever necessary. I will want to be open, especially towards smaller communities which are falling behind. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. (interpretation ends) Member for Netsilik, Ms. Ugyuk, please proceed with your question.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question to the candidates and for them to respond properly. I have talked about this many times as a Member of the Legislative Assembly that we have to have search and rescue in Nunavut that is based in Nunavut. There are a lot of people who have been searched for that have not been found. This is something we wanted corrected as Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) It is important that we work together with other territories to lobby the federal government to take such actions as permanently stationing search and rescue aircraft here in Nunavut. I would like all three candidates to describe what specific actions they will take to improve search and rescue capabilities in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Can you respond to the question, please. Mr. Quassa.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In terms of search and rescue, it is a very big issue in Nunavut, as we all know, and I believe we have to ensure that our federal government understands that process. We now have a site in Nanisivik. I believe that a centre such as Nanisivik is one site that can very well coordinate the search and rescue. I think these are areas that we do need to improve.

I believe the federal government certainly also has a responsibility as a Canadian government and that is where the money should be coming from. Again, it is important that once they are building these infrastructures in the north, I believe we can use those. Those are the ones that I'm looking at. I believe this House can certainly push the federal government to ensure that search and rescue is a daily event in our territory and it should be their priority as it is ours. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Mr. Taptuna, can you respond to the question, please.

**Mr. Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is always an issue when it comes to search and rescue. The big operations that are undertaken nationally are the responsibility of the federal government. As an Assembly, we do have to convey the message down to the southern politicians that it's necessary. There is a lot more air traffic and marine traffic that there's got to be a search and rescue centre somewhere up north here.

When it comes to smaller community search and rescue, I believe that we, as a government, do have to get our smaller community members organized in creating search and rescue societies. That way, they can actually fund-raise money flowing into their society to assist them in their local search and rescue operations. I believe that more emphasis by the government has to be focused on smaller communities to make them more self-reliant when it comes to local search and rescue of their members in their community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. Mr. Okalik, can you respond to the question, please.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Search and rescue is a very challenging field in our territory. In particular, our climate is very harsh and you need to respond quickly for any people who may be in danger within our territory. At the same time, we are facing our climate, which is changing rapidly, and it creates conditions that can cause real havoc for our citizens.

I look forward to working with our Member of Parliament, who wanted to work on this for our territory, and I look forward to working with our Member of Parliament if I am successful in this campaign. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. (interpretation ends) Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt, please proceed with your question.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The lack of infrastructure throughout Nunavut is and will be on the agenda for many MLAs for a long time to come. The infrastructure needs in Nunavut's communities for new capital projects are significant, and the Government of Nunavut is unlikely to ever have enough money to satisfy everyone. It is not necessarily realistic to expect Ottawa to provide billions of new dollars. How will you set priorities for capital spending? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. (interpretation) Mr. Okalik, can you respond to the question, please.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have been out of office for a while, so I don't have the lay of the land as to where all the infrastructure needs are immediate at this time. But I look forward to working with each and every one of you in identifying priorities for each of your communities and making sure that we prioritize on what we should be focusing on.

Education is always No. 1 for me and I'm encouraged by the work that has been taking place in terms of constructing daycares, utilizing local resources to maximize our dollar, and building skills throughout Nunavut. So those are things that I think we should be looking at in reducing our costs and at the same time, training locally so that any new projects in the future will be worked on with local citizens and benefiting to the maximum. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Mr. Quassa, can you respond to the question, please.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Here in Nunavut, there aren't enough infrastructures in the communities, as I have always said that, due to population growth outstripping infrastructure construction.

As a government, we can work with Inuit organizations to build infrastructure through partnership. The way I see much needed infrastructure being built in all communities is through partnerships because we're all in the same boat.

We have to work with organizations and build more infrastructures via what is called P3 arrangements in English. It is by further using the P3 method can we construct the necessary infrastructure wherever they're needed in Nunavut. This is something we need to pursue with Inuit organizations. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Mr. Taptuna, can you respond to the question, please.

**Mr. Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a real need for major infrastructure to be built in Nunavut. Mr. Chairman, the Canadian government, over the last several hundred years, has built infrastructure right across Canada, but they never built up north.

We've got to maintain focus on the lack of infrastructure and get assistance from our federal counterparts. To build more infrastructures here in Nunavut, we've got to do it in a strategic way that will attract more investment to our regions and smaller communities to create more employment. By doing so, we're attracting investors and the possibility of creating and building more infrastructures that is badly needed in Nunavut.

Again I've got to say that it has been very difficult, but as a collective group, we do have to continually lobby and be strategic about our lobbying to get more infrastructure built that will attract more investors into Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. (interpretation ends) Member for Aivilik, Mr. Mapsalak, please proceed with your question.

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I say "good day" to the people of my riding. The question that I wanted to ask was asked already, so I will ask another question to the candidates.

We all know that in Nunavut, it is very expensive to build infrastructure in our communities. My constituency and other smaller communities do not have adequate infrastructure at the airports. For that reason, the previous Members of the Legislative Assembly, along with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, struck a committee with respect to poverty reduction.

Food security is very important for the people of Nunavut. How would the candidates work on food security in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Can you respond to the question, please. Mr. Taptuna.

**Mr. Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, in the last Assembly, we did create the food coalition to help prepare Nunavummiut for food security. During the term of the last government, we assisted communities in getting community freezers, but it's an ongoing issue. Food security is going to be one of those things that we do have to constantly look at.

We do have to try and bring up our economic activity, which creates more employment to lessen food insecurity. We do have to create opportunities as a government. Being a Premier, you do need to create opportunities for employment and other various economic activities. Without that, our poverty and food insecurity will always exist. So therefore, one of the basic things that have got to be done is through education and reasonable, sustainable economic development for our territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. Can you respond to the question, please. Mr. Quassa.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a good question. In any community, even in larger communities, you could see food insecurity. As I was saying earlier, we have to work together with the people of Nunavut to find solutions to this issue. We should work with representatives of the communities, realizing that each community is different from one another.

Let's ask the communities for more information and their input to determine what they can do. It is the only way to provide meaningful support to them. There are different thoughts in each community. We have to find that out first and then bring out different things to help them with food security. Because we cannot provide just one thing, we have to find out from the communities first how they can have better food security.

As I said, there are various organizations that we have to work with and we have to work together, not as isolated individuals. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Can you respond to the question, please. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have nurses and teachers in each community. There are not very many Inuit who are employed in these fields. Jobs have to be open for them. They know their community. So those are the types of things I will do if I am elected to have more employment for the people in each community.

I like caribou meat, but it's very hard to get caribou meat here in our community. It would be good if they could order from Repulse Bay and other communities. Those are the types of plans that would work. By working together to have food that we like, all the organizations that are around could probably help us out to provide various kinds of food that we could import or trade. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. (interpretation ends) Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Kuksuk, please proceed with your question.

**Mr. Kuksuk** (interpretation): I will ask my question in English. (interpretation ends) Everyone is talking about helping smaller communities. In my riding, Whale Cove is one of the smallest communities in Nunavut. What concrete plans will you have as Premier to have the smaller communities growing economically and socially? (interpretation) Thank you very much.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kuksuk. Mr. Quassa, can you respond to the question, please.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like I said earlier on, we have to have different assistance or support for each community. We have to look at smaller communities, what they have, and for the support to start from the communities. As a government, we have to look at what the community can do while we're Members of the Legislative Assembly for four or five years.

I know that the smaller communities have opportunities in their own community. They have more wildlife. Those are the types of things we can use. We also have hunters in each community because we are hunters. We have to recognize them and their abilities, even if they are from smaller communities. Wherever they may be, the hunters know the Inuit traditions. If we recognize that, we can use that to support and help them.

I can also say that our hunters know the Inuit tradition. Our Inuit tradition is to give away food. For instance, if we look at Greenland, they usually have country food that they sell in their communities to help the hunters economically. Those are the types of things that we can use to help the smaller communities. We can also do that. If those abilities can be used, we can look at how we can use them in the smaller communities because not everybody is going to work for the government. We have to look at our hunters because they can be provided for economically by selling their country food. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Mr. Taptuna, you're next.

**Mr. Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do have a number of small communities within our vast territory. For these small communities to be sustainable there has to be a large amount of government funding available to them and at times, some of this funding is not large enough to sustain these smaller communities. With more economic activity, these smaller communities become more viable.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, we have seen a number of these small communities in the past in southern Canada where they have actually dissolved, people move out, and it is very difficult to keep our younger people in these small communities, as they move out and migrate to where they can actually get employment and help their families out through employment.

With more economic activity, I am specifically speaking about exploration, mining, and possible road infrastructure throughout our regions that will make these smaller communities more viable. Training has to be involved, of course, in every aspect of any kind of development.

Collectively, there may come a time when this whole Assembly will have to make a decision on whether these small communities are viable or not. That's a drastic reality that we may have to face down the line, but usually, with more economic activity, these small communities will be sustainable. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. Mr. Okalik, you're next.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends)As I said earlier to the prior question, we have some jobs in each and every community. We require teachers, nurses, and also police. We should do our part as a government and create training opportunities for every community so that we spend our money locally and benefit the local economy in these industries that will never go away in every single community. I look forward to working with all members in making sure that we make that happen.

We also have to focus on what is available throughout Nunavut. What gifts does each of our communities have that we can provide to the rest of the territory and outside? I look forward to working with each and every one of you in making sure that we maximize all our resources regardless of where you are from. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. At this time, we will break for lunch and we will return at 1:30 p.m. Thank you.

>>*Meeting recessed at 12:05 and resumed at 13:30*

**Chairman** (interpretation): We can now resume. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Shooyook, you can proceed with your question.

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you. I am very proud of the candidates for premiership. I know they're very capable. The question that I was going to pose has been brought up by the member from Repulse Bay, so I'm going to be asking another question.

Ever since Nunavut was created, you probably know how many years have passed so far and we're at the implementation stages, yet there is still some Inuit traditional knowledge that has not been implemented into the government system. There is nothing in writing. Just for further clarity, there is the healthy lifestyle through traditional customs and the other one currently in the works is wildlife, marine mammals, especially polar bears.

Following the Inuit tradition, these issues have not been documented nor implemented into the government system. My question to the candidates is whether the Inuit traditional knowledge is going to be documented or implemented into the government system. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Shooyook. Can you respond to the question, please. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you. I believe there were two questions and I didn't get the second one. I will try and respond to the first question.

We first tried to deal with the implementation of Inuit traditional knowledge through the *Wildlife Act*. We utilized a lot of the Inuit elders during my term. We were never able to implement most of it. We also worked hard to make sure that there were some orientation programs for the people out there. With that, we set up Piqqusilirivvik in Clyde River.

I don't know whether I am going to be elected to the premiership, but I will definitely support Inuit traditional knowledge being implemented into the government system. We will become more people-friendly if we implement it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Can you respond to the question, please. Mr. Quassa.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I touched on it a bit earlier in my opening comments and stated the importance of it. Looking at the government system with respect to social and lifestyle issues, we have to make sure that we spread it throughout Nunavut.

As you are probably aware, the majority of our youth are underage. We have to make sure that we have subjects covering Inuit traditional knowledge in the school system. It doesn't necessarily have to be documented, but it has to be utilized or taught in the schools, especially lifestyles, social services, and so on.

We have to make sure that Inuit traditional knowledge is implemented into the government. Repeatedly, I keep saying that the Inuit are a majority and it's very important to implement that. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Mr. Taptuna, you have the floor.

**Mr. Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Throughout the government here, we do have an *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* Committee that is consulted for any changes or amendments to government policies and legislation. They have a lot of input on how the policies are shaped for the government and for Nunavummiut. Under the land claims, we do have Article 32, which includes social inclusion of Inuit. The Government of Nunavut does use that to make policies, legislation, especially including Inuit organizations, Inuit, and other organizations throughout the territory.

A good example is the collusion with the government and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to come up with a policy on poverty reduction. That's a good example of organizations, Inuit, *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, Inuit organizations, businesses, and other partners trying to deal with a really huge file of trying to reduce the poverty that we have here in Nunavut. That is a good example of social inclusion of Article 32 and *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. (interpretation ends) Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Ms. Ell, please proceed with your question.

**Ms. Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is regarding the Third Legislative Assembly. The previous government made a number of significant changes to the organizational structure of the Government of Nunavut, including the dissolution of the Department of Human Resources and the separation of the Department of Health and Social Services into a new Department of Health and a new Department of Family Services. As Premier, would you reverse these changes? Would you be looking at other options for restructuring the government system? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ell. Can you respond to the question, please. Mr. Taptuna.

**Mr. Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good question. Just recently, on April 1, those departments were separated to become more manageable. Health and Social Services was a huge department. When that happened, there were consultations and input from all organizations, including cabinet, FMB, and the departments. To get to that point, the reason that was done was to become more efficient and effective in serving Nunavummiut.

As the Premier, that's one of the things I want to take a good, hard look at because the Premier should not unilaterally start making decisions on reversing or separating departments. It has to be done through the participation of the Legislative Assembly, the departments, and the communities that are out there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. Mr. Quassa, it's now your turn.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The employees of the government are very important and I keep saying that the Inuit are the majority of the population in Nunavut. Article 23 states very clearly that Inuit are the majority and it should be reflected in the employees. Since we are part of one of the signatories, we have to make sure that we look at Article 23 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and implement and do our share.

In looking at Nunavut as a whole, there is a large unemployed population and we have to make sure that we do something about it so that we become more self-reliant. Of course, there has to be dialogue among us in the House so that we have a proper, well-oiled government. Looking at that article, we have to set it up so that the majority of the population becomes more self-reliant.

With respect to health and social issues, I believe that they go hand in hand. I can say that. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Mr. Okalik, you have the floor.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with Mr. Quassa because human resources are very important to the government and it's quite obvious that we have to look at this issue again. With it being put under the Department of Finance, it seems like they're not going to be getting enough attention. There is approximately \$1.4 billion that is moving around within the government. Human resources being in that department, it's going to be put on the backburner. It's something that is very important to us.

I also looked at the other jurisdictions to see how their government system is set up. Most of them have their own human resources department. There are 4,000 employees within the government system and it's obvious that we have to look at this issue again. I'm okay with everything else. Social services are very important by themselves and the Department of Health, again, is very important by itself. I would leave these two departments separate, but then again, I would want to work closely with my colleagues here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Member for Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok, you may proceed with your question.

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good day to my colleagues. I would like to say “good day” to the people of Rankin Inlet North and Chesterfield Inlet. I will be directing my question to all the candidates.

Before April 1, 1999, the people of Nunavut had a clear vision of what kind of government they wanted for our new territory. At that time, it was envisioned that the new territorial government would follow the guidance that had been outlined by such bodies as the Office of the Interim Commissioner and the Nunavut Implementation Commission. (interpretation ends) However, since 1999, the government has maintained a number of status quo practices and structures. Of course, this has led to many Nunavummiut feeling alienated from their own government.

