



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

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

Official Report

Friday, November 17, 2017

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Members Present:

Mr. David Akeeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Ms. Jeannie Ehaloak, Mr. Joe Enook, Mr. George Hickes, Mr. David Joanasie, Mr. Joeline Kaerner, Ms. Mila Kamingoak, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Mr. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam 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 Towtongie.

>> *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 the selection.

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. (interpretation ends) Now let's get to work.

(interpretation) 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 of Nunavut. Member Quttiktuq, Mr. Akeeagok.

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

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

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.

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, Member for Aivilik, 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. Are there any more nominations for the position of Premier? 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.

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 for the next four years.

I would also like to congratulate my fellow MLAs on their own victories to represent their constituents in this territory. The next four years are 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 to 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 would also like to thank everyone in the House, Nunavummiut, and all of my fellow members.

Mr. Chairman, fellow members, and Nunavummiut, I want to first thank my community of Igloodik 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 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) We need a leader whom we are very familiar with and who fully understands Nunavummiut.

By working together, my colleagues, we can improve what we have now. When we look at the Nunavut territory, we can see a variety of things and we have working people with many skills. We have to learn what those skills are if we are to use them properly to successfully attain our goals.

(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) Our language needs to be visible within our government. As I stated earlier, Inuit in Nunavut are the majority by a wide margin and they speak their own language. As I was saying, our government needs to respect our employees and they do want to do excellent work. We need (interpretation ends) a government that demands a workplace where employees feel valued and take pride in their work.

(interpretation) If elected as Premier, since you will be voting, I commit to respecting and actively engaging each of my fellow members. (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.

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. 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 Taamnaruluk, who was born in the Kivalliq region. My maternal grandmother came from the Netsilik region and my maternal grandfather, Kappianaq, came from the Tununiq region.

Through my various relations, I have connections to all three regions within 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. We are able to be here today due to their ongoing adaptations.

(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 only 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 and policies.

We also need a government that will serve our residents respectively 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. 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 when you are ready.

Mr. Savikataaq, you can now 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. 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 is blessed by everyone in Full Caucus. It will be my prerogative to do my best to fulfill the mandate. That's the job as

Premier. That's the job that would be given 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 for two years as a regular MLA, so I can relate to the MLAs' needs, frustrations, anxieties, and all that comes with it. I have 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.

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 to make things better for everyone in Nunavut and we must never forget that. We are here for the people of Nunavut. 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 and 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. I have done it and I can make it.

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 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. 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 an 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 our 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 Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet North. I remember the elders and youth this morning.

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, I agreed to their request. I wanted that known here. I am trying for the premiership and submitted my name for candidacy. 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. However, my maternal grandmother was named Qavangaq, who passed away due to tuberculosis. She was buried in the south and I spent 25 years looking for her. 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, Qavangat was very worried about us and she instructed Hattie Alagalak to raise me to adulthood. Hattie Alagalak and David Alagalak are from Arviat and they are listening in, so I wish to express my gratitude to them as they raised me to adulthood.

In 1979 I was first elected for the 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. We found funding to oppose the mining company that wanted to develop the mine against the people's wishes. Mineral claims and leases were let without consultation. Due to the fact that the 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 Piryuaq, who was asked this question, "As Inuit, do you have any ownership of land or laws over the land?" His response was, "Yes, because we are intimately connected to the land and we know the land has to recover, we would leave a hunting area for two to three years for the land to recover its vegetation. 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?" Barnabas' response was, "Yes, that is true." He stood up in all his regalia of a local esteemed elder and he looked towards the recreational hall, gazing at it from the courtroom from which he stood and said, "The igloos we use today are only built for hunting purposes to ensure one's survival. The *qaggiit* (ceremonial igloos) 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 the ITC to attend the meeting of the International Whaling Commission in England along with Louie 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 bowhead whaling issue. 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 first hand.

I went to attend the University of Saskatchewan for the Program of Legal Studies for Native People 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 Nunavut Tunngavik \$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. 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 as to how 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 to 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.

Questions do not need to be asked consecutively.

Each candidate may then respond in turn to the question.

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 you understand the procedures clearly, so I will now proceed.

Do any members have questions for the candidates? My apologies. I'll have the Member for Hudson Bay ask 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 (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*. My reasoning for placing it as the first priority is that our children are the future. It must be a priority for this government mainly for that reason.

We need to review the legislation 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 was 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. And 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 we will build (interpretation ends) recreational roads. (interpretation) 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 in Nunavut 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. I believe that the organizations operate cooperatively in Nunavut. 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 Inuit organizations in Nunavut. 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. 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.

If we had adequate funding to initiate elders facilities, 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. As well, what has been the practice from the past, the search and rescue aircraft, being based in southern locales, have to travel many thousands of miles, and the SAR aircraft is quite large that is sent to search for the lost residents. If we had a SAR aircraft based in Nunavut, the flight time used to travel here would no longer exist and more hours could be set for searching. This would result in quicker searches.

These would be my main priorities, including the need to assist our youth. Current recreational facilities have no resources for the youth to use and it results in youth crime rates increasing, especially when there is no youth-specific infrastructure. These would be my priorities as the leader, as not all solutions are very expensive. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. The next member to ask a question is the Member for Cambridge Bay, Ms. Ehaloak.

Ms. Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you. My question is the government needs to work for 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 will have Mr. Quassa answer that question first.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for that pertinent question. Perhaps to start off with this first, all programs and services to be created for our communities as well as here in this Legislative Assembly are those we deal with.

As per my previous remarks, Inuit comprise the majority of the population and we need to focus on the language utilized and understood so that Inuit may comprehend the choices fully within their language. That would be the way I prioritize this requirement. To ensure all programs and services are understood in their language of choice, that is specific for languages.

Now, the communities are the ones most knowledgeable about their issues and challenges. When we are here as Members of the Legislative Assembly, we have to hear what the people in the communities want. (interpretation ends) What are their needs? I believe that as Premier, the number one priority of course is to ensure that they have a good understanding of what deliveries we can do and it's the communities that know what 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.

Of course language 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. I would now like Ms. Towtongie to answer that question.

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, it is an issue each of the legislative members has to work on. Health is a concern. It's a high cost. We need to look at innovative ways. Telehealth can alleviate some of the financing funding formulas if we make a priority on it. We need to use technology that's available to the 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 has 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 we called the on-the-land program and we would be

gone for a couple of days for fishing or whatnot. 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 them 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. 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, then 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. 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 now give the floor to the Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you. I have continually advocated on behalf of our elders in my role as MLA previously and again, they aren't far from my thoughts. The requirement of our elders is quite obvious, as elders have rarely received any services previously here in Nunavut.

Language services seem to be a priority at least verbally, but this isn't the reality as they seem like an afterthought when it comes to funding. With respect to an elders facility, we continue to discuss this concept both as Nunavummiut and regions. We seriously need a facility. It was brought up as an issue during the leadership debate.

Nonetheless, in looking at funding levels, I know that funds aren't unlimited as obviously we need to set aside funds periodically specific to our elders in Nunavut so that they too will live healthy and happy lives. With that in mind, I would ask the candidates their positions on this subject. How could improvements be made in servicing our elders, specifically related to government operations or services? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I will have Mr. Savikataaq answer that question first.

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. 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 huge royalties from the mining industry. We need their support because 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. If we establish elders facilities, we will have more employment opportunities in our own communities.

I thank my fellow Pat for her question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. And 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 was selected as the Premier, this would be one of my main priorities to look into. We have heard repeatedly that our elders go through stressful times when they are sent south for care.

As per my earlier statement, if it weren't for our elders' continued efforts to survive, we would not even be alive to speak to this issue. For that reason, we have to properly respect our elders and to have palliative care available for our elders. As a matter of fact, some communities have elders' homes, but these facilities were the subject of debate due to the need to design them properly.

However, on a personal level, I would prioritize this issue. Indeed, in looking at our three regions, currently elders are shipped out not just to Ottawa but to other southern locations. We need to show our respect to our elders and to have them reside in the north, where they know the lands and environment. This would be my priority and I would push for this as well.

As MLAs, we can also set up a direction that highlights our priorities. Again, as per my previous remarks, the initiatives we want to bring forward that our communities need will require cooperation and collaboration with our regional Inuit associations to resolve these issues. That is how it can be dealt with, on an urgent basis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Angnakak, if you have another question, I now give you the opportunity to ask it.

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 for 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 have respect within the government. We need to have a respectful foundation.

Even if they're a unilingual English-speaking person, they have to be protected if they're 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. If we don't resolve this matter now, nobody will want to work for the government. We are already facing that, as we have a teacher shortage when education is becoming an issue. This also applies to RCMP officers as well as social workers in these areas.

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. 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.

I think one of the first areas that we certainly need to do is to ensure that we are not just creating obstacles for any employees. Something that I really want to see within our government is to get at those obstacles that our employees see a lot. We need to get those obstacles out. 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 that 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. 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. I think that's very important for this government to be. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I will now give the floor to the Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you. I would first like to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker-elect.

My question will be directed towards the candidates for Premier. I know that I was asking this question when I was a Member of the Fourth Assembly. If you are selected as the Premier, it seems obvious that our government has to treat everyone equally, even the applications for mining development and the protection of our environment and communities.

To provide this example, sometimes the developer and residents have disagreements, causing barriers. When mines are under development or when mineral exploration is ongoing, caribou are affected when their calving grounds are overflowed throughout Nunavut.

In our communities we have to be stewards of our lands and environment in light of the ongoing mine developments throughout Nunavut. Which side would you lean towards in this scenario? 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. It's evident that we will be seeing more mining development and oil exploration in the future. 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 it. With the work that NIRB does and under our land claims, we're not supposed to interfere as a government. 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 the 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 in Nunavut. Under the land claims agreement there is a body that looks at the environment. If any mining 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.

If it involves wildlife, 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 the IPGs 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) You have to excuse my pronunciation in English.

However, the foundation of our government, as we have stated, is 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. The Nunavut government has included large and small communities whenever wildlife is 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 it now, I now give you the opportunity.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. My second question is: if you got elected as 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 the 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. Like I stated in my opening remarks, 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, if early diagnoses occurred with telehealth and satellite access, 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 grandchildren, families, 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. 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. Approximately 613 children were born and by the time 2017 ends, perhaps this number will increase. They will all need employment opportunities. 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, legislation 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 it. 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 in order to change areas that are not working.

Certainly this touches on housing needs. We need to relook at some of the policies that we have in terms of housing, whether it's staff housing or public housing. Those are the main areas that we have heard so much from all our communities. 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. I also thank the member for asking the question. During my campaign in our community and Naujaat, a father came and told 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. 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. Towntongie.

Ms. Towntongie (interpretation): Thank you. I have been a 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 we need to be compassionate and understanding. I think those are the priorities for me, including 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. 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 need to have a good understanding of those issues and that's how I see a leader. I think I'm capable of doing that, so 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 that, as a leader, we should allow our staff to run with the ball. Let them not be afraid to make any mistakes because as a 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 tell 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 no 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? No matter what people do or don't do, there are effects on everywhere. Everything is related and closely tied together. I look at the big picture and make 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 that if he is going to have another question, we will break for lunch once they respond to it. Mr. Kusugak.

Mr. Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. 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 Nunavut Tunngavik, 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 for the Nunavut Leadership Forum 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. Welcome, members. 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? *Koana*, 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. I don't think it would be feasible to have it go by that much by that quickly and you asked about the timeline. We would have to wait for retirements and people leaving the job.

Currently the government does do their best to live up to Article 23. As 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. 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. 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. (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. Over the briefings that we got from the various departments, they had a very rigorous Inuit employment plan and I think it's very good.

However, I don't believe in promoting anyone in higher positions of 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. I am all for Article 23, but just for the sake of filling that number I think

we would go the wrong way. As the Premier, I would encourage more training within these departments. That is my answer, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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 for the \$255 million fund.

Previously the Government of Nunavut received \$10,000 annually to provide training. 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. If there are 100 positions, 89 are held by Inuit who are employed at the lowest level like 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. 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 is we have to take into consideration that 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 levels are even lower.

I would ask where Inuit have strengths, as all of us sitting here are aware of the fact that we have no northern university, even though we may want a northern university, especially when we were younger. It wasn't possible to accomplish. I have felt that Inuit who are looking for job opportunities should have their relevant experience reviewed. Even if the Inuit don't have paper qualifications, many Inuit are very skilled at repairing equipment, such as small engine repairs on the land.

What opportunities will we provide to the young people? Not everyone wants to 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 the agreement we signed in 2015. I'll speak in English. (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 numerous occasions and as I indicated earlier, we created Nunavut because we have to abide by the agreement as the government.

Just recently approximately \$50 million was set aside specifically related to Article 23. This \$50 million fund requires a careful review of how we can use it and what purposes this fund will be used for. This is specific to Article 23. Further, if we are going to use this \$50 million fund, if you recall, it was made available by NTI and the federal government came to an understanding outside of the court case. We need to review the purposes of this fund, so we would need to identify areas that need funding.

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. We have 25 community learning centres 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 education. 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 it gathering dust on the shelf. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. If you want to ask your second question, Ms. Kamingoak, I now give you the floor.

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? *Koana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. *Qujannamiik* for that question. (interpretation) As a government, we would like to see more employment opportunities for people of Nunavut. We saw the Iqaluit airport was constructed as a P3 project. (interpretation ends) This is a success story. (interpretation) We can possibly look at that as a P3 project. If they wanted to continue with it as a P3 project, I would want to work with the people of the Kitikmeot. Sometimes it's hard to find jobs in order to put food on the table, but we have to make sure that it's environmentally friendly in accordance with the Nunavut Agreement. 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, in the environmental hearings at the current stage. 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. 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. With respect to the business, I met with them in 2013-14 when I was the president of NTI.

I have reviewed the consideration for the port and road project from Izok Road from various mineral claims around Kugluktuk to the Kitikmeot coast as many claims are in that area. 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 we can develop and enhance and how we can enhance 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. That is why the previous government supported this initiative.

Further, this support has to continue as it means that when large capital projects developed in Nunavut can proceed, they 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 an opportunity for the Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes, to ask a question.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Rumbolt brought up 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. 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. Indeed, that is understandable and based on my understanding and knowledge, the previous government drafted many pieces of (interpretation ends) legislation (interpretation) which comprises the largest number ever since Nunavut was created, so I am really proud of this effort. As well, the legislation specified several new initiatives. If the House supports these pieces of legislation, I will support all of them as well.

If it is going to work toward the benefit or improvement of life, that is how we come up with legislation. I have no choice but to support the legislation and bills that are passed in the House and I have supported all of them. Obviously we represent Nunavummiut as Members of the Legislative Assembly. I have supported all the bills that were introduced by the previous government. We will have more bills to introduce.

The first bill would revolve around the draft education legislation that has to be introduced and we need to deal with the new *Education Act*. I would also like to amend the (interpretation ends) social development (interpretation) legislation. Inuit have maintained that this isn't supporting the Inuit cultural values, which many of us have been informed about. We have heard from our people that this legislation needs to be amended to conform to Inuit traditional ways.

Furthermore, when looking at policies and rules, as an example, I really want to be succinct here and state it properly. When legislation places too many barriers to our residents, we have to remove the obstacles to succeed. I would call them (interpretation ends) obstacles (interpretation) that we would need to remove.

As an example, if we looked at legislation such as that regarding housing specifically, there are too many obstacles preventing Inuit from getting private homes in face of the

housing shortage. This shortage is one we hear about every year. We need to look at how we can alleviate this shortage based on the legislation surrounding government housing, as well as the public housing legislation that we also need to amend and change.

These are the concerns I believe that need to be addressed and amended so that they can conform to Inuit beliefs. 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) I thank you for the question, colleague. I haven't really followed the legislation for the specific question George mentioned to the plebiscite on the *Liquor Act*. I think we have a golden opportunity to make amendments into the Act so that the government could be forced to have a dry centre because we don't have anything in Nunavut. If Premier, I would introduce amendments to the Act so that the government will be forced to have a healing centre which we badly need across Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was in support of the pieces of legislation passed by our previous government. Actually all members were in support of the legislation and due to this support, the legislation was passed. We approved them and I support the legislation.

With respect to new legislation, we all approved amendments to legislation which we dealt with in that Assembly as members. Nonetheless, the legislation that may be problematic would have to be reviewed, and amendments can be made to any legislation. I would support a review of legislation if required.

One thing that I note that is going to have an impact with the government is the draft legislation for education. In 2019 they will be providing bilingual education up to grade 12. We all know here that at this time we cannot meet that legislative requirement. This timeline is now too short to accommodate the requirement for providing bilingual education within that year, as it is slightly over a year left where the bilingual education including Inuktitut will not be completed. It would have to take three to four years of training if they're going to be teaching properly in Inuktitut.

The Inuktitut teachers will require training in order to provide the proper classes with Inuktitut, but the teachers also have to be certified. We cannot just hire people from the street who are fluent in Inuktitut because our children are our future. They need proper education and they have to 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 it has to be amended so that we can improve the legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This was spoken about related specifically to women only and men only issues. I have not spoken about this in the past, but in my tenure as the president of NTI I watched an Inuk elder who was being denigrated for her language.

Based on how I was brought up, I was advised to always be proud of elders. I take pride in many people, many Inuit, irrespective of whether they are male or female. What I spoke to was to advocate on behalf of the elder as I wanted to take on all the critics who were putting down this elder, to face me instead 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 with 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 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 as 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. Hickee, 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. Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you thought 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 have made that was unpopular. How did you implement the change? How did you handle the criticism or opposition? Did you change people's 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 people” 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 I 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. When fulfilling the role of a leader, sometimes it can be confusing as to which areas will not be approved or which areas will be disconcerting to residents. It is hard to forecast. If you recall, the work related to the *Education Act* became contentious and we had to work to try to incorporate the changes, but it wasn’t passed. We all know it wasn’t passed.

Nonetheless, I would like to be completely open as I was open to all ideas previously. If the legislation may cause concerns or since it caused concerns, I would immediately 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, I know we will occasionally find that we have made 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 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. I would now like to give the floor 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 Premier, whoever will be elected; 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. When I responded earlier, Inuktitut and English languages are used for instruction up to grade 12. The curriculum, such as (interpretation ends) math, science, and physics, (interpretation) is included. As to when it would be available in Inuktitut that is equally the same as the English lessons, it is hard to answer and I can't really respond to it right now.

We don't have enough qualified Inuktitut teachers. With regard to the number of teachers we may need or those who wish to become teachers, I don't have an idea as to what that would be. We already have the capacity to train Inuit teachers through the program, but we can't just grab an Inuk who may not wish to teach if they are qualified.

I don't know how many Inuktitut teachers we require nor do I know how many will graduate as this is still unclear. Yes, positions have been stated that we can encourage Inuit to try to become teachers, people who are fluent in Inuktitut. However, we still lack fully qualified Inuktitut teachers who can teach in both Inuktitut and English, so we have a lack of teachers overall.

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

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

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was filled with pride when I went to Greenland to conduct research on their education system. Today in Greenland the students all graduate. Looking at their foundation of education, I noted that their system has higher mathematic levels in Inuktitut. When you go back to Nunavut, we don't have that type of level.

For the last ten years the Government of Nunavut has operated the Department of Education. The current education legislation had a target date of 2020 for providing fully bilingual education in Inuktitut and English. It is quite obvious that as a government, 2020 is too close at this time. However, we have been sidetracked for ten years since the year is getting really close. We also know that we lack Inuktitut teachers in the education system.

We will need to collaborate with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the various Inuit organizations as they don't agree with the direction being taken. Further, in looking at the

organizations involved with education, the DEAs need to be properly set up to ensure they are fully involved. If we can push the date past 2020, we would only be able to proceed by cooperating fully with these organizations. That is our only course of action.

The legislation has provisions speaking to how we can improve the system. What we need to do is look for the (interpretation ends) best practices (interpretation) in English and we can find examples throughout the northern regions. This is how I can answer, as we have examples already existing in Inuktitut, with higher mathematical curriculum already used that we can adopt from Greenland. I was proud to see their accomplishments.

The ability to speak in English and the ability to speak Inuktitut have to be our shared goal so that it is equal. We all must follow that goal to succeed. I am proud of the fact that when many long-time residents of Nunavut refuse to learn Inuktitut, I can see John Main, who is fully fluent, and so is Pat. I also know people in other nations, such as in Israel where, if you don't speak their language, (interpretation ends) Hebrew, (interpretation) and you came from Russia to emigrate there, you have seven months prior to having to learn Hebrew.

I don't know where the bottleneck is here in Nunavut because you are all leaders. If we don't want to lose our language, then we have to search for the answers 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 draft 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 the issues here. I don't think only one person can state that this will be implemented by this date. We have to work together to deliberate on this matter. We have to pick a date for when we can complete that task, and one person cannot dictate this arbitrarily. We will definitely have to review the draft legislation.

We will also have to review the schools in our communities again to see where they stand. It was mentioned that we need more Inuktitut teachers. There are such issues we as all MLAs will have to look at carefully. We must have confidence in ourselves that we are able to do this. For those reasons, we will have to spend a lot of money as a future government 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, we have to think about it carefully, and we have to hear from our communities.

Perhaps we need to have discussions with the Inuit organizations 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 and 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 does anyone in this room know what (interpretation ends) physics or chemistry (interpretation) is in Inuktitut? Is it understandable? We should not 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. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Qirngnuq, do you want to ask the second now or later? If you want to ask you second question now, I give you the floor.

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 implemented. 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."

If we're going to use that, and I'm trying to shorten my language, we need to recognize grandparents' 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): You are finished. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a really good question. If you recall, this was brought up in the previous government. It's obvious that we can feel it. We all know that *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* is a huge issue. It's (interpretation ends) very comprehensive. (interpretation) 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 aboriginal people's 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 Qaujimajatuqangit*, 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. 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 Qaujimajatuqangit* 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 Qaujimajatuqangit* can be made part of the legislation related to life or social counselling values.

As per my earlier statement, *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* 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 Qaujimajatuqangit* 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 Qaujimajatuqangit* and what it encompasses. I have yet to see

anything in writing on the definition of what IQ is. Although we maintain *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* 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. However, currently *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* 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 a different knowledge base today than before. Is *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* ever changing or is it a never changing subject?

The question was raised as to how we can incorporate this into legislation, but it is hard to define the parameters without a proper defined statement of the meaning. I do know that one value is to keep families together, but IQ includes life skills and it 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 Qaujimagatuqangit*? 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 Qaujimagatuqangit* and the usage therein.

I have been advised in the past by elders to not take a particular route as the travel through that area would be too difficult. That is one of the aspects of IQ that I am familiar with. When I returned, I would tell the elder that I had taken that route who told me not to use that route and I explained what I found. I explained that it was a boulder-strewn area and the elders have responded that this route has been known for generations as being hard.

However, when the government introduces new legislation, there is always a statement about using *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*. We also have the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit that works on terms. We also have an elders committee. They are already in existence and I am content with the current set-up related to the traditional knowledge aspect. I, too, can't really speak in detail about this issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Mr. Chairman, my first question is very short. I would like to ask the candidates: as I'm sure you will have a lot of responsibilities and a lot of work to do to make things a reality, what kind of working relationship will you have with the regular members when they're reviewing 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 and for wanting to find out more. That is something I am proud of.

Indeed, as per my earlier statement, the Members of the Legislative Assembly and the cabinet members will have to form a close working relationship. What I feel needs more work is the relationship between members and the government. My perspective is to ask how to improve this relationship. Where can we develop a working relationship? We should not just pretend we are always in opposition to each other, but we should look at ways to working together to resolve issues. I have put much thought into this matter.

Perhaps with a different process of operations, we will move forward. What I tend to think of is the fact that this government has to provide a distinct change in the way it operates. We are situated in Nunavut and shouldn't just copy other jurisdictions in Canada, but to try to operate distinctly and not just use provincial models here in our country. We should be different as we are Inuit.

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 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. (interpretation ends) We can look at different systems. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 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 I still 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 the members usually 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 (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my fellow member for his question.

I would have an open-door policy to the regular members here. We need to work together as we have intense challenges to face in the future. I would want to have a meeting to identify the problem that has arisen and to brainstorm ways to try to resolve these challenges with the regular 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 not having a 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 (interpretation): As I indicated earlier, everyone 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 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, if you want to ask your second question, I now give you the floor.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My second question is also very short. 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 undertaken a great deal of interactions with the Canadian government. What I know now is the fact that as the Nunavut government, we are placed in the same category as non-northern jurisdictions when the federal government is distributing funds nationwide. The premise for a nationwide fund distribution has to be turned the other way because the population figures are used on a (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. 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 need 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.

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 the federal government understands 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 uniqueness 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, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. 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. 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, it 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."

My attitude would still be the same as your Premier with the federal government. You show them your need. You let them know that you're a person. We're a person. We need the needs, and you have a good working relationship with them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Before we proceed, we will take a 15-minute break. I invite the visitors in the gallery to the foyer for light refreshments. Members, you can go to the lounge for refreshments. We will take a 15-minute break.

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

Chairman (interpretation): We can now 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): Thank you. 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 it, 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 and ask them 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. As the leader can't fire a minister, I would have to go through 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 mid-term review of the ministers and the Premier where the mandates are reviewed in light of accomplishments towards the stated goals. This mid-term 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 it would determine if the minister is kept or ousted from cabinet. This would follow the process (interpretation ends) after two years (interpretation) where this mid-term 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 resolve the issue 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 to ask it. 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 the Premier? (interpretation) 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 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 of them already have a liquor plebiscite where they determine if their community will be dry or wet. 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 the 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 have talked to people. 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. 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, we will have to deal with this issue during our term as Members of the Legislative Assembly. 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.

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 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 of 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 now give the floor to the Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Akeegok.

Mr. Akeegok (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 fewer 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 need to look at federal programs, such as Nutrition North. We need to work with Canada and 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, 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. Is this happening right now?

>>*Laughter*

I consider plans very important as an elected representative and I will pose two questions to the candidates for 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 have you conducted research in that area?

Many directives are documented from the (interpretation ends) First Assembly (interpretation) related to (interpretation ends) healthy communities, self-sufficiency, simplifying government. (interpretation) That is one area and the other mandates were specific to the (interpretation ends) Second Assembly (interpretation) with *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. Towntongie.

Ms. Towntongie (interpretation): The second and third governments worked with Nunavut Tunngavik on several mandates, such as the Clyde River protocol, 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 and we should use it 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 *Sivumut Abluqta*. 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, *Sivumut 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. Towntongie (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 asked how we can we improve housing programs. You stated that you went door to door in Iqaluit-Sinaa 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. Thank you. I am making my response short.

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 so that I 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. (interpretation ends) I do recall my new colleague there has a real passion for addressing the chronic housing issues. If I remember correctly, she 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, if you have a question, 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 road and port, 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.

There is a provision within the educational legislation 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 the decision of whether 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 and 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 still have to 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 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. 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. What consensus is all about is working together despite our differences. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Towntongie: As a leader I have always tried to avoid personality politics. I have dealt with all different types of individuals at the national, international, regional and territorial levels. What I have found is the issues and the facts and deal with structures. As a government we will 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. 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 when these fossil fuels are burned, they 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 (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the question. 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 will ever really be independent or never have to use any fossil fuels, but we have to look for ways to address that. What I just mentioned about solar energy and wind power, certainly with those avenues, 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. Towntongie (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 have always been pushing for a power line from Churchill. It's only 180 miles away from the closest community. 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 that 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. 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, if you have another question, I give you 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 resource 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: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 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 an 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. As per previous comments, perhaps 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.

The public service commission is in operation in the Yukon. 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. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (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. Netser.

Mr. Netser (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 they are. 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 is 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 Nunavut Tunngavik, 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) What we found when we did the review, which is available to read, is that Inuktitut language service provision for Nunavut on a monthly basis was \$3,062. The whole of Nunavut receives \$3,000 for English services per month and \$62 for Inuktitut services. That is how it is structured.

If I became the Premier, what I envision is 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 ask our public service to put together all the information for the three languages and increase the funding to improve language standards. If we don't do that, we will lose our language, especially when people who speak French are more numerous. This is what Quebec did and their 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 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 the 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. 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 Piquisilivvik 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. Joanasié (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 like 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, they can undertake construction of housing projects by working together. 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.

The government itself isn't capable of providing the number of units required to meet our housing shortage. Due to that reason, 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 part of the NWT, I used to be a renter from the NWT housing corporation. When the (interpretation ends) HAP program (interpretation) 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 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 practise 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. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (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 such issues as economic development in the Kitikmeot, Kivalliq, and all of Nunavut? That's my question. 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. We all have to dig into our minds and see where small communities can start off and involve them in identifying what needs to be done. For example, it turns out that a small community can generate income through fisheries, tourism, dealing with polar bears, arts and crafts.

If small communities want to go somewhere, 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. Definitely communities each have different strengths and starting points.

Keeping small communities in mind, I have really heard from our hunters and they have been hunting from the beginning while producing income to spend on fuel and other supplies to bring home food from hunting. When the hunters return home, they share their catch with their fellow Inuit out of the goodness of their hearts, even after spending a lot of money for hunting. Somehow the hunters are able to come up with the money that enables them to bring home country food, such as seal meat and land animal meat.

How can hunters be given assistance for their generosity? 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 who don't hunt and there are quite a few who 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 those who build 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. I'm really looking at where the small communities 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. 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 materials 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.

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 when it comes to 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 funding levels for the Department of Health. The department works really hard to provide services, and as Nunavut Inuit we 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. 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, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): 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 supplementary appropriations 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. They're always applying for funds. It's not my department, so I'm not sure how much money they get, but I know it's a lot of money.

As Premier, I would still be 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 allocating 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 transportation is very expensive. We have telehealth now through the Internet. They can diagnose now through the computer to see what treatment is needed. I know that when a person who is ill is sent to the south, sometimes they're not seen, resulting in a lot of money being spent throughout Nunavut. This would be my priority.

When we're talking about funding, we also have to think 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 doctors. I once learned something from an elder. She said this

young woman was shy for getting an abortion. The elderly woman knew what was happening despite not being told by a doctor when the young woman's hair started falling out. She told her that she shouldn't be shy. She got pregnant and chose to get 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 but also you, 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 the NAM group recommendations. A working relationship is good. Relationships are good, but the municipalities across the territories, across the three regions 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 the 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. Thank you, 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 we can address that is the hamlets are free from... . As government, when we give out contracts or give out a 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 their storage/garage 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. One way we can save a lot of money is to give them 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 their concerns are about the students or the youth having 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 how I can respond to that properly. (interpretation ends) If you select me as Premier, I would have to do environmental scanning of the whole departments.

In reality Nunavut needs a diversified economy. We cannot rely on just the government to provide opportunities. We need to diversify so that there will be jobs in the communities that are not decentralized, but the specific 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 the 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 deal with decentralization in the short term, but how we can stabilize these needs in the long term. 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 that were asked. In order for the process to go smoothly, we will be handing out the ballots to you and we will be setting up the voting table in the middle.

I think it would be best if Ms. Angnakak and Ms. Sheutiapik be the first ones to proceed to the voting table. I think that would be the best way to go. You can exit to my left and right. I wish the candidates for Premier (interpretation ends) good luck. (interpretation) 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.

>>*Applause*

I also thank all of my children. Thank you.

This comment will not be long. Let's have good success in the next 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): Thank you. Go destroy the ballots now.

>>*Laughter*

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 (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to nominate the Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, 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 accept. Thank you.

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

Mr. 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 accept, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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, Simeon Mikkungwak.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I accept.

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. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to nominate the member next to me, Patterk.

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. Lightstone, do you accept the nomination?

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I accept.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Are there any more nominations? We're trying to determine who will speak first. We didn't know who would be nominated in the beginning, so we're going to put them in order.

We will proceed in alphabetical order by surname. We can now proceed. Mr. Akoak, you may proceed with your remarks as soon as I set up the timer. You may proceed when you are ready, Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and 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 then 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. Having lived in different parts of the territory and being 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 all of you to address the 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, for nominating me and everyone. I again seek your support for a seat in the Executive Council. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I now give the floor to Ms. Angnakak for five minutes or less.

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to thank David Joanasié. (interpretation ends) Congratulations (interpretation) to our Premier-elect. I am honoured and humbled to be before you today. I want to thank my constituents for electing me.

I am Pat Angnakak, but in Inuktitut, I am known as Patikuluk. The people of Cape Dorset gave me that name and 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 different 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-Niaqunnguú 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 that there is access to good and adequate education and quality health care 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, 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 Sheutiapik 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 the 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, I now give the floor to 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 have 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, health care, 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 has 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. Hickes. We will proceed. I'll now give the floor to Mr. Joanasié for five minutes or less.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I congratulate you again on your appointment for the prestigious role of Speaker of the Nunavut legislature. I congratulate our Premier-elect, Paul Quassa, whom we will 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 serving our people. For that reason, I would like to put my name forward 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 from 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. (interpretation) How exciting!

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I trust that each MLA will choose strong, passionate, and dedicated leaders that will be fitting voices and faces of the new cabinet we are forming today. I hope you see that reflection in me.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the people of South Baffin from Kimmirut and Cape Dorset for their support and encouragement into my next term, along with my family, 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 I thank Ms. Pat Angnakak for giving me the opportunity for a new leadership role with this nomination. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Moving on, I would like to give the floor to Mr. Kusugak for five minutes or less.

Mr. Kusