



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

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

Official Report

Friday, November 17, 2017

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	13
Election of Premier.....	79
Nominations for Cabinet Positions.....	80
Election for Cabinet Positions	98

Members Present:

Mr. David Akeegok, Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Ms. Jeannie Hakongak Ehaloak, Mr. Joe Enook, Mr. George Hickes, Mr. David Joanasie, Mr. Joeline Kaerner, Ms. Mila Adjukak Kamingoak, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Mr. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Arreak Lightstone, Mr. John Main, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, Ms. Margaret Nakashuk, Mr. Patterk Netser, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Mr. Paul Quassa, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Joe Savikataaq, Ms. Elisapee Sheutiapik, Ms. Cathy Towntongie.

>> *Meeting commenced at 10:02*

Prayer

Clerk (Mr. John Quirke): Good morning. I now call this meeting of the Nunavut Leadership Forum to order.

Before we proceed, I ask those in the gallery, if you have cellphones with you, please turn them off or put them on mute.

Thank you. Before we proceed with the agenda, I call upon the very Rev. Jonas Allooloo to lead us in prayer.

>> *Prayer*

Adoption of Agenda

Clerk: Thank you. It's now 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 the 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. Hon. Pat Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to nominate Hon. Joe Enook for the Speaker position. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Clerk: Hon. Member Joe Enook, do you accept the nomination?

Mr. Enook (interpretation): I accept.

Acclamation of Speaker

Clerk: Thank you. The member has accepted the nomination. Are there any other nominations? There being no more nominations, I am pleased to announce that the Hon. Member Joe Enook has been acclaimed as Speaker-elect of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

>>Applause

The appropriate motion will be moved in the House at its first sitting, which is on November 21, to confirm this election.

I will now turn the Chair over to Speaker-elect Mr. Joe Enook.

>>Applause

Nominations for Premier

Chairman (Mr. Joe Enook)(interpretation): Thank you. I wish to take this opportunity to thank all members for their support. I would first of all like to welcome the people of Nunavut who are following today's proceedings which are being televised across the territory.

As we proceed and as Speaker-elect, I am pleased to now open the floor for nominations for the position of Premier.

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

The floor is now open for nominations for the position of Premier. Member Quttiktuq, Mr. Akeeagok.

Mr. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to nominate Joe Savikataaq for the position of Premier.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq, do you accept the nomination?

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Yes, I accept.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I nominate Cathy Towtongie for Premier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Towtongie, do you accept the nomination?

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Yes, I accept.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Members, are there any more nominations for the position of Premier? Member for Netsilik, Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): I would like to nominate Patterk Netser for the position of Premier.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Netser, do you accept the nomination?

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Yes, I accept.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. The floor is still open for nominations. Member for Kugluktuk, Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to nominate Paul Quassa for premiership. Thank you.

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

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

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Members, are there any more nominations for Premier? No one else has their hand up. 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. You will be making your remarks at the witness table.

We will start with the Member for Aivilik, Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser, you may now proceed to the witness table. You will have 10 minutes to make remarks.

Mr. Netser, please wait a moment.

I'm sorry. Mr. Netser, you may now begin and you will have 10 minutes to make remarks.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleague who nominated me for Premier. Thank you. I am also honoured to be chosen by my constituents to represent Aivilik. I wanted to run for the position of Premier.

I would also like to congratulate my fellow MLAs on their own victories to represent their constituents in this territory. It's going to be quite hard and we will have to work together to represent Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Today I am asking for your confidence and trust to lead the new government as your Premier. The voters have spoken and we must do our very best to answer the call from our constituents. It is time to stand together for the future of our great territory and united we can stand together and make a difference for the lives of all Nunavummiut citizens.

It will be up to the Members of this House to develop the government's priorities over the next several years. I believe that by working together, we have the opportunity to create a long-term vision for the future of our territory.

Mr. Speaker, when we stand united, we can accomplish great things. It will allow us to stand up on a national level and to show the federal government that we can control our own destiny and our own affairs. The decisions that impact the day-to-day lives of our citizens must be made by us, not for us.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to reflect back to the symbols we see in this House today. It is the coat of arms and our flags. These are the symbols of our territory, the creation of a new territory that is in equal status throughout Canada, our environment, our natural resources, our land, and our wildlife, a territory that is rich in Inuit culture, heritage, healthy families, a strong economy full of opportunities and standing for a place in Canada, standing up to the full realization and dreams of our past leaders.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to honour Paul Quassa, who was the leading man in the creation of Nunavut. It is why we are here today, representing our territory.

Mr. Chairman, (interpretation) we have to look at the elders, who are most vulnerable. We need elders' facilities now more than ever. We have to make sure that we have elders' facilities so that we can care for our elders. We are here as their representatives.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, as elected leaders, we have the responsibility to speak up for those who are unable to and we have to act to look after our citizens who are most vulnerable and, that is, our elders. We need elders' facilities now more than ever and while we deliver these facilities, we would be contributing to the economic growth and development of Nunavut.

With every project we do in Nunavut, we need to take the opportunity to develop our people to ensure the continued success of our communities. Employment leads to healthier communities.

Mr. Chairman, (interpretation) on behalf of our descendants, we need to focus on education. (interpretation ends) The current attendance record and drop-out rate is alarming and it is unacceptable. Mr. Chairman, (interpretation) as parents, leaders, and

communities, we need to advocate on their behalf to ensure that our children complete their education to become our future leaders.

(interpretation ends) We also need to ensure the quality of education meets the highest standards. Our current system is setting up our students to fail and we must address that because when our students graduate and they go to college or university, we find that their education level is below par and then they have to go through a training program all over again. It's unacceptable. We need to change that.

As Premier, I will work with all of you to examine the issues surrounding the education of our young people and why their education level is not adequate to get into university, let alone our own Arctic College here in Nunavut.

A better education system will mean more Nunavummiut employed not only within the government but with all sectors of Nunavut's economy. We must ensure that they have the best education owed to them.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, housing by itself is a major issue, and we need to answer our electorate's desires for more housing. They suffer from overcrowding, lack of housing, and in light of our growing population, the numbers of houses delivered are lower in number. This is unacceptable and requires addressing.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, healthy families and mental health is a very important issue. We have all heard that better support is needed in building healthy communities and families. We have challenges in addressing high levels of crime in our communities: family violence, addiction to drugs and alcohol, family welfare, suicide, and mental health services. I recognize that there has been a lot of effort in addressing these serious issues that impact all of us.

We need treatment centres in all three regions. Addressing suicide and improving health issues is paramount to our success collectively as a territory. Creating a sustainable Nunavut means investment in infrastructure. The lack of good infrastructure is a barrier to economic growth within our territory. This requires vision, commitment, and long-term planning.

The P3 project we see at the Iqaluit International Airport is a success and will guarantee employment for our people. This long-term agreement with the Government of Nunavut means that we provide employment for the next 30 years.

Mr. Speaker, the challenges of the new Premier are many, but we need to remember that some of our challenges that come from outside of Nunavut's borders require a strong government that will look out for its people. Standing up for Nunavut, we need to keep an eye on what is happening outside.

My fellow MLAs, we are at a crucial point in Nunavut and getting to that next level will require strong commitment and a strong leader who will work hard to deliver with all of

you. I feel that I am the leader today. I feel I am the man that can take us to the next level for the future of our people, and I ask for your vote of confidence today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. We will now proceed with the next candidate. Mr. Quassa, you may proceed to the witness table.

Mr. Quassa, whenever you are ready, you may begin.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all I want to thank the member who nominated me, Mila Kamingoak, Member for Kugluktuk. I thank you. I would also like to thank all of my fellow members and the community of Igloolik.

Mr. Chairman and Nunavummiut, I want to first thank my community of Igloolik in the Aggu riding for having placed their confidence in me to serve as their MLA for another four years, and to congratulate each of you, my fellow MLAs, whom I will be sitting with.

I want to especially thank my wife, Elisapee, and my family for constantly being there in support of what I'm doing since I became a member. They have been very supportive and I thank them very much.

It has been 24 years since our territory formally came into being, and to date Nunavummiut had and still have very high expectations of change for the betterment of our lives and communities. That's why I have put my name forward for Premier. (interpretation ends) It has been 24 years since our territory formally came into being and our Nunavummiut had and still have very high expectations of change for the betterment of our lives and communities. (interpretation) Those expectations still exist today.

Our Nunavummiut, whom the majority are Inuit, want a leader who understands them, who can communicate and listen to their views and issues. (interpretation ends) Our Nunavummiut, whom the majority are Inuit, want a leader who understands them, who can communicate and listen to their views and issues. (interpretation) Our Nunavummiut, who the majority are Inuit, want a leader who understands them, who can communicate and listen to their views and issues.

(interpretation ends) We need a leader whom we know to lead our government. You need to know who I am. My commitment and accountability to this Assembly and Nunavummiut and you need to know. You need to know my leadership style and how I will conduct myself as a Premier.

Fellow MLAs, as your Premier, my goal will be that we develop Nunavut together. A Nunavut territory that has a representative workforce, in all sectors of government and a renewed strategy for a fully functional bilingual society.

(interpretation ends) Fellow MLAs, as your Premier my goal will be that we develop Nunavut together, a Nunavut territory that has a representative workforce in all sectors of government and a renewed strategy for a fully functional, bilingual society in Inuktitut, English, and French, fostering Inuktitut as the first language of the workplace.

(interpretation) We need a functional bilingual society within our office. A government that demands a workplace where employees speak Inuktitut and the majority of them are Inuit. A government, as I stated earlier, a government that demands a workplace where employees feel valued and take pride in their work.

(interpretation ends) A government that demands a workplace where employees feel valued and take pride in their work.

(interpretation) As Premier, if elected, since you will be voting, I commit to respecting and actively engaging each of you MLAs. (interpretation ends) As Premier I commit to respecting and actively engaging each of you over the next four years. Cooperation will be the operating standard at every level. (interpretation) Cooperation will be the operating standard at every level and it's important for each of you to know who I am.

I want to provide a brief background. I was born named Aarulaaq and Qungaasallurittuq, and further I was born in an igloo, and I believe some members were also born in an igloo and were amongst the last generation to experience that. My late father's name was Francois Taannaruluk, and he was born in the Kivalliq region. My paternal grandmother came from the Netsilik region and my paternal grandfather Kappianaq came from the Tununiq region.

Through my various relations, I have connections to all three regions within Nunavut and I stem from all three regions of Nunavut. Understanding the precept of Nunavut is important in the context of knowing and understanding the regions, which is very important and I feel that's my strong point. Our forefathers' strong survival ethics ensured that their descendants would thrive in their lands and due to their ongoing adaptations we are able to be here today.

(interpretation ends) The Government of Nunavut was created to serve our residents respectively and to meet our obligations under the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* and partner in the spirit of active cooperation.

(interpretation) I want to stress that we have to work together with the Inuit organizations. We can move forward by working together. We cannot just work on our own. For that reason we need to work closely with the Inuit organizations.

I also want to point out that our policies, rules, and legislation have to be reviewed so that they can conform to Nunavummiut, so that we can work with the policies, rules, and legislation that need to change or be amended to conform to Nunavut. If we don't amend them, we will complain or talk about the same issues annually, and this will not stop until we make amendments to our legislation.

We also need a government that will serve our residents respectfully and it has to be receptive to our people. For that reason, when our people come to our office, they must feel like “Yes, I’m in Nunavut.” Our policies and legislation have to be amended. That way we can move forward.

I have many things to talk about, but I want you to know that if elected Premier, because we have to know the past of the territory and what we want to do in the future, it’s going to be beneficial to us and also to the elders. I will passionately work on behalf of our elders for they have worked very hard to take care of us. Let’s provide support to them. Thank you very much and have a good selection today. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. We will proceed to the next candidate. Mr. Savikataaq, you may proceed to the witness table. Please proceed with your speech when you are ready.

Mr. Savikataaq, you can proceed.

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Prior to commencing my speech, I wish to firstly thank Arviarmiut who voted for me in the constituency. If they didn’t vote me in, I wouldn’t be standing here today. I can now stand for the Premier’s position, which would have not been possible if not re-elected, so I thank them. I am humbled that the residents of Arviat had enough faith to elect me again to represent them in the Legislative Assembly, showing their approval and wish for me to do that for the next four years. I thank them very much.

I also welcome our newest members who were just elected. I take pleasure in your election, including all members who were re-elected. I am pleased and look forward to working with you for the next four years. We have a lot of work to conduct. Although some issues will be quite difficult, we need to work collaboratively to address these challenging issues. I also believe that we can work closely together to address these issues that we face.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, first I would like to thank the Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. David Akeegok, for nominating me. I am humbled and pleased that he nominated me.

Now I am here in front of you and my job is to convince you that I am the right person for the Premier. It is our job here to sell ourselves to you. You have a limited time to sell yourself, and this is for the Nunavummiut too. I’m just going to talk a little bit about myself.

I’m a father, a grandfather, just like many of you. I am from Arviat and I have worked in the public service for about 30 years; municipal politics for 20, been an MLA for Arviat South for four years and will be again for the next four years and I thank them dearly for having their confidence in me.

We are here for another four years and the government will set a mandate and the mandate will be given to you as MLAs for your support. We all know and it has been proven that it has to be a team effort; if you don't engage with the regular MLAs and if you don't have the support, the government's mandate will not be fulfilled. I know I can work with all of you once the mandate has been blessed by everyone in full caucus. It will be my prerogative to do my best to fulfill the mandate, that's my job as Premier. That's my job to me from you. You would make the mandate and say we are in support of the mandate and it is your job to do it.

In the last government I served two years as a regular MLA, so I can relate to the MLAs needs, frustrations, anxieties and all that comes with it. I've been there. When you were through orientation this past week I know what that feels like. You're bombarded with so much information and you just take it all in and feel overwhelmed. But you get over that.

You will be good MLAs. If each one of you chose to run or was asked to run because you want to help the people in your community and the people of Nunavut. You are here for the betterment of your community and for Nunavut. That's why we are here; we are not here for ourselves. We are here for everyone in Nunavut and we must never forget that. It is our job and it is expected that we will work hard for the people of Nunavut. Some of the decisions will not be popular. There are tough choices in front of us coming. They have to be made. I have made tough choices here. It's not easy but it has to be done, and I can make them.

If I make a mistake I have no problems admitting that I have made a mistake. As a minister, I have apologized twice in the House for mistakes that were made. There is nothing wrong to admitting to a mistake. You make your choice with the best and most current information you have and you make it and you live with that decision, but in the future if you found out it was the wrong decision there is nothing wrong with admitting you made a mistake and you go on from there. You turn the page and you go on. We are here to govern the people of Nunavut. It is expected.

As I stated, the first two years I was a regular MLA and then I became a minister. I am humbled again that MLAs from the last government have trusted me to send me up to be a minister. It was a large learning curve and I believe I did well serving as your minister. It is invaluable experience to be and MLA and then a minister because you can relate to how the regular MLAs are feeling and what they want and the frustrations they get. I have been there, I know it. If you have not been a regular MLA, if you have not served as an MLA there is a difference. You might wonder, "Why is that MLA so upset? It doesn't seem like a big deal." Well, it is a big deal. When you're working hard for your community and you just can't get your point across, it's a big deal.

I have proven in my four years here that I'm willing to listen to people, I do listen to people, I make time to listen to people, and I listened to the officials when I was a minister, but I also listened to Nunavummiut and I listened to the MLAs. You have to

look at the big picture. You have to look at the whole picture, not just the advice that comes up as a minister and as a premier. As your Premier, I would continue with that.

You have to look at the big picture. You can't be focused on one small part of Nunavut or one small sector. The whole picture has to be there. We have many challenges. I will admit it right now. We are so behind in your infrastructure that we don't have the money to do all that needs to be done and we're not going to get all the money to do what needs to be done.

All 22 of us have to decide the best way to use the resources that we have and we use those resources to the best of our ability to make sure that we can get done what needs to be done. I have taken advice from people and then I make a decision. I'm usually firm in my decisions. I'm not saying that I'm not unswayable, but when you make a decision, you can't be wonky. You've got to go in a straight line and not veer off what the goals are.

I believe that we have to work with all the Inuit organizations. They are part of the system that we have. We have to work with them. They have to be engaged with what we're going to do, and I would work with them as your Premier.

During the campaign there were three issues that kept coming up in most campaigns: our housing needs, our elders' care at home, and mental health and addictions. That's the mandate that has come forward and is supported by you. I have worked very hard to make sure those mandates are done.

If the mandate comes from us and goes down, it will get done. When a request comes from the bottom up, it might not work. If the decision is made from the top down, it will work because every one of you is going to support that decision, whatever that decision is. If we all support it, it will get done.

Time is running out. Ten minutes is not as long as I thought.

>>*Laughter*

One last thing, I was almost like the Premier in training. I only have to move one seat over. I sat next to the Premier, so you remember that there. Thank you for your time. I believe I'm the best person for the Premier. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. We will proceed to the last nominee for Premier. Ms. Towtongie, you may proceed to the witness table and start whenever you are ready.

Ms. Towtongie, you may proceed.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I first thank my God and the person who nominated me, the Member for Gjoa Haven, Tony Akoak. Thank you. I also

thank the people who elected me in Rankin Inlet North and Chesterfield Inlet. I remember them.

My name is Cathy Towtongie. Initially I didn't think of running for MLA. I considered myself inadequately experienced for the position. This is a truthful statement. Nonetheless, calls from all over the region, the territory and other places kept my phone ringing, asking me to consider the Premier's position. I even received calls from outside of Nunavut. When I received a call from a person I adore, and they asked me to consider it, so I agreed to their request and I wanted that known here.

I am trying for the premiership, and submitted my name to the candidates, and it is entirely up to you to vote for whom you want. My husband, Harry Towtongie, is my constant supporter and he is listening in, so I thank him profusely. However, my paternal grandmother was named Qavangaq, and she passed away due to TB. She was buried in the south, and I spent 25 years looking for her, and I know many Nunavummiut have undergone that same experience.

I was able to find her burial site, by using her E-3 number. Prior to her passing, Qavangaq was very worried about us, and she instructed Hattie Alaralaq to raise me to adulthood. So, Hattie Alaralaq and David Alaralaq raised me, and they are from Arviat and listening in, so I wish to express my gratitude to them as they raised me to adulthood.

In 1979, I was first elected for ITC across Canada as a secretary treasurer. When Baker Lake submitted their court case against development, we had to look for funds to assist them, so we found funding to oppose the mining company, who wanted to develop the mine against the people's wishes, as mineral claims and leases were let without consultation. Due to the fact that ITC had no additional funding, William Tagoona and I became interpreters. At that time, I felt that Inuit would be sloughed off, and we had one main questioner from the community.

The federal government and the mining company had over ten questioners available to them. I can recall the late Barnabas Pirjuaq who was asked this question: "As Inuit, do you have any ownership of land or laws over the land?" His response was this: "yes, because we are intimately connected to the land, and we know the land has to recover, so we would leave a hunting area for two to three years for the land to recover its vegetation, whereby Inuit would then return to the area to harvest more caribou, as caribou return to areas that have regrown the vegetation after several years.

I also recall this question: "Inuit didn't build houses" and Barnabas' response was this: "yes, that is true" and he stood up, in all his regale of a local esteemed elder and he looked towards the recreational hall, gazing at it from the courtroom from which he stood and said this: "The igloos we use today, are only built for hunting purposes to ensure one's survival. The qagiit (ceremonial igloo) were built by Inuit and some of these igloos were larger than the recreational centre."

We were able to convince the court and won the court case and there was no appeal either. Further, I was directed by ITC to attend the meeting of the International Whaling Commission in England along with Louis Pilakapsi. At the time, no quota existed for Inuit bowhead whaling, and Canada was the chair at the time. In speaking with the Canadian representatives, we convinced them to withdraw from the chair position, as we told them that “Canada must work with Inuit on the whaling issue” and today, Inuit are able to harvest bowhead whales.

I have attended the University of Lethbridge on business administration and on how capitalism works. This was a one year program. I have run for board memberships many times, and the various government positions, but since I was never chosen, I ended up having to create a business, which my husband and I own. It can be very difficult when you run for positions, and lose positions when voicing issues pertinent to the voters, and one can be kept from employment positions. I have experienced this firsthand.

I went to attend the University of Saskatchewan for the native law program and completed that. I have a two-year diploma in municipal administration from Arctic College. I have a grade 12 diploma.

I have never considered running for Premier, but once I came back to Nunavut after the land claims, I found that the Inuit leaders were making a whole lot of money out of the land claims. That’s when I rose and I got elected in 2002 and I made a lot of financial cuts. I even cut the salary of the NTI president and I saved NTI \$22 million as the president there. The Inuit groups weren’t making any royalties. Since 2010 they have been able to collect royalties and that is the reality in Inuit-owned lands now.

I know Nunavut very well. I know we have a housing shortage and you know that. Our elders have no space. What are we going to do for them now? You are all leaders. We have to work together and agree on what path we are going to take for housing shortages and build good foundations for health. Something has to be done about the aging infrastructure, along with the federal government and Inuit organizations. We have to work with the Inuit organizations and the federal government on these issues.

There are other matters I have worked on where I have put my money where my mouth is by creating opportunities for Nunavut. I worked hard to balance the budgets and now Inuit organizations can offer programs from the \$255 million which I signed off on. This was done in conjunction with the Government of Nunavut, and how together education can be moved forward here in Nunavut. However, we have to expand our sectors to determine how to ensure more benefits accrue to Nunavut in areas such as tourism, sewing groups, carvers, and fisheries. If we are only looking at the mining sector to provide funding, we will not be able to develop our economy.

We have to all be equals in working together, both you and me. If we go ahead with the status quo, nothing will have changed from the past government practices. Here I speak to operational changes within the government that will have better results for you and I as

I am talking to you, based on the many Inuit who now contend that perhaps we ought not to have Nunavut and that we should have stayed with the GNWT, as it was better then.

You and I are leaders here and nowadays leaders seem to only speak of pleasant things. If we don't speak on issues the voters agree with and only speak of pleasant things, we won't be elected. We are faced with difficult and challenging issues here in Nunavut that we need to deal with today. This is what your platform was, to change things for the better. I think you and I are looking at that. Thank you. How you vote is entirely up to you. Please consider my name when voting. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. We will take a 10-minute break. I invite the visitors in the gallery join me in the lounge for light refreshments. We will take a 10-minute break.

>>*Meeting recessed at 10:54 and resumed at 11:09*

Questioning Candidates for Premier

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. The Nunavut Leadership Forum has reconvened. 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 do not need to be asked consecutively.

As Chair, I will exercise discretion with respect to the order in which candidates are invited to respond to questions, and I will enforce reasonable limitations on the length of questions and answers. I think that's clear to you.

Do any members have questions for the candidates? My apologies. Member for Hudson Bay, I'll give you the first question. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I ask my question, I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as the Speaker of the Assembly.

Everybody knows that education is very important to the future of Nunavut. As everybody is aware, during the previous Legislative Assembly, proposed major amendments to the *Education Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act* did not pass.

As Premier, would you reopen the issue of making major changes to the *Education Act* or would you allow the legislation to remain substantially as it is now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. I would like the first response to come from Mr. Netser. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the question. I would give all of you a chance to give your input to the question. I would work with all of you. I know that we need to protect our language and we need to see our children graduate and be productive. I'm committed to looking at that legislation and I would need input from all of you to go forward on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for that question. On a personal note I feel this has to move forward for Nunavummiut and this requires reintroduction in the Legislative Assembly primarily due to the importance of education, and we need it to move forward. Amendments will be required within the *Education Act* and that would be my first priority.

My reasoning is that our children are the future. It must be a priority for this government mainly for that reason and we need to review it in greater detail, as we have heard from Nunavummiut and various organizations that this is considered a priority. I would like to review proposed amendments further. We heard that this is an important issue during the last government. This has to be changed and it has to be reviewed. The first priority has to be the education of our children for their future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Before I go to the next candidate, I would like to remind everyone to put your cellphones on silent mode because we can hear them ringing.

I ask that members who have questions raise their hands ahead of time so that their names can be put on the list.

I will now proceed. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have to deal with the *Education Act* in some form or shape. I don't have the answers as to how.

I was part of the special committee last government. We started working on it right from the beginning and we did not complete it in four years. We have to deal with the fact that in the Act itself, by 2019, the GN has to offer bilingual education. We are not going to meet that deadline and we will be in contravention of the Act, so we have to deal with it.

I don't know what the solution is, but we have to look at it and deal with it. Something has to change because last time, in four years, we could not get it done. We have to deal with it, I agree. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Education affects everyone. As MLAs, we have to consider how we move forward. (interpretation ends) We need to develop a plan with NTI and DEAs to bring Inuktitut into our schools over the next eight years. It has to be transparent, funded, and accountable, but it starts with each of us.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt, your second question.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the members for their replies to my question.

My next question is that the infrastructure needs in Nunavut's 25 communities for new capital projects are significant and the Government of Nunavut is unlikely to ever have enough money to fulfill community needs. It is not necessarily realistic to expect the federal government to provide billions of new dollars. What specific priorities would you establish for capital spending? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I would like Ms. Towtongie to respond to that first.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you...

Chairman (interpretation): Please wait for the light to turn on.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. On this issue, all of our communities are faced with aging infrastructure requiring replacement. I would divide it into two areas which both require preparation work.

First of all with the overall government coffers, how can we divide the funding properly for infrastructure? Secondly the hamlets have to be the lead player in identifying their needs, as they know their communities.

As well, we must apply for the development funds set for Canadian infrastructure replacement and development. In the north it is divided between Nunavut, the Yukon, and the NWT. Due to this reason, if we are to move forward on capital projects, we must first ask if this is for Canadian purposes. As an example, if we want to build a road from Chesterfield Inlet to Rankin Inlet, we can't say we are building a highway as all federal legislation would be applicable.

Now, what we can state is that it will be (interpretation ends) recreational roads (interpretation) or for access. If we can change the title of the project, then we can apply for more funding from Canada. Canada has to direct marine infrastructure to the north in collaboration. All the smaller communities have marine infrastructure problems.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said in my speech there, we don't have enough money for infrastructure. The first priority would be to try to get more infrastructure dollars from the federal government.

That being said, there's a difference between wants and needs that we all have, and we will only be fulfilling the needs. Mr. Rumbolt asked for priorities. You would have to prioritize it in health, if you have to do stuff for health reasons. Housing would be the next one and then public safety. Once those are done, you can go on down to the list for less needy needs.

We all have needs, but there are other needs that are more important or more critical than that. That would be my priority. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe I touched on that in my opening comments. These organizations operate cooperatively in Nunavut. At least that is my belief. Our Nunavut organizations, such as our Inuit bodies, have to work together for Nunavummiut to ensure that community infrastructure needs are looked at, such as housing or life counselling, the issues that impact us all which require working together and I hold that belief firmly of collaborative work. I am well aware of the Inuit organizations and they have their role and mandate, and we can only meet the needs by working together.

We must also work with the federal government and they have to acknowledge that in Nunavut, although we are the youngest territory, there are many developments required in our communities to catch up. We are usually at the tail end of the funding, so I would push hard to get federal government acknowledgement of the challenges we face and to tackle them here in Nunavut. Most of the funding is sent overseas when it could assist Canada's North. We are Canadians, yet we are often ignored, so we feel left out of Canada up here in the north.

Nonetheless, as per my earlier statements, my priorities would be working with Nunavut and Inuit organizations. They are now quite capable and they are the reason why Nunavut was created, therefore the plans were for cooperative relationships. I would want to work with all of the various agencies, as they each have capabilities. Again, as Members of the Legislative Assembly, we have to work together. We have heard and already know what the needs are in our communities, especially the lack of housing, so this will be one of my priorities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you. As per my earlier comments, with our elders being sent out of the territory, we need to prioritize that as they are sent to a place that is culturally and linguistically alien to them. We are all aware that funding is very limited and we can't fund every project that is being requested.

With respect to the elders facilities, if we had adequate funding to initiate that, I would work with the Inuit associations to look at a partnership, as they are now receiving large amounts of funds through their IIBA negotiations. I would look to initiate partnerships with them on the infrastructure for our elders, as they too have voiced their love and support for our elders.

Housing also continues to be a challenge, so I would make that a priority. As well, the changing climate is creating problems for our hunters. The search and rescue aircraft are sent all the way from a southern province. We have to look at setting up emergency services and aircraft here in our territory.

We also have to look at the youth and build recreational facilities. I would look at all those issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to ask the Member for Cambridge Bay, Ms. Ehaloak. Ms. Ehaloak, I apologize.

Ms. Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you. My question is; the government needs to work for our communities and understand how the program delivery or lack thereof affects each of us. Structures and activities of government are put in place to serve Nunavummiut's needs with the most effective use of resources.

What strategies of structural changes would you be open to looking at? For example, health and education boards had a direct connection to all communities and had included a cultural approach to program and care delivery. Would you be open to exploring such system changes or others to reconnect with Nunavummiut back to ensuring people come first and services are delivered respectfully. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to ask Mr. Quassa to answer that question.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I would like to thank the member for that question. Maybe, first of all, all the programs and services that will be created for our communities are our responsibilities. We have to place a priority on the needs of the people to understand what is needed in regards to languages. For example, the communities themselves know what is needed and it is up to us as the representatives to listen to the people at the community level.

(interpretation ends) I believe as Premier the number one priority is, of course, to ensure that they have a good understanding of what deliveries we can do and it's the communities that know the needs are. Certainly, I think it is very important that there is a very good understanding of how we are going to deliver it. Number one, we have to make sure they have a good understanding of how we are going to do it. Language, of course, is

a very big issue and we have to ensure that everybody understands what needs to be done.

The only way we are going to do it is to have that communication from the community and communication from the Legislative Assembly. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That's a very good question. We need to look at, as Nunavummiut through our territorial formula financing arrangements with Ottawa. The funding we receive only meets our basic expenditure needs to pay for education, health, and some housing and other.

I would agree for the Premier to immediately engage Canada to agree to a five-year to a ten-year investment annual funding. Currently we have 3,500 overcrowding issues in Nunavut and we only build about 90 houses. That's for housing. In terms of education, we need to collaborate with NTI, DIA, and the local communities to find a way forward to amend the *Education Act* that will be suitable for Nunavut-specific education. Make it unique for Nunavut.

In terms of mental health that is an issue each of the legislative members have to work on. Health is a concern. It's a high cost. We need to look at innovative ways. Tele-Health can alleviate some of the financing funding formulas, if we make a priority on it. We need to use technology that's available to rest of Canada and make it available to Nunavut. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think there's been a real disconnect between the government and the communities in terms of giving information on programs that are available. What we have in our communities are liaison officers and I think we need to utilize these positions and get the message across to them.

As for education, to see our children graduate and lead productive lives, back in my day when I went to school we had what would call the "On the Land Program" and we would be gone for two or couple of days for fishing or what not and when we got back to school we were more interested in going to school and completing. We were not lazy to go to school anymore after three days being connected to the land. I think we need to reintroduce that program and help build some credits from being on the land. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member asked what could be done to programs, not any specific programs but programs in general and I agree with her that the programs are community based and the only sole reason government has programs and

services are to service Nunavummiut to fulfill the needs, whatever the program is. If a program is not working we should be open to fix it and make it work better. The clientele would know whether the program is working for them. The community would also know if the program is working for them. I am open to suggestions to make programs better.

When we come out with a program we do it with the best knowledge that we have. If we have to tweak it to make it better, all the better. So, if a program is not working for the clientele in the communities, change it by all means. We are here to give the best service we can. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Ehaloak, would you like to ask your second question or do you want to wait?

Ms. Ehaloak: I will wait. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to ask Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu representative to ask a question. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you. I have always made reference to the elder in the last assembly and again it is also still my priority. We have to help our elders because there is not enough services provided to the elders of Nunavut.

Education or language has always been placed as priority but not in reality. We have brought up the issue of providing more services to the elders to have an elders facility. This subject was touched upon at the opening comments. I know that we have limited funds but we have to set aside some monies to provide a better lifestyle for our elders. With that, I would like to ask the candidates on what they will do in regards to providing better services and facilities for the elders. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to ask Mr. Savikataaq to respond.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated in my opening remarks, if it is in the mandate, it will be done. It's that simple. Our job is to fulfill the mandate that the government comes up with and is supported by all the MLAs. If the mandate is to make elders centres... I don't know what level. I know there are four or five different levels of care that is provided. It seems like it's straightforward. All of us are the ones that approve the budgets. If it's in the mandate, then it shall be done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This issue has been brought up many times. I know that we have to work passionately in regard to this issue to get an elders facility because there are three regions, the Baffin region, the Kivalliq region, and the Kitikmeot region in the territory. Each of those three regions needs to have an elders facility.

Inuit organizations are now receiving royalties. We need their support. We can't do it on our own as a government. We have a huge issue to deal with and it's going to cost a lot of money. I know that the RIAs have been given lots of money, so I would work passionately to make sure that they provide support to us and establish an elders facility. We will have more employment opportunities in our own communities. I thank my fellow Pat for her question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): I'll be speaking in English, Mr. Chairman.

(interpretation ends) We need to look at the model of housing infrastructure. With the recent investments from the Government of Canada, we have to include elders facilities. We need to see a three-model approach, one for social housing and one for elders transient right across Nunavut.

Secondly, we have seen countless investments in airports across the Nunavut territory and that's a P3 investment. We should start considering P3 investments for the territory in each of the regions for elders' facilities.

If there are four levels of services for elders and some include training, we need to start training Inuit immediately and non-Inuit to start taking elders. Once those facilities are up under the model, we have to look at the models right away to include elders' facilities right across the Nunavut territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) And Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I'm selected as the Premier, I would look at this as my priority because we have been hearing many times over and over of Nunavut beneficiaries being sent out of the territory. If the elders didn't work very hard on behalf of us, we wouldn't be here. For that reason, we have to respect the elders and take care of them properly.

Even at the local level there are elders' facilities, but I was being told that these elders facilities in our communities have to be resolved too and set up. This would be my priority. Looking at the three regions in the territory, they sent off their elders outside of the territory to southern places like Ottawa. Therefore we need to respect the elders and have them stay in a place where they know the environment. This would be my priority and I would be pushing for it.

As Members of the Legislative Assembly, we can set up all the things that we want to initiate in Nunavut. We would have to work together with the regional Inuit organizations. I know this must be dealt with as urgently as possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Angnakak, do you have another question? I'll allow you to ask another one.

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) My next question has to do with another issue that I have brought up as an MLA over the last four years and that's about the workplace. I would like to ask: if you were elected Premier, how would you go about making the GN a workplace of choice, not because you need to work there because you need a house or a salary but because you really like to go and work there, it's a good place to go to? What kinds of improvements would you make so that we can go forward towards making the GN a workplace of choice? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That's a tough question. When we are responsible for various departments and directors and over a group of bodies, we need to be open and we need to be a welcoming society. Inuit are a welcoming society. I think what we need to do is teach the directors or whatever they may be, whatever position they may hold that *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* is welcoming, is a warm society, and we need to teach them. That's all I have to say. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is kind of a loaded question because we want people to work for the GN and want to work, but a person wants things that are just not job-related. The community has to be a good place. They have to have friends. Some of them miss their family. There are so many factors that are part of this question that it would be very hard to answer it truthfully and correctly.

I'm hoping that we would do it now already, our best to make sure that employees are welcomed, they're informed on where they're moving to, what the position entails, what services are available to where they're moving to, and a generous compensation package so that if they're missing their family, they can fly them in or go see them in other communities.

There's no one answer for this. We would just try to make the best welcoming position both personal life and professional life. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good question. I believe that we need to respect each other in Nunavut. Many times I have seen my fellow Inuit who are putting themselves down and talking behind other people's backs about things that are not true. We need to respect one another and respect within the government. We need to have a respectful foundation.

Even if they're a unilingual English-speaking person, they have to protect the individual who is working within the Nunavut government. With Article 23 they are fearful that Inuit will be taking over their positions. I know that many non-beneficiaries live comfortably in Nunavut and we need to take care of them. We shouldn't put fear in them and we should welcome them.

We have to find ways, Inuit and non-beneficiaries, to work together in a good workplace. It would begin with respecting each other and all Nunavummiut should respect each other. There is no respect in some cases. Sometimes we are in shortage of teachers and RCMP officers. We also need to have good social workers.

I'll speak in English. (interpretation ends) Sometimes the prevailing authority that exists in the Inuit mind clashes with the institutionalized authorities. We need to collaborate and find a path forward how to create a respectable, secure workplace where people are not afraid of losing their jobs. Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We as a territory must work towards a public service that is effective, functional, and skilled and certainly we must make it a goal of this government for our employees to feel respected, valued, and work responsibly to the public it serves. Certainly one of the first areas that we certainly need to do is to ensure that we are not just creating obstacles for any employees. This is something that I really want to see within our government, is that to get those obstacles that our employees see a lot. We need to get those things out; obstacles. I believe to have a healthy workforce within our government we have to think outside of the box.

Maybe create a public service commission of some kind to ensure our employees have a place to go to if they have any areas that they are concerned about. Number one we have to take those obstacles out to ensure that, as I said right up front, we need a public service that is effective, functional, and skilled and that all employees are comfortable where they are and do want to work for the government. Certainly, like my other colleague said not all of them want to work for the government but we want to ensure that we have a government that is compassionate, understanding, and one that can function in a bilingual situation and I think that's very important for this government to be. (interpretation)
Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. And now I will allow Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you. First of all, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker-elect. My question will be directed towards the candidates for Premier. I know that I have been asking this question during the Fourth Assembly when I was a Member of the Fourth Assembly. If you are going to be the Premier, I believe that our government has to view everyone equally such as mining and the environment, managing

our environment. For example, sometimes we have barriers and when developing the mines or doing exploration in the calving grounds of caribou in the Nunavut territory.

We have to be stewards of our environment when developing mines in Nunavut. Which way would you lean towards? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for asking that question. For development and environmental protection we will be seeing more exploration in the future for sure for our natural resources development. Before the natural resource development is started in Nunavut, the residents of Nunavut have to make a decision on that. We have to work together and we have to agree with the exploration companies because we value the land and we have been living off the land for many years. We have to pay attention to those first of all.

We value the wildlife that we use for subsistence. If we can manage them properly, then we can develop our natural resources in Nunavut. I wouldn't want to stop the companies, but they need to fully understand that... . Perhaps if I say it in English, (interpretation ends) they have to be under our case. (interpretation) The need to make money is also very important, but it has to fit with our way. I seem to have trouble with English today. (interpretation ends) ...on our case and it has to be done in a way that is sustainable, but at the same time yes, I agree that we do need an economy that can help us in Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have Nunavut now. When there is planning going on for mining, NIRB holds hearings to try to find out how Inuit feel about this. With the work that NIRB does and under our land claims, we're not supposed to interfere as a government with the land claims. However, we are worried about our caribou and the fact that they need to be protected. They are protected under the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*. I would make them handle it along the lines of the way Inuit want. That's what I would do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The direction I would take is for responsible, balanced development. We want development, but we want it in a sustainable manner that does not harm the environment, does not harm the wildlife because we need the wildlife and we need the environment. We're going to be here for an awful long time yet. My approach would be for balanced, responsible development.

We have IPGs to ensure that the process is carried out in a formal manner. We have NIRB. We have the Nunavut Water Board. We have the Nunavut Planning Commission.

All the IPGs work. Any project that is proposed goes through a rigorous raking over the coals. Development just doesn't happen overnight.

I think the system is in place right now for responsible, balanced development and that's what I stated. We can get intervener status when they're having hearings, but the IPGs will determine whether a project goes ahead or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Simeon Mikkungwak. I have been in Baker Lake when uranium was under discussion. It has been set up in different layers. Under the land claims agreement there is a body that looks at the environment. If any mining company is going to go ahead, then all of the wildlife and environmental groups in Nunavut have to be involved.

We have to be aware as the Nunavut government that we have not been given land by the federal government. We don't actually own the land. The Nunavut government doesn't own the land. We have to work on devolution and get the land. We hear that mines have a lifespan of 20 years. If we tried to get devolution after the lifespans of the mines, it would impact our royalties as a government, and we would lose out.

With respect to wildlife, if they are involved then we need to work with the Inuit organizations created under the land claims agreement have to be involved. Let me switch to English.

(interpretation ends) If there is development, the environment, our waters, and our wildlife are protected. If there is development with Inuit-owned lands Inuit benefit. However, what I have seen the previous government, this government has done is to streamline some of the regulatory processes.

We do know that IPJs within the land claims agreement look after the environmental assessment of these things but I have seen the territorial government maintaining that they participate and they actually are part of the consensus government so that means that we participate in a consensus manner.

(interpretation) Excuse my pronunciation...but the foundation of our government as we have stated that we have to work well together and the Nunavut government is based on that and it's the mandate that they have agreed to and the Nunavut government has included, large communities and small communities whenever animals or wildlife are going to be affected because the communities are the experts when it comes to wildlife. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak, if you have a second question and you would like to ask the second question now, you have the opportunity.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My second question, if you got elected as a Premier what will be your three main priorities that need to be dealt with in Nunavut in the next four years where we will be working together. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The three priorities I would see as a Premier would have to be the three that have been brought up on everyone's campaigns; elders care, housing, and mental health and addiction.

It's a recurring theme everywhere and like I stated in my opening remarks that those three would have to be priorities. We are here for the people of Nunavut. We are here to serve them and we should do our best to make sure their needs are fulfilled. I know we have restraints in terms of what we can do, in terms of money, but we can work around that and those three would be my priorities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Health and mental health is something we need to consider as a holistic approach, however, I also know many Inuit get diagnosed too late with cancer, and many Inuit are returned where they pass away. This is an important matter and it affects everyone.

Now, with telehealth and satellite access, if early detection occurred then many people could be saved. We have lost many people. The second matter is our elders and the need to ensure that they are connected to their families, grandchildren and the diet they are familiar with, as well as their language requirements. I have no idea where the decision was made to send elders to Ottawa.

In considering this matter, what are we doing to ensure we have adequate elders' facilities in Nunavut? We have to brainstorm on the cultural appropriateness so that it is geared towards Inuit, and to have country foods available for their consumption, as well as their language needs. They aren't used to the diet of the non-Inuit.

The other important issue is the challenges we face in housing shortages, and I believe we can speak to this issue nonstop. And further, many people are bearing children and while we are sitting here, between you and I, three children were born. Every year, there are 615 children born in Nunavut.

This is every year, so approximately 613 children were born, and by the time 2017 ends, perhaps this number will increase. They will all need employment opportunities, and we have to start the planning now, to accommodate the upcoming generational needs in education, and to teach the communities how to properly offer education within their communities, and to create employment in the communities.

You as MLAs are the leaders. Once we set up this system, you will be able to set up the way you want it to be set. One person cannot set this up. Leaders have to be servers so you all have to serve. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The three main areas I will focus on is to change policies, regulations, and if need to, legislations that are not working, or need enhancements.

In order to fully change what is needed to change, we need to fully work with Inuit organizations, private sectors, industry, and the federal government. We also need to have a government that is more understanding, compassionate, and people friendly.

(interpretation) Those are the things that we hear that we're not a welcoming government in some offices. That really needs to change. (interpretation ends) I believe those are the three areas that I fully believe that we need to do. Certainly, this House will have to talk about.

As we know, we will have to identify what mandates of this government will be for the next four years. Those are the three areas that I really feel that we need to change in order to change areas that are not working. Certainly, this touches on housing needs. We need to re-look at some of the policies that we have, in terms of housing, whether it's staff or public housing.

Those are the main areas that we have heard so much from all our communities. So these are the three areas that I would focus on, and certainly, look for the direction from this House when I become a Premier. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for asking the question. During my campaign in our community and Naujaat, a father came and talked to me that he thought his children graduated after they completed grade 12. However, they got a low level of grade 12. We have to work hard on this matter. Our children are our future, and they will need to have a place to work. I used to have a workplace, and then once you are not working anymore life becomes very hard. How are we going to provide our next meal? It's that hard. Education would be number one.

When I went through Rankin Inlet, we thought Rankin Inlet was a big town and our community was a small community. We often hear of our children having the lowest education levels, so we are envious of larger communities that have better education levels. When I passed through Rankin Inlet, a father informed me that he had been down south and his children no longer wanted to return to Rankin Inlet, stating that the education was too low. We need to fix this perception. Whatever is causing the difficulty

has to be excised. Inuit are very capable of learning and our capacity increases when we learn new things if given the opportunity. I believe you all understand that.

Housing is also a critical matter, as overcrowding is the norm amongst many households. This can result in poor health and contagious sicknesses going around, obviously due to the housing shortages. This too requires addressing and correction.

In relation to elders facilities, which have been the focus here today, we need to ensure we have adequate facilities in each region of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We will proceed. The next person to ask a question is the Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Kusugak.

Mr. Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for the opportunity to ask a question. I have a very short question. (interpretation ends) How would you describe your leadership style? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you. I have been leader for all of Nunavut for eight years and I have learned that leadership has to be shared. One person can't be a leader, but it's the more skillful one that has to set their personal goals aside and has to look for the best way. I can be a leader in one area that I know of, but you also have to acknowledge that I have learned to share as a leader.

Secondly I don't know everything. There are people with more knowledge than me and I also have knowledge that they don't have. It's best understanding of culture or reality and that's how we have to work. I'll speak in English. (interpretation ends) I deal with shared leadership. I have learned over the years as president of NTI that I don't know everything. Most of you are experts in areas I'm not an expert in. Most of you have knowledge that I don't have knowledge in.

In being a leader, you learn to devolve responsibility and share information and communicate, and take the best options and strategies and collaborate together and find a path forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In order to be a leader, one must have the capability to listen and to be able to listen to every person. This is where I believe I have abilities, in listening to the person and not trying to speak over the listener. I don't always like to talk, but I prefer to listen firstly.

Listening is an acquired skill and listening to everyone who is speaking is an important part of being a leader, obviously. In performing as a leader, you need that as well as understanding. I feel I can listen in either language that the speaker prefers to use.

Understanding and the ability to discuss and debate issues are the tools a good leader must have, to both lead and to be able to have discussions.

If a challenging issue comes up, you have to be able to deal with that. However, you have to be able to respect your fellow citizens. Nunavummiut go through different challenges and be compassionate. I think those are the priorities for me. Being able to talk to people, I think those are my strengths.

When you have to look into the future, you have to see what's in front of you and have expectations. We are forming our future and you have to be able to look forward to the future and we have to know that what has happened in the past. What did they do and you have to remember the past, but you always have to keep moving forward. We have to know what happened in the past. Why did we create Nunavut? You have to have a good understanding of those issues and that's how I see a leader, and I think I'm capable of doing that. That's why I'm trying for the leader. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll respond in English. (interpretation ends) I believe as a leader we should allow our staff to run with the ball. Let them not be afraid to make any mistakes because as I leader, if I succeed, they succeed. If they succeed, as a leader, I succeed. The leader should not be afraid to have his staff come to him and give him advice, and work collaboratively towards reaching a goal. That is my thought of a good leader. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe these are some of the qualities of my leadership. I'm fair, approachable, I'm sensitive to people's needs, and I'm open to suggestions. I'm not afraid to make decisions, as long as I have the most current information. I tell it like it is. I won't beat around the bush; I just tell it like it is. Some people don't like that and don't want to hear it, but that's one of the qualities that I have. I will it like how it really is.

I also believe that people are accountable for their actions, but they're also accountable for their inactions. There are many times where there is nothing action and nothing happens because there's no action. People are accountable for that too. I look at the big picture. When you are a leader, you should not get fine tuned into one little area. Look at the big picture. If you do this, what is going to happen here, because no matter what people do or don't do, there is an effect on everywhere? Everything is related and closely tied together. So I look at the big picture, and made decisions based on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to give Mr. Kusugak a second chance to ask a question. Keep in mind if he is going to have another question once they respond to it, we'll break for lunch. Mr. Kusugak.

Mr. Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your responses. (interpretation ends) As if we don't have enough high prices in Nunavut, very shortly we're going to be hit with higher costs for fuel, food, transportation, houses, and so on, because of the carbon tax.

What specific priorities would you raise with the federal government, in respect to the issue of carbon taxing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Again, I think it was very clear that our territory is very unique amongst the rest of the jurisdictions in Canada. We're in a situation where we don't have too much choice of what types of energy that we use. Again, in all of our communities, diesel fuel is something that's going to be around for some time and we don't have a choice because we are in a very unique situation where we don't have that connection as we wanted it to be from the rest of Canada.

For example, we don't have roads that connect us to the south. We are very heavily dependent on fossil fuel and I believe Canada has to recognize that. I believe that as the Premier, I would want to ensure that we are not being taxed heavily like the rest of Canada on the carbon taxing issue because we are so different. I would want to ensure that the federal government fully recognizes that we are in a very different, unique situation and they have to ensure that we are not being taxed as any other Canadians.

Certainly I think that as a government, we have to start looking at other means of how we're going to provide energy into our territory. We have to be looking at various means. Again, Nunavut is so unique and I believe that the federal government has to fully recognize that until such time we have true connections with southern Canada can we start thinking of that. Again, if we're going to be carbon taxed, I think Nunavut has to be dealt with very differently and that's something that I would push for. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is an excellent question. When I became the president of NTI, we had to pay taxes as Inuit organizations. Today they aren't paying taxes in those amounts. Under the tax code 148 we searched for ways to lower the taxes for Inuit organizations and ultimately to get away from paying taxes.

With respect to the carbon tax, as a government, we would have to look at the foundation and how this tax would be divided up. We are residents of the Arctic and as arctic citizens, I have yet to see that breakdown of a Nunavut-based carbon tax and how it would be divided. Once we find the solution or loopholes in the tax foundation, we can propose our own methods to deal with this carbon tax.

We have to look carefully within Nunavut. We have aging and decrepit power infrastructure. My son is in Clyde River working right now and he keeps me informed. The power plant is so old that they face safety concerns regularly.

As Nunavummiut, we have to look at new ways on how we can have a more cost-effective system. If we're going to be in leadership roles, we have to look at the way the carbon tax is written and what avenues Nunavummiut can use. Many people in Nunavut are harvesters or hunters. There are many seamstresses. I can't see how they can be taxed and they can be our foundation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was late to the meetings, as it took me a whole week to arrive. I got the tail end of the proposed carbon tax legislation that is scheduled for introduction by the federal government. I barely caught that presentation.

Nonetheless, our officials from the government have been in negotiations with the federal government on the exclusion of Nunavut from the carbon tax to be introduced. If it were introduced and applied, every price we pay will ramp up, whether it is for food, transportation, snowmobiles, housing, heating fuel, and so on.

If I'm elected as Premier, I would notify the Prime Minister via correspondence that this is not appropriate for Nunavut and we don't want to be severely impacted. It's bad for all of Canada, but it's especially bad for Nunavut. I would push to be excluded from this system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member asked what I would raise or talk about with the federal government. It's not what I would do; it's what I have been doing.

I have been in meetings with the federal government and we have informed them that with this carbon tax, it's not going to change our consumption in Nunavut for fossil fuels. We don't have a choice. We don't have any alternatives. It will not change consumption and that's what this tax is supposed to do. It's supposed to curtail consumption. It's not going to do that.

We have asked for exemptions to generate electricity, transportation, and heating. To date we have had no replies and I will just continue to keep lobbying them and try to convince them that this is not a fit for us. It's not going to work. The tax is not going to have the desired results of the federal government. It will not. We will pay more, but our consumption will not change.

I also told them every meeting I would go to, we buy all of our supplies, our food, our building material, everything from the south and it all takes fossil fuels to transport that stuff here. We're going to pay twice. We're going to pay for using fossil fuels in Nunavut and we're going to pay for the same fossil fuels that bring the fossil fuel here to us. It's a double tax on us. I have done my best to educate them on that and I will continue to do that as the Premier.

The federal government is adamant that it's coming, but as the Premier, I would lobby very hard to make sure that the negative effects on Nunavut are minimized. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Recognizing the clock, we will take a break and we will resume at 1:30 in the afternoon. Thank you.

>>*Meeting recessed at 12:23 and resumed at 13:32*

Chairman (interpretation): Good afternoon, members. People of Nunavut, welcome to your House.

We will now reconvene with the Nunavut Leadership Forum. We are currently asking questions to the candidates for Premier.

Before we begin, I would like to remind everyone in the House to turn off their cellphones or put them on silent mode. It causes disruptions when the cellphones go off. That's just a reminder.

We can now proceed and following my list of names, the Member for Kugluktuk, Ms. Kamingoak, you have the floor.

Should I ask your question for you?

I do apologize. I would like to welcome all the people of Nunavut who are watching the proceedings. We are asking questions to the candidates for Premier. I would first of all like to recognize the Member for Kugluktuk, Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Congratulations on your selection of Mr. Speaker.

As you know, there are approximately 4,850 positions in the Government of Nunavut's departments, Crown agencies, and territorial corporations. Between June of 2001 and June of 2017 the number of Inuit employed by the territorial government increased from approximately 977 to 1,747. In order to achieve a fully representative workforce, the government will need to hire at least 2,375 more Inuit employees. If you are selected as Premier how will you ensure that your government's senior management follows the provisions of Article 23? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did a rough calculation on your numbers there and it comes out to roughly 7,200 employees and I don't think it would be feasible to have it go by that much by that quickly and you asked about the timeline so we would have to wait for retirements and people leaving the job but currently the government does do their best to live up to Article 23 as our members are fully aware. We're not the only employer seeking to hire bright, eager Nunavummiut Inuit that want to work to fulfill our commitment to Article 23. We need to do more but I can't tell you the specifics of what to do. We need to make them want to come and work for the Government of Nunavut.

We are striving to do the best we can but we are not the only employer but we want to make it so that beneficiaries want to work for the government. We want to get our numbers to 85 percent and we will do the best we can. I can't give any concrete actions that could be or would be done. It's a long process. We need to get training positions. We need to get Nunavummiut educated so that they are qualified for their jobs and as Premier I would strive to do my best to adhere to Article 23. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and (interpretation) thank you (interpretation ends) for the question. Article 23 and Article 24 are the main meet order for our people to take part in the economy of Nunavut and over the briefings that we got from the various departments they had very rigorous Inuit employment plan and I think it's very good.

However, I don't believe in promoting anyone in higher positions in which they are not ready for. We need to train our people and training them, we need good education. We need schools that provide education and we need to ensure that our students are attending these schools. So, I am all for Article 23 but just for the sake of filling that number I think we would go the wrong way. So, as a Premier I would encourage more training within these departments and that is my answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to developing future Inuit employees and non-Inuit employees as well, I have dealt with them as a leader. I signed off an agreement with the Government of Nunavut, and the Government of Canada, the \$255 million fund.

Previously, the Government of Nunavut received \$10,000 annually to provide training and after this agreement was signed between Inuit organizations and the governments, the GN now has access to \$50 million to use towards training purposes. In saying that, if we are going to look at a future direction, then we have to try to fully implement Article 23 – Inuit Employment within government.

Currently, Inuit fill the lowest rungs of the government departments, making up 89

percent of the Inuit employees who are in the lowest levels, such as office and secretarial positions. So, if there are 100 positions, 89 are held by Inuit who are employed at the lowest level of receptionists.

We have to provide a pathway, as the Nunavut government, on how we can hire Inuit into these higher positions. The other factor is related to the youth, so we need to work with the youth to see how they can be hired into these positions, and not just be the receptionists, however, there are other positions underneath these positions that can also be trained by using the funds that were negotiated.

The third matter, we have to take into consideration is when an employment opportunity opens, they should be offered to qualified Inuit who wish to apply for the position. The agreement speaks to representative levels, at that time it was 85 of every 100 positions where this government has to hire Inuit to meet that goal.

I would not just look at the Nunavut government, as the federal government is a signatory to this agreement, and they have agreed to this requirement under the agreement, however, it seems that their own levels are even lower. I would ask where Inuit have strengths, as all of us sitting here are aware of the fact we have no northern university, and even though we may want a northern university, especially when we were younger.

This wasn't possible to accomplish, and I have felt that Inuit who are looking for job opportunities, should have their relevant experience reviewed, and even if the Inuit don't have paper qualifications, many Inuit are very skilled at repairing equipment, even without any paper qualifications, such as small engine repairs on the land.

What opportunities will we provide to the young people? Not everyone can go down south to further their education. We have to look at the strengths and weaknesses of today. The Nunavut government and the federal government is looking at how many Inuit are employed. That was in 2015.

(interpretation ends) The Government of Canada and the Government of Nunavut within the out of court settlement were designated to develop a labour force survey for all Nunavut residents. We need to look at the data and see that labour force survey where Nunavut stands and service it. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank you for asking that question. We have heard on many occasions, and as I indicated earlier, this is the reason why we created Nunavut. There is approximately \$50 million that have been set aside and it's in regard to Article 23. We have to look at the \$50 million and look at how we can use it to improve the numbers within the government. That's what Article 23 is about. If we're going to using that \$50 million.

The federal government and NTI made an agreement. We have to find out what we are going to be using it for. Nunavut Arctic College will have to be fully utilized and look at a diversity of programs. For example, we have to look at the programs at Nunavut Arctic College so that we can increase Inuit employment within the government. We have to look at the \$50 million because we have to implement the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*. I would work very hard on this subject and we have 25 Arctic Colleges in Nunavut. We have to utilize it more and provide programs to increase the number of Inuit within the government.

There are many capable people we have to include furthering the education. So, that's how I see it. This \$50 million was earmarked for increasing the number of Inuit within our government. This would be a top priority. We are going to be sitting here for five years and I would place that as a priority instead of gathering dust on the shelf. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. You have an opportunity to ask your second question, Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My second question concerns the Grays Bay Road and Port Project, which is a very significant infrastructure initiative for the Kitikmeot region. Earlier this year, the previous Legislative Assembly approved \$2 million towards this project. The Grays Bay Port and Road project will provide economic benefits for many communities and many residents.

As Premier what significant actions would you take to ensure the Grays Bay Port and Road project continues to move forward? (interpretation) Thank you, (interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman.

>>*Laughter*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you for that question. As a government we would like to see more employment opportunities for people of Nunavut and the Iqaluit...possibly we can look at the P3 project. And, I would also work with the people of Kitikmeot. Sometimes it's hard to find jobs. We have to make sure that it's environmentally friendly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Grays Bay Port and Road Project is I believe is in the environmental hearings at the current stage and I would want to see what the results of the hearings and all the environmental impacts may or may not be. It's a road to resources I agree but like I stated earlier when I was asked the question about development it has to be balanced, sustainable development. I believe we should let the

IPGs do their work and then they will tell us what should or should not be done and I believe that's the correct way to go for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you for your excellent question. When I was the President of NTI I met with them in 2013-14. I have reviewed the consideration for the Izok Road from Kugluktuk to the Kitikmeot. In looking at the Grays Bay and the engineer's report, it was good, but in the last environmental assessment, they're looking for input from the communities of Kugluktuk and Cambridge Bay. I know that the Cambridge Bay hamlet council is neutral. They want to hear from the people.

In view of that, we have to do a review. If this goes ahead, we have to look at how we can involve Inuit in the workplace and enhance the workplace for Inuit, not only in the mining sector. There will be other developments occurring, such as developing roads. How can they be trained to develop roads so that the young people can work all year round? If mothers have children at home, then we should look at how we can employ them.

Once we get the road developed and through the land claims agreement, we should review. It's under the environmental impact review at this time. As a government, we will have to review how our government can develop and enhance and how we as Inuit can enhance the Inuit employment in the Kitikmeot region. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Employment and the ability to work are of critical importance to us. Many people in Nunavut are unemployed and the rates are astronomical, which has impacted Inuit employment opportunities. Due to that the previous government supported this initiative.

Further, this support has to continue as it means that large capital projects developed in Nunavut, when they can proceed, provide benefits to all residents. Our fellow Nunavut residents need employment opportunities and every opportunity to generate income. The other barriers we face would be lessened and this is noticeable. The previous government fully supported that and I believe the new government has to continue that work.

Someone stated that these projects are currently being reviewed by NIRB. The review is being done by an IPG created by the Nunavut Agreement and this review will follow that process. However, as a government, any large development project requires our support if they can be developed, as that ought to be our long-term goal. This applies to any large projects.

With respect to the (interpretation ends) Grays Bay port and road project, (interpretation) our government supported this development project and this government support will have to continue, especially for this new government, as we want our residents to have

employment opportunities, particularly our Inuit residents. This requires further work. I am in full support of this initiative.

As a government, we ought not to be waiting for developments. We have to provide direction and push for results. That is how I perceive this. If I am elected as the Premier, since this was supported previously, that support should continue. Let's move forward as a government to support these initiatives, to reach further goals than what we set. All regions have desperate needs and requirements. As they search for means to reach their goals and objectives, as a government, we should also look for ways to improve.

According to my viewpoint, I believe this is a very good question. Once this goes ahead, I'm sure there will be other initiatives that will have to come up. I'm in huge support of this and I would be in support of this. We need to complete this project. Even though we live in Nunavut, these are possible things to do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I will now give the Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes, to ask a question.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Rumbolt brought up earlier a piece of legislation earlier that did not pass in the Fourth Assembly, but the Fourth Assembly successfully passed significant legislative amendments during their term, including broad reforms to the *Public Health Act*, significant changes to the Nunavut Employee Benefits Services, or NEBS Pension Plan, requiring that municipalities fall subject to the access to information and protection of privacy legislation, or ATIPP, and perhaps most notably, changes to our *Vital Statistics Act* and *Human Rights Act* to provide protection against discrimination for members of our LGBTQ community.

As well, two major plebiscites were held in Nunavut during the last term; the land referendum regarding whether municipal lands could be bought or sold and the beer and wine store plebiscites in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay.

My questions for the candidates for Premier are as follows: were there any legislative changes or plebiscite outcomes that you disagreed with? If so, please specify and as Premier, will you introduce any new amendments to existing legislation to modify, remove or revisit any changes that have been made? If yes, please specify. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes, that was very close to becoming two questions.

>> *Laughter*

First day on the job, well, there you go. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those were understandable. I know that our previous government passed a lot of (interpretation ends) legislation

(interpretation) and I'm very proud of this. The legislation was made up of new initiatives. If the House supports them, I will support all of them as well.

If it is going to work toward the benefit or improvement, that is how we come up with legislation. Legislation and bills that are passed in the House, I have no choice but to support them and I have supported all of them. As Members of the Legislative Assembly we represent Nunavummiut.

All of the legislation that we passed personally I have supported all of the bills that were tabled by the previous government. We have more bills to table. The education bill has to be tabled too, and we need to deal with the new *Education Act*, and also, I would like to amend the social development legislation. It does not conform to the Inuit way and I am sure many of us have heard about that. We have heard from our people that this legislation needs to be amended to conform to Inuit traditional ways.

Also, policies or rules... I want to use the proper term. In order for there not to be too many barriers in the legislation for our people, we have to remove those obstacles. These obstacles, like with housing for example, there are many obstacles. There is a higher shortage of housing. We hear annually that we have a shortage of housing, and how as a government the housing and social housing legislation has to be changed.

These are the concerns I believe that need to be addressed and amended so that they can conform to Inuit beliefs so that our legislation should be amended and we should review it carefully so that they conform to Inuit ways. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you to my colleague for the question. I haven't really followed the legislation for the specific question he mentioned to the plebiscite on the *Liquor Act*. I think we have a golden opportunity to make amendment into the Act so that the government could be forced to have a treatment centre, because we don't have anything in Nunavut. As Premier, I would introduce amendments to the Act so that the government will be forced to have a healing centre that which we badly need across Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government legislation that has been passed, I was in support of all the bills that were passed. I agreed with the amended legislation. We approved all the amendments to some legislation, but the issue with any legislation, if they need to be amended, I would be in support of reviewing the legislation. One thing that I note that is going to have an impact with the government is the legislation for education.

In 2019 they will be serving bilingual education up to grade 12. We all know that if we won't be able to keep up with the legislation for bilingual programs because we are stressed for time. There is only less than a year in getting the bilingual education system. I know that we won't be able to complete that. I believe the teachers would have to take three to four years of training if they're going to be teaching in Inuktitut. If we're going to have Inuktitut speaking teachers and they have to be certified teachers.

We cannot just hire people off the road because our children are our future and they need proper education and be taught properly by a certified teacher. We would have to review that. We can amend the legislation that people are not happy with. If they feel that the legislation has to be amended so we can improve the legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This has been spoken about just for women, and I've never really talked about it. I saw an elder when I was President of NTI that was she was losing her language. Following along the lines that I was brought up, I was told to be proud of other people by the elders. I'm proud of everybody; it doesn't matter if it's a male or female. I spoke out for the elder, because I wanted those people to go to me because I'm the president. I will speak in English.

(interpretation ends) I respect each person gender-wise, but I especially respect elders. When an Inuk elder spoke up in regard to the LBGT community, I saw, as a leader, all the hate mail, everything that was being discussed about him. I am trained to trust and treat elders with respect. I wanted to all the hate that was directed to our elder to turn to me, as a leader to protect that elder. He was free to speak his mind; just I am free to speak my mind. I can work with anyone. It's the prevailing authority that exists in the Inuit mind versus the institutionalized authority with regard to social development.

Under social development I have seen children when their grandparents, elders are there taken from their homes without consulting the elders. I was designated by the Inuit circumpolar community to draft... some of my wording is in the Rights of Indigenous People.

Instead of elders, we designated elders as traditional knowledge holders with the actual knowledge to pass on and transmit their culture not just by getting white hair or getting older but with the authority to pass on their cultural lifestyle.

As for the plebiscite outcome and the marijuana outcome that's coming, we as a government cannot afford to have another regime. We need to use the regime that is in existence and that's the liquor infrastructure. We need to start envisioning how as a territory we can move forward with changes and how that change will be will be up to you and each of us that are sitting here. Thank you so much.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Hickes, this is your opportunity to ask your second question. You can ask it later or you can ask it now. This is your opportunity.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you thought if I was pushing my first one, wait for this one.

>>Laughter

It is part of a continuum. I would like to ask the candidates to give an example of a decision that you've made that was unpopular. How did you implement the change? How did you handle the criticism or opposition? Did you change peoples' opinions or perceptions about the decision and would you have made the same decision or taken the same approach in hindsight? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You caught me at a time when I am trying to think of decisions I have made personally because I believe a leader is a servant to each of you. You have to calculate each of the opinions and comments before you make a decision based on fact and financial restraint.

One of the decisions I made was implementing the *Closer to Peoples Structure* for Nunavut Tunngavik. We were in deficit of \$149 million. I was warned by auditors that we were too close to the capital. We had to cut back. By cutting back I cut the housing expenditures, executive assistants and the vice-presidents no longer had an office but it saved us \$22 million. In the end, by the time left the Presidency if NTI kept going it would have been out of deficit in two years.

If you're going to make any unpopular decisions you have to look at the cost, inform your colleagues, get their ideas, and have their input. Collaborate and find a journey forward. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a very good question. As a leader, sometimes it gets confusing like when you are thinking it may not be what people like or people may be concerned about it. It becomes confusing sometimes. But, if you remember about the Education Act after we worked real hard at it, it did not pass and we all know that. I would like to be completely open because I was completely open before.

If there is something wrong with what we're trying to do, I would ask the person, "If we changed it, can you support it?" We can do things like that. If they don't like it and it's not passed, then show us what needs to be changed so that it can be passed. That's how open I have been. We have to remain open as leaders on whatever decision we're trying

to make. If others don't want it to proceed, ask them, "What kinds of changes would you like on it?" We have to keep ourselves open like that.

As I stated at the beginning, I want to listen to everyone and be completely open. If someone criticizes whatever I say when we're working on legislation, let us know how to change it so that it will be acceptable. We have to make legislation that can fit in Nunavut and that is approved by the people of Nunavut. That's what we want to see and that's what I will try to do.

I will be able to listen and consider different things that are important as a leader. We have to be completely open. We try to make legislation that is good for our Inuit that can be utilized properly. That's why we need to be completely open. If anything needs to be changed, tell us what needs to be changed. That is how I will try to proceed as Premier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the question, George. (interpretation) At the Second Assembly, I was the Minister of Environment and polar bear management always really affects us. At that time I cut back the quota for the western Hudson Bay polar bear population. We were told that they were diminishing too much in numbers.

I was new at that time and I would have spoken to Alagalak, my colleague at the time, and make a decision. When you look back at it, I know we will occasionally make mistakes. There has been nobody that has never made any mistakes. If we make mistakes, we correct them. That's the Inuit way. That's what I would do, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As environment minister, there are many decisions that are made that are unpopular, as my colleague just pointed out. One of the decisions that I've had to make several times is limiting Inuit's right to harvest caribou. It's never a popular decision to limit someone's need or wants to have caribou meat, and we have done that with several caribou populations in Nunavut and put a total allowable harvest on them to save what caribou are left. It's not taken lightly. It's not taken easily.

Like I stated, I can make decisions and I take the best information. We work with NTI. We work with the regional wildlife board where the situation is and we work with the HTOs. We don't make this decision in a vacuum. Everyone is consulted and listened to. Hard decisions are easier to make when you make it as a community and regional effort, a team effort. Most of the people don't like the decisions, but they know the reasoning behind the decisions and they know that if they want to have caribou for our kids futures, our grandkids, their grandkids, we have to limit the harvest and we have done that several times in Nunavut.

As for “how best do you handle criticism”; as best as you can, because you’re going to get it.

>>*Laughter*

Your skin gets thicker. That’s about it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Moving along. Right now I would like to give the opportunity to the Member for Netsilik. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My first comment or question will be... I forgot to welcome you, Mr. Chairman, in my first opportunity.

My first question will be, for the prospective Premiers, whoever will be elected, then we will know who it’s going to be.

(interpretation ends) What is a realistic timeline in which all subjects in the Nunavut high school curriculum, including subjects like mathematics, chemistry and physics, can be taught in the Inuktitut language in all 25 communities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In my response earlier, Inuktitut and English instruction up to grade 12, with the entire curriculum like math, English, science, physics in Inuktitut and English, as to when they will be able to be taught in Inuktitut and English, I can’t answer that right now.

We don’t have enough Inuktitut teachers and as to how many people would be available to become teachers in Inuktitut, I don’t know that number either. We know we can train Inuk teachers, but we can’t just grab them and tell them to become teachers. So we don’t know when we’ll have enough teachers to do that.

We encourage people to become teachers. Those people who can speak Inuktitut, right now, we have teachers that are very good in teaching Inuktitut but then we have a lack of English-speaking teachers too.

As to when we can teach an all Inuktitut curriculum up to grade 12, I can’t answer that. I don’t want to mislead or lie. I don’t know the answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I took great pride in travelling to Greenland, to conduct research on their education system. Today in

Greenland the students all graduate. Looking at the foundation of education, I noted that their system has higher mathematic levels in Inuktitut.

Here in Nunavut, we don't have that. The Nunavut government has handled education for 10 years and the present education legislation by 2020 will have a fully bilingual education system. It's obvious that as a government 2020 is getting too close. We have discussing it for 10 years. We have been trying to implement it for 10 years.

We all know that we don't have enough Inuktitut teachers. We will have to work with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and Inuit organizations because they totally disagree with what's going on. Education organizations, we have to prepare it properly. If we want to go beyond 2020, we'll have to work closely with them. The legislation states how can we improve to have the best practices if we can find them in the north. That's who I can answer it.

There is already a higher mathematical curriculum set up in Greenland and I was proud of it. The ability to speak in English and speak in Inuktitut should have equal goals for all of us sitting here in this room. I am especially proud of people who have lived in Nunavut a long time. Why don't they learn Inuktitut? John Main is quite capable. I also know in other countries like Israel, if you come from Russia and can't speak Hebrew, after seven months, they learn Hebrew in seven months. We are the leaders. If we don't want to lose our language, we have to look at it together. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good question. In the last government, the education legislation tried to identify 2029 as a deadline, but people thought it was too far in the future. We will have to review the education legislation as a new government. I think we have to identify. I don't think only one person can say this will be the case tomorrow. We have to work together and have consideration. I don't think that only one person can decide that. By this date, I'll have it implemented. We'll definitely have to review the legislation.

Also the schools in our communities, we'll have to review them again on where they stand. It was mentioned yes, we need more Inuktitut teachers. There are such issues we, as all MLAs, will have to look at it carefully. We have to have confidence in ourselves that we are able to do this. For those reasons, we, as a future government, will have to spend a lot of money because this is our goal. Ever since the start of Nunavut, education was one of the priorities. For that reason, we have to set it up carefully and we have to think about it carefully that we have to hear from our communities.

Perhaps Inuit organizations, we have to have discussions with them too. We just can't set a number by ourselves. We have to work with them and also with the communities and the public. We have to hear from them then we can finally identify on which date on which year that will be set up. We have to cooperate. If you want to identify, only one person can't decide it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. When you check the time, you tend to hurry on the question. I don't think you can set a timeline. We don't have to rush. I know mathematics, but chemistry and physics, does anyone in this room know what physics is in Inuktitut, or chemistry? Is it understandable? We don't have to lose our language. Language starts at home. I think we rely too much on the education department if we don't speak Inuktitut at home. If we are not to lose our language, it has to start in the home. That's all I can say, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Qirngnuq, do you to ask the second now? If you want to a second question, you have this opportunity.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My second question is along the same line to the candidates. (interpretation ends) Concerns have been raised in previous Legislative Assemblies regarding the issue of incorporating *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* into Nunavut's law in a more comprehensive manner. What specific changes to existing legislation should be made to accomplish this goal? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Instead of just talking about *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* we have to utilize it in the communities. Traditional knowledge of Inuit being utilized means actual practices such as *Amirrait* when they're crossing their ancient laws, you don't kill the first herd. We have to be able to utilize that knowledge and implement it into the *Wildlife Act*.

There are also Inuit counsellors. To date, the government has not provided enough funding to these people.

We talk about *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* as a government, but it's just a one-day issue. The principles are not being implanted. We need to incorporate it and use it.

Secondly, as an example, the *Social Services Act* needs to be amended because you can see children being apprehended in the smaller communities. Smaller communities are still at the age where if a non-Inuk comes that's a worker the colonial policies are there. It's my authority.

So if we're going to use that, and I'm trying to shorten my language, we need to recognize grandparent's rights. We can utilize those as a government and train social workers.

We should incorporate some of the issues with regard to hunting, with regard to social life and children. Am I saying something wrong, John? You're smiling. Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Are you finished? You are finished. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a really good question. If you recall in the previous government this was brought up. It's obvious that we can feel it. We all know that *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit* is a huge issue. It's a comprehensive issue. Perhaps we can clearly identify this issue and divide it properly.

To use this example, indigenous rights of aboriginal people is a huge issue and it encompasses many issues. When discussing the context of the land claims process, this included the clarification and identification of Inuit rights within the agreement. I'm just comparing it in that vein, as the agreement breaks it down within the definitions. If you speak to one of the definitions, it would include many facets. This is similar to *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit*, as it also has many categories. That is how it is.

On a personal level I would want to incorporate IQ into our legislation, as it can be part and parcel of legislation, particularly life skills counselling values and within the (interpretation ends) Social Services Act (interpretation) is where we can incorporate it into legislation. For some of the proposed legislation, perhaps we can speak to the foundation of *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit* as being a requirement.

Nonetheless, IQ by itself could become legislation where it speaks to social counselling or life skills. I'm just comparing this, as we hear from residents when travelling to communities that the (interpretation ends) Social Services Act (interpretation) can incorporate the values, as currently it is breaking up families, which is the polar opposite of Inuit traditions. Inuit culture looks at ways to keep families together. As an example, this is where parts of *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit* can be made part of the legislation related to life or social counselling values.

As per my earlier statement, *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit* is a very large issue, encompassing many areas. We need to look at incorporating the definition of the categories where it can be incorporated by outlining all of the categories. *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit* is a big issue and we all believe it and we will always want to use IQ as a foundation. Yes, it is for these reasons that we have to carefully review which areas can be incorporated into our legislation. I think we will have to look at that carefully as a government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it is indeed a large issue to speak to *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit* and what it encompasses. I have yet to see anything in writing on the definition of what IQ is. Although we maintain the *Inuit*

Qaujimajatuqangit has to be included, most of us have an idea, but governments operate using written materials and I doubt that the actual definitions have been completed.

Even though I support this principle, it would be easier to incorporate IQ once it has been defined, especially in applying this principle in the various pieces of legislation being contemplated. I compare this to (interpretation ends) Inuit societal values, (interpretation) but this aspect is written into the definitions, so it is easier to incorporate the values due to their defined written state.

This term is used, (interpretation ends) Inuit societal values, (interpretation) and when drafting legislation, we would have to determine if the definition is acceptable based on comparing it to IQ, but currently *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* is not defined as to which area it applies to. What is it? Does it stay the same from long time ago to today? We have different knowledge base today than before. Is *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* ever changing or is it a never changing subject?

The question was raised as to how we can incorporate this into legislation, but without a proper defined statement of the meaning, it is hard to define the parameters. I do know that one value is to keep families together, but IQ includes life skills is much bigger than that area. If you want to look at the contents, you would have to continue defining all connected areas and our societal values and Inuit customary laws. What exactly is *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*? Once we have an idea on exactly what it will be, it would be easier to incorporate it into legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you. I do agree with my colleague in regard to *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. I have been told many times which route to take when I'm going out hunting. That, to me, is Inuit traditional knowledge. When I return I told them that I had taken a particular route to get to destination A. And then when I come back to the community I tell them that it's pretty rocky over there. We have been practicing it for a very long time.

When we're talking about Nunavut's laws, we also include Inuit traditional knowledge. I believe there is a body called the IUT. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): We will proceed. I would like to ask the Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I proceed with my questions, I would like to congratulate you on being selected Speaker.

Mr. Chairman, very briefly, I would like to ask the candidates, because I'm sure that you will have a lot of responsibilities and a lot of work to do to make things a reality. What kind of a working relationship will you have with the regular members and when they're reviewing the bills? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for his question. As I indicated earlier, the Members of the Legislative Assembly and the Cabinet members will have to have a close working relationship. We have to have a close working relationship. My question would be what we can do so that we can have a closer working relationship with the regular members and the cabinet. There needs to be a change within the government. We have to change the process of this government.

Nunavut is unique when we look at the other provinces and territories. We are using the parliamentary procedures of a foreign land. I think it would be better if we tweaked this government because we are in a unique situation and we all know that we are a consensus government. It means working together. What can we do to improve the relations with the cabinet and the regular members? There will be a mandate given to this government and that will be their goal for the years to come.

If I should be elected Premier, I would be open with everyone, the regular members and so on, which is very important. There has to be a partnership in order to make progress. That is how I would respond to your question. How can we have a closer relationship? I would work closely with the regular members. As I indicated earlier, we are a unique government and we should have our own government system. That is how I would look at it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you. The question was how I would approach relationships with the regular members. I had a close working relationship when I was a regular member, and then I became a cabinet member and still I had a close working relationship, even though we had different approaches. I enjoy working closely with the regular members. I also went to their offices to have meetings and I have an open door policy where everyone is welcome.

It won't make any difference. Once I become Premier I will have an open door approach. Even though we have different jobs, we have to look at it as equals. If we don't have a close working relationship, it would be a hindrance. I like working with the regular members and I know that usually the members come here for up to three weeks at a time. I wouldn't make any changes with the present system we have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for his question. I would be very open with the regular members. We have to work together to make improvements in the future.

We all have to approach the table, have discussions in order to solve problems. I would have one-on-one discussions with the members if there was a problem in their community related to legislation that we may be drafting, that may be problematic. I would speak with the member impacted on these issues. Now, as per my earlier statement, the issues of housing, education, elders' facilities where there is a lack of space, and further there is no detox centre here. I would like to have a close working relationship with you in order to make these a reality. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: As I indicated earlier, everybody is a leader. A leader should not make decisions by themselves. We have to have a close working relationship to make important decisions and to look at solutions. I would work closely with the regular members, the staff, and the people out there. We have to take a holistic approach.

I have worked at different organizations and different levels of government. Anyone who wants to be a leader has to be approachable. Understanding the topics and listening is good, but we shouldn't just listen; we should understand what the topic is and what should go ahead. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Keyootak, do you want to ask your second question?

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very briefly, I have a second question. We all know that as the Nunavut government, we have to work with the other levels of government, especially the federal government. If you were elected Premier, how would you approach relations with the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you. I'll respond to Pauloosie Keyootak's question in English.

(interpretation ends) I think it's very important to have a very positive relationship with the federal government. They provide the majority of our budget and I have seen it before. It's not good practice to have animosity between the two heads. I would strive to have a very positive relationship with our current Prime Minister and with the Liberal government. There's a lot at stake and to go off on the wrong foot with the relationship is not good for anyone. It wouldn't be good for Nunavut. What I would strive for is to have a positive relationship with the federal government. Thank you. *Qujannamiik*.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you. I have worked very closely with the federal government and I now know that as the Nunavut government, when it comes to funds and

getting a contribution from the federal government, we are given funds using the (interpretation ends) per capita (interpretation) basis.

We have to conduct further negotiations with Canada and have a close working relationship with them. As an example, I found out when I was a leader, agreed-to provisions were not being implemented by the federal government related to the land claims agreement. The newest agreement created a corporation, and Canada developed a new (interpretation ends) cabinet directive (interpretation) from the Prime Minister's Office where it was sent out, directing full implementation of agreements previously agreed to, which can't be arbitrarily changed by one party.

Sometimes Canada has a single approach nationwide that isn't applicable for Nunavut, and only one employee can enact changes, which has occurred before. We have to have the (interpretation ends) whole of government approach (interpretation) and it has to be known to all provinces that Nunavut is the only territory not accessible by road and we endure the highest costs for food. We definitely need to brainstorm on solutions and identify them to the federal government and the fact that Nunavut is unique in Canada. We have to show our uniqueness. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to that, on a personal level, firstly I imagine the federal government is trying to comprehend this aspect. In speaking about the federal government in particular, they have to understand the fact that Nunavut has no similar jurisdiction, as we are different and unique. We are unique.

In looking at the various levels of government or in the provinces where aboriginal people comprise the majority of the population, we have never seen that previously in Canada. This comprises our uniqueness as a government and our fellow governments have to be aware, especially the federal government, of the unique state of Nunavut and we have to clearly identify this aspect. We are quite unique in Canada and once they understand the uniqueness of the territory, perhaps we can forge a better working relationship.

I am not stating that we aren't collaborating with the federal government, but we can certainly improve the existing relationship. We have to let them understand fully the unique status of Nunavut, and I take great pride in the uniqueness that Nunavut represents. As a government, we are much different than our counterparts. This government was created through a land claims agreement. This is the biggest difference or (interpretation ends) uniqueness (interpretation) of Nunavut and this is why the federal government has to be led to understand that difference.

In looking at our local governments, they too are quite different from other jurisdictions, as we all know that Nunavut has many communities where the majority of the people operating the local government are Inuit. The majority of communities in Nunavut are

run and operated by Inuit in the communities. This is another unique aspect of Nunavut's governance structure. Only when the federal government understands these differences and they consider our differences, it can be an important part. I would probably push it through this area, in looking at ways to work closer with other levels of government. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My relationship with the federal government, as your Premier, would stay the same as it is right now with my relationship with them. As a minister I have gone to many meetings with federal and provincial counterparts, and you have to have a good working relationship with them. You have to be nice to get stuff, and that's what you do. It's a fact of life.

If you're always just being a pest, then they won't want to listen to you, so you play nice and you do it, but you show the need, you show it on paper, you show it with the numbers, and you absolutely show them that we have the needs, you have to help us. I do that to every meeting I go to. The one other thing I do is I make sure that I personally talk to the federal minister. You become his friend. Friendship goes a long ways when you're talking with your federal counterpart.

If they remember you, when they hear your name and could put a face to your name that makes all the difference. They don't just say "oh yeah, he's the minister from Nunavut. Oh yeah, I remember Joe. He said this. He did that." So my attitude would still be the same as your Premier with the federal government.

You show them your needs; you let them know that you're a person. We're a person. We need the needs. Then you have a good working relationship with them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Before we proceed, we'll take a 15-minute break. For visitors in the gallery, there is coffee, tea and condiments out in the foyer. Members, you can go to the Members' Lounge. We'll take a 15-minute break.

>>Meeting recessed at 14:54 and resumed at 15:10

Chairman (interpretation): We can proceed. Thank you for coming back right away. At this time I will allow the Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk, to ask her question.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): I would first like to congratulate you for being elected to the Speaker's position. My question to the Premier candidates is: if you feel that one of the ministers is not doing their job, what would you do about it? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I became the Premier and we see a minister not doing their work properly, I would first look into the issue and talk with the individual why it is that way. At the beginning I would ask, “Is it because of the work or is it because of the social life that’s causing the issue?” I would have to find out the root cause. I know that there are many reasons why they don’t do their job.

If we can’t resolve the issue and if it’s not going to have a huge impact and I couldn’t do anything about, then I would approach the Full Caucus. The ministers have to do their job properly and they have a huge task ahead of them because they have been selected by all of us to do their job properly. The ministers have to do their jobs properly because they have a very heavy workload. I would have to find out the reasons why the minister is not doing their work properly and then try to rectify it from there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If one of the ministers didn’t do their job properly, I would have to talk with the individual three times and look at what kind of support the individual would want and have a full discussion with the individual. If this couldn’t go ahead, I would refer the matter to the Full Caucus. I would ask the Full Caucus what I should do. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would deal with it like a ladder, in levels. I would have to talk with the individual and figure out what exactly is the cause of the problem. Secondly I would write a letter because the leader can’t fire a minister. I would have to go through with the Full Caucus and I would look at the paper trail. I can’t do anything just verbally; it has to be in written form. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Likewise I’m sure I would have no other choice but to discuss this issue with the member. We are selected to become a minister or Premier because the members have confidence in us. I would have to tell the individual that I have belief in that individual and I would talk about their strengths. I would try to identify their strengths, as people are elected when voters believe in their abilities and skills. On a personal level, the candidates run because they believe they have the capacity to serve as the representative. That is what I would say, by stating that I have belief in the member and what are the areas where we can provide more assistance.

When the Executive Council gets together, where the cabinet meets, it would most likely be noted by other members. I would work with the cabinet members to determine the reasons why the minister isn’t fulfilling their duties and what reasons are causing this. We would look at ways to provide more assistance. Once they note that, we would work as a group to deal with that issue. The cabinet tries to ensure solidarity amongst the membership, as (interpretation ends) one team, (interpretation) as we are working

together, and I would deliberate with the group to identify possible solutions which I would pass onto the minister.

We are all aware that after two years, we will conduct a midterm review of the ministers and the Premier where the mandates are reviewed in light of accomplishments towards the stated goals. This midterm review will be held after two years. As an example, if the minister hasn't made changes, this is the avenue to change that. As my colleagues stated, this would be part of the review as the review would determine if the minister is kept or ousted from cabinet. This would follow the process (interpretation ends) after two years (interpretation) where this midterm review is conducted on the performances of the cabinet members/ This is where corrective changes could be made.

However, just prior to this review, we would try to solve it by discussing it with our colleague. We would try to understand the reasons and what problems the minister may be facing. I would want to understand the underlying reasons for their performance issues. That would be the process to determine the reasons. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Nakashuk, I will allow you to ask another question if you would like. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Some provincial governments have announced plans to sell cannabis in government-operated retail facilities. What model do you support for Nunavut as a Premier? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for her question. This issue is disconcerting to many people and we have no treatment centres for persons with addictions. We all know that many people want to quit their addictions, but they are confused about where to go for assistance.

The federal government has introduced this legislation to legalize cannabis and the process for the sale of cannabis. Our territory hasn't introduced this legislation, but we have to comply by July 2018, so we have to prepare and plan the implementation.

I personally think that we should support the communities, as the majority already have a liquor plebiscite where they determine if their community will be dry, wet, or not. I would take this approach with the communities, as to whether they wish to allow this in their communities. If they wish to proceed, a lot of work has to be undertaken to plan for this eventuality.

It will be quite difficult with the current confusion on the amount of work required to implement this cannabis legalization legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I have stated many times here, I'm a team player and I've talked to people, so I can't say what model I would support right now because we don't know what models are going to be suggested by consultations with Nunavummiut and with other stakeholders that are interested or have a stake in it.

It is coming and we have to pass legislation and figure out how to distribute it before July 1. The previous government did not have time to deal with it, so we have to deal with it and we will deal with it, but it would be premature for me to suggest a model that I support when I don't know what models will be suggested or available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once the eight months are over, this legislation has been approved, and we have to be prepared. There is an existing system in place for liquor management here in Nunavut. If we create a new system specific to cannabis sales, we will be spending funds in Nunavut that can be used elsewhere. I would prefer to use the existing system, as eight months is a very short time to complete this work.

Further, I would have a two-pronged approach on how to deal with people suffering from mental illness and how we can serve their needs in the smaller communities and to prepare the support that communities may need. That is what I think would work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, as Members of the Legislative Assembly, we will have to deal with this issue during our term as the MLAs representing our constituencies. I would like to first listen to the viewpoints of the members, as the perceptions will be different. I would personally want to hear the debate in this House when we discuss this topic, as I would like to hear the perspective of the various members and the system they would wish to incorporate.

It would be easier to understand the parameters once we debate the issues as members. Further, I would want to hear the community perspectives on this issue, as you represent them in your constituencies, and I would urge the members to get their community position on this matter so that they can represent their wishes.

On a personal level I would probably be in support of the systems that were alluded to by some members, as we already have legislation that communities use to manage their liquor issues. Some communities prefer smaller orders while others want freedom. These are issues already identified previously and whether we can adapt them towards this initiative. That is how I would most likely approach that challenge, to use existing systems and not reinvent the wheel.

Nonetheless, I would want to hear from all members in this House, their perspectives as well as their constituents' perspectives. This would be for the proposed system that we would manage this substance, so I would want to hear from all the members on this matter.

We have heard of other provinces outside of Nunavut that are contemplating different avenues and perhaps we can consider their approaches when deliberating on this issue, but the members will make that decision. There are not many months left to complete the work, so we have to try to debate this topic at the first opportunity when we are sitting in the House as MLAs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Moving on, I would like to ask the Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Akeeagok, for the next question.

Mr. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you. I am proud of your management. I believe we selected a very good Chairman, as you are directing the proceedings very smoothly.

A question to the candidates for the Premier I wish to ask is this: the Nunavut government gets its funding and we have rarely gone into deficit situations, as we have worked within our budgets. However, what is a concern to many residents are the issues around suicides, transportation rates, and housing shortages that keep increasing. Our residents are facing hardships while our government has maintained a balanced budget. In running for the Premier position, how will you equalize these issues or to standardize them as the discrepancies are increasing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Premier, my goal would be to prioritize people first. Due to the prioritization of (interpretation ends) people first, (interpretation) this is a very important part of the work as a government. We have seen it in our communities where this becomes a hardship for residents. Due to these challenges, I personally would return to my earlier statements about (interpretation ends) policies and regulations (interpretation) and legislation that require regulations. We must first change them and work towards a better process to meet the challenges.

At this time our policies and regulations sometimes are the barriers themselves to our residents. With so many existing barriers, for example, our people are impacted negatively. Once we have removed the systemic barriers, we can provide actual support to our residents. Indeed that would be my goal. As I stated before, (interpretation ends) people first (interpretation) would be the goal in determining the funds we are to use to be geared more towards assisting our residents. That is how I perceive this issue to be related to the question posed.

If we are to administer it properly and operate it smoothly, we need to put our people first, to create better and (interpretation ends) healthy communities (interpretation) and make improvements so that it will be easier. I want to repeat this statement spoken to

earlier that our communities require support in social and life support systems, including issues such as (interpretation ends) mental health (interpretation) amongst others. We need to focus more on those as a government. We need to have a healthier population and we need to provide a good direction to provide assistance to those people. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank David for asking that question. I also agree with the person on my right who is also running for Premier.

However, what I keep reiterating is the fact that overcrowding is becoming problematic for many households. This contributes to tensions in the families and can lead to deteriorating relationships. Overcrowding exacerbates these challenges. Housing and housing strategies are what we should focus on and to look at families who can afford private homeownership, but they are renting public units that result in more pressures.

People who can afford a private home should be the focus, but maintaining a house leads to financial pressures as well, especially for the down-payment amounts, as it is expensive to build a house because supplies have to be shipped up. All the materials related to a home are quite expensive to contemplate today. I personally think that people who can afford to maintain their own homes should be provided a building to maintain their units. This would be specific to public housing where they would be provided a building and their unit would become available, so this would require two buildings.

(interpretation ends) We can kill two birds with one stone. (interpretation) If a person can run their own home but doesn't have enough money to buy the house and makes enough money to run the home, the government should give them a house. This means that we have a few less people to worry about housing allocations and the unit they previously inhabited would be allocated to a needier family. That is how we can make improvements to the housing challenges we face (interpretation ends) one at a time or two at a time (interpretation) in this manner. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With social issues and people who are under poverty, we know that the number is increasing. They really need to get help. I would want to help them, but they have to try to help themselves rise into a better life. We in the government can encourage them to do that.

However, I agree with them that it will need money and if we don't have enough money, then there are too many things that are affecting lives and we would try to mitigate the problems. We can't do it ourselves as a government, so we would need to get NTI to help us and people that need help have to help as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: 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 to be built. There is a process and protocol. It's approved by cabinet and the Financial Management Board. Eventually each of you will approve the capital projects.

Now having said that, we still need to look at federal programs, such as Nutrition North. We need to work with Canada and we need to make it Nunavut-specific. A few years ago Nutrition North gave \$35 million to the North West Company and \$10 million to the Co-ops. The cost savings was questionable if it was passed down to the consumer or not.

As Nunavummiut we need to ensure, when Nutrition North is called the largest social program by the Government of Canada, we need to ensure as a government that we push for staples to be available in the High Arctic; diapers, milk, and toilet paper that we use every day, even across Nunavut. There has to be fundamental changes to these types of programs to reflect the cost of living across Nunavut. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I now give the floor to the Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Sheutiapik.

Ms. Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am quite happy that you are in that seat directing our questions so that it is orderly. I am proud of your capabilities.

I had several prepared questions that others already raised, so I need to change my questions on the fly. During our orientation, our previous Premier stated that what we have planned sometimes requires a different direction, and this is happening right now?

>>*Laughter*

I consider plans very important as an elected representative and I will pose two questions to the candidates for the Premier. I am thinking of the past administrations up to now and our future direction as a government. My first question is: have our previous governments been reviewed as to how they tried to operate and whether you have conducted research in that area?

Many directives are documented from the (interpretation ends) First Assembly related to healthy communities, self-sufficiency, simplifying government. (interpretation) That is one area and the other mandates were specific to the (interpretation ends) Second Assembly (interpretation) where *Pinasuaqtavut* as their vision. The Third Assembly produced *Tamapta*. The most recent government used the *Sivumut Abluqta* Mandate. They tried to use these directives.

As Premier candidates, have you looked at these past mandates? Obviously it is easier to follow a plan, at least from my perspective, as plans are used in various organizations to determine where they have been. Have you reviewed these past mandates? That is my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you. That's a very good question. I would just like a request for clarification. Are you asking about the mandates of the three previous governments? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. Please remember, before you thank me, the floor stays with you. Ms. Sheutiapik, can you please explain your question a bit more in case the other candidates didn't understand as well? Ms. Sheutiapik.

Ms. Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) When you're planning, if you're strategic in your planning, you always look at the past and where you are today. That guides you going forward. My question is: as a potential premier of this government, have you had the opportunity to look at the last four governments' mandates and priorities to guide you in where we have been as a government to move forward? (interpretation) Is that understandable? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you for clarifying that. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): The second and third governments worked with NTI on several mandates, such as the Clyde River mandate, and how the cultural institutes would look like and how it would be laid out. With respect to *Sivumut Abluqta*, the last mandate, I haven't had the chance to review it as I took leave after the election process for NTI. However, I have reviewed the previous mandates that were referred to. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank her for that good question. Yes, I have reviewed and read all of the past government mandate directives. The last government, if previous members recall, was that we just tried to use "Abluqta," but I added the word "Sivumut," as one can take steps sideways, backwards or forward. I added that distinction to identify the direction. We have to move forward.

I have reviewed the mandates and believe in their applicability. Currently, based on my perspective, we will have to produce a new mandate. We should be deliberating the direction the government wants to take and the goals identified so that this directive can be followed to ensure it benefits all residents.

These mandates are towards providing developments and what the priorities should be, which are all understandable. The first mandate was one I really believed in, that we should use as a foundation. This first mandate was clear in its direction about Inuit,

created by Inuit towards Inuit being the priority. Actually Inuit should be the priority. This was very clearly identified.

The new mandate has to reflect the past directives as well as the previous mandates' completion, so they have to be merged properly as we work within Nunavut. I believe I understand these past directives and to have it twofold, using both the previous and new language within the mandate. That is how I understand the previous three mandates of our past governments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to my colleague Elisapee Sheutiapik's question about the mandates, I haven't reviewed them in great detail, although I have read *Sivummut Abluqta* is one where I have read. I have been busy preparing for the meetings, so that slipped from my attention to review the mandates.

However, it is obvious that the stated goals were relevant and appropriate, as they provided a direction for the future. Nonetheless, today is a new period, so we have to plan our own government's future direction. The previous mandates served their purpose and we can add them by strengthening the wording as we must also have a common future direction we can all see, especially to benefit our descendants. We are not working just for our benefit but for our descendants and later generations. We have to work hard to advocate for them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm familiar with the last mandate, *Sivummut Abluqta*, and we have been using that for the past four years to guide us and it has been used. I must admit that I have not read the other mandates from the previous governments, but this is a new government and new MLAs, and the mandates and the slogan will be set by everyone here. We learn from the mistakes in the past, yes, and we see what works and what doesn't work and we go from there.

As the Premier-elect or Premier-wannabe, I'm not going to sit here and tell you, "Okay, yes, we're going to use this, we're going to use that." It's not a dictatorship. It's a team effort. The government will come up with a mandate and supported by Full Caucus and we will go from there and we will come up with a nice slogan again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. If you have a second question, you may ask it now, Ms. Sheutiapik.

Ms. Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I asked that particular question because it's going to help me know if you understand what has happened. It's not necessarily that I want you to use, but I want to know if you understood the past of the governments because it's about then and current. My next

question is going to be about the current because this will help me in the future because then will help guide me elect the Premier.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, my question is this, (interpretation ends) throughout this morning all of the candidates for Premier have been saying that they will listen closely to the concerns and ideas of regular Members of the Legislative Assembly. I am glad to hear that. My question for the candidates is as follows: over the past week all 22 MLAs have been receiving briefs from the government's departments and many of us have been raising specific concerns and specific ideas to benefit our communities and Nunavut as a whole.

I'm interested to see if the candidates have been listening to us over the past week. Can the candidates indicate today what my main concerns and issues have been over the week? (interpretation) Thank you.

>>Laughter

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I listened when we were told that 89 percent are newer employees and you mentioned that we can do more. We can do better things to serve Inuit.

As well, I noted when you stated, "How can we improve housing programs?" You stated that in Iqaluit-Sinaa that you went door to door with some families suffering from overcrowding. Which services can be offered to Iqaluit residents? This was something I felt touched us, the listening audience.

I also found out that when you were the mayor of Iqaluit, when decisions were made on the different areas, you were able to come up with different ideas. I noted that you used this approach. When decisions were made for the city, you were the mayor who voiced how these decisions were made. That is what I saw. I am making my response short. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you for your concise commentary and your effort to do so. When a response is long-winded, we sometimes forget some of the good answers you provide due to the length. If you can make them more concise and short, it would be easier. Nonetheless, that is fine as it is understandable. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was thinking just now, "What happens if I make a mistake?"

>>Laughter

Indeed what I can respond with summarily based on our Chairman's request to shorten our answers is that every comment you made probably has the focus on ensuring we

(interpretation ends) think outside of the box. (interpretation) To add up all the comments, we have to ensure we add the comments to try to change the way we approach these challenges, to ensure that Nunavummiut are part of future developments. I have really shortened my response, (interpretation ends) to think outside the box. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm at a little bit of a disadvantage here because I had to leave the briefings at times for work, but I do remember some stuff. I'm over 50, but I remember most stuff still. The one that sticks out most that I can just think of is give me a chance or give you a chance. That's what I can remember that seems to stick out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do recall my new colleague there has a real passion for addressing the chronic housing issues. If I remember correctly, she had mentioned about some policies that are hindering to progress. We can introduce legislation to remove them. Whatever is hindering us from progressing, let's get down to work and remove these barriers so that Nunavummiut can have a healthy and happier life. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Moving along, the Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak, you have the floor.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Congratulations on your speakership. Welcome to the fellow colleagues.

I had a question on the Grays Bay port and road, but my colleague from Kugluktuk asked it, so I just have one question. This was also touched on a bit by Mr. Hickes. My question is: it is important that the Premier and cabinet ministers take the time to actually read the briefing materials and be able to ask tough questions of their own officials. Can you describe a time in your professional career when you rejected the advice that you were given by your own staff? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I can and probably everyone read about it in the news. It's to do with the western Hudson Bay polar bear population. I took the advice from my officials, but I also took the advice from the regional wildlife board. I took advice from the people of the Kivalliq that are affected by the polar bear quota. I took my own experience at home and what people tell me and what I see. Like I said earlier, I look at the big picture, the whole picture. I chose to go with the recommendation that came to me from the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and I believe it was the

right decision and I stuck by it. That's all I have to say about it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I tend to read the fine details or what I call the "lice" in the documents and how these finer details can affect my own ideas. As an example, we pushed for \$600 million from the federal government with Eva Aariak, who is seated over there, when she was Premier towards alleviating the housing crisis. The funding was received from the federal government specifically for the housing shortage. This \$600 million fund was transferred to the Inuit organizations and then passed onto the Government of Nunavut. I believe that the Government of Nunavut is closer to the communities. I'm making that short. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for the question as it is an important one to ask. As ministers, we can't approve every request submitted by our officials and it is important to not approve everything submitted to us. We are elected as representatives and we can make our own judgments to make decisions. I would like to respond to that part of your question.

Within the educational legislation there is a provision speaking to prayers within our schools. This provision has been requested for removal many times, but I disagreed with that request. I have maintained my position that communities should make that decision and if they feel a prayer is appropriate for the school day beginning. That is up to each community. I have personally stated that communities should make that decision and we shouldn't impose conditions on the communities that prayers are unacceptable for the opening of the school day. This is what I disagreed with, as communities should make that decision themselves.

After having heard from the communities that they wanted this to continue as a discretionary decision, the district education authorities had wanted that provision to be taken out of the legislation and I had disagreed with that and I still disagree with it today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I haven't really had the opportunity to experience that, but if you elect me as Premier, I certainly will.

>>*Laughter*

I have been under leadership before and there were times when I didn't want to submit to my superiors, but because he or she was over me, I had to be submissive to that authority.

I will expect my staff to do the same. However, I will be open to their submissions or their advice and I'm easy to play with. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Akoak, if you have another question, you can ask it now. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With that response, how well do you work with people with whom you disagree with? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There will be disagreements; there will be agreements during our term. Even if the individual disagrees with me, I will have a close working relationship after the disagreement or conflict. Disagreement is not a bad thing. I will keep working with that person even if I have a disagreement with that individual. It goes either way, but you have to still work together. For example, there will be disagreements in the House, but we will have to work together for the next four years. There will be more agreements than disagreements. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is one of those kinds of loaded questions again because people can disagree with you for many reasons. If they disagree with you for personal reasons, then that is really different than if they disagree with you for your work or professional reasons.

You have to get down to, okay, what's the disagreement about? If it's a personal disagreement, then that is very hard to fix. You would try. You would talk and you would try and you would try to fix that if it's a personal disagreement. If it's a professional disagreement, that's not as hard. As long as you're both truthful you can work with someone. You just disagree to disagree and get on with it and make sure the job is done.

It really depends on what the disagreement is about. So the first thing would be to find out what the disagreement is and go from there. I have worked with people that don't agree with me and if you're both professional and if it's not personal, then you just agree to disagree and you work around it and you work with them still. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In this life we work with people that we don't disagree with, but in this session as well I'm sure there will be times when there will be heated arguments.

I remember in the Second Assembly there were a lot of fights between the regular MLAs, but at the end of the day they chose to work together and I think we accomplished a lot in those years.

We're human we have our own minds and we have our own aspirations, and this is what consensus is all about is working together despite our differences. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: As a leader I have always tried to avoid personality politics. I've dealt with all different types of individuals at the national, international, regional and territorial level.

What I have found is the issues and the facts and deal with structures. As a government we'll have departments. Those are structural changes we will be doing and personality politics should be avoided at all costs.

In saying that, some of our issues and some of our decisions, if we have to act on it, will not proceed if we cannot work together. I'm open to working with each of you and I understand one size doesn't fit all. We have to have clarity that there are specific differences in this territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Moving on, I now give the floor to the Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Arreak Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Congratulations on becoming our Speaker-elect.

When I was campaigning, my first platform item was the environment and that will be the theme of my first question.

Now, we all know that the government is almost entirely reliant on diesel fuel for our power generation. We also know that these fossil fuels, when they're burned, are creating greenhouse gases, which is also contributing to climate change and global warming.

If we don't act now, it will be our children and grandchildren that will suffer the consequences. My question to the Premier candidates is: how do you see our government reducing our reliance on fossil fuels over the next four years? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I think the previous government has worked hard on introducing how we can reduce energy such as solar power and wind generation. We need to continue on that file. I don't think we'll never really be independent, or never have to use any fossil fuels, but we have to look for ways

to address that and what I just mentioned about solar energy and wind powers, certainly with those we really need to look at it further. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of our communities experience windy conditions for parts of the year, so this is something I would want to review further. I recall that when I was a child, the Roman Catholic buildings used wind energy to power their lights, which is quite far off now. This was also when the first buildings were being built, but we can utilize these technologies and I personally believe the easiest way to create energy is by using wind power.

I would also look at the solar power generation technology. There is technology available. If we look elsewhere outside of Nunavut, this technology is becoming more commonplace using solar panels. I believe we can initiate that without too much limitation, especially in light of the ongoing statements that we need to look at alternatives as we are stuck with fuel generation currently and using fossil fuels. Some parts of Nunavut experience 24-hour sunlight, where some communities have constant daylight, so we can try that in those places. We are just not applying it enough times when construction is undertaken.

I personally would want to look at these alternatives. I believe that hydro power generation may not be as feasible for us, especially when most lakes have fish that people harvest. I would look at these two areas of alternative energy generation and we can also get funding assistance from the federal government to study alternative energy sources. These are the main two areas I would look into. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did a study in Greenland when I was in Nuuk where they used garbage incineration to generate power. I also know that rivers are dammed in Manitoba, which has been touted as a possible source of energy for the Kivalliq region. That area is very close to the Manitoba border.

As a government, we have to look at alternative sources of energy to generate power. The present power plants we have are aging and there are other alternatives. We don't have greenhouses, but they do have those in the Northwest Territories. They have one in Hay River and in other communities, but I can say that as people of Nunavut, we have to look at alternative sources. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm a big proponent of lowering our greenhouse gas footprint. In the Kivalliq, I've always been pushing for a power line from Churchill. It's only 180 miles away from the closest community, and if we could get all

the communities in the southern Kivalliq on the mainland off diesel it would be good. I'm still a big proponent of that.

Also, we have been talking with the federal government. We would like to replace our 40-year old diesel generators in the communities that are just old, and replace them with more fuel-efficient ones. It's a fact we could supplement with wind and solar, but we can't get off of diesel because we have to have 100 percent reliable safe energy.

Yes, there is 24-hour sunlight in some places, but that is followed by 24 hours of dark, and the solar panels don't work that great in the dark, so we're for trying all of that and I'm for it. As the environment minister, I'm in tune with it and I know we're doing whatever we can. As a government, we want to lower our footprint, but just to give it in a perspective, Nunavut produces 0.1 percent of the greenhouse gas in Canada; 0.1 of a percent. That's our carbon footprint. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Lightstone, do you have another question? You have the floor, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the previous Legislative Assembly the same issue has been brought up a number of times and it's a fact that our government faces many deep-rooted human resources issues. Our government's greatest resource is the human resources and the employees that work for our government and run our programs.

Now, my question to the Premier candidates is: how would you address many of these deep-rooted human resource issues and specifically do you believe that it would be done by keeping human resources in the Department of Finance, re-creating the department, or creating a human resource commission? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: That's a hard one to answer when I have not been involved in the finance and HR issue department. I have been concentrating on the departments I have, but I also know that in our own departments we have issues with hiring people and problems with getting our Inuit employment up.

I don't have the solution. I know here in Nunavut we have Finance and HR together. In the Northwest Territories they don't. In the Yukon they have an independent commission. There are three different systems here. I can't say for sure which one is better. They have done studies and that's from a study that this happened. They put HR and Finance together.

The one that would concern me would be the independent commission because I believe that just the word "independent" is not to do with the government. It is at arm's length just like the Languages Commissioner and the child and youth advocate worker. They're not responsible to the government. We can't tell them what to do.

I think there might be issues with Article 23 with Inuit employment when we cannot dictate to an independent commission to hire Inuit first. I don't know if that's a fact, but it's just my limited knowledge. I would be concerned that Article 23 might not have the clout that it has if the Nunavut government is not involved in the hiring process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank him for the question. (interpretation ends) Any time you deal with human resources or any human for that matter, there's always going to be conflict. Believe me, I raised six kids and there was always conflict, a lot of them, but thankfully they're adults now.

I have often thought about this issue and the GN's high staff turnovers and a lot of unfilled jobs. I don't know if it would be possible, but I have often thought about maybe putting in a division in each department that deals with human resources, like human resources in each division for ED&T, the Department of Health, etcetera. If that would work, then I would be willing to sit down with all of you in introducing maybe legislation if that can be allowed in creating a division in each department that deals with human resources specifically. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Human resources are called a specialized field. It has certain charter of rights labelled laws included in that box. It's completely different from the financial sector.

As a government, we need to utilize a department of human resources because there are certain areas you have to develop. In terms of Article 23 we have to reach the representative level. However, we need to include training for the 89 percent administrative jobs that the Government of Nunavut has for Inuit. In saying that, I think we can align education with job opportunities and have a human resources department. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have taken this into consideration quite carefully and how we can improve this process related to human resources as well as our prospective employees. I personally believe that and would push more for a separate human resources department on its own so that it can operate singularly. Perhaps our employees' operational issues can be resolved in this manner if it is on its own, so I would push for that.

Further, we were informed about the (interpretation ends) public service commission (interpretation) that is operated in the Yukon. Perhaps, as per previous comments, we can

do a comprehensive review of this challenge. If it offers more benefits for our employees and in the hiring process, then it would alleviate the challenges. I would want to review this fully. This is in operation in the Yukon, so sometimes it is good to look at other operations outside of Nunavut to see if it can be of benefit and to see how they are resolving their challenges. We sometimes need to look at other jurisdictions, whether it is successful or if issues remain. These are what I want to have reviewed. If it operated smoothly in the Yukon, I would want to check it out.

Going back to human resources, human resources and the finance department should be two separate entities. That's what I would be pushing for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I now give the floor to the Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very proud and happy that you have been selected as the Speaker. Welcome to the visitors in the gallery and all Nunavummiut. Good afternoon to my fellow members. I congratulate the candidates for Premier.

Before I ask my question, I would first like to say that the Nunavut government is one of the largest employers in all of Nunavut and we know that their employees receive a good salary. With human resources being a huge issue, we know that the Inuit language is recognized within Nunavut and when Nunavut was created, Inuit expected to receive services and programs in their own language.

With that, if you become the Premier, what immediate steps would you take to ensure that Inuktitut becomes a working language of the public service in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Netsier.

Mr. Netsier (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier, we have to value our language and if we don't want to lose our language, it has to start within homes and we have to start speaking Inuktitut at home.

Sometimes we blame the educators for losing our language. To preserve our language, we can provide support to the teachers. I believe that our language has to be respected in the workplace. We do have interpreter/translators because our language has been recognized. The previous government has worked very hard on language rights. I have heard that NTI has worked on this issue.

We are the public government for everyone. It's not just a government for the beneficiaries; it's a public government for all. If we try to work only with the Inuit, the government is not going to look good. All of us want to be receptive to all Nunavummiut, no matter who it is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This matter of Inuktitut service provision was implemented on July 9 last summer when it was put into application to provide Inuktitut services. If it a government or a private business, starting on July 9, when an Inuk enters the premises and speaks in Inuktitut, they have to respond or provide services in Inuktitut. If this service cannot be provided in Inuktitut, then they are not in compliance with the legislation. It was implemented on July 9 for that requirement to provide services in Inuktitut and this legislation already exists here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While I was the president of NTI, we did a language review about three years ago now where I tasked officials on languages. (interpretation ends) *Parlez-vous francais?* (interpretation) I don't think we have a French interpreter. (interpretation ends) *Mesdames et messieurs, s'il vous plait...*

(interpretation) When we did the review, what we found and which is available for reading as well is that each language service provision for Inuktitut for Nunavut on a monthly basis was \$3,062. For English services the whole of Nunavut only receives \$62 per month while it was \$3,000 for the other language. This shows the discrepancy between the two amounts. If I became the Premier, this would be my focus.

The French language is totally different, but in Nunavut we can set up a standardized writing system digitally if we don't wish to lose Inuktitut. We have to come up with new methods today. Our dialects are different, but our writing system is easier to standardize and if it is standardized, then we can move toward retaining Inuktitut.

I'm giving you a brief answer. If we want, we can find out from the public service who can speak three languages and we can give them a bilingual bonus. If we don't provide those kinds of programs, we will lose our language and the French language. Quebec has been using the system for quite some time. The Quebec government operates in the French language.

I believe that if we have a standardized writing system in Inuktitut, the government can provide Inuktitut services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Inuktitut language is an issue I love to speak to. I want to state strongly here that we ought not to be intimidated due to the reason that Nunavut was created through the land claims agreement, as it was to promote and support Inuit culture and language.

We have to focus on the retention of our language, as this was the reason for fighting for Nunavut. Furthermore, it was the first time that a direction or a (interpretation ends) vision (interpretation) was created for the Nunavut government when it was first created as this topic was discussed. They tried to finalize the work, but it (interpretation ends) was never implemented (interpreted) and due to this reason I would want this directive.

As a government, we should make a directive to make language training (interpretation ends) mandatory (interpretation) where unilingual English-speaking public servants within the Government of Nunavut should learn the Inuktitut language. They should be provided training and they have to take the language courses since we are in Nunavut. We aren't in Ontario or Quebec. Sometimes I am envious of Quebec because they have strong language protection legislation. I believe we need to have that operating here as well, without fear, and to use that route to fix the issues we face so that Inuktitut language is the language used.

Our communities continue to state that even when they go to government departments, the operations are based on western societal ideals. This statement is one we are tired of hearing, so we need to resolve that by members fixing this issue and stepping forward with mandatory language training required for Inuktitut language education so that the unilingual English-speaking people can be taught to speak the Inuktitut language. There are very capable people working in various organizations in Nunavut who can teach these courses. We have the Piqqusilirivvik school and we should be utilizing that more often. There are systems already in place to provide Inuktitut language instruction and training.

If I say it in English, (interpretation ends) bold, (interpretation) that's the only way to do it. We have to encourage the teaching of Inuktitut. That's why we created Nunavut and that's why the government was created. That's what I would push hard for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Joanasie, if you have a second question, the floor is yours.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The housing crisis in Nunavut needs to be addressed on many fronts and we know we're not going to solve it in this term, but every community in Nunavut is impacted by housing pressures and it affects the health and well-being of our families and communities.

We're better off when we build new houses, yet at the same time we have to keep in mind that the cost of maintaining these houses is in excess of \$26,000 a year. With that in mind, with the cost of building new houses and maintaining those new houses, what does the housing solution or solutions look to you as Premier to address the immediate and long-term housing needs of our territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that we must use these other avenues and not just focus on the Nunavut Housing Corporation, which is working hard to try to alleviate the shortages. However, we can never quite reach the numbers we are aiming towards.

I recognize the question, as my personal perception is that we should look at third parties outside of our government that can construct houses. We have witnessed Inuit organizations constructing large office complexes to house their bodies and they have capabilities to provide assistance in that regard. If we collaboratively approached these third parties, outside of the government proper but can undertake construction of housing projects, by working together and if they are capable of constructing buildings, we should work with them to alleviate the public housing shortage.

This should be part of our approach, as government by itself isn't capable of providing the number of units required to meet our housing shortage. Due to these reasons, my perspective is that we should look at third parties to try to alleviate our shortages that could be leased to the government. The government process just seems too slow. We just seem to wait for funding from Ottawa and we aren't building enough units without further funding assistance. The third parties should be approached for the construction of houses to alleviate the housing crisis. That's what I would push for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the past when we were still a part of the NWT, I used to be a renter from the NWT housing corporation. When the HAP program was introduced by the NWT government, it was very good. The housing person came to Coral Harbour and told me that I can build a house. They gave me all the material that I would need to build a house. I had to build it myself and I got helpers to do that. The system that they had at that time was, "I'll give you the housing material, but you have to live in that house for at least five years and it will be yours after five years." This was in 1982 and I'm still living in that house.

The old public housing unit that I rented is being rented by somebody else. I'm no longer in the government books when it comes to housing. We have to bring back the HAP program. A person can run their own home but can't afford the house. If they are given a house that they can run on their own, then their name is not in the government books anymore as needing a house and the old rental unit can be given to a new person. I believe that is how the housing crisis can be mitigated in Nunavut. It used to be a really good program when we were under the NWT. We can bring it back if we want it, if we can agree to it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Housing Corporation has come out with the blueprint for action and they are trying to tackle the drastic housing needs in Nunavut. It's being tackled.

I'm sad to say that the best way to get houses is to get more money from the federal government and we're just not getting any more. We have to do something. We have to bring the prices down somehow on what it costs to build a new house. If you go back to about 10 to 15 years ago, I think houses were maybe half the cost to build back then. The price of building houses has gone drastically up.

We can take the help from private industry, but I believe the bulk of the housing needs in Nunavut are by low-income families. They can't afford to pay high rent. They have to be housed in public housing. I don't have the answers and I don't think anyone does. We have to work on it and a start is the Nunavut Housing Corporation's blueprint for action. They're finally working at it.

Yes, we can have little niches. I agree with him. We have the homeownership program and we do have the down-payment assistance. We have these little, small programs, but the bulk of our housing needs are with low-income families. I know that here in Iqaluit I don't think there are no low-income families that can afford private rental in this town. In the smaller communities there are very few houses for private rental.

We need to think of how to solve the problem and I don't have the answers, but we have to bring the price of houses down or think outside the box of something because what we're doing now is not even keeping up with our current needs. Our needs are going up and up and up for housing in Nunavut. We're not even keeping up. I'm sorry to say that I don't have an answer for you guys. I would like to come up with a solution. It's not going to be easy, but we will work on it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thinking about this right now in Canada, we have to look at agreeing with the federal government. Right now we're in a housing crisis in the Arctic. If I am selected as Premier, we will have to come up with an agreement with the Canadian government. All the houses in the Arctic are different than what is built in the south.

I'll speak in English. (interpretation ends) We still require 90 houses annually. We are short about 3,500 houses and that's about \$1.2 billion to build. As Premier, through the Territorial Formula Financing Agreement, we have to lobby for a five-year to ten-year basic expenditure needs to pay for housing. That's how it operates. It's an agreement.

Secondly we need to look at social housing is basically Inuit housing. We need to remind the Government of Canada that they have a fiduciary responsibility to Inuit as aboriginal people. I see it as two-pronged. We have needs for housing, but we also have a right to ask the Government of Canada to practice their fiduciary responsibility. We need to

remind the Government of Canada and that's where each of you as MLAs need to lobby the Government of Canada for a five- to ten-year formula just for houses, separate from the \$1.2 billion a year the GN receives. It's a crisis and it has to be twofold. Thank you very much.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Moving on, I now give the floor to the Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I congratulate you on your selection as Speaker.

I have one question to ask. You're running for premiership. Will you be concentrating more on the smaller communities when it comes to economic development in the Kitikmeot, Kivalliq, and all of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): I represent the small community of Chesterfield Inlet. I realized right away that the community had not been served in a very long time. Where can we start off the small communities? We have to talk to them and see where they want to go. What sort of economic activities can they do in the communities? Is it fishing, tourism, polar bear hunting, or sewing? What does that small community want to proceed with?

If the small communities are progressing in the same way from each other, their needs are not met by the money that the hamlet is able to get. The hamlets have their own organization. The Premier will have to work with the organizations that represent the hamlets, not just work with them but be involved in the planning as to what and where it should be created. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Each community has their own strengths. They have different strengths and each community can start in its own way when we think about the smaller communities.

I have really heard from our hunters. Our hunters have been hunting forever and they use a lot of money for fuel and other supplies. They have to try to buy supplies to go hunting to get food. Once they come back, they just give out the food that will be used by Inuit. Meanwhile he had spent all that money to go hunting. Through financial help in some way for country food, whether it's a seal or terrestrial animals, the hunters in the communities should receive more help.

We should try to find out how the hunters can get more help. There are a quite a few people that don't hunt and there are quite a few that hunt as well. If we can find some

way of getting more money to those hunters, then it can help the hunter and they can make money using the animals that they caught for the community.

With respect to sewing, crafts, and things like that, there are very good seamstresses, very good carvers, or building different things. Things like that can be built by Inuit. We should concentrate more on those when it comes to the economy. They can be used as well. That's what I'm really looking at when it comes to the small communities where they can make money. We can look at things like that. We have economic development officers in the communities. Let's push them to look into those things within that community, using that community's strengths. That's my response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a short response. I would be the Premier who represents all of Nunavut. I would not be looking at them separately. I don't see the communities as being separate. They all need assistance. Yes, I would provide assistance to the smaller communities as Premier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for asking that question. Of the candidates seeking the premiership, I believe I am the only one from a small community. I totally empathize with the feeling expressed by the person on my left. I worked for the hamlet in our community where I was the housing maintainer. The buildings and in particular the garage buildings were built when I was a child, perhaps between seven and eight years old. I am now 58, yet we are still using those same buildings.

The smaller communities are being left behind in terms of infrastructure. When I required material at work, I would have to go to the dump to search for door handles to repair the doors. When I went to a larger community and went to the same maintenance facilities, I was floored as they had everything available. They had a full inventory of parts and if they wanted a pump, parts were on the walls. Maintainers in the smaller communities have to go to the dump.

That is how behind the smaller communities are now and this has to change. We were part of the Nunavut Agreement and we wanted to be involved. We are being left behind and this is unacceptable. If I become Premier, I will work hard on that to benefit the smaller communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. The member stated they had only one question to ask. I have two more names on my list. I would now like to provide an opportunity for the Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main. He said he had one question. I

have only two more names on my list. I would like to give the Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove an opportunity. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I share in your joy, and I congratulate both the new MLAs and the re-elected MLAs by smiling at all of you.

>> *Laughter*

When one receives a seat here, I found out that it is a very good feeling, and I look forward to working with my colleagues.

The question I wish to ask today relates to health within Nunavut. What Nunavummiut are going through is very challenging, looking at health. My question to the Premier candidates is: if you became Premier, would you provide more funding to the Department of Health and where would you get that funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): I wasn't expecting to be first, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. The deputy minister briefed us on the Department of Health funding levels. The department works really hard to provide services, and Inuit have to voice our appreciation to the health care providers as we don't have to pay for health services.

We don't have to pay for transportation costs to Ottawa and Winnipeg to get medical treatment from the doctors, so we have to express our gratitude to the health care workers, as they work hard to provide health services. It is very expensive to send patients to southern hospitals. No wonder they face funding shortfalls. We were informed earlier that they may ask for supplementary funding from the members.

The new MLAs are still unfamiliar with the government operations and how much funding was left from the previous government's funding amounts, as we will need to approve the funding. I can't really respond to that in detail, but this department requires the largest funding amounts. We don't want to see the Department of Health run out of funding where patients can't be sent south for treatment. I would provide them funding if I was Premier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it has been a year that the federal government and the Nunavut government signed an agreement on how much funding we will get from them. The Department of Health has budget shortfalls annually and it has deficits. Every year the Legislative Assembly approves funding for them.

He had stated that we have to send people out for health care. We cannot say, "We're out of money, so you will have to die." We have to always give them funding. We don't give them adequate funding, but if they have shortfalls, they get more funding. We're always

applying for funds. It's not my department. I'm not sure how much money they get, but I know it's a lot of money.

As Premier, I would be still doing the same thing, but we always have to lobby the federal government for more funding because the revenue we raise is too small. We would have to apply for more money from the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We always hear about how health care is very expensive and they always seem to have a shortage of money. I can just repeat what he said. We have to lobby the federal government more. We hear that Nunavut has the highest birth rate in Canada. We hear things like that. We have to show that to the federal government.

To date we hear that we are sending our elders down south. When there are issues like that, the federal government should be informed more on the challenges of providing health care. We will be discussing the budget for the next year and the year after. We will have to consider this more. We heard the deputy minister and they were wishing for more money. This is what we hear every year. I think this should be a priority in the Legislative Assembly when we're allotting funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The housing shortage causes health problems. It's a unique situation in the north. We are isolated, we don't have highways, and it's very expensive to fly. We have telehealth now through the Internet. They can diagnose now through the computer to see what treatment they need. I know a person who is ill is sent to the south. Sometimes they're not seen, but a lot of money is spent in all of Nunavut. This would be my priority.

When we're talking about funding, we have to think also that we have the highest birth rate. That's true. Here in the north we know about midwifery. There are women out there who are just as capable as being physicians. I once experienced an elder. She was shy for getting an abortion and the elder knew and wasn't told by the doctor when the young person's hair started falling out. You shouldn't be shy. You got pregnant and got an abortion. That's Inuit knowledge.

The funding that is allotted for the Department of Health is too westernized and they only go to professionals. In Nunavut the Inuit knowledge on health should be included. We wouldn't necessarily have to send people out for childbirth. I have thought about this.

Secondly, if we're going to keep spending money on health, we as leaders, not just me, it's you also, I can't make decisions by myself. What are best practices that we can spend our money on? We're spending money on airfares to dentists and some people come here

just to make money. We have to provide training to our fellow Inuit and set funding aside. We have a nursing program. We have to set funding aside for dentistry as well.

Many children at a time are sent down by charter. We have health centres in our communities. We have to modernize our health centres so that they can be diagnosed sooner through the computer, but not all of them. The goal for the next four years is too short for me. We have to make decisions past those four years. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Member Ms. Ehaloak asked a question. I'm sorry, Mr. Main, I'll get back to you. If you have another question, Ms. Ehaloak, I now give you the floor.

Ms. Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Member Elisapee Sheutiapik will relate to my question as past president of NAM. As Premier, how would you approach relations with such advocacy groups as the Nunavut Association of Municipalities and the Coalition of the Nunavut District Education Authorities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As my officials do deal with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities (NAM), we do deal with them and it's an advisory board. I believe that the relationship is good between my department and them. I have not had any issues and it works. The communities present their concerns and their needs to NAM and then NAM presents it to the GN. It's a system that works fairly well, I believe. With the coalition of district authorities, the Department of Education also works with them.

It's a system that we have and I believe it works. That way we get the message from the grassroots of what works, what doesn't work, what their needs are, what programs might have to be tweaked a bit and fixed up. We don't just operate in a vacuum and the orders come from the top and they're spread down to the bottom.

We work with the people and we have communities and then regional and territorial organizations on many levels, not on just these two. We can work with the communities so that we can fulfill the needs of the communities and make sure that our programs and policies work for the people of Nunavut. That's what they're there for. Our services are there to serve the people of Nunavut. If they're not working, then we want to hear. We want to fix them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I see NAM as not just being an advisory committee because the municipalities, amongst themselves, can prioritize their needs better than the Premier can. I would see actually from NAM recommendations. A working relationship is good. Relationships are good, but the municipalities across the territories, across the three are experts in what's required in their

communities. Sometimes when the decision comes from the top down, it doesn't suit anyone.

Secondly, DEAs made specific recommendations to the *Education Act*. I did not see them being taken. We have to seek out ways of how NAM and DEAs can implement what they consider to be priorities and not just the advisory. I'm talking about actual implementation. They can decide for themselves and then we can get in there and assist each other. One size doesn't fit all. I have never seen one size fitting all, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Laughter*

Chairman (interpretation): Please ensure that you thank me properly after your comments. Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm a firm believer in community empowerment. Our hamlets have real, deep infrastructure needs. I think one of the ways that we can address that is the hamlets are free from the last government. When we give out a contract or tender, all these regulations and rules and whatnot have to be adhered to, but the hamlets are exempt from that.

I think what we can do is to give them funding if they want to address storage needs. What we can do as a government, and I want to do that, is to give them the funding to build their own parking garage. This way they don't have to go through the architectural plans and all the rigmarole, and that is one way we can save a lot of money, is to give them a block funding to address their infrastructure needs. I'm a firm believer in that and I think we should look at that.

Also for the DEAs, I have been kind of out of touch with them, but I do know that there are concerns about have the youth have a proper education so that they can become leaders. We need to give them the tools to produce our children. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, not being a minister anymore, I know that the ministry of education works very closely with the coalition of district education authorities. The Minister of CGS works closely with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities and it has been as such since the governments were created.

The way I see is that now that this is a new government, I think the first priority of any of those two ministers, the Minister of CGS and the Minister of Education, would need to meet with those two entities to see if there needs to be any change or any improvements in collaborating with each other to re-engage.

Again, this is going to be a new government and I think it's very important for every ministry to go and talk with those entities that they are going to be working closely with for the next four years. I think it's very important that that communication, that connection is taking place shortly after we know who the ministers are, the ministers that would be working closely with either the Nunavut Association of Municipalities or the coalition of district education authorities. That would be my priority for any of those new ministers that will be coming in. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Further, if no changes have occurred, the last question to be asked will return to the last questioner. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are also experimenting to see which candidates have the stamina to outlast these questions as Premier.

>>*Laughter*

Indeed this will be the last question which I will ensure is a short one. (interpretation ends) One of the big ideas on the formation of Nunavut back when I was a young kid still was decentralization. The whole idea behind that was to share the wealth. You don't have to have all the jobs in one, two, or three central communities; you can share the wealth around. Now that we're here, 2017, I have a question about decentralization. If elected Premier, what will the decentralization model look like under your leadership? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that is how it was set up where there are 11 decentralized communities that house various government departments. There are 11 communities that are in that category.

I would want to research if members want to look at changes to the structuring of the decentralization plan and I would want to listen to the viewpoints of the members. I would want to hear the reasons and review whether we need to enact other work or assistance, as this is a new government.

I know that there may be new ideas submitted that I would want to hear about. Personally I may not say which areas would need improvement, as that would be up to the wishes of the members and I would want to hear from the members on what requires changes. That's the only response I have, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I don't think it's the Premier's role to take jobs away from certain communities just for the sake of moving jobs around.

When I was MLA in the Second Assembly, the Minister of Justice of the day, Paul Okalik, was looking for a Human Rights Tribunal location and I lobbied him to put it in Coral Harbour and I was successful. I can tell you that two or three jobs in a non-decentralized community make a world of difference. I think, as we grow as a territory, there will be more offices opening. I think we should look at spreading the wealth to these non-decentralized communities. I would be open to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I live in the decentralized community of Arviat and ever since I was elected, I have made my opinion known that what jobs we have there we want to keep and we will take any more that they can give us. When any jobs have left the community, I have made my issues and concerns known because decentralization was thought about and put in place. If there has to be changes, I'm open to listening to them, but the way it is right now, the jobs that are there are there to stay and if we can get more jobs in to the communities, all the better.

There is an actual agreement there that if you take jobs out of a decentralized community, if you take a job out or eight jobs, you have to put the same number in. The number of jobs in a decentralized community can't go down. I have fought hard for that to stay like that because we need the jobs. You can't have all the jobs in one place. If you do, then you can't fill them when there is no housing. I'm for the decentralization model. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure... .
(interpretation ends) If you select me as Premier, I would have to do environmental scanning of the whole departments, but in reality Nunavut needs a diversified economy. We cannot rely on just the government to provide opportunities.

We need to diversify so there will be jobs in the communities that are not decentralized, but specified priorities as Premier will be to see where those jobs are, not just in the government but in mining, fisheries, and arts and crafts. Can we diversify arts and crafts to smaller communities? Can we develop a tanning centre as has been in Qikiqtarjuaq?

I have not seen the model for decentralization in the Northwest Territories. Certain corporations like the housing corporation are moved to Inuvik. Maybe we do need to look at other models to ensure that everybody in Nunavut is benefiting.

With regard to infrastructure, right now currently, fisheries are a developing industry, but because we have no port docking facilities, we are offloading in Greenland to the tune of \$25 million a year. In the meantime Qikiqtarjuaq has had a study done years ago because their oceans are open.

As Nunavummiut, you and I have to start seeking ways on how we can specifically in the short term, deal with decentralization, but in the long term how we can stabilize these needs. Thank you.

Election of Premier

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Question period is now over. We will have a vote following the presentations and the questions we have started. For the process to go, we will be handling out the ballots to you and we will be setting up the ballot boxes in the middle. I think it would be best if Ms. Angnakak and Ms. Sheutiapik be the first ones to proceed to the ballot boxes. I think that would be the best way to go.

There is an exit door on my left and right. For those candidates for Premier, good luck. We will know who the selected person is after we vote.

>>*Applause*

>>*Meeting recessed at 17:10 and resumed at 17:14*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. The ballots will now be taken to a secure area in the precinct for counting.

Members may wish to wait in the lounge while we take a brief recess. Thank you.

>>*Meeting recessed at 17:14 and resumed at 17:22*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you for coming back. I am very pleased to advise members and Nunavummiut that our colleague, Member Paul Quassa, has been chosen to serve as Premier of Nunavut.

>>*Applause*

>>*Meeting recessed at 17:23 and resumed at 17:25*

Chairman (interpretation): We can now proceed. The appropriate motion will be moved in the House at its first sitting to confirm the selection of Premier on November 21.

I will now invite the Premier-elect, Mr. Quassa, to make a few remarks. (interpretation ends) Premier-elect.

Mr. Quassa: Yeah, I'm out of words.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation) Firstly I wish to thank you all for your confidence in my abilities. I want to state that I will work hard to serve you and work collaboratively with members,

obviously. I also want to express my gratitude to Nunavummiut by thanking them. This new government and the Fifth Legislative Assembly will succeed, and let us take pride in our culture, language, and especially our elders.

Thank you very much. I would also like to thank my wife, Elisapee, for always supporting me, as well as all of my children. Thank you.

This comment will not be long. Let's have good success in the four years. Thank you.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

>>*Applause*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Members, do you agree to destroy the ballots?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Go destroy the ballots now. We will take a 15-minute break. We have to prepare for the selection of the cabinet members. We still have to proceed with the selection process for the Executive Council. We will take a 15-minute break.

>>*Meeting recessed at 17:27 and resumed at 17:40*

Nominations for Cabinet Positions

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We will now proceed to the selection process for the Members of the Executive Council for 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 seven ministers to serve on cabinet.

Following the close of nominations, each candidate has up to five 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.

Let's move on. The floor is now open for nominations for the Executive Council of Nunavut. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to nominate Quasa Kusugak. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Kusugak, do you accept the nomination?

Mr. Kusugak (interpretation): Yes, I accept. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I see a lot of members raising their hands and I won't forget you because your names are being written down. Ms. Ehaloak.

Ms. Ehaloak: Thank you. I nominate David Akeeagok. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Akeeagok, do you accept the nomination?

Mr. Akeeagok (interpretation): I accept. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to nominate the Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, Pat Angnakak. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Angnakak, do you accept the nomination?

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Yes, I accept.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to nominate Mr. George Hickes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Sheutiapik.

Ms. Sheutiapik (interpretation): I nominate Jeannie Ehaloak. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Ehaloak, do you accept the nomination?

Ms. Ehaloak: Mr. Chairman, yes, I accept.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to nominate Cathy Towtongie. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Towtongie, do you accept the nomination?

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Yes, I accept.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I know that you are rushing, but I don't want any errors in what is being written down. If it seems like I'm going too slow, all you can do is wait.

>>*Laughter*

Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to nominate Hon. David Joanasie for ministerial-ship. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to nominate the person next to me, Joe Savikataaq. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq, do you accept the nomination?

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Arreak Lightstone.

Mr. Arreak Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to nominate Elisapee Sheutiapik.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Sheutiapik, do you accept the nomination?

Ms. Sheutiapik (interpretation): Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Are there any more nominations? Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I nominate the Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak, do you accept the nomination?

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): I nominate the Member for Gjoa Haven. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Akoak, do you accept the nomination?

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I accept.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to nominate Mr. Netser.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Netser, do you accept the nomination?

Mr. Netser (interpretation): I accept. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Ehaloak.

Ms. Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to nominate Adam Arreak Lightstone.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Arreak Lightstone, do you accept the nomination?

Mr. Arreak Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I accept.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Are there anymore nominations? We're trying to set up who will talk first. We didn't know who would be nominated in the beginning, so we're going to put them together as to who will talk for.

We will do it following the names. First, Mr. Akoak. Mr. Akoak, you may do your speech as soon as I set up the timer. You may proceed, Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and my colleagues. I would like to congratulate all new members, and members that were re-elected. I would also like to congratulate our new Premier, Premier Quassa.

I sit here today as a candidate for minister for the Fifth Assembly. In the Fourth Assembly I was a regular member and that was a learning experience for me.

I would like to thank my constituents of Gjoa Haven for giving me another opportunity to represent them for the next four years.

This being a Friday, one of my constituents told me that Gjoa Haven was the capital of King William Island.

Prior to becoming an MLA back in October of 2013, I was working with the Co-ops both in Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak. I was able to become a manager of both stores. I have also worked as an observer/communicator at the Taloyoak Airport for about 19 years and worked as a tenant relations officer for the Taloyoak Housing Association. I moved back to Gjoa Haven in 2004 to work as an office manager for the Legal Services Board of Nunavut up to 2013. My work history started when I was 17 years of age and up to today I have always been in the workforce.

All across Nunavut our people have needs the government has to look into and work to improve, whether it be infrastructure. More housing is always one of the main issues. The government needs to work to have Nunavummiut towards healthy living. A healthy body and a healthy mind make a happier person. Our people are always looking for work. This government needs to work with each other to create more jobs.

If selected to a cabinet position, I will work with fellow ministers to work towards healthy Nunavummiut. People who know me as a person, people in Gjoa Haven or elsewhere, I give people a chance to prove themselves. Even if others don't really like you, I will give you a chance. That's the way I have always worked. That's the way the government should be. We as MLAs represent everyone, not some. We represent everyone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akoak. I will now give the floor to Mr. Akeegok for five minutes or less.

Mr. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to send my regards and give thanks to the voters of the Quttiktuq riding that placed their confidence in me to sit in this chair. I would like to congratulate Joe Enook, the Speaker-elect, and our Premier-elect Quassa, on this occasion and to all of the 21 members that got re-elected or elected or acclaimed to this Chamber.

I want to give a huge thanks to my wife, Carol, and our children, as well as my extended family and friends for their strong and ongoing moral support.

I now humbly seek your vote for a seat on the Executive Council. Using my past experience as a senior government official in the Nunavut government, I would like the honour of representing in this House as one of the ministers led by our Premier-elect and the other ministers.

My riding consists of three distinct communities and their pride in working together collectively demonstrates that they have lots to offer to this territory, and having lived in different parts of the territory, and I have been fortunate to travel to every community throughout the territory. I have seen lots of opportunities and challenges facing this territory.

My colleagues, I pledge to work and collaborate closely with you to address these issues that face this territory. It will take all of our commitment to continue to improve this beautiful territory. I would like to thank the Member for Cambridge Bay, Jeannie Ehaloak, for nominating me, and everyone as well as I again seek your support for a seat in the Executive Council. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. The next person on my list is Ms. Angnakak. Five minutes or less.

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to thank David Joanasie. Congratulations to the new Premier-elect. Thank you. I am honoured and humbled to be before you today. I want to thank my constituents of Iqaluit-Niaqunnguut for electing me. I am Pat Angnakak, but in Inuktitut, I am known as *Patikuluk*. The people of Cape Dorset named me that. I am proud of that beautiful name.

I grew up in Nunavut and my parents are Mike and Margaret Gardener. They have been living in Nunavut for many years. My father used to be a minister in communities. My husband, Archie Angnakak is here. We have lived in Iqaluit for 37 years now.

(interpretation ends) I am honoured and humbled to be before you today and want to thank my constituents of Iqaluit-Niaqunnguut for having put their trust in me to serve as their MLA over the next four years.

Like all elected MLAs with me today, over the past few weeks I have spent many hours visiting and discussing issues that affect us all personally, that affect our communities, and Nunavut, as a whole. What I heard is that we all want to be supported by our government in the various life situations that we face.

The challenges that we have in making this new government effective, efficient, accountable, and a government that has a positive impact on people's lives is not easy to achieve, and cannot be done by one MLA or one government. I believe it must be a collective process, where we form strong partnerships with our communities, and where we seek meaningful input from the people that we serve and with other organizations in Nunavut. In order to make Nunavut a strong territory it will take all of us to decide what steps we need to implement, and what areas need addressing immediately.

I believe we need to begin by investing in our basic needs, ensuring that everyone has a roof over their heads, that everyone has enough to eat each day, and there is access to good and adequate education, and quality healthcare when needed.

I am sure that if we compare our campaign platforms, we will find that we all have similar priorities that are important for us to address early on in our mandate for the Fifth Assembly. I am also pretty certain that what we have heard back from our constituents is also a common message and direction that this government needs to ensure that all Nunavummiut have their basic needs met. The reality is that the challenges will be

complex and difficult for this government and there is a need to think innovatively in how we can best address these issues.

NTI and the RIAs and Nunavummiut living within our communities need to be invited to this table to discuss how we will address our housing shortages. What are we going to do about homelessness? What to do about the high rate of poverty, how to address the need of mental health services, what to do about the low numbers of high school graduates, and lastly how to address the insufficient care many of our children, elders, and families suffer in Nunavut.

I believe that together, putting more emphasis on community empowerment and by investing in people, and working in partnerships to address these complex and challenging issues is one way we can make that difference.

I am seeking your support and vote for cabinet and will strive hard to work on these issues. I am a team player. I am someone who will and can speak up on issues that need addressing, and I consider myself an approachable person who will listen and talk with you about your ideas and concerns.

I believe I have the experience needed to do this job well. I have experience in working as a government employee. I have experience working for Inuit organizations. I was an executive assistant for a minister for five years. As you know, most recently over the last four years, I was a regular MLA. I feel that the next logical step for me is to join cabinet and I am hoping that you will support me on this. Thank you very much. And I have 34 seconds to spare. Sorry for rushing through it.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. (interpretation ends) And you're not backing those 34 seconds for question period.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation) Moving on. Ms. Ehaloak.

Ms. Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, elders, my fellow MLAs, and Nunavummiut. First of all I want to thank Member Elisapee Sheutiapiak for your nomination.

I want to thank my community of Cambridge Bay for having confidence in me to serve as their MLA, and to congratulate each of you whom I will be working with for the next four years.

I want to especially thank my spouse, Brent Boddy, and my family and friends for supporting me throughout my political career.

I will highlight who I am, my experience, vision of government, core principles, and why I should be considered for a ministerial position.

I have served my community from a very young age in various capacities both volunteering and through elected positions. It is important for me to give back to my community and our territory. I have been the mayor of Cambridge Bay for the last six years, president of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities for five years, co-chair of the Northern and Remote Forum under the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for five years, I have been a hamlet councillor for four years, chair of the Kitikmeot board of education, vice-chair of the Ikaluktutiak District Education Authority, and a board member of the Kitikmeot Law Society.

I understand the commitment it takes and have the maturity to be a minister and serve you and Nunavummiut in this government and the Legislative Assembly. I will work as a team member to ensure that the vision, mandate, and priorities are forefront in the territorial government. I will stay connected and involved.

I have stated throughout my campaign that our priorities for better community programming and service delivery in health, education, and community and government services must improve. Health and social caregivers need more support, as do teachers for quality programming excellence. What does this really mean? It means this government needs a fresh perspective. It needs leaders that acknowledge what is not working and the courage to change and serve Nunavummiut truly. This government needs to work for our communities and understand how the program delivery or lack thereof affects all of us.

My experience as mayor and working at the municipal, territorial and federal levels of government has strengthened my skill set and foundation for me to confidently undertake a ministerial role in the Fifth Legislative Assembly. I have a strong network of peers through my tenure at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. I have made several federal connections, which is very important working as a minister.

Our government must demonstrate accountability and conducting our business with openness and honesty, encouraging public input and feedback. Our government has to invest in new strategies with support to Article 23 of the Nunavut Agreement, with measures of progress to attain a prospective workforce in all sectors of government. Government priorities and focus must be on how this government will be fiscally accountable and focused on Nunavummiut. Our budget must be balanced.

I believe in our consensus government model and the foundation of Inuit values. Saying this can not only be in words. Actions must be followed through and accountability to ensure that we work cooperatively and that all MLAs have a voice and are actively participating in shaping our territory.

Change requires a strong leadership. Embracing the power of Nunavut in all sectors to actively engage and help change the policies is good leadership. In closing, you have many of us to consider for the seven ministerial positions. Each of us have different strengths and views. It will be up to you to decide who will represent you and your territory.

This Assembly has a renewed opportunity to work together and be exceptionally creative and efficient in delivery of all programs and services. It starts with who you choose for your leadership.

I ask each of you for your confidence and support in choosing me as one of your fifth Legislative Assembly government ministers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Moving on, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank Mr. Rumbolt for the nomination and I congratulate the Premier-elect, Paul Quassa.

Before I begin my remarks, I would like to add my voice to those who have already congratulated you on your appointment. The speaker is entrusted with guiding our proceedings to ensure that both sides of the floor have the opportunity to present their views and ensure that order and fairness are upheld at all times.

I'm very pleased that you have been selected amongst your peers today to serve in this House and all of its members, and trust you to do it with the honour that that chair behind you deserves. The speaker is someone who is there to be an example of leadership and to provide us with guidance and oversight.

I've been fortunate to have a Speaker in my own life who has played this role both literally and figuratively. My father, George Hickes Sr. who served as an MLA for 21 years and was Speaker of the Manitoba Legislature for 12 of those. If you would have asked me as a young man if I would have followed in his footsteps, I would have laughed at the idea.

It was my father's own political career that first introduced me to politics and he taught me to have a profound respect for this chamber and those who have been entrusted by the public to serve within it. As an elected representative for our Assembly, I have worked hard to embody the qualities that Nunavummiut expect in their leaders; a representative who listens and responds to their needs, is a critical thinker and a problem solver, who is transparent in their actions and accountable for their decisions and who demonstrates leadership by using their learned experience to build capacity and capabilities in others around them.

Since becoming the MLA for Iqaluit-Tasiluk in 2013, I have worked very hard as a regular member to research and ask questions that are important to residents and get information where it belongs in the public's hands.

As an MLA, my job has been to answer to the people of my riding and address their concerns, whether those are about getting housing, accessing services, or how government policies are applied.

I have responded to every person who has contacted me in getting those answers and assisting my constituents is something that I take very seriously. As a regular member I had a reputation in the legislature for asking tough questions to government. It is that strong voice that led me to being elected into cabinet in 2015 where I became Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation and the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and later the Minister of Health and Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention; arguably one of the most challenging portfolios in this government.

While a cabinet minister on the side of the floor, I worked every day to ensure that I was knowledgeable about my files and able to answer the tough questions in the legislature that I was used to asking. I have a strong track record of working with MLAs to resolve issues for their constituents, as any of the returning members can attest to.

Being a cabinet minister allowed me to represent the interests of Nunavummiut on a territorial and national level. I am proud that I played a part in attracting millions of new dollars for funding in affordable housing, healthcare, and suicide prevention during my time as a minister.

When I knocked on doors this past election, concerns were brought up regarding affordable housing, education, and health. While I know we have made some progress, there is much more work to do. I'm looking forward to our new government making more progress in these areas and others. I feel I have much more to contribute in whatever role given. These past four years have given me many opportunities to increase my knowledge and experience to be an even more effective representative, and continue the work that's been started.

I know that I am ready for the challenge and I want to prove to my colleagues in this House and to Nunavummiut, as a whole, that the trust they put in me for another term as a cabinet minister is well placed.

In closing, I hope that you will support my nomination to become a cabinet minister in this Fifth Assembly of the Nunavut legislature. I will continue to prove that I'm a collaborator, that includes the input of both regular members and cabinet colleagues alike, and to reflect the spirit and intent of the consensus model of our territorial government in my duties as a cabinet minister. I thank you all for your support and look forward to the next four years working with all of you for the benefit of Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Hickey. We will proceed. I'll give Mr. Joanasie five minutes or less.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I congratulate you again on your appointment for the prestigious role of Speaker of the Nunavut legislature. Congratulations to our Premier-elect, Paul Quassa, who we'll be working with to lead the territory over the next four years.

Mr. Chairman, I congratulate and wish to give a special welcome to all new and returning MLAs. It is exciting to be here with you right now on this memorable day. We are here with the fundamental idea of serving the people in our communities. I'm a firm believer in service, for that reason, I would like to extend my name for a cabinet seat.

Mr. Chairman, we know that a minister in any government has several roles, duties and responsibilities. Dedicated ministers engage with leaders of different levels, steer style on government directives, collaborate with counterparts with other jurisdictions, and work closely with partners for a common cause.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, I am keen on utilizing experience that I gained from my last term serving South Baffin. As a minister, I will continue to work hard, listen carefully, and work collaboratively. I commit to welcome and value reasonable suggestions and recommendations on the needs of a flourishing territory. I plan on remaining fair, respectable, and approachable. I look forward to engaging, adding to, and shaping our young territory to reach its full potential.

Mr. Chairman, our territory is making strides in our potential. This can be seen within the Legislative Assembly today with the Fifth Assembly welcoming the highest number of female legislators, while also embracing younger representatives. I would like to take this opportunity to point out that I am no longer the youngest sitting MLA.

>>*Laughter*

Our legislature is becoming more reflective of our demographics. *Quvianaq*.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, in closing I trust that each MLA will choose a strong passionate, and dedicated leaders that will be a fitting voice and face of the new cabinet we are forming today. I hope you see that reflection in me.

Mr. Chairman, I thank the people of South Baffin, from Kimmirut and Cape Dorset for their support and encouragement into this next term, along with my family and children and my wife who is present, South Baffin has been a network of strength. Thank you for your confidence in me in seeking a cabinet seat.

Lastly, thank you to Ms. Pat Angnakak for giving me the opportunity for new leadership role with this nomination. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to ask Mr. Kusugak to make a statement in five minutes or less. Mr. Kusugak.

Mr. Kusugak (interpretation): First of all, I would like to thank Aarluk for nominating me. I know that we all spent a lot of time knocking on doors and talking to people in the last month.

I think you probably heard many of the same things that I did and I got one message loud and clear. There is a very strong sense from the electorate that the promise of Nunavut is not being fulfilled. People are frustrated and they're looking for results. They are wondering why they're still waiting for housing. They want to know why we're still not receiving the kind of healthcare that Canadians receive. That is the reason why I want to be a part of the Executive Council.

(interpretation ends) Our voters have selected a very capable and a very exciting group of people to form the next Assembly. There will be new energy and new solutions to old problems. I think the next four years to mark a real turning point in our development as a territory.

(interpretation) I have been a leader both at the community level and in the House. If I should get elected, I would like to deal with our housing crisis by increasing support for homeownership by working with the Nunavut Housing Corporation and local associations to provide support. I want to see it actually implemented and monitoring the measures we have in place to make sure that Inuit finally get the fair share of the jobs.

Article 23 and Article 24, (interpretation ends) we have tools. We need to enforce them, and we need to strengthen them. Within GN we can increase current leadership programs, increase their intakes and deliveries, and we can put more emphasis on recruitment, promotion, and pre-employment training aimed directly at getting Inuit employment up at senior levels.

(interpretation) I would like to see a program of measures allowing us to care for our elders in their home communities. We owe everything, including this territory and this government, and yet at the time of their lives when they most want to be close to family, when they most need access to their families and supports we're shipping them out. That has to stop. On education, it's time to finalize an *Education Act* that has the full support of Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) I have quite a few things to say about the issues we'll be dealing with over the next four years, but my time here is limited. So let me just point out the two key principles that tie all these ideas together. The principles that I bring into cabinet if you honour me with your vote.

First I want to promote the practice of community empowerment at every level; in policy, in planning, and in practice. Not just words and not just the idea, but the actual practice. Nobody knows the needs of community better than the community, itself. We can find new ways to build capacity and provide resources for local DEAs for education to hamlets for economic development and infrastructure.

Finally I want to apply the most important lesson I have learned over the years. When our constituencies voted for us, they elected us to lead and they expect us to achieve results. They didn't elect us to tell them why we can't do it or why we can't afford it. Our job is to find a way to make it happen.

In 30 years of public service I have learned that there's always a way. I understand what accountability means and I know what fiscal constraints are. I have worked with fiscal constraints all my life, but I also know we have the tools. I know we have the resources and I know this new team of legislators have the imagination and the skills to form an exceptional government.

(interpretation) When our terms are over, what I want to see is members returning to their communities and highlight the accomplishments the government completed, such as this community received more employment opportunities, we have more housing, and our elders are now housed in facilities. This is what I want to be able to provide to my constituents and if I am selected for cabinet, these are what I want my colleagues to be able to reference as successes.

We have to work together and that is the only way to fix this issues. You want to be able to say that in four years. My job is to help you and to help us all. Thank you for the opportunity, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Moving on, Mr. Lightstone, I now give you the floor.

Mr. Arreak Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Firstly I would like to thank Jeannie Ehaloak for nominating me today. I would also like to congratulate our new Premier and our Speaker. I would also like to thank all those who supported me in pursuing my goal to become an MLA. It has been a dream of mine from a very young age.

As I'm sure that all of you can agree, representing our constituents and the territory of Nunavut is an immense task. I'm eager to work with each and every MLA to ensure a better Nunavut. Whether in cabinet or not, I believe each and every one of us will work well together and achieve great things for this territory.

During my campaign I focused on key areas that I believe were of the utmost importance to Nunavut and my constituents agreed. Those key areas represent the current challenges facing Nunavut, and I'm seeking a cabinet position to ensure that those challenges remain central to what we do here.

As a young Inuk, I understand the challenges that face our youth because I have lived them. I believe that being part of cabinet will ensure that the decisions we make are for the best of all the inhabitants of this great territory.

I have worked for a number of years with the Department of Finance and I understand the complexity of this territory's government. Having worked with all the different departments and agencies, I understand how central the functions of finance and administration are to our government. More than ever we need experienced and educated people in the field of finance and administration to ensure a strong foundation for government.

We need a finance minister who has experience and the education to provide strong and informed leadership to this critical portfolio. I have this experience and I have this education. I understand the difficulties and the compromises needed when services must be delivered, when communities must be looked after, particularly when there's a finite amount of funds available to address these concerns. I would work tirelessly in this position to ensure that our funds are spent in the wisest and most compassionate manner.

Our finance department needs to evolve. Throughout Canada governments continue to increase their degree of financial transparency and we must follow suit. As we continue to increase this transparency, we will become more accountable to the citizens of Nunavut and, in doing so, embrace the trust that they have placed in us.

Our territory remains dependent on federal funds. We need dynamic financial leadership that will encourage departments to become more accountable to the public by fully disclosing how they spend public funds. We need financial leadership that will encourage innovation to find solutions with limited funds. We need financial leadership that will ensure that our limited funds are spent in a way that will achieve the goals of this government.

My time working with this government and in the Department of Finance has given me considerable amount of knowledge. I have put together many main estimates, capital estimates, and supplementary appropriations. Throughout that time I have also put forward many recommendations to the FMB on new financial initiatives. I am familiar with archiving software. I am familiar with our human resource information system. I know what's working and I know what's not.

It is important that we, as Nunavut's leaders, work together to achieve our goals to improve our people's standard of living. Collaboration is key. If elected to cabinet, I will work hard alongside my colleagues to ensure we see results and real improvement in the standard of living of all Nunavummiut.

Once again I ask for your confidence to allow me to put forward these items and ensure that our government sees a new level of accountability and ensure that our government moves in the right direction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Moving on, I now give the floor to Mr. Mikkungwak for five minutes or less.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the Member for Uqqummiut, Pauloosie Keyootak, for nominating me. I also thank the residents of Baker Lake for re-electing me. I congratulate the Premier-elect.

(interpretation ends) I am happy to join with you today in what will be in history as the greatest in Nunavut's leadership forum in the history of the Fifth Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

I, Simeon Mikkungwak, who was re-elected as MLA for Baker Lake, which is also known as the only inland community of Nunavut which I represent, am very interested in becoming a cabinet minister of the Nunavut government. (interpretation) I want to mention my family as they have supported me tremendously. I have personally felt that I am now capable of moving to more difficult and challenging work, and I want to work hard and deal with the work given to me.

(interpretation ends) I have the experience of the Nunavut Legislative Assembly as having under my belt of having represented Baker Lake during the Fourth Assembly and having sat on a majority of standing committees as regular MLA. Prior to that, I have been involved in local politics since 1994 in Baker Lake with various organizations, such as the Baker Lake Housing Association, the Baker Lake District Education Authority, Baker Lake search and rescue, Hamlet of Baker Lake, and also having sat on the local CKQN-FM radio society.

I am seeking your vote to become a cabinet minister of the Nunavut government. As we all know, we all represent our unique communities of our own ridings. As we begin to work to respectively represent our constituents who live in our Nunavut territory which also face unique situations and circumstances, I also attained the knowledge of having worked 14 years as a civil servant for the Government of Nunavut and understand the overall government structure.

As you will all know, I have an operating gold mine known as Meadowbank and now also the Amaruq project by Agnico Eagle Mines and having been a long-time resident and having sat on local politics in Baker Lake, which is a representation of resource development, I know it can impact and also the benefits it can bring to our community. Included with two Heritage Rivers, the Thelon River and Kazan River, I'm aware of the benefit of wildlife and tourism.

As elected members, we all have our own infrastructure needs within the respective communities we are advocating for within our territory of Nunavut. I also understand, just like each and every one of us, that we face unique challenges of housing shortage, medical issues, education issues, and the maintaining of our traditional knowledge. With that I am seeking your vote for me as Cabinet minister as we need to work together in communication between levels of government for the best interest of our constituents we represent.

If elected on cabinet, I would work with Executive Council members as collectively as I can and with regular MLAs so that we, as a territory can access more funds from the federal government to try and address unique cases of our territory. I am also aware that as a cabinet minister there is a lot of commitment required and attending a lot of meetings, which I am very familiar with, as I have just described.

In closing, my strongest asset is that I am fluent in English and Inuktitut, which are also recognized languages within Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We proceed to the next candidate. Mr. Netser, five minutes or less.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also would like to congratulate the Premier-elect of Nunavut. I also want to work closely with him. I am very pleased that I was able to try for the premiership. I enjoyed it thoroughly.

As a father, we have six children and 19 grandchildren. I believe if we cannot take care of our home, we won't be able to take care for ourselves deeply. We have to be believable at home and in our community. We have to have confidence at home and in the community. We have been selected with respect, so therefore we have to show our confidence.

I believe in the Nunavut territory. I believe in the capability of Inuit. I believe that the municipalities, rather than being helped, can be empowered and not just be controlled by the government. I believe that the Department of CGS has been controlling the municipalities. This is called community empowerment.

I believe that the court system has to improve. For example, our youth tend to make mistakes. When they make a mistake, they get a criminal record for life due to the lack of programs and services for young people. When we're young, we make mistakes as we grow up. Sometimes we regret our past actions. Therefore we need to provide help and support to these young people because they can no longer get into the workforce when they have a criminal record.

Some of us have been campaigning as a candidate with a criminal record. Therefore I want to deal with it. I have been a minister previously when Mr. Okalik was the Premier. We had some very challenging times, but we had to work closely together and deal with heavy issues. We would work as unified cabinet members. I would like to be selected to the Executive Council, as I am capable of working hard and I don't get easily intimidated. I am also not standoffish with people nor do I try to be aggressive when dealing with people. I don't become belligerent with other people, as I can be open to anyone and I am open to everyone.

As well, our smaller communities must be helped to catch up with the larger communities, as we are part of the territory, right, Pauloosie? The smaller communities are being left behind, so they would be part of my priority. I am also requesting selection to be a member of the Executive Council. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Moving on, I will allow Mr. Savikataaq five minutes or less.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First I would like to congratulate the Premier-elect, Mr. Paul Quassa. I'm looking forward to working with you and for you, and you have my 100 percent in your new role.

I'm running for cabinet and hopefully I will be voted in too. I will keep my same work ethic and my strong commitments to whatever department I get. I can't add much to it because I just did the long job interview of my life.

>>*Laughter*

I answered 32 questions, I talked for 10 minutes, and I spent the whole day here, so there is not much you don't know about me anymore on my views.

>>*Laughter*

I put my name forward to cabinet and I fully hope that you will support me and put me in cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Moving on, Ms. Sheutiapik, you have five minutes or less.

Ms. Sheutiapik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank Jeannie for nominating me. I also want to thank my constituents who voted for me in Sinaa, the people in the gallery, our new Premier-elect and our past premiers, and in particular the audience watching on television. I believe my husband is watching the televised proceedings and (interpretation ends) my guys.

I'm very pleased. I know that Mr. Enook will be a very capable Speaker and I know that we just selected a Premier-elect. Paul Quassa has been a long-time leader. In view of that I can say, (interpretation ends) I look forward over the coming weeks and months to working with both of you on behalf of and for all of our constituents.

I am putting my name forward to be a minister in our new government. Over the past several weeks and during the campaign I heard from many constituents and Nunavummiut. My friends, Nunavut has so much potential. I am proud to be from Nunavut, but the greatest resource is not the gold or the diamonds in the ground, it's not the oil and the gas on or off shores; it's the people. It is our human resources.

We have lived for millennia, we have persevered, we have triumphed over some of the worst climatic conditions of any people in the world. We are resilient. I believe that it is time that we begin the next stage of the growth and success of Nunavut.

Over the past few weeks I have gotten to know some of you and some for the first time. I am proud to be able to sit here with you and work with you on behalf of all Nunavummiut. I must say half of my experience... . When I was listening to Jeannie, the only difference is as a capital city mayor, I was involved with capital cities organization, but all the groups that she mentioned, I certainly was involved with too.

Over the past 25 years I have worked as a volunteer here in my community. I have served two terms as mayor. I am a former vice-president of NAM, the Nunavut Association of

Municipalities. I am member and past president of Pauktutiit. I have worked for the federal government. I have worked in the public and private sector for the past 19 years. I had the owner of the Grind and Brew. I am a mother and entrepreneur. I believe that I the vocational, professional, and work experience to be a member of cabinet.

I want to help and see Nunavut and Nunavummiut move forward with more daycare space for working families, and better access to healthcare across our territory. It is not acceptable to have our respected elders shipped down south. This has to stop. It is not acceptable that here, for example, in the capital of Nunavut, we have people living and sleeping in shacks in the freezing cold because of the shortage of housing. It is not acceptable that our young people are passed for many available jobs in our government. It is not acceptable that in many of our communities people are giving up hope that things will change and not get better. Friends, as elected MLAs, as leaders of Nunavut, we have to do better, and I believe we can.

I want to begin working on many of these issues and other issues across Nunavut. I am respectfully asking for your support to elect me as minister in our new government. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I believe that all the candidates were practicing because they're right on time. Moving on. Our last candidate. Ms. Towtongie, you have five minutes or less.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you. I also would to congratulate Aarulaaq. You and I have always been competing, so I congratulate your for winning. I have visited all the communities of Nunavut, and I have visited the homes and the Inuit were asking where is Nunavut at because our needs; lack of housing, lack of employment, and having proper infrastructure in all the communities. I believe the leaders have to listen to our constituents since they're the voice.

Harry Towtongie, my husband, I thank you for always giving me support and also to the communities of Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet North. Tony Akoak, thank you for nominating me. I will not be speaking long but as Nunavut residents who value our Nunavut territory. I value Nunavut, and I love Nunavut because it's my home. I would like to see, if elected to the cabinet, I know that we lack housing and we need to rectify the issue.

(interpretation ends) We need to start taking responsibility and delivering results. We are facing some challenges, however, economically, socially, culturally. It's about working together. It's about working with Inuit organizations. It's about working with you, 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 and results. Most of all, it's about you and I to make a better Nunavut for all Nunavummiut and give youth hope. We only want what other Canadians have and that's a better standard of living for the residents of Nunavut.

Consider me. If you completely forget to vote, my name is at the way bottom.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation) Thank you. That's it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Election for Cabinet Positions

Chairman (interpretation): We are almost done and we will be able to say "thank you." Thank you. We will now proceed. There are many selections members must vote on and we have been provided the information to review which candidates we choose.

To the candidates I say (interpretation ends) "good luck," (interpretation) but not all of you will make it into the cabinet. Some of you will be selected and not all, but it is gratifying to hear statements about wanting to work collaboratively regardless of which side we may be sitting on.

I thought it was a very good set-up when we held the first vote to elect our Premier-elect, so we will follow the same voting procedure. We will start with Ms. Angnakak and Ms. Sheutiapik. No need to hurry, as many of us are still able to sit longer. You may take your time. Please exit the voting area beside me. Thank you. Let us vote.

>>*Meeting recessed at 18:46 and resumed at 18:52*

Chairman (interpretation): I believe everybody has cast their vote. The ballots will be taken out of this room to be counted and while we are waiting, we will wait for the results and we will announce them once they are completed.

>>*Meeting recessed at 18:52 and resumed at 19:37*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you for coming back. MLAs, you have selected seven members that will sit on the Executive Council of Nunavut. I will say the names. Elected as minister, Mr. Akeegok.

>>*Applause*

Elected as minister, Ms. Angnakak.

>>*Applause*

Elected as one of the ministers, Ms. Ehaloak.

>> *Applause*

Elected to be one of the ministers, Mr. Joanasi.

>> *Applause*

Elected to be one of the ministers, Mr. Kusugak.

>> *Applause*

Elected to be one of the ministers, Mr. Savikataaq.

>> *Applause*

And elected to be one of the ministers, Ms. Sheutiapik.

>> *Applause*

That will be the Executive Council. The appropriate motion will be moved in the House at its first sitting to confirm this election. I now ask for a motion to destroy the ballots. Please go destroy the ballots.

Today we have met together. I also wish to take this opportunity to note that the Legislative Assembly will shortly be issuing a formal announcement confirming the results of today's proceedings of the Nunavut Leadership Forum, which fall under the jurisdiction of this institution.

I remind all members that the first sitting of the Fifth Legislative Assembly of Nunavut will convene at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 21, 2017, in this Chamber.

The proceedings of the House will be televised live across the territory, and I invite all Nunavummiut to join us.

I remind the regular members that they will be meeting at 1:30 p.m. tomorrow in the Nanuq Boardroom.

The Nunavut Leadership Forum stands adjourned. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

>> *Meeting adjourned at 19:41*