I would like each of the candidates to describe how they would use their position as the head of the territorial government to implement the kinds of changes that were originally envisioned for Nunavut before division. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Sammurtok. Can you respond to the question, please. Mr. Quassa.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That’s one of the subjects that I have wanted to talk about. As Members of the Legislative Assembly, we have to look at the uniqueness of Nunavut and use that as our starting point. We also have to look at what was originally envisioned for the new territorial government. When Nunavut was created, we had a dream for a unique governance structure.

As I stated in English before, we have to focus on the uniqueness of our territory. We are a unique jurisdiction within Canada, not only the land, but also the people. We didn’t simply want to do things the same way. In fact, that was expected by many Nunavutmiut. We have to refocus on what makes us unique and proceed from that as a point of reference.

That is my perspective to that question. Starting from April 1, 1999, that’s what the people of Nunavut envisioned. We have to look at our uniqueness and refocus on the visions that we had before. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Mr. Taptuna, you’re next.

**Mr. Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That’s a very good question. Mr. Chairman, the uniqueness that Mr. Quassa talks about is still quite relevant to what the last government has been trying to do. Mr. Chairman, it’s negotiated that the Inuit have ownership of lands that are out there, Inuit owned lands, both surface and subsurface. That’s one of the things that would drive the economy and benefit Nunavut and benefit the beneficiaries of Nunavut.

One of the things that the government has to continue to focus on is to assist either Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated or the regional Inuit associations to maintain a structure

where, if there is development, the environment, our waters, and our wildlife are protected and, if there is development within Inuit owned lands, Inuit benefit, that the purpose of the government is to try and maintain these things to happen when development is happening within our territory, especially on Inuit owned lands.

One of the things that the previous government had done is to streamline some of these regulatory processes. We do know that there are IPGs within the land claims agreement that look after the environmental assessment of these things, but the government tries to maintain that they participate and, any development that happens on Inuit owned land, that Inuit directly benefit from these developments while maintaining good environmental stewardship. One of the things that the previous government has tried to do is to involve the communities, both large and small communities that are affected. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. Mr. Okalik, you're next.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I stated earlier is very relevant to the question at hand. Even though we are now a young government, the Inuit language and culture has yet to be taught in the schools. No wonder we have a high dropout rate because whatever is taught in the schools is not relevant to our country.

We have to try and catch up to what was envisioned by the people of Nunavut. We have to refocus because it's going to be very much of a benefit to us. We have tried to strengthen our language and we still have yet to see it being used as the working language of the government, but we need your support to start implementing all of those. You can't do it by yourself. We have to work together to start implementing and utilizing what was envisioned in the past. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Mike, you may proceed with your question.

**Mr. Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the people of Iqaluit for welcoming us to your community. First of all, I would like to thank the people and my new colleagues for their hospitality. I would also like to take this time to thank all the people of Pangnirtung who went out to vote.

With that, I have a question for the candidates and it's regarding some of us who have been affected by the QIA's Qikiqtani Truth Commission. The dog slaughter and the residential school issues are now wide open out there in the public. Of course, it has an intergenerational effect, and it's not all lies. The 50's to 1975 was a dark period for the Inuit with the dog slaughter and the residential schools.

My question to the candidates is in regard to the Qikiqtani Truth Commission and the reports that were brought up by the Qikiqtani Inuit Association. If you should get elected to the premiership, what kind of reconciliation processes would you like to see so that there is a better working relationship between what happened in the past? How you

would make up with the housing issue? What kind of support are you going to give to the Qikiqtani Inuit Association? Where are you going to be taking those issues that I brought up? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mike. Can you respond to the question, please. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This has been the very challenge for a lot of Inuit. There are other questions about what came out of the report. I have gone through it personally. If you have gone through any of those traumatic periods in your life, it does have an effect on the rest of your life and you have to let it go before you start going on the right path. I thank the elders who have helped me overcome those challenges.

As I stated earlier in my opening comments, I touched up on the issue of mental health so that we can focus on letting go of the past that had a traumatic effect on lives. The only way we can have a brighter future is to start healing. If you hold on to them, it has a negative effect on the rest of your life. I thank the Qikiqtani Inuit Association for presenting that report. It is going to help us as the Nunavut government and the federal government. We have to work together to overcome those. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Mr. Quassa, you have the floor.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, the Speaker. Looking to the future, we have to know what happened in the past. Some of us have lived through those experiences. If we're going to plan for the future, we have to look at the past and know the history before the creation of Nunavut.

There are also Inuit traditional customs that could be part of the subjects in the schools. As I stated earlier in my opening comments, how can we have a closer working relationship with the NGOs? Because the government and the Inuit organizations are representing the same people, we can work together to create curriculum or subjects on the history of Nunavut.

Education is very important in our schools. We can give them unique subjects like the history of Nunavut so that our young people will know the history of Nunavut and how Nunavut was created. Even though they're from the past, we can teach the subject and look at it for planning in the future. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Mr. Taptuna, you have the floor.

**Mr. Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Having attended residential school, I am fully aware of the reports that come out from the truth and reconciliation council. In the past, it has been traumatic both for the students and the parents. It's one of those things that Inuit had to go through, not just Inuit, but natives throughout Canada. I know it's a very difficult thing to talk about.

It's one of those things where most folks who succeed in life do let go of their experiences from the residential school and move on. With some of the things that do happen, you do have to learn from the past and, in some cases, let go of the past to move forward. We see that a lot of successful people have done that. They do get a lot of assistance from various organizations, health facilities, and other folks, including elders, to move on in life.

I'm not too familiar with the Qikiqtaaluk lawsuit against dog slaughters, but we know that the government, in the past, has assisted the Inuit organizations in coming up with discussions and files to move forward on towards the federal government to make sure some of these things that were done in the past are reconciled. We do have some history that goes back quite a ways, but the federal government does have to reconcile. I'm talking about some of the High Arctic exiled people and of course, the dog slaughter, and other various things.

To move forward, we do have to work together with all the Inuit organizations and our communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Just as a reminder, if you asked your first question and you have a second question, please raise your hand so that I can write your name down. Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. Mr. Quassa. Pardon me, my apologies. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes, you may proceed with your question.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to exercise asking my questions consecutively. First of all, I would like to congratulate you on being acclaimed to the Speaker's position. That's a very prestigious position and I look forward to working with you.

The first question that I have is we have talked about infrastructure demands and staff capacity. I would like to focus it more from the health side of things on palliative care, long-term care, mental illness, addiction support, and services for disabilities.

This government spends a lot of money outside of the territory to other jurisdictions to service our population in need and takes them away from the support systems of their friends, family, and peer groups who can help them go through the challenges that they are facing.

How would you rate the priorities on your list on how to deal with these issues and to bring forward the capacity and infrastructure needed to keep our people at home?

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Can you respond to the question, please. Mr. Taptuna.

**Mr. Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try and respond to the three questions.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the things that we have to prioritize on infrastructure is making sure that our federal counterparts... . As you know, Mr. Chairman, most of our funding for infrastructure comes from the federal government, whether it's for arenas, housing, schools, or health centres.

We do have to prioritize to make sure that we include some of these smaller communities for infrastructure. As you know, infrastructure attracts investors from outside and that's got to be done strategically. We just can't prioritize where it becomes an impossible wish list, as I indicated in my presentation. We do have to prioritize where we don't just create a wish list.

For mental illness and health issues, we do have to come up with a strategy to assist in the short term. Mr. Chairman, the longer term solution is through education, good wage employment, healthy families, educated younger people, and healthy younger couples with children. Again, without employment, that is very difficult to accomplish.

One of the priorities for the government has to be economic development; wage employment. As I have always said in the past, without employment, it is very difficult for a family member to get out of the rut. At least with employment, you have that opportunity to assist yourself, your family, and the community around you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. Mr. Quassa, the floor is yours.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Up to date, there are two buildings that look after long-term care. They are at full capacity. As a government, we have to think about how to expand that. We have to look at it because these facilities are already full.

For example, as we said and people have been saying, how can we help the smaller communities with social issues, such as healing? There are no healing programs in all of Nunavut. Perhaps in the smaller communities, we have to look at that so that we could have some healing facilities.

We all know that we are going to be getting older. Now, in the communities, the elders' facilities are also filled up. There are some people on waiting lists. These things have to be revisited because we are all going to grow old.

We have to work together and carefully look at the programs for those with disabilities, for those who need some healing, and for the elders. All of these programs will have to be revisited within Nunavut. We should not just to have one facility; we should have more than one facility. We will all have to work together and look into it.

As I have been saying, the other organizations that are up here in Nunavut representing Inuit are out there for us to work with in regard to the concerns people have. We cannot



do everything alone, so we have to seek other people who can help us establish these programs. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Mr. Okalik, you have the floor.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been getting some things back, but we are behind. We have to do some good planning.

Our airport will be very expensive too. I was shocked that even though it will be very costly, there will not be any access for people with disabilities. Some of them will be able to utilize it, but for things we plan in the future, we have to keep in mind the people who need to access the infrastructure. We have to educate Nunavummiut to look after these issues, such as the need for more nurses, and make sure that they are directed to Nunavummiut and to Inuit. Someone also mentioned disabilities.

In particular, to those with addiction problems, I am in full support of dealing with that. Having had addiction problems myself, I know that those who are addicted to alcohol and drugs can be nearly unbreakable. We need to provide more support to the communities to provide healing and support to overcome addictions. When people with addiction problems get the help to overcome their addictions, it has a great benefit to the community and they become contributing members in the labour force and completing their education. It is something we need to revisit in all communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Mr. Hickee, you may proceed with your second question.

**Mr. Hickee**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As elected members representing our constituencies and Nunavut as a whole, we have to hold ourselves to higher standards and put the people above ourselves. As the Premier, you are expected to be our face and the ambassador of Nunavut at the territorial, national, and international levels. How will you ensure that other jurisdictions will always consider us, the people of Nunavut, in a positive light?

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Hickee. Mr. Paul Quassa, can you respond to that question, please.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you. That was a very good question because Canadians have to know how unique we are. I have been thinking and I would like to pursue for the schools that we should have an education system more like in the south.

How can we get Nunavutmiut to be more recognized as Canadians? Whoever becomes Premier has to be able to tell other Canadians of the uniqueness of the north. We have to be proud of that and tell other Canadians about our culture and uniqueness, even throughout the world. We have to tell Canadians and the world about the uniqueness of

Inuit and be proud of it. That's how I would pursue it if I was to be chosen for Premier because it's very important and it's going to help us to be recognized. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Mr. Taptuna, you have the floor.

**Mr. Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A very good question. As you know, all members sign an oath of office, and we will be doing that in a few days here. To have the respect of other jurisdictions, we do have to have high ethical standards, and our communities expect no less.

To deal with other jurisdictions, whether it's Europeans, our colleagues from the United States, including, of course, Canada, we do have to work methodically, with respect, and with a purpose. I have always said that it is better to strategize and come up with a plan and purpose before you go and talk to anybody, especially when the whole world is watching us. The whole world is watching the north. There is so much activity that may be happening up here. Of course, climate change is one of them. To have high ethical standards, every elected official in Nunavut has to have that.

One of the major components of being a successful government is to respect other jurisdictions, come up with a methodical plan that they would respect, and have them understand our uniqueness. As Mr. Quassa said, we are unique. We're in charge of a very big land mass, one-fifth of Canada's size, and the longest coastline in Canada, for that matter, but we lack very critical, basic infrastructure. To try and have our southern counterparts or colleagues understand that, we have to do that with respect.

The big issue is that when we talk about our land, we're talking about Canada's sovereignty also. So we have to push that and educate our southern colleagues to make sure that they understand that this place, the north, is unique. Without ethical standards from this government, it's going to be very hard to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. Mr. Okalik, you have the floor.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have held high office before, I have made mistakes, and I have moved on. Going through those missteps have taught me some very valuable lessons that I will uphold this office with great honour.

When it comes to meeting the outside world, I tend to over-prepare and know what issues I will be addressing. The greatest respect that I have received in the past is that when I know what the issues are and I address them respectfully.

We may have differences with other jurisdictions, but we find ways to work together and accomplish wonderful things. I look forward to doing that again, as our jurisdiction expects no less. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak, you may proceed with your question.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to say “good day” to the people of Baker Lake and the people who voted for me. I also congratulate all the candidates for seeking the position of Premier.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for all the candidates. During my recent election campaign, residents of Baker Lake raised a number of concerns with me regarding health and wellness issues across the territory.

Mr. Speaker, although the Nunavut government spends around a quarter of a billion dollars each year on health care, issues such as a need for a better mental health program, substance abuse treatment, medical travel, cancer prevention, and suicide prevention initiatives are very much in the minds of Nunavummiut.

Can each candidate describe what they would include as specific priorities for the Minister of Health to accomplish in our new government? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Can you respond to the question, please. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my opening comments, I mentioned that mental health affects everyone, from the youth to our elders. I will want more things done in this area because we haven’t made any progress there and we end up spending more money as a government in areas we should have addressed. There is no question that we have to do something about this.

We have been hearing that sometimes nurses or other health professionals make mistakes once in a while. It seems clear that we need to tackle health issues in the communities. A lot of people are not diagnosed early enough, many of whom are our relatives, and sometimes it’s too late for them to get proper medical treatment. They end up going back and forth to hospitals. We will have to do something about that because it gets very expensive to the government. If we can resolve some of the problems and spend less money, it would really help all of our constituents.

I don’t think I answered your question properly, but that’s what I thought. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Mr. Quassa, can you respond to the question, please.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I already mentioned it. I will speak in English.

(interpretation ends) I believe we do need healthy communities. Healthy communities are very important. To have healthy communities throughout Nunavut is when we are going to move forward and I believe that this government has to have that as a priority. We need healthy communities. To move on to our future generations, we do need healthy communities. Healthy communities consist of so many things.

Now, as I was saying earlier, I believe that we don't even have treatment centres or things like that throughout Nunavut. Why is that? If we believe in healthy communities, we need to focus our efforts on that. If we are going to move forward, we do need healthy communities. That should be our No. 1 priority. Healthy communities include so many other things, whether it's social issues, housing, or mental health. I think those should be our priorities to have a successful Nunavut territory. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Mr. Taptuna, you have the floor.

**Mr. Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. It is a very good question and a very tough question to deal with. Mr. Chairman, as I stated in my opening comments on how to deal with these social issues, especially health, one of the long-term answers is through education. Not only in Nunavut, but throughout all the other jurisdictions, health costs have risen substantially. It's happening in all other jurisdictions and it's one of the worrisome trends that we see within our nation.

There are some programs that were set up to prevent some of these diseases. I know that in the past government, there was the tobacco education that was taking place. I don't know the final statistics of how satisfactory or successful that program was, but in all aspects of health, there's got to be preventative education for Nunavummiut. Medical travel is one of the higher costs of doing business in the north and that's got to be looked at and streamlined to make it more effective.

During my presentation, I did say that education and employment create healthy communities. This government can do more by finding short-term solutions to assist the people who are in desperate need right now and to find how effective that's going to be and how efficient we do have to work with our partners and everybody within this legislative room to make things work for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. Member for Arviat, Mr. Savikataaq, you may proceed with your question.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask all candidates to respond to my question. During the recent election campaign, residents of Arviat raised a number of concerns with me regarding the education system in Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, many of my constituents do not have confidence that our education system is at par with those in other Canadian jurisdictions, especially in the core academic areas of math, science, and English. Other concerns raised by residents include the issue of social promotion and the lack of standardized testing. Mr. Chairman, I

believe that these shortcomings are short-changing our youth who want to pursue higher education at the university level, college level, and ultimately a job.

Mr. Chairman, although I recognize that there is a statutory requirement for the new Legislative Assembly to review the *Education Act*, I believe that it is critically important for the new Premier to give clear direction to the new Minister of Education. [Can] each candidate describe what he would include as specific priorities for the next Minister of Education's mandate letter? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Can you respond to the question, please. Mr. Taptuna.

**Mr. Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In my presentation, I did emphasize education. In Nunavut, our young people, the younger generation, are the future leaders of Nunavut, whether it's for the government, our Inuit organizations, or our communities. Education is fundamental to Nunavummiut. It creates better health, better employment, healthier families, and healthier communities.

One of the things that I would do as the Premier is to start the process of reviewing and looking at how we can improve education. Again, I've got to say that it's fundamental. Without educated younger people, we're in trouble in Nunavut. We do have to find a solution, whether it's difficult. It is difficult. We do have to involve our partners, communities, and federal jurisdictions to take a good, hard look at how we're going to do this.

Mr. Chairman, I know that in some other jurisdictions, they have dealt with that and have improved their education system for their young people. We do have a low graduation rate. It's supposedly improving throughout the years, but at this time, with the population growth, we do have to step up to the plate and find ways to get our people educated. Without that, our future leaders for Nunavut are in trouble. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. Mr. Quassa, you have the floor.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we have all heard about the concern of education. I'm sure that this is going to be reviewed. The way we were taught and the way people are being taught today are totally different. I don't want to go backwards, but the system that they had is not being used in the present time. I, as MLA, know that this has to be reviewed and revisited. I am not sure how you translate "social promotion," but this has to be eliminated right away. That system is not improving any of the students' education in regard to their grades. We have to have the same standards as the rest of Canadians.

I think we have to see if we can have a unique system. For instance, we went to school in the morning and then in the afternoon, we gained hands-on experience through vocational training. Maybe we should look at that again in our communities. I think we have to look at the vocational side and see if we can get these programs going. We used to have these

programs. I don't want to look backwards, but it was a very good program and it was very useful to us. We could still use those programs.

I think we need to look at different ways of educating our children because Nunavut is unique. We don't have to follow everybody else's system. Sometimes we're in the status quo, so we don't go anywhere because we have a different way of thinking here in Nunavut. I hope that's clear. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Mr. Okalik, the floor is yours now.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I could not agree more with Mr. Savikataaq. I appreciate the question very much because what I'm hoping to accomplish during this term is to improve our overall education system and improve our numbers. As I said during my opening comments, I don't see a future for social promotion. Our numbers will decline in the beginning, but at the end of the day, everybody will benefit. So I'm committed to making sure that we repair what we are dealing with today.

In terms of the mandate letter to the minister, I hope to see a good, strong Minister of Education. I will interview and talk to each of the ministers and look for the strongest because education is that much important to me and I want things done. I look forward to working with the new Minister of Education and making things happen. That's my commitment. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasie, you may proceed with your question.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to congratulate each and every one of you. I also would like to send my greetings to the people who are watching the proceedings on television and also the people who are here to watch the proceedings.

Cape Dorset is very well known for being an artistic community worldwide. Also, Nunavut carvings and handicrafts are very popular and in demand. The harvesters provide country food, which we are all thankful for and have a taste for. How would you provide support to these individuals, especially when there are few employment opportunities?

I know that the government has many employees, but some of these employment opportunities are not necessarily available in all communities. How would you be providing support to the people who make handicrafts or produce art? I know that there are some programs and services for that sector, but what additional support would you provide? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Joanasie. Can you respond to the question, please. Mr. Quassa.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, the Speaker. As Nunavummiut, we have to look at different ways of earning income, for example, as you just stated, in handicrafts and arts. These are very important, as we have heard. However, if we look at Canada as a whole, products made by Nunavummiut, whether it be carvings, sewing, or artwork, are very much in demand despite Nunavut having a small population. It is one of the biggest sources of income and we need to focus on those areas, especially when there are few economic opportunities in Nunavut. We have to utilize what we have at hand and we need to utilize it to the best of our ability.

As I stated earlier in my campaign speech, we need to acknowledge and recognize the harvesters. To date, it's true, David, that the harvesters continue to share country food, as I have seen in Iqaluit. Every Saturday, there is a country food market. We are utilizing the country food market and it should spread out to the other communities. As a government, we need to encourage our communities to do just that.

We have to look at other economic opportunities to make spin-offs, not just for the government, not just for the mining sector, and not just tourism. There are other economic opportunities out there. We need to focus our energy more on those things, as we keep saying that there are many unemployed Inuit people. As a government, we need to come up with these new economic opportunities. If we're going to provide support to Nunavutmiut, we have to look for ways for economic opportunities to become more self-reliant. Therefore, we need to look at them very carefully.

These are the various things that we need to push towards as a government so that there will be more economic opportunities for Nunavutmiut and be proud of our people of Nunavut, no matter what they will be doing. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Mr. Taptuna, you're next.

**Mr. Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A very good question. At this last government, I was the Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation. I agree 100 percent that Cape Dorset artwork is world-renowned. The carvings, the prints, and the tapestry are known throughout the world. I made sure that these artists were assisted.

One of the programs that we did set up was identifying new soapstone deposits that are out there. This is ongoing and we have done it in all three regions. I've got to say that it proved very successful. We found deposits out there that weren't known in the beginning, and we continue to work on those.

If elected Premier, one of the key things that I want to concentrate on is diversifying within our smaller communities and one of the things is art. Carvings, as you know, are throughout Iqaluit. In some of the smaller communities, there are a lot of carvers out there who make a living just carving soapstone and making artwork. It is very difficult to quantify some of these numbers that are out there. We know that it brings in well over \$30 million to the territory and to the people, to the artists, and that has to continue.

We've got to come up with new programs in assisting the carvers and artists out there in marketing their work, not just into southern Canada, but throughout the world. That's ongoing work and I aim to continue that we continue all this promoting and helping the smaller community artists that are out there, including, of course, Cape Dorset. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. Mr. Okalik, the floor is yours now.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As Premier, you often host dignitaries who come our way, to our territory, and under my watch, they won't leave without a carving. That's my commitment.

One of the best features of Inuit art is the stories in each piece. I think we have to do more in terms of telling the artist's story of the actual piece. What distinguishes our art from other pieces throughout the world is the history. Our history is told in a lot of these wonderful pieces of art. When the artist describes to you what this piece meant, it really creates a new perspective on the fine piece that's before you. That's what art is supposed to do.

We should refocus our efforts. Perhaps, in some cases, we get too hung up on mass production in certain pieces. It's the actual stories that really make the product go and increase the value in a lot of cases. Those are some things that I have learned over the years, and I hope that we will pursue more markets for our arts.

In terms of the hunting market, I raised the issue of trying to support smaller communities. I don't know what else I can add on that front, but I appreciate the question very much. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson, you may proceed with your question.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I congratulate all three candidates for our Premier today. I welcome my constituents from Cambridge Bay who joined us after lunch. There were some technical problems this morning.

Mr. Chairman, one of the social determinants of health that determines a lifetime of healthy outcomes is housing. It is no secret that housing is a critical issue in Nunavut. We refer to it as a housing crisis. During my campaign, I had the opportunity to go to many houses in Cambridge Bay and talk to people about housing. It is unfortunate that some of my constituents, because of the overcrowding housing situation, actually moved to Kugluktuk because they could get some housing there with some relatives.

Mr. Chairman, in Nunavut, it's estimated approximately right now that we are 3,500 houses short. That's houses we need now. The construction cost for each house is estimated at \$450,000. On an annual basis, it's \$23,000 in O&M per house just to pay to operate those houses. In the end, if we were to somehow magically put those 3,500



houses into the communities today, we would still require 90 houses annually to meet our growing population. We have the fastest growing population of any province and territory in Canada.

We're quite happy that the Government of Canada helped us recently with the \$100 million, but that only builds 210 houses and it's going to take two years to build those houses. Through our territorial formula financing agreement with Ottawa, the funding we receive only meets our basic expenditure needs to pay for education, health, some housing, and other needs.

I would like to ask each candidate. A question for all the candidates is if they can describe what specific Nunavut-Canada intergovernmental negotiations that they would initiate as Premier to immediately engage the Government of Canada to agree to a five- or ten-year plan to invest annual funding to build houses in Nunavut that would begin to alleviate our current housing crisis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Can you answer the question, please. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Housing is an issue that will probably never go away for quite some time. We have to look for more innovative ways to try and address it.

Education is one route where we get people working and give them a chance to earn their way out of social housing once they get educated. That's a long-term view in my opinion, but we will have to go there if we are going to avoid this kind of situation in the long run. We have to start somewhere. I view education as a way of getting us out of the hole in the long run.

In the meantime, we should do our most and utmost to get people working, whether it be in our government so they can get onto staff housing, get away from public housing so that we can open up space in the public housing units. If they're paying maximum rent, as I said in my opening comment, let's look at rent-to-own for these people who can afford to own their homes for the time being. That way, at least it opens more opportunities for those who really need housing today.

I will continue to work very hard to make sure that we get additional dollars for housing because we're not even close to where we should be in order to address the other issues that are affected because of lack of housing. This issue will continue to be an issue for our Assembly and I don't see it going away, but we should start focusing on education so that we avoid it in the long run. We have to move away from it at one point or another in the future if we are to progress and be contributing members to our country.  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Mr. Quassa, the floor is yours now.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Speaker. I don't want to keep going back, but we can increase homeownership. How can renters become owners of their homes? As a government, how can we encourage the public to get into homeownership? As I recall, there was the housing assistance program in the past and we need to push for this program to be reinstated. That is just one part of the issue.

We all know that the federal government has fiduciary duties to the aboriginal people. As a government, we need to make the federal government fulfill their fiduciary duties. We have to remind the federal government about their fiduciary duties. That's where we can lobby the federal government.

In some communities, I have seen that private companies are starting to build housing units. For example, in Igloolik, the Co-op is now purchasing housing units and rents them out to the public. These are innovative ideas that we can look into and support. Even though these are private entities at the local level, they can construct housing units. That would be a good example.

These are the options that we can look into instead of focusing on one main thing. We have to keep looking at other opportunities. We have to come up with other options that the communities can utilize. We have to focus more on what the communities can offer in regard to that. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Mr. Taptuna, the floor is yours now.

**Mr. Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A very good question. As I indicated in the presentation of my opening comments, education is key to most of the social ills that we have in Nunavut and the housing shortages.

There is a real need for housing in Nunavut. It's unlike other southern jurisdictions. If you don't have a home up here in these types of cold conditions that we get up north, it's highly unlikely that a homeless person would survive out there. There is a lot of overcrowding, a lot of health issues, and a lot of violence because of the shortage of housing. We do have to address that.

In the long term, of course, education and good employment is the key to making sure that our people are viable, educated, and employed, even in our small communities. We see throughout the years here that there are a lot of imported workers from down south. I don't have anything against that. It just goes to prove that there are a lot of jobs here that have to be filled from somewhere else. The reason being a lack of education, and that's one of the key things that will alleviate the housing shortages that we have here in Nunavut.

In the past government, in the fourth legislature, I became the housing minister and I did make some changes. Although it was a short period of time, I did make some changes to the homeownership programs and the new rent scale, which is geared toward creating more employment, and actually having tenants looking for work. That's what it was

geared for. It was to make homeownership more accessible, not just to a certain few, but to all Nunavummiut.

With 3,500 units short, it is very difficult to keep up with the population growth. We need 90 new units per year just to keep up with the population growth. Once the 210 units are built in a couple of years, we will have just kept up with the population growth. We need more units built in Nunavut. To do that, it's going to be very difficult without economic development and educated Nunavummiut. It's going to be very difficult to house everybody with this population growth and lack of educated, employed people.

We all know that shortage of housing and crowded spaces contribute to a lot of mental illnesses, diseases, and sick children, which create a high cost to our health system. That's one of the situations that we face, along with other jurisdictions. The key to alleviating the shortage of housing in the long term is through education and economic development. Without that, it is very difficult to get out of this situation that we're in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak, you may proceed with your question.

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is important that the Premier and cabinet ministers take the time to actually read their briefing materials and be able to ask tough questions of their own officials and not accept everything they are told at face value. How would you approach this issue and what level of performance would you expect from your ministers? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akoak. Can you respond to the question, please. Mr. Taptuna.

**Mr. Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, if elected Premier, I expect the cabinet ministers to work just as hard. I'm not trying to scare anybody away, but I expect them to work hard just as hard as or even harder than I do.

I spent five years here and the deputy ministers have to work in conjunction with their ministers. Again, integrity has to be involved in every situation. One of the things that have been very difficult is the changes in our staff, in our senior management. That's one of the difficult things that we've got to adjust to. We do have to try and attract good, capable people into our departments.

Mr. Chairman, in order to get things accomplished, things have to be done strategically, with a purpose and a plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. Mr. Quassa, you have the floor.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's a very good question because the ministers or the Premier have to be in the habit of reading their material and I believe that they should do that all the time. Their responses should be correct. If they're going to respond correctly to questions, they have to be prepared. Reading is very important. Whether it's going to be in the Inuktitut or English language, they have to read their materials. That should be common practice.

As my colleague had stated, the deputy ministers should make sure that they brief their minister. The minister should be briefed fully. I'm not saying that it hasn't been the case, but I just want to state that they need to be briefed fully. Secondly, the Premier has to make sure that the minister does everything correctly. So they have to know their deputy ministers. The Premier has to respond correctly, and Nunavutmiut expect to be led honestly and not be misled.

So I am in agreement with that, although it may be a question. I believe it's geared toward advising and briefing, and we have no choice but to follow that. That would be my response. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Mr. Okalik, you have the floor.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have been blessed with lots of reading during my studies, so I use it. As chair of cabinet, I will review all the submissions before we have cabinet meetings. If I have issues with them, I have been known to visit the ministers and just have good discussions with the ministers to make sure that the submission is improved.

I look forward to working with all of the ministers and making sure that we come up with the best decisions for our government. I look forward to the ministers' submissions and making sure that we find ways to address the challenges we're facing. That's what we're here for. I expect my ministers to be prepared to defend their submissions to cabinet and be ready because we're going to have some tough work ahead, and I look forward to working with whoever joins us in cabinet, if I'm successful. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. That was the first part of your questioning. We will move on to your second part of questioning. We will take a 15-minute break. Thank you.

*>>Meeting recessed at 14:59 and resumed at 15:18*

**Chairman** (interpretation): We can now resume. Thank you for coming back. Members can now ask their second questions. (interpretation ends) Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt, please proceed with your second question.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is more community-specific; however, it has the potential to affect other communities throughout Nunavut, especially in Hudson Bay.

On a number of occasions during the previous Legislative Assembly, I raised the issue of the impact on Sanikiluaq and the Belcher Islands of hydroelectric development in Northern Quebec. As the candidates will be aware, the Government of Nunavut has previously supported the work of such bodies as the Nunavut Hudson Bay Interagency Working Group in relation to such projects as the Hudson Bay Inland Sea Initiative.

As Premier, would you be prepared to continue funding and supporting the work of the Hudson Bay Interagency Working Group, and how would you address the issue of hydroelectric development in Northern Quebec in your discussions with the federal government and the Province of Quebec? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Can you respond to the question, please. Mr. Quassa.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that is a very good question, and I always made sure that I was updated on the issue.

If I was elected Premier, I would have continuous dialogue with the Quebec government because it has an impact on Nunavut waters, as we are all well aware. We will definitely have to have dialogue with the Quebec government because it's going to have an effect, not only on Sanikiluaq, but also on other Nunavut communities. It is becoming more and more of an issue and it will have an impact and change in Nunavut waters. We are starting to talk about it more and more, especially here in Iqaluit. It will have an impact on Nunavut waters.

We have realized that if there should be any development, we will definitely have to have meetings with the Quebec government. It will have an impact on the waters and the marine mammals that we eat. We will have to start a dialogue with the other parties and see what compensation or benefit the people of Nunavut and the people of Sanikiluaq will have. It will have an impact on the waters and the marine mammals that are a part of our diet. We will definitely have to be compensated if such a development were to go through. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Mr. Taptuna, you have the floor.

**Mr. Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that excellent question. Mr. Chairman, the territorial government has to be aware of some of these impacts that may be happening within our lands and of course, within our waters.

We do have to pay attention to the federal jurisdiction which involves fisheries, sea mammals, and other sea mammals that may be involved. We do have to keep in close communication with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Of course, this government

will have to be in close dialogue with the Quebec government. I am not fully briefed on the situation that may be happening now with hydro development that may bring any kind of impact to our jurisdiction. Of course, the government does have to pay attention.

If it involves other jurisdictions and organizations, whether it's through the land claims agreement, there are IPGs and expertise that deal with assessments, specifically the Nunavut Impact Review Board. These parties do have to be consulted and notified of some of these things that are happening there. One of the things that the Premier has to be aware of is things that are happening within other jurisdictions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. Mr. Okalik, you have the floor.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, Sanikiluaq is the most marine dependent community that I know of in all of Nunavut. Their main diet comes from the ocean. I have been blessed with the opportunity to harvest mussels and sea urchins, and even sea cucumbers, which I never knew existed. Those are part of the main diet of the community of Sanikiluaq.

We should be very forceful in our efforts to make sure that any potential impacts on that community are defended and raised with any government, regardless of who they are, because that community's food source comes from the ocean. Any threat to their diet should be raised.

I look forward to working with the community of Sanikiluaq and preparing for any possibilities. Right now, there appears to be no real rush for hydroelectricity in that area, but I look forward to working with the community regardless and be prepared and raising the issues by Sanikiluaq people. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Ms. Ell, you can proceed with your second question.

**Ms. Ell** (interpretation): Thank you. I congratulate you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome and thank the people from Iqaluit-Manirajak who are here. I am very proud of the three candidates for Premier.

As a government, we have to look at the representative workforce because the government is the largest employer in Nunavut. We are well aware that not all positions are filled because of a shortage of staff housing or possibly the lack of office space, including a lot of other reasons. Again, we will have to consider and make some plans on whether we're going to be increasing the positions within the government.

When I was campaigning, the main concerns I heard was the lack of doctors, the lack of mental health workers, and a lot of other issues. I would like to ask the candidates about what they are going to do with the vacant positions within the government. When we hear about the shortage of mental health workers, not only for addictions, but for wellness, we

will have to factor those in the future. How are you going to handle those situations if you do get elected to the Premier's position? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ell. Can you respond to the question, please. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's a very good question. In my opening comments, I mentioned what we can do with mental health issues. We are way behind on that subject and we have yet to fill the mental health worker positions. The positions were created and they will have to be placed as a priority within the government. If we are going to decrease the social ills, we will have to fill those positions.

I also brought up the shortage of nurses. If we could increase them for the communities, it would help. I know that we would have to do further work, but it would be a start. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Mr. Quassa, you have the floor.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, the Speaker. If you look at Article 23 regarding employees, we have an obligation as a signatory to the agreement. However, through education and training, is it possible to fill those positions? Also, I wish we would bring the graduates of Nunavut Sivuniksavut up here and use those students in the government workforce. We have to look at what's available out there.

Again, we keep coming back to education. It is something that has to be a priority of this government. Education is the key, and strengthening the education system goes hand in hand with filling these vacant positions. There are nursing and law programs that have to be strengthened.

With the first Akitsiraq Law School Program, we now have lawyers. We have to look at other opportunities to strengthen the workforce. We have to create nursing and other programs in order to start filling the vacant positions. That was a very good program. I keep referring back to the past, but we can reinstate those types of programs. I'll leave it at that. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Mr. Taptuna.

**Mr. Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good question. Mr. Chairman, it is very difficult to get the numbers up. Although we have over 4,000 employees within the government system, there are also another 8,000 people who are employed throughout Nunavut and they do make their choices. Not everybody wants to work for the government.

There are a lot of employees out there, but it is always a challenge to fill these positions, especially when it comes to health care professionals. Education is the key to succeeding.

We want home-grown health care professionals and professionals who come from our local communities to fill these positions, whether it is a professional position or otherwise.

I am quite aware that some natives in northern BC did succeed in educating their local people from the smaller communities into the health care system. They succeeded in a way that made everybody proud, but there was one drawback: most of the graduates moved to bigger centers. We all see the connection here where we've got to compete with other bigger jurisdictions that pay more and have better benefits, and in most cases, a lot warmer than our cold climate up north here.

So it's always a challenge to get these professional people up here. The only way we can do that is through education and training into these professional positions that we do have in the government. Also, one of the things that we see out there is that there are a lot of southern workers. Again, we have nothing against southern workers filling these positions. It just goes to show that we're unable to fill these positions from our communities. The only way we can do that is through education and training.

In the past, we had some successful programs and internships. We have to see that continue throughout the government. The internships are targeted to local Inuit through partnerships that were formed with the federal government and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. We've got to ramp these up to see more successes within the Inuit to better reflect the population of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Mike, you may proceed with your second question.

**Mr. Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to ask a question regarding fisheries in Nunavut, which is an expanding business opportunity. We can generate revenue with offshore commercial fishing at around \$70 million or \$80 million. It's an expanding development and it is generating revenue for Inuit organizations that are in the fishing industry. They are buying ships, trawlers, and fully equipped fishing vessels. Again, in Pangnirtung, it is very good business in turbot and char fishing.

For me personally, the government is second to the fishing industry. The fishing industry generates \$2 million more than the government. Once the offshore fishery is fully developed, it can be a very viable business. It is new money coming into the territory. For example, the government gets most of its money from Ottawa and that equals to \$1.4 billion, but in the fishing industry, offshore fishing is new money that is being generated and it's continuously building interest.

There are also other developments that we can look at, but the problem with the fishing industry is that there is hardly any support that is provided to the companies and to the staff. The territorial government can help financially by \$2 million. The fishing industry provides new monies. In my riding, it is very obvious that that type of an industry needs more support from the government. They should be given financial support.



If you should get elected and if you understand where I'm coming from, there has to be the same type of support given to the fishermen. Right now, there is the hunter support program where they're given money to buy a boat or snowmobile. We should be giving that same type of financial support for the fishermen. What is your idea on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mike. Can you respond to the question, please. Mr. Taptuna.

**Mr. Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A very good question. Mr. Chairman, halibut or turbot fisheries in Pangnirtung are one of the fastest growing economic activities that are happening within Nunavut waters. I am quite pleased with the completion of the small craft harbour that was built there. It assisted local entrepreneurs and fishermen to efficiently move their product.

In the previous government, we were a party with the Canadian government on the free trade agreement with the Europeans and we consistently talked about the fisheries of Pangnirtung. I am glad to say that with the agreement in principle, they have agreed to take the tariffs off the turbot fisheries, expanding and making it easier for markets out there to purchase our turbot from Nunavut waters. That's one of the things that I am quite pleased about. It expands our market, the turbot fisheries, as the member has indicated, and brings in new revenue to the territory.

One of the things that have been happening too is also, because of the lack of infrastructure in the east coast of Baffin Island, the product and fuelling stations by the ships have to be done in some other country, either in Greenland, Iceland or even further south to Newfoundland. That creates a lot of leakage of potential revenue staying in Nunavut. As the Premier, you've got to be aware of these things, and I would commit to finding ways to make sure that leakage is stopped because that is new revenue coming into Nunavut and that revenue should be staying in Nunavut for the benefit of Nunavummiut and these communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. Mr. Quassa, you have the floor.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, the Speaker. Offshore fisheries are an increasing economic activity. It should be reviewed if it could be a viable business in the other Nunavut communities. There is a lot of fishing activity in other parts of the world. How do they operate their fishing industries? What can we learn from the other jurisdictions and see where we can make improvements? I also know that the area divided between Greenland and Baffin Island is something we need to lobby the federal government on to increase economic activity for the benefit of Nunavummiut.

There are different companies, for example, you mentioned companies that own their own ships. We need to find support for them, and we should do that. As I said earlier, we need to look beyond existing economic activities, to think outside the box. That is the

only way we can find new ways of generating economic development and not be confined to the way things are done.

I'll stop there for now. I know that when we're talking about this subject, we should focus on the subject. (interpretation ends) We've got to focus on things like that (interpretation) and include the affected communities and bring up some new ideas.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Mr. Okalik, it's now your turn.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker-elect. Regarding fisheries, it's like gold to the communities. I would be more than pleased to participate in the discussions on how we can expand this industry and what kind of support we can offer. We won't just want to throw money away. We have to look at investing in the fishing industry with a view to gain a return on that investment.

We would be looking at making support available, not only in fisheries. If we can look at Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq, as well as other smaller communities, they have large shrimp in their nearby waters. We have to look at other species that we can harvest and sell in order for the communities to prosper. Thank you, Mr. Speaker-elect.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak, you may proceed with your second question.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, the Speaker. My question is directed to all candidates for Premier. (interpretation ends) Although the territorial government has made progress over the past 15 years in meeting its obligations under Article 23 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, more progress is required to achieve a fully representative public service. The territorial government has argued that the lack of federal funding for training and education programs has been part of the problem.

Can each candidate for the position of Premier describe two or three specific actions that he would take to address the issue during our term of office, and can each candidate indicate what he believes is a realistic timeline for achieving a full representative public service in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Can you respond to the question, please. Mr. Quassa.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, the Speaker-elect. I think we've had prior discussions about this. Our responsibilities within government regarding Article 23 are also being discussed. We have to lobby on this issue. The federal government has to abide by the land claims. It states very clearly that the federal government and Nunavut government have to abide by the land claims agreement. We have to lobby for proper implementation of the land claims because it's the law. Therefore, we have to lobby the

federal government and tell them that they have to abide by the land claims agreement because it's very important.

We understand that there is only about 50 percent, especially when they have to follow Article 23. They have only reached 50 percent. In looking at how we can reach the representative level, we have to include training. These are the things that we have to pursue if we are going to properly implement or reach that level. Maybe within less than ten years, I think we can reach that level if we align education with job opportunities. If we can do that, then I think we can reach that representative level.

Also, I personally feel that the federal government has to follow the land claims agreement. Since Nunavut Tunngavik has taken the federal government to court for not implementing the land claims agreement, we should be supporting Nunavut Tunngavik. They are connected to our land. For that reason, we should be siding with Nunavut Tunngavik. How can I say it? We should be on Nunavut Tunngavik's side to what they are trying to do in regard to the court case because of not following the land claims.

As I have said before, it's connected to different issues like education and job opportunities. If we can work out these things, then we will be in a better situation. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Mr. Taptuna, you have the floor.

**Mr. Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I indicated before in my opening presentation that education is key for the long term. One of the things that have already been implemented within the government is that we do have a lot of casuals within the government employment system. Over the years, there were mechanisms that were built up to actually direct appoint casuals into permanent employees of the government. That's one mechanism that's got to be looked at and improved.

The other mechanism to increase our numbers for Inuit representatives within the government workforce is a careful review of internships and ways of how we can attract more employees into the government. We want to promote the government as the place to be working. It's one of the things that we have to promote more. We have to get internships and training programs streamlined to attract more Inuit into the workforce.

Article 23 is one of the things that the previous governments have paid attention to. It has proven very difficult, but there is a mechanism that could be put in place to expedite or even hasten equal representation to 85 percent. With timelines, it is very difficult. As you know, Nunavut is growing in economic activity and the government has been competing for employees out there. The government is not the only choice for employment, and that's one of the things that the government has to face. We do want to make sure that the government is the place to work for, especially for the younger generation that is coming. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. Mr. Okalik, it's now your turn.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker-elect. (interpretation ends) When I first assumed office, Inuit employment was at 44 percent, there were one Inuk lawyer and one Inuk nurse. By the time I left office, we were at 52 percent as a government, even though there was an increase in the level of employees within the government. There were 11 graduates from the Akitsiraq Law School, 10 Inuit. To date, there are 15 Inuit nurses. So there has been some progress, a bit too slow for our liking, but we should invest if we are going to make progress.

In the last term, a group submitted a proposal to establish a law program for \$600,000 a year. It didn't get the time of day. That attitude has to change. We have to be open to suggestions to move forward.

I also put forward a proposal today to tackle the low levels of employment in the Department of Education. I look forward to seeing those implemented, if I assume office, so that we can increase wildlife managers in the department of wildlife, something that really affects the Inuit in our territory.

Targets are difficult to meet sometimes, but we should set a realistic target so that we can focus on a target and move forward as a government. We are a bit behind, but you can only go up from here. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker-elect.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak, you may proceed with your second question.

**Ms. Angnakak** (interpretation): Thank you. I will be asking in regard to daycares because there are not too many daycares available.

(interpretation ends) During the recent election campaign, the issues of child care and early childhood education were two of the most significant concerns that residents raised with me. I am sure that you are well aware of the need for more affordable daycare spaces, as well as preschool and after school programs in Nunavut.

Can you describe two or three specific priorities that you would assign to the next education minister to improve child care and early childhood education in Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Can you respond to the question, please. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker-elect. (interpretation ends) This matter was raised to me throughout my campaign as well. I reviewed certain practices.

I was blessed with Ms. Papatsi, who is here today, who raised some wonderful ideas to present to the government. She proposed the idea of adopting an affordable daycare. That's why I am proposing \$10 a day for every child so that they can access daycares throughout our territory.

I also pointed to one of the barriers that we face, is the lack of space. In Sanikiluaq, high school students constructed their own daycare. Why can't we do that? We should look at those models. We have wonderful models to work with like Tumikuluit here in Iqaluit. I said that in Arviat, there is the Arviat Head Start program, which is working very well.

Some daycares are struggling because they don't have enough support in terms of educating the young population in the early steps of learning. We should come up with standards so that we can have a strong daycare system within our territory. I look forward to working with all of you in making that happen. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Mr. Quassa, it's now your turn.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's obvious that we have heard this pretty well from everywhere. I'm just going to talk about Igloolik. There are over 2,000 people and there is no daycare. While we are in this discussion with our government, I would lobby the minister to see if they can find some funds. When a community has a certain number of people, they should have a mandatory program because it would help.

When some of the young people want to continue with their school, they can't go because of their children and being a young parent. This is connected to education. If we want education to succeed, then we have to establish these things. I have also heard that high schools or middle schools are to have daycares within the building. This has to proceed successfully because we know a lot of our young people in Nunavut are having children. If we want them to continue with their education, this will have to be established. I would give that direction to the new Minister of Education because we need daycares also within the education system.

As I said, Igloolik has a population of over 2,000 and still does not have a daycare. These things have to be brought up. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Mr. Taptuna, it's now your turn.

**Mr. Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A very good question. Mr. Chairman, I indicated in my presentation that investing in education for early childhood development is key to our future for Nunavummiut, they are our future leaders, and also to invest in daycares because there are a lot of young parents, single moms, who want to join the workforce and get real employment to help themselves and their children and families.

This has to be taken very seriously where there is lack of affordable daycare spaces in Nunavut. Iqaluit is quite fortunate. They provide that for Arctic College students. Throughout our communities in Nunavut, that's got to be an accessible service for young parents. This government has to take a real, hard, serious look at providing these services because our young parents cannot be left sitting at home unemployed because of the lack of service in that field.

The Government of Nunavut has to take a very serious look at bringing in other partners, whether it be the federal government or Inuit organizations, to address this. If we do not do that and maintain our focus on developing and making sure that we assist in providing these services, our employment rates or education to our younger children are going to suffer. We do have to take this very seriously and look for all other avenues to make sure that this service is provided for people, not just in Iqaluit, but throughout all communities in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Enook, you may proceed with your second question.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We asked a lot of questions to the candidates today. What I have noticed is that all the responses regarding things that you will work on or the improvements you're going to make or the things you're going to review, it seems like nothing is impossible.

Up to date, our government has struggled very hard due to lack of funds. When communities ask for something, we're told that there's no money because they're not included in legislation. Here we are struggling for ourselves, but according to the responses I am hearing, nothing is impossible and something could have been done about our needs.

However, since I have been part of this for two years, I know that not all things will proceed as people say. I know this. We all know this. There's no doubt you will look into some of the issues and act on them. I know for certain that they will not all proceed. Some of the things we are discussing might not proceed.

We all know not everything you all put nice words into will come to pass. The question I want to ask is this: as the Premier, what do you think is going to be the hardest thing to pursue within the government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Can you respond to the question, please. Mr. Taptuna.

**Mr. Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, there are a lot of needs for Nunavummiut, for our territory: infrastructure, educational services, health care. There are many needs, but one thing that we've got to be aware of is that we don't create a wish list, as I stated in my opening comments, where nothing is done. We don't want to create strategies that will just collect dust on the shelf. We do have to be realistic.

One of the things that I have always said is that if we want to see our territory succeed, healthy communities, and happy people, our people have to be educated and employed. Once that happens, there are better results, better health for the family members, and better overall well-being of a community.

Education is one of the key things that we have to focus on, whether it's amending or reviewing, and that's going to take not just the government, but the communities and our partners, whether they be Inuit organizations or federal. This has to be taken very seriously. Our future of Nunavut depends on that.

Again, I don't want to promise any unrealistic expectations, unrealistic promises where things aren't done. We have to understand we have a limited budget. We do not generate much revenue within this territory. The majority of our funding comes from Ottawa. We do have to have a good working relationship with Ottawa to make sure that our services and needs for Nunavummiut are taken care of until we become self-sustaining, whether that's through devolution or more economic development.

One of the things that we still have to continue to make sure is that our needs and uniqueness have to be communicated down to the southern jurisdictions, especially to the federal government. (interpretation) That's it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. Mr. Quassa, you have the floor.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, the Speaker. Yes, it is true that there are a lot of different things that we need and want in Nunavut. At the beginning of my opening comments, I stated that Nunavutmiut have a high expectation that we have not reached. It has been 20 years now since Nunavut was established and we still haven't reached the expectations of the people.

In regard to your question, at present, the Acts on education and social issues have been used in Nunavut for a long time and they are like normal procedures. The most difficult part is trying to change this and it's going to take some time to make some changes. For example, in social issues, we've had this Act for so long and it's not working out really well within the communities. It's very difficult. It seems more like it breaks up families than helps them.

If we're going to change the old laws, we have to think like Nunavutmiut. It's going to take some time to change people's mindsets in regard to social issues and education. It's very important. We have been following the old Acts, but we can think of other things. We will have to come up with new ideas. A lot of Inuit still have high expectations and these are the things that we will have to work hard on. Changing is very difficult, but the MLAs here can make some changes. It's going to be difficult to change the way people think.

These are the couple of things I was thinking about. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Mr. Okalik, you have the floor.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker-elect. I'm looking at what we have to do. We could correct most of them. Some of them are pretty easy to establish and some of them will be more difficult. We can work on those that we have authority over. For

example, we can work on the *Education Act*. These are the things that we can work together on because I know that I cannot work on them by myself and I'll need your help.

I don't think we will be able to do too much on social issues due to lack of funds. We will have to work with the federal government and other organizations because it affects the lives of Nunavummiut. We will have to work very hard to see where we're at today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker-elect.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasié, you may proceed with your second question.

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to recognize my wife who is here and also the people who voted for me in Cape Dorset and Kimmirut. I would like to work well with whoever is elected to be Premier.

When I was campaigning, I was hearing that people wanted to find out which of the infrastructure projects are priorities are in the communities. My question is: what is going to be your priority in regard to infrastructure when we have capital items that have to be built in the communities? I hope you understood me. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Joanasié. Can you respond to the question, please. Mr. Quassa.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was a good question. In regard to this issue, nutritional foods are very expensive and we are hearing that at the community level. We have to discuss this issue because children need good, nutritious food. It's very expensive to support and raise our children.

If we're going to be representing our youth and work on behalf of them, we have to consider and also provide a subsidy to those. The federal government had checked this, but as the Nunavut government, we can provide support to our children. It seems like they're paying the price and that shouldn't be the case. Those are the concerns that I have.

Additionally, we keep hearing about transportation in Nunavut. In Nunavut, we continually discuss the topic of the only means of transportation being the airlines. If my colleague, the Member for Arctic Bay, wanted to go to Igloolik, he will have to fly to Iqaluit in order to reach my community. We have to consider this because it's very expensive to travel by airplane.

As Inuit people, we have relatives living everywhere. I believe we have to consider all of those, the cost of flying and airlines, in order for Nunavutmiut to pay less costs and not high costs. I believe we have to focus our energy on that because transportation is very expensive. The Nunavut government should consider options with the transportation companies. I want to work closely with you because as Nunavutmiut, we know that no



matter what community you live in, the cost of living is very high. We have the opportunity to consider these things by working together.

That's how I can respond to your question. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Mr. Taptuna, it's now your turn.

**Mr. Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government operates on a fixed budget for capital infrastructure and that's determined by need. Having said that, there is a process that the government follows when it comes to setting the priorities for where the infrastructure is going to be built. Through this process and protocol, it's approved by cabinet and FMB, and eventually the whole Legislative Assembly approves the capital projects.

Mr. Chairman, it's very difficult to put in the capital infrastructure needs and wants. I'm trying to say that, even though we need and want all of these infrastructures within our communities, it is very difficult for the government to meet all the demands of the communities. Through this process that we have within the government, it's based on needs. It's done by consultations with various departments and of course, eventually approved by the cabinet and then the Legislative Assembly.

With limited funds, it's very difficult, of course, to build whatever the community may want and need. That is one of the things that make it very difficult for cabinet to determine. Although there is a priority list that we work with, there are always a lot of wants and needs for communities. With that, at the end of the day, the plans for infrastructure building are done by the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. Mr. Okalik, it's now your turn.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker-elect. It's very difficult and challenging to meet the needs of the communities. I look at the schools and education is going to be a tool for growth. I don't want to stop anyone who wants to further their education. I would have no choice but to provide support to those people who would like to further their education. Once an individual completes their education, they become self-reliant and self-sufficient. That's how I see it. I want everyone to be aware that if it's for training, I would be in support. I know that I will be providing support to education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker-elect.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Member for Netsilik, Ms. Ugyuk, you may proceed with your second question.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Members of the Legislative Assembly, we often hear that spousal abuse is quite high in Nunavut. Spousal abuse often ends up in tragedy and even murder of a spouse or even a child. It seriously affects the communities.

I know that we will be electing the Premier. If the Premier is given full support by cabinet, things will proceed smoothly. I would like to hear from the candidates what your position is on that, if you have any suggestions to improve services for men and women as well as the elders.

Younger people are not utilizing traditional values and traditional ways, and don't listen to their parents. Young people don't know their traditional ways anymore. We no longer use our traditional ways because depression and family problems are quite heavy.

I would like to get clarification from all three candidates how you can improve this situation. What is your view on how to lower the rate of family abuse that we experience? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Can you respond to the question, please. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker-elect. This issue has been around for so long and we need to stop it. I'm not sure if we can eradicate it, but I'm sure everyone would agree that we have to work together and figure out how we can lower the numbers.

There was a report as to how many inmates there are. Is there a healing instructor at the correctional facility? The inmates have unresolved issues and we have to start facing those unresolved issues. It can be very beneficial to include the traditional ways of counselling. Elders can be good counsellors because they don't want to see anyone in that state. We can utilize the elders.

Although there was legislation aimed at lowering the number of abuse, as members, we will have to work together. We have to focus our efforts more on healing programs. I'm sure that's the only way. I can't really respond to your question, but we will have to work closely together in order to reduce the high rate of abuse. Thank you, Mr. Speaker-elect.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Mr. Quassa, it's your turn now.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier on in regard to Inuit traditional knowledge, instead of just talking about it, we have to utilize it in the communities. Traditional knowledge of Inuit is being utilized. There are Inuit counsellors and they try and operate in Inuit ways. To date, the government doesn't provide enough funding to those people. We talk about *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* as a government. Instead of just talking about it, we should use it and incorporate it, even though it is already being used in the communities.

The *Social Services Act* needs to be amended because you can see children being apprehended in the smaller communities. It is not part of Inuit culture and tradition to apprehend a child from a family. We no longer use traditional values, but if they're still effective in today's living, we can utilize those as a government. We should incorporate

those effective traditional ways. Rather than just talking about it, we can incorporate them into our legislation. For example, the social services legislation definitely needs to be amended.

If we're going to be incorporating traditional knowledge, it has to be incorporated. It can improve the lives of families. Some traditional ways are becoming obsolete, but there are good traditional ways that we can utilize. In Nunavut, we are very unique and we can show our uniqueness to the world. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Mr. Taptuna, if you can respond to the question, you may proceed.

**Mr. Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. It is very difficult to respond in a positive way to that question. We do have a lot of violence within Nunavut and within Nunavut families. There are a lot of root causes, whether it's drug or alcohol addiction. There are many reasons, lack of housing, lack of education, and families in Nunavut suffer because of that.

The government has to come up with better legislation to deal with some of these symptoms right off the bat. The long-term solutions are going to be involving a lot of partners, Inuit organizations, the federal government, and communities to tackle this very serious issue that we have with violence, whether it's family violence or spousal violence. It's one of the ongoing things that every government has to look at.

Legislation has to be created to lessen or deter or to have a detriment to the bootleggers and drug dealers that are out there. It's a serious issue. Our young people are being put in these situations and becoming addicted. One of the things that have to be done is to deter this. Mr. Chairman, there has to be legislation created to do that. The young people are the future of Nunavut, as I have said before. I've got to say it again that without that, Nunavut is in deep trouble. We do have to pay attention. It's a very serious social issue that Nunavummiut go through every day.

Collectively, this Assembly has to come up with some short-term solutions and long-term solutions. We just can't come up with short-term solutions. We do have to come with long-term solutions to see our young people grow up to be leaders, not only within the governments, but within the Inuit organizations in their communities.

It's a very difficult issue to deal with. There are a lot of symptoms and there are a lot of root causes, but it does have to start somewhere, an open dialogue, and everybody put in a position of office has to be open about that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Shooyook, you may proceed with your second question.

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker-elect. In regard to Ms. Ugyuk's comments, I have been concerned about this for quite some time. With our previous

Members of the Legislative Assembly, we've had Inuit and non-Inuit representatives. I have been trying to urge our previous members to work on the issue of Jeannie's question and there hasn't been a response to date.

Social counselling is one of the hardest issues to face in Nunavut. When you try to get assistance from counsellors or mental health or social workers, they can't help you. Meanwhile, they're just collecting their pay. I'm the oldest member of this legislature. You're younger and you're now using new ways because you haven't recognized our traditional ways. For that very reason, there are justices of the peace as well as full-fledged judges.

There are many who are hauled before the court, accused of committing crimes. When they're convicted and sent to jail, those with children are not allowed to speak with them. This causes harm and that is not the Inuit way. It is only by getting couples in need of intervention to talk and reconcile can they learn to live in harmony. Because this process has been rendered irrelevant, we now have a lot of males locked up in jail. This is not good.

For you who will be Premier, when the time comes to discuss *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* in the forthcoming year and beyond, will you be able to provide the necessary support so that we can deal with our pains?

As a true Inuk, mental health workers, social workers, and judges come to me when they're stumped for solutions. They talk to me and I advise them of what they're supposed to do. Not long after that, in accordance with the Inuit way of doing things, they come back to me and thank me for helping them to overcome their issues and problems. That's how it is.

As Inuit, even though we may not be judges, the traditional Inuit way of counselling should be incorporated and recognized. This is a major source of what deeply saddens me. While I'm here, the Premier and ministers have to work closely together to tackle this issue. I will want to tackle this issue myself in the coming year because it hits home very much and it is very burdensome to talk about. I urge the candidates to incorporate Inuit ways of resolving things. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Shooyook. Can you respond to the question, please. Mr. Taptuna.

**Mr. Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member from the High Arctic for that. Mr. Chairman, within the government, there are traditional values considered when the government is creating policies and legislation. The government has to pay attention to the communities. It is very difficult to get some of these policies and legislation changed.

For the inmates who are restricted from communicating with their family members, spouses, or children, it's a difficult situation that we face here in Nunavut. As a territorial

jurisdiction, in most cases, we do have to abide by the Canadian law that's out there. In creating other alternative ways, in the past, the government has incorporated community justice. That's one tool that the communities can use to incorporate traditional knowledge and traditional culture in alleviating some of the things that inmates do face in these institutions.

It's very difficult to have the full value of our culture incorporated into some of these institutions because some are down south. A lot of inmates are shipped down south and it's very difficult at times to have our culture incorporated into the programs that they do have in these institutions. Every attempt has to be made to incorporate on-the-land skills and better communication with their family members and the like.

I know that a person incarcerated is limited to some of these normal functions that law-abiding citizens enjoy, but every attempt has to be made. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. Mr. Quassa, it's your turn.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, the Speaker. I believe that I touched on the subject of Inuit traditional knowledge. Rather than just talking about it, we have to start incorporating it and using it as a government because as Members of the Legislative Assembly, we value it and we believe in it. We can make territorial laws and we will have to review legislations during our term as Members of the Legislative Assembly. Our Inuit oral practice was never to breach our traditional law, so we have to start thinking preventatively and start thinking that way.

In our communities, we need to recognize and acknowledge that some people who commit crimes in the smaller communities can be dealt with outside of the courts. There should be an alternative justice system in our communities. I believe we need to provide more support to this. Inuit traditional knowledge can be incorporated through the alternative justice system. I'll conclude with that for now because I will only repeat myself. In the majority of the communities, there are community justice programs where there are alternative justice systems. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Mr. Okalik, it's your turn now.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker-elect. I went to law school wanting to help my fellow Inuit and learning all of those things as to why these problems are occurring. If we were able to deal with it, I'm sure it would have been corrected. The way we operate is that the federal government takes care of certain people who commit crimes, but they become our responsibility once they are done serving their time.

I have told various ministers of justice in Canada that if we followed our traditional ways, these people who have been charged would have been dealt with right away. That was our way of life. We try to help people overcome their problems expediently. That is how I would view it. We have no control over our system today and we have to look for ways to incorporate our traditional ways.

I don't have much time, so I will conclude with that for now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker-elect.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson, you may proceed with your second question.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is for all three candidates for Premier.

Mr. Chairman, people will recall the promise of Nunavut in 1999 that all three regions of Nunavut would be treated equally and felt as equal partners. We would see ADMs in the different regions. We would see that the Legislative Assembly would often have a spring sitting and sit in the different regions.

Over the years, a sense has come to the Kitikmeot and I hear quite often at mayors' meetings and at Kitikmeot Inuit Association AGM meetings that the Kitikmeot is feeling left out. They feel that they're forgotten by Iqaluit.

I know that as an MLA, it takes me two days to travel here and then, of course, two days to travel back. If I could fly straight to Cambridge Bay, it would be a seven-hour flight with a stop in Coral Harbour.

I would like to ask each candidate: what would they do as Premier to make the Kitikmeot feel that they are an equal and valued partner in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Can you respond to the question, please. Mr. Quassa.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, the Speaker. This is not a new issue, but one that we continually hear about. Nunavut is a vast territory. To the Kitikmeot region and also to the south, the distances are very far. As I stated earlier on, it's not just to the Kitikmeot area, but also to Arctic Bay. From Igloolik, we have to go through Iqaluit to go to Arctic Bay, even though it's very close. This is not a new issue. As a government, no matter where you are, we have to treat everyone equally. Even though Nunavut is a vast territory, the offices have to be spread out. I believe we have to pay particular attention to the regional offices. We should also consider that. They say Nunavut has three regions, but it is one territory. The boundary lines marked are separating us, even though we are trying to shorten the distance between ourselves. Transportation, such as on airlines, can shorten the distance between the communities.

The Nunavut territory is not going to get smaller, so we should consider transportation and discuss modes of transportation further. The size of the Nunavut territory is not going to shrink. However, transportation and scheduling of airlines can make us closer. The map of the territory is not going to change, but through modes of transportation, we can be closer. I would think of it like that. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Mr. Taptuna, you have the floor.

**Mr. Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Being from the Kitikmeot, I think my colleague is trying to put me on the spot, but I have heard these concerns over the years. I have been a mayor, counsellor, and deputy mayor for many years in Kugluktuk and it has always been an issue. It has come up on a constant basis.

I would agree that transportation is one of the key factors of shrinking our territory, not landmass-wise, but in getting services and people out quicker to the western part of Nunavut. I agree that it takes a whole day. Right from Iqaluit here, it is 2,200 kilometres to my hometown of Kugluktuk. It is a vast territory.

I hear quite often that most of our younger people cannot participate in the sporting events that are held here and in Rankin Inlet, where the majority of sports activity takes place. One big factor is the cost of moving teams or even individuals who want to participate in sports. It has always been a factor.

There has to be a better way of moving people, a cost-effective way of getting our transportation system connected right into the western part of Nunavut. Through economic development and more economic activity, we can, hopefully, create transportation links that will link up the Kitikmeot to both the Kivalliq and Qikiqtaaluk regions in a more meaningful way of moving goods, services, and our people back and forth. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. Mr. Okalik, it's now your turn.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I ran for office for the Nunavut legislature, so I am here to serve for all of Nunavut. I will do whatever I can to make sure that each and every citizen in our territory feels a part of our wonderful territory.

I look forward to working with each and every one of you to make sure that we make the most progress so that we start addressing the issues, not where you're from. We should focus on the challenges that we're facing. That's what's facing us. That's why we're here. We're here for Nunavut. We're here for each other. We're not here for certain pockets here and there. We're here to tackle the challenges of the day.

Once we start making progress, perhaps citizens will realize that we're actually doing something, not for any pocket of the territory, but for the whole. So I encourage all of you to work together so that we can make real progress for our fellow citizens, regardless of where they live. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Member for Arviat, Mr. Savikataaq, you may proceed with your second question.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like all the candidates to respond to my next question.

As all of the candidates are very aware, a longstanding priority in the Kivalliq has been to establish a permanent road and power connection to the province of Manitoba. Although there has been many memorandums of understanding, feasibility studies, news releases, and other documents produced on this issue, we're obviously still a long ways off from breaking ground for new construction.

Residents of the Kivalliq fully understand that the kind of project we're talking about will cost hundreds of millions, if not billions, of dollars. However, residents of the Kivalliq also see that the territorial government has been willing to commit hundreds of millions of dollars towards such things as the new P3-funded airport in Iqaluit.

Can each candidate describe what specific action they would be willing to achieve progress on this issue? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Can you respond to the question, please. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker-elect. (interpretation ends) This project will be a long-term project. It won't be done during our term, but I think we can take baby steps to make sure that it stays on the agenda.

There are some mining projects that may be on the horizon in this part of the territory. They will need electricity. Let's start with getting electricity from Manitoba as a way of connecting our two jurisdictions. I know that we could sure use electricity in our communities because we're using very expensive diesel fuel. So let's look at it in that context. Let's start it that way. I don't know if we will get there, but let's take a look at it and work with Manitoba. Once the corridor for electricity is established, it could create new opportunities for our two jurisdictions.

This project will require a partner in the federal government. I don't know if we will get there in the interim, but let's start somewhere. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker-elect.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Mr. Quassa, can you respond to the question, please.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, the Speaker. Something I have always believed and I think we all know that Canada was made by connecting the country from one coast to the other one piece at a time.

As true Canadians, we should also be connected to the rest of Canada. The federal government claims to believe in that and, indeed, they should believe that we are a part of Canada. As such, we should have roads to connect Nunavut with the rest of Canada.



Canada is made up of roads from Newfoundland all the way to British Columbia. We can do the same, but it would be from the south to the north. As the Nunavut government, we have to lobby the federal government because, undoubtedly, we can't do it alone.

Again, in Nunavut, there are more and more mining companies getting interested in starting development. Again, it will make it easier to build a road from the south to the north. From my thinking, we have to lobby the federal government harder because the Nunavut government is simply unable to pay for the connection.

The federal government has to truly recognize that we are also Canadians. Canada is continuously growing and we are part of that growth. That's the angle we should take as the Nunavut government. We have to remind the federal government that we are a part of Canada and that Canada is still growing and we are part of the growth.

If they can build roads from Newfoundland to BC, then it's very possible to build from the south to the north. From my understanding, they're starting to talk about building from the south to the Tuktoyaktuk area out in the west. That would be my negotiating platform with the federal government on the issue of connecting roads.

Inuit organizations and birthing organizations do believe in that dream and there has to be a partnership between this government and the other entities out there. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Mr. Taptuna, it's now your turn.

**Mr. Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good question. Those discussions have been going on for a long time.

It's well over \$1 billion to construct that road and this territorial government does not have any capital money like that to build any kind of infrastructure like that, but it doesn't mean that this government sits back on its haunches and does nothing. We do have to lobby the federal government and Inuit organizations.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, the Manitoba-Kivalliq road does go through a lot of Inuit owned lands. Of course, there have to be a lot of partners. There has to be economic activity within all three regions, not just in the Kivalliq, Kitikmeot, or Qikiqtaaluk. It has to happen in all three regions. By investing in that type of infrastructure, we will attract more investors who are willing to come up to Nunavut and create economic activity.

There have to be some ideas looked at in providing alternative power, whether it's from hydro or something else, to our communities. At this time, we use diesel. All 25 communities in Nunavut are diesel-generated at this time. That's why we use that because it's a cheaper form of energy that this government can afford.

With more infrastructure building throughout our territory, such as roads, marine infrastructure that connects and attracts investors from all parts of the world to come up

and assist Nunavummiut and our territory in building infrastructure, creating employment and happier families, that's one of the key things that we must not lose focus on.

If there are opportunities to move the file forward on the Kivalliq-Manitoba road, the government has to react on it. That's one of the things that I continually do because that was one of the files that I have been working on, although it's very difficult. This government does not have the funds to actually construct that road.

There has been interest from Ottawa through other politicians in building a winter road, which may give us a reason to attract more investors. This idea of a winter road can actually be a pilot project to find out where all the construction quarries are at, create some engineering opportunities where the route is going to be at, and also how the terrain and geology is out there.

As a government, that's one of the things that we have to continually look at and find opportunities to make sure these things are carefully planned out and looked at, and strategically approach partners as a government, including the federal government, to make sure that these things stay on top of the desk, not at the backburner of somebody's office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

### **Election of Premier**

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. I have no more names on my list. We will now proceed to balloting. The table officers will distribute the ballots. I ask all members to proceed to the voting table in an orderly fashion.

>>*Meeting recessed at 17:02 and resumed at 17:22*

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you for coming back. I wish to advise members that Mr. Taptuna will be the next Premier.

>>*Applause*

(interpretation ends) The appropriate motion will be moved in the House at its first sitting to confirm the selection.

I will now invite the Premier-elect to make a few remarks.

**Mr. Taptuna** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I want to first of all thank yourself and all of my colleagues for entrusting me into the capacity of the premiership. We all know it is very difficult work and I know it's all difficult work for all of here who are sitting in this room. For sure, Mr. Chairman, we're going to be doing our best to make sure that we benefit and assist Nunavummiut in the best possible way, with good integrity and good ethics. *Taima*, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Thank you.

>> *Applause*

### **Nominations for Cabinet Positions**

**Chairman:** Thank you. We will now proceed to the selection process for members of the Executive Council of Nunavut.

I will first review the procedures for the selection of candidates for the Executive Council of Nunavut.

Members have agreed that the forum will select eight members to serve on cabinet.

Following the closure of nominations, each candidate has up to 10 minutes to make remarks.

As agreed to by Full Caucus, there will be no question period.

I remind members that if you are nominated, you must immediately accept or decline the nomination.

The floor is now open for nominations. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to nominate (interpretation ends) Hon. MLA Keith Peterson (interpretation) as a member of the Executive Council.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Member Keith Peterson, do you accept the nomination?

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I accept. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to nominate Tom Sammurtok.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Member Tom Sammurtok, do you accept the nomination?

**Mr. Sammurtok:** I accept.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to nominate the Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Monica Ell.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Member Monica Ell, do you accept the nomination?

**Ms. Ell** (interpretation): I accept.

**Chairman:** Mr. Kuksuk.

**Mr. Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to nominate Johnny Mike, Member for Pangnirtung.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Johnny Mike, do you accept the nomination?

**Mr. Mike** (interpretation): I accept.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** I would like to nominate Jeannie Ugyuk from Netsilik.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Member Ms. Ugyuk, do you accept the nomination?

**Ms. Ugyuk:** Yes, I accept.

**Chairman:** Mr. Shooyook.

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): The person I wanted to nominate has already been named.

>>*Laughter*

**Chairman:** Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to nominate the member from Aggu, Paul Quassa.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Paul Quassa, do you accept the nomination?

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Yes, I accept. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): I would like to nominate the Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, George Kuksuk. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. George Kuksuk, do you accept the nomination?

**Mr. Kuksuk** (interpretation): Yes, I accept.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mapsalak.

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to nominate Mr. Okalik.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Okalik, do you accept the nomination?

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Yes, I do. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak**: Thank you. I would like to nominate David Joanasie.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Joanasie, do you accept the nomination?

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Yes, I accept. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to nominate the MLA for Repulse Bay and Coral Harbour, Steve Mapsalak.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Member Steve Mapsalak, do you accept the nomination?

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Yes, I accept.

**Chairman**: Are there any more nominations? (interpretation) Thank you. There being no more nominations, we will now proceed to the candidates' remarks. Each candidate has up to 10 minutes to make remarks. We will proceed in alphabetical order by surname.

(interpretation ends) Member Monica Ell, you may rise in your place and proceed.

**Ms. Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very pleased to be able to stand up as a candidate for minister. I will make some remarks.

First of all, I would like to welcome all the new and returning MLAs, as well as our new Premier. I would like to work with you in the future. I also thank my constituents in Iqaluit-Manirajak.

As you know, in the Third Legislative Assembly, I was one of the ministers with different portfolios of Human Resources, Health and Social Services, Homelessness, the

Qulliq Energy Corporation, and the Status of Women Council. I have learned how the employees of the government are in need of some help. I would like to provide them with more support because they would like to continue with their work.

During my campaign, I have seen people working very hard and facing many issues, but we cannot complete everything overnight. (interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, I also saw first hand the challenges facing our territory and that there is no one solution to solve all of our problems overnight.

The last point that I want to make, if I am elected minister in this Assembly, is that when I ran a business several years ago, I had to learn to prioritize in order to make the business grow. I know that it is like trying to make a business operate successfully. I know what it is like to try to make a business operate successfully in Nunavut.

When I was on the Nunavut Economic Forum, we worked toward a long-term economic development strategy for Nunavut. Targeted, focused planning is needed for this next Assembly, as well as building an understanding that the government cannot do things on its own. We need partners. We need to work together.

(interpretation) Also, during my last campaign, I was saying that there should be leadership. I will continue to work on the things I said I would do when I was campaigning. When we have a full government, the Executive Council will be useful for our future and also for the management and for the MLAs. Yes, I will be truthful and want my work to be trusted. I want to represent Iqaluit-Manirajak constituents.

As I stated earlier, I will work closely with the new elected Premier and also the members of the new elected Executive Council on behalf of all Nunavummiut. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ell. (interpretation ends) Member David Joanasie, you may proceed.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, the Speaker. First of all, I would like to thank my family, my mother and father, and my siblings. If it weren't for them, I wouldn't be here. I would like to recognize those who have raised me.

Growing up in a small community like Cape Dorset, I know what it's like and I appreciate the people of Cape Dorset for that. They're very creative with things like music and carving. I know that other people from different places are also very creative and I appreciate that. I will be representing the people of Kimmirut and Cape Dorset, so I will work very hard.

I'm still standing because of the support of my wife, who supported me when I was running. It's very important to me to have a family and thinking about our children and their children that we will be leaving behind.

The reason I wanted to be elected is because I want to help the people of South Baffin. I know that I can work well with other people and I will want to work with everyone, whether or not I'm elected to a ministerial position.

I also wanted to recognize and thank Mr. Quassa and Mr. Okalik, as well as others who have worked for the creation of Nunavut. We've had Nunavut long before Canada was formed. Now that we have a recognized Nunavut government, we have this Legislative Assembly building. Everything came to reality for these people who had worked very hard in the land claims struggle.

I have also taken training through Nunavut Sivuniksavut in Ottawa. I was one of the first students. It is now running a two-year program. We also went through the second year Sivuniksavut program and I am very grateful to that because this has really helped me to date.

I'm just going to mention the places where I have worked. I worked at Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami in Ottawa. After that, I worked for the Nunavut government in various positions. The last employment I had was with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association. I have tried to work hard for the people of Nunavut and I will continue to work very hard here in the Legislative Assembly.

Perhaps I'll speak in English. (interpretation ends) The systems that are in place, I think we need to make sure that all of our programs and services for the Government of Nunavut are working for Nunavummiut, for communities and families, as well as individuals. It's across the board. I was seeking office as I wanted to be a contributing member of society. My thinking is that I could be a contributing member of this cabinet.

With that, I would like to thank you all for your patience. I am really proud to be here today, and it's a very overwhelming feeling to be here. Thank you very much.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Member George Kuksuk.

**Mr. Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to thank my family and constituents for their support. I am privileged to serve as MLA for Arviat North-Whale Cove. I also thank Ms. Jeannie Ugyuk, MLA for Netsilik, for nominating me for the cabinet portfolio.

I will speak in English. (interpretation ends) Since the election, many people have asked me about running for cabinet (interpretation) and I have their full support. (interpretation ends) I have that local support.

I believe I have the background and experience to be in the cabinet position. As many of you [know], I am from Arviat, the third largest community in Nunavut. We have many issues in our community just like yours: a very young population; overcrowded housing; lack of municipal infrastructure; very [little] employment for our young people.

All across Nunavut, people are asking for the Nunavut government to be more responsive to our needs. Nunavummiut want the government to tackle the housing crisis, the lack of jobs, and the infrastructure needed to sustained healthy communities across Nunavut. Our cabinet and Premier need to direct and ensure our government, policymakers, and other bureaucrats begin the work to implement these priorities. (interpretation) A minister has to represent all Nunavummiut. If selected to cabinet, I will do that. The smaller and larger communities all have needs.

(interpretation ends) I have worked in both the public and the private sector. As well, I was chair of the Sakku Investment Corporation and served as chair of the Keewatin Business Development Centre. I have served as vice-chair of the Nunasi Corporation. (interpretation) After division, I also worked with the workers' compensation board.

(interpretation ends) Since the creation of Nunavut in 1999, a lot of good things have happened across our territory, but we need to keep moving forward in addressing the housing needs, the infrastructure needs, and the education and health needs for our communities. I am prepared to help with these needs, and if selected to cabinet, I will do my best to be part of that team representing Nunavummiut. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Steve Mapsalak.

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to thank my wife, who has always supported me for anything that I tried. I appreciate all of my children who also support me, as well as the people of Repulse Bay and Coral Harbour. I am here because of them. I know pretty well everyone who is sitting here in the House. I also know other people.

From 2004 to 2008, I was a Member of the House. Mr. Chairman, I will continue to work on the things that I have been working hard on. Some of them have been established, but there are too many that still need to be worked on, especially the things in the capital plan that were taken out. They have to be put back into the capital plan.

We have to work together to get some results in this House. I know that for the next four years as MLAs, we won't be able to complete all the things that Nunavutmiut need and things that are behind, but if we work together, I believe the important issues for the smaller communities can be resolved. The communication can really help the smaller communities.

If more money is spent on infrastructure, more employment could be created because there are people who go hungry because of the lack of employment.

One of the most important things to the people of Nunavut is health because it is using a lot of money and needs more. It's always lacking funds.

Another important thing that people are concerned about is there have been too many people who have passed away from illnesses that could have been prevented because we



have no CT scanners. We have to get this equipment to Nunavut. If we have such things as scanners, Nunavutmiut would be able to use it. Nunavutmiut have to go south to get diagnosed. If we work and consult with each other, a lot of people can be helped.

Not only that, there are other issues that have been raised here in the House and it is true that they are really needed. So the new ministers will have a lot of responsibilities and they will have to be really focused to see which will have to be a priority. As someone mentioned, it gets very difficult when you are actually put into a position, but everything is hard. We will have to work hard to get some results and do some consultations with the MLAs.

That's all that I have to say. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Member Johnny Mike.

**Mr. Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also stand up to indicate that I want to help. Thank you, George, MLA for Arviat. He scared me this morning because he was trying to nominate me for Premier. I almost had a heart attack. Maybe he made a mistake or he didn't make a mistake.

>> *Laughter*

We have been asking a lot of different types of questions. The people are asking why the Nunavut government is lacking funds. We have heard a lot of people saying that there is never enough funding for Nunavut's responsibilities. Why is it the case? This is the question that we have to ask. We should be in a position as Nunavummiut where there is some money available through the government and also NTI and Nunavut Trust. I think they are holding \$1.2 billion of Inuit money, but we are still poor and we are still lacking housing.

I want to help out. That's why I put my name forward. We will have to look for some more money to help out the Nunavut government. We just keep saying, "This is what we want. I want you to do this." However, we don't find any more money.

I also asked a question and stated that when the residential school students were apologized to, there were some conditions. There was also the Qikiqtani Truth Commission on the dog slaughter, relocation, and also residential school students. Why can't they get a proper response from the federal government? I know one of the people who has seen and experienced the dog slaughter who couldn't do anything anymore. This is the past. It's in our past. However, we're still unable to do anything because there is no money to do anything. The reason why I am saying this is that we have to get better treatment and use the apology so that we can have reconciliation.

Also, I mentioned lack of housing and homelessness. I think some of us are to blame. We have a large responsibility. When there is money, \$1.2 billion, being held by NTI, why can't they build houses instead? If the government could borrow from Nunavut Trust, we

would be in a better position. Because a lot of us are beneficiaries, if we were to borrow from Nunavut Trust, as we say that we're not getting any capital equipment or infrastructure, I think we can use that. In the communities, we can build access roads outside of the communities. We need to look at this very carefully.

Many of us are harvesters and fishermen. Traditional knowledge under Article 5 is not utilized. Article 5 is in regard to wildlife management for harvesting for sustenance and for commercialized harvesting, whether they have a total allowable harvest for quota. If Inuit traditional knowledge can be utilized, then they can make a decision that is geared more towards Inuit. With all of those, I want to take part and have the trust from you and the public.

When we keep mentioning daycare centres during our campaign and also the early childhood programs, we have to work closely on those issues.

Nunavummiut, in some ways, have been neglected through residential schools and relocation to other communities where they didn't want to move to. Therefore, we need to be supported. I would like to see apology occur and move on to better areas with the federal government. As a member for the Executive Council, I will work harder to achieve that. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Member Mr. Paul Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker-elect. I would also like to thank Mr. Mapsalak for nominating me. I am very pleased to take part in this and I want to be open. I congratulate the Premier-elect and I will want to work with him and provide support to him.

I have been a member in a previous Assembly and I know how the government system works. Therefore, I would like to use that and that is why I wanted to run for the Executive Council. I give myself fully to this position because I want to provide support to Nunavummiut as a whole in order for Nunavut to achieve its goals. I am asking for support to the Executive Council and utilize my knowledge and experience. It can be useful for our government.

I know I made a long speech earlier on, and you know where I am coming from and what my priorities are. I don't mind if I mention that again. Therefore, I would like to thank you and happy selection to the Executive Council. Thank you, Mr. Speaker-elect.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Member Keith Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Premier-elect Taptuna from the Kitikmeot, and colleagues. A special thank you to my wife, Sandra, my son Nolan and his wife, Lisa, and my other son Brendan, who are all with me in the House here today and sitting by me here all day. Without their help and support, I would not be here today.

Mr. Chairman, a big thank you to all of my wonderful constituents in Cambridge Bay who support me and have supported me for years as mayor, MLA, and minister. They came out in overwhelming numbers on October 28, so I really appreciate that. It's really an honour to represent them here in this esteemed Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, I heard many issues from my constituents on the campaign trail that we need to address. I heard more today. It's very important for us to elect a strong Executive Council.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank my colleague who is sitting beside me, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, for nominating me as a candidate for a position on the Executive Council. We have become quite good friends over the last week during our MLA orientation. I look forward to working with him and my other colleagues.

Mr. Chairman, I understand that being a member of our Executive Council requires long hours and hard work. It also means taking time away from family and constituents. It means that we must always put Nunavummiut first and make tough decisions on behalf of all regions. I think we heard today from our Premier candidates.

Mr. Chairman, through my experience as mayor and MLA in the Second Assembly and as Minister of Finance and Health and my previous role as Minister of Justice in the Third Assembly, I have developed a broad understanding of our government and the needs of our communities. I believe that I can use that experience to help our new Premier and cabinet make sound decisions. Mr. Chairman, I believe that I can use the experience that I have gained from tackling challenges head-on from both sides of the House to better serve Nunavut.

As finance minister, I worked very hard with my colleagues on both sides of this House to return our territory to balance so that we don't have to borrow from our future. We strengthened financial management across the government. We produced our public accounts on time, which provides Nunavummiut with timely and accurate snapshot of our territory's finances. In 2010, it was the first time the Government of Nunavut was able to meet the statutory requirements, and that's quite significant for a public government.

As Minister of Health for two years... . This month, actually, is my second anniversary being health minister. You live a lot longer if you're the health minister. I'm aware of the needs of our constituents and I understand the challenges that come with providing health care across 25 communities. That's why we worked together to restructure the Department of Health and Social Services and created a new Department of Family Services that could focus on individuals and families in our communities.

To house many of our social programs in one location so that we could provide social services, poverty assistance, homelessness, income support, career development, and social advocacy, that allowed the Department of Health to concentrate and focus specifically on health care policy and delivery.

We heard many complaints about our health care. We established the new Office of Patient Relations to better address the concerns of our health care clients in Nunavut and giving them a place where they can go to get a very quick response to their concerns or if they want to call us up and thank us for the health care services that they received. I believe that was a significant step for Nunavut.

We have also refocused our efforts to address mental health and opened a larger facility here in Iqaluit. We're hoping to open facilities in the other two regions to take on additional clients and provide enhanced programming.

We heard many issues today. We heard about health care. We heard about mental health and addictions. We heard about housing and infrastructure. We heard that we need to strengthen relations with the Government of Canada, NTI, and I believe we should also start relations with our hamlet councils through the Nunavut Association of Municipalities.

I know how important it is to continue delivering enhanced services to Nunavummiut while maintaining fiscal responsibility. It's a difficult task, but we can move forward if we work together and set realistic priorities and focus. Working together, we could all leave the Fourth Assembly knowing that we have done our jobs and made a difference for this young territory. That's why I'm seeking your support today for the Executive Council. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Member Mr. Paul Quassa.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, the Speaker-elect. First of all, I would like to thank George Hickee for nominating me to be a member of the Executive Council.

I also would like to congratulate Premier-elect Mr. Taptuna. I know that he will do a good job and I know that we will work closely together for the next four years.

I also would like to acknowledge Eva Aariak, who was the Premier. I would like to thank her for her leadership. She is also here in the Gallery.

Although I made my long speech, as my colleague Mr. Okalik stated, one of the issues I raised was vision. We need a vision for Nunavut. It is very important to have a vision. I know that as Members of the Legislative Assembly, we're all aware that we have to establish new legislation that can be utilized and used effectively by Inuit because we're still using old laws which came from the Northwest Territories. We need to amend those. We know that we need to come up with legislation that can be used at the local level. If they cannot be used, then they will start breaching the legislation that we passed.

We have to keep remembering that Nunavut is unique and I keep mentioning the word "distinct." We have to pay particular focus on that. When we're trying to come up with decisions for Nunavutmiut, we cannot forget our uniqueness. Although we are a

government, we don't necessarily have to operate like the Canadian provincial governments. That's why we created Nunavut. The NWT was divided because of that.

We keep hearing about our young people and keep mentioning them, but the majority of the population of Nunavut is young people. When we're going to come up with decisions for Nunavutmiut, we have to consider the youth because they're our future. As I stated, if we're going to have a vision for the future, we have to prioritize the youth.

Language is very important to us. As I keep saying, the majority of the population of Nunavut is Inuit and the Inuktitut language has to be used. We know that we have good legislation called the *Inuit Language Protection Act* that we can use as our strength, if used adequately. We keep stating that if we're going to be using the Inuktitut language within authority, it has to be used within the government and incorporated, whether it be in oral or written form. The oral part of Inuktitut should be included. The public service has to be taught the Inuktitut language. I think this was initiated and that program has to be continued.

I believe that we have to be proficient in Inuktitut within the government. When we are going to be the government for the communities, the communities need to understand what language we're talking, not just using the Inuktitut language in the written form, and use the Inuktitut language. I believe the Inuktitut language should be taught. I'm not saying that we shouldn't use English. I'm not saying that, but the majority of the population in Nunavut speaks Inuktitut.

We also need to strengthen our language within the schools. Our language needs to be taught. The English language is used worldwide. If our English is going to be good at schools, it has to be taught in the schools because it's very important, along with other languages.

In our community, we keep mentioning our land and if we're going to have a healthy way of living. If you go to Igloolik or any other community, in summer, there is dust all along the road. For many years, we have been living in a dusty community and we need to control that in order to have healthy living. We have to consider waste management. They burn the dumps in other communities and it is a health hazard. I believe we need to deal with that. That was geared more towards health.

I'm talking about different subjects, but those are the reasons why I wanted to be part of the Executive Council. When George nominated me, I was thinking about this issue and that we can make changes. If we're going to plan well for the future, we need to see change for our people and our communities so that we can make a difference. I just wanted to make that point.

Thank you very much. Although I made my long campaign speech earlier, I feel that I am talking too long. I am very proud of my fellow Nunavutmiut and the people of Igloolik who elected me. We will work very closely together. I congratulate every one of you. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Member Tom Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to be very brief. First of all, I would like to congratulate Peter Taptuna. (interpretation ends) Congratulations. (interpretation) I thank the people who elected me from Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet North. The people in Rankin Inlet South currently don't have a Member of the Legislative Assembly. I wish them well. I send my greetings to you. I would also like to thank Tony for nominating me.

First of all, I'm going to make a brief statement of what I did when I worked in Kivalliq as a civil servant in the Government of the Northwest Territories as a community regional superintendent in the MACA department. In Kivalliq, I was also a regional director during the NWT days. We had moved to Iqaluit in 1996 or 1997. I was still a civil servant at the time. I was working for the Office of the Interim Commissioner to plan and prepare for the Nunavut government. I took part during that time.

When the Nunavut government was created, I went back to being a civil servant. I was the assistant for the Assistant Deputy Minister of Community and Government Services. I worked with the municipalities. I'm interested in becoming a member of the cabinet in this government because I believe I can still provide my support and help in the operations of our government.

I'm sure that you recognized that one of the questions I posed today was from the Office of the Interim Commissioner. When I worked there at that time, we toured all the communities of Nunavut to find out what the aspirations of Nunavummiut were. However, their aspirations were gone. I believe we need to bring back Nunavummiuts' aspirations.

Our elders in my riding keep saying, "Where is the Nunavut territory that we wanted? It seems like we have never seen it before." So we need to make sure that the Government of Nunavut is accessible so that Nunavummiut can be comfortable rather than the government just controlling them. It seems like they are being controlled by the government.

(interpretation ends) The public servants should exist for the public and not the public existing for the civil service, which is the case today. I think it's time that people start dictating to the government, "This is the kind of government that we would like to have. This is the kind of government that we would like to see operating." As a cabinet minister, I think that I can affect some of these ideas and wishes of a lot of people in my region. I'm sure that other people in other regions feel the same way.

(interpretation) Also, I didn't get educated only in the north. I was also educated down south. During schooling days, only after we completed a grade were we moved on to a higher grade, which is not the case here in Nunavut. We need to resolve this situation.

Now I'll talk about what I have heard from my elders. They say that since April 1, 1999, when Nunavut was created, there was a great deal of fanfare and celebrations. Many people were instrumental in the establishment of Nunavut. However, today, they are expressing their disappointment in the direction this government has taken.

These are some of the issues that we have to deal with as cabinet and also as regular members. We have a huge task ahead of us. We should not be controlled by our staff. We have been elected by Nunavummiut. We should be controlling the government and governing it. Being elected to this Legislative Assembly, we have been given the right to make changes to the government.

If selected to the Executive Council, I will want to work on these issues. Whether or not I'm elected to the Executive Council, I will want to work with the cabinet and regular members to improve Nunavut so that the public can be proud of their territory. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Member Ms. Jeannie Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to congratulate our Premier-elect for Nunavut. I would like to thank him and I believe that he will do a great job. I know that my community believes in this. I would like to welcome my husband, Nauyaq, and my mother, Mary Ittunga, to the House. I am very pleased that my family is actually here in Iqaluit. They just came in this afternoon.

I love my family and I thank them for the great support that they have given me. I thank my family from Taloyoak and community members for all their support. I also thank the residents of Kugaaruk for nominating me and entrusting me to represent them in this House for the Netsilik Riding. That's why I'm here and I am very proud. I very much thank the elders.

I am very appreciative of the fact that we now have a Premier-elect from the Kitikmeot.

John Ningark, who is a former Member of the Legislative Assembly, if you're watching, I send you greetings and rest well because you worked very hard in the past.

I thank the member for Niaqunnguut for nominating me to the Executive Council. I will want to work closely with all of you. It will be four years. As Members of the Legislative Assembly, whether you be in the Executive Council or a regular member, each and every one of us have a lot of work to do. I expect to work closely together and think of our future.

I believe that all of us from Nunavut have dreams. No matter whom you are or where you live, everyone is equal. No matter who you are, each and every one of you is important, no matter what race you are or even if you are a different race. We're all equal in Nunavut.

As you know, women are very good at handicrafts and they're very good seamstresses. I can make a difference if elected to the Executive Council. I can use my knowledge and experience. I'm going to keep my mind open to anything and ask questions. That way, we can improve our system.

I will be keeping myself open to private businesses and to the civil service. Providing services to the communities is very important. We have to work closely with the government staff and trust and believe in them. If we don't trust them, they would not be providing services properly to the communities. Please let us support and provide assistance to the public service.

I have been a member of the Third Assembly in the past and I keep talking about the issue of social wellness, whether it be the RCMP, inmates, counselling, or mental health issues. According to the job that I've had in the past, I always believed in the fact that I can make a difference and provide support with my experience.

I had a feeling when we first saw each other after the general election and the feeling keeps coming back to me. No matter where you are living in Nunavut, we need to provide services to each and every one of Nunavut equally. We have to provide the services equally and that's one thing that I keep feeling.

We keep hearing that there is a lack of employment for Inuit. Inuit need to become self-sufficient. Yes, we need to become self-sufficient.

I have been talking too long. When I'm talking too long, I get nervous.

I send my greetings and love to my four-year-old in-law. I want the children to have a great future. Thank you.

### **Election for Cabinet Positions**

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Members, we will now proceed to balloting. The table officers will distribute the ballots. We will be voting for eight cabinet members. I ask all members to proceed to the voting table in an orderly fashion.

For your information, members may wish to wait in the Lounge while the ballots are being counted.

*>>Meeting recessed at 18:33 and resumed at 19:09*

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you for coming back. I would like to inform the members that I will be announcing the names. (interpretation ends) Monica Ell, George Kuksuk, Johnny Mike, Paul Okalik, Keith Peterson, Paul Quassa, Tom Sammurtok, and Jeannie Ugyuk have been chosen to serve on the Executive Council of Nunavut.

*>>Applause*



The appropriate motion will be moved in the House at the first sitting to confirm the selection.

I will now ask for a motion to destroy the ballots. Joe Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move a motion to destroy the ballots.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The ballots will be destroyed. (interpretation) I apologize for that. Do members agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. The ballots will be destroyed.

(interpretation ends) I remind all members that the first sitting of the Fourth Legislative Assembly of Nunavut will convene at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 19, 2013, in this Chamber.

I also remind members that there will be a meeting of the Regular Members' Caucus at 2:00 p.m. tomorrow in the Nanuq Room.

The Nunavut Leadership Forum stands adjourned. (interpretation) Thank you.

>>*Applause*

>>*Adjourned at 19:12*

# **Appendix – November 15, 2013**



## **Nunavut Leadership Forum**

**Selection of the Speaker, Premier and Cabinet for the  
4<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly of Nunavut**

**November 15, 2013**

-

## **Order of Proceedings**

1. Selection of Speaker
2. Selection of Premier
3. Selection of Members of the Executive Council

## **Process and Procedures**

- The selection process takes place in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly.
- All votes are by secret ballot.
- Voting by proxy is permitted.
- During the selection process for Speaker, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly presides over the selection process and is granted all necessary authority to enforce order and decorum. The Speaker-Elect subsequently presides over the selection of the Premier and Members of the Executive Council.
- The Clerk or Speaker-Elect opens the proceedings by calling for nominations from the floor. Members may not nominate themselves. A nominee must immediately accept or decline a nomination.
- The Speaker-Elect may vote, but may not nominate candidates or pose questions to candidates.
- Immediately prior to voting, a ballot box and two voting stations are set up. Each Member will receive one ballot.
- Names are listed on the ballot in alphabetical order by surname.
- When all Members have voted, the ballots will be taken to a secure location in the Legislative Assembly Precinct and counted by the Table Officers. Vote totals are not announced.
- The decisions of the Nunavut Leadership Forum are confirmed by way of formal motions on the first sitting day of the 4<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.

## Selection of Speaker

- If only one Member is nominated, that Member is acclaimed to the position of Speaker-Elect. If more than one Member is nominated, a vote takes place.
- Nominees for the position of Speaker do not deliver speeches and a question and answer period does not occur.
- If one candidate does not receive a majority of votes, the name of the candidate receiving the fewest number of votes is dropped from the ballot and a subsequent voting round takes place.<sup>1</sup>
- Where there are three or more candidates, and where none of the candidates receives a majority of votes, and where two or more candidates receive the lowest but same number of votes, then all names remain on the subsequent ballot.<sup>2</sup> In the event that the same result occurs on the second ballot, a run-off vote will be held between the two candidates receiving the lowest but same number of votes. A final ballot will then be held.
- Candidates may withdraw their names after the first ballot, but must do so prior to the start of a subsequent round of voting. Voting continues until a candidate receives a majority (50%+) of votes cast. The Clerk announces the name of the successful candidate.

---

<sup>1</sup> For example, candidates A, B and C are on the first ballot. Candidate A receives 9 out of 21 votes. Candidate B receives 7 votes and candidate C receives 5 votes. In the second round of voting, candidates A and B remain on the ballot, and candidate C is dropped from the ballot.

<sup>2</sup> For example, candidates A, B and C are on the first ballot. Candidate A receives 9 out of 21 votes. Candidate B receives 6 votes and candidate C receives 6 votes. In the second round of voting, all three candidates' names remain on the ballot.

## Selection of Premier

- If only one Member is nominated, that Member is acclaimed to the position of Premier-Elect. If more than one Member is nominated, a vote takes place.
- In alphabetical order by surname, each candidate for the position of Premier is permitted to deliver a speech from the Witnesses' Table. Candidates stand to deliver their speeches. The speech may not exceed twenty (20) minutes in length. No interruptions are permitted.
- Following the conclusion of their speeches, candidates return to their seats. A brief break takes place before the question period. Each Member not standing for the position of Premier may ask up to two (2) questions. Each candidate may then respond in turn to the question posed. The Speaker-Elect may vary the order in which candidates respond to questions, and may enforce reasonable limitations on the length of questions and answers. Members' questions need not be posed consecutively.
- When the Speaker-Elect has determined that no further questioning is to take place, the Speaker-Elect will call for voting to commence.
- A majority of votes cast (50%+) is required for selection. If no candidate receives a majority, the name of the candidate receiving the fewest number of votes is dropped from the ballot and a subsequent voting round will take place.<sup>3</sup>
- Where there are three or more candidates, and where none of the candidates receives a majority of votes, and where two or more candidates receive the lowest but same number of votes, then all names remain on the subsequent ballot.<sup>4</sup> In the event that the same result occurs on the second ballot, a run-off vote will be held between the two candidates receiving the lowest but same number of votes. A final ballot will then be held.
- Candidates may withdraw their names after the first ballot, but must do so prior to the start of a subsequent round of voting.
- Voting continues until a candidate receives a majority (50%+) of votes cast. The Speaker-Elect announces the name of the successful candidate. The successful candidate will be offered the opportunity to deliver brief remarks.

---

<sup>3</sup> For example, candidates A, B and C are on the first ballot. Candidate A receives 9 out of 21 votes. Candidate B receives 7 votes and candidate C receives 5 votes. In the second round of voting, candidates A and B remain on the ballot, and candidate C is dropped from the ballot.

<sup>4</sup> For example, candidates A, B and C are on the first ballot. Candidate A receives 9 out of 21 votes. Candidate B receives 6 votes and candidate C receives 6 votes. In the second round of voting, all three candidates' names remain on the ballot.

## **Selection of the Members of the Executive Council**

- The Speaker-Elect opens proceedings by calling for nominations from the floor. A nominee must accept or decline a nomination at that time.
- If only eight (8) Members accept nominations, then all nominated Members are acclaimed to the Executive Council. If more than eight (8) Members are nominated, a vote takes place.
- At the close of nominations, the Speaker-Elect announces the names of candidates. In alphabetical order by surname, each candidate for the position of Minister is permitted to deliver a speech from his or her place. The speech may not exceed ten (10) minutes in length. No interruptions are permitted. A question period does not take place.
- Members may vote for up to eight (8) candidates on the first ballot. A ballot with more than eight (8) votes is considered to have been spoiled. A ballot with fewer than eight (8) votes is valid.
- If all eligible Members cast valid ballots, the maximum possible number of votes that any candidate can receive is 21. A candidate is declared elected to the Executive Council when he or she receives a majority of the maximum possible number of votes that he or she could receive. Any candidate who receives less than a majority on the first round remains on the ballot for the second round of voting for the Cabinet seats that remain open.
- In the event that nine (9) or more candidates receive a majority on the first round, all candidates receiving less than a majority drop off for the second ballot. All other names remain on the ballot for the second round.
- If all candidates on the second ballot receive a majority, the candidate with the least number of votes is dropped off. If two or more candidates receive the lowest but same number of votes, then those candidates remain on the subsequent ballot.
- All eligible Members may vote for a maximum of eight (8) candidates on the first ballot. On subsequent ballots, all Members may vote for a maximum number of candidates equal to the number of Cabinet positions remaining open.

- If no candidate receives a majority, then the candidate receiving the fewest number of votes is dropped from the ballot, and further voting on the remaining candidates takes place as required.
- Where there are three or more candidates and none of the candidates receives a majority, but two or more candidates receive the lowest but same number of votes, then all names remain on the subsequent ballot.
- Candidates may withdraw their names after the first ballot, but must do so prior to the start of a subsequent round of voting.
- Voting continues until all eight (8) Cabinet positions are filled.
- The Speaker-Elect announces the names of the successful candidates in alphabetical order and calls for a motion to destroy the ballots.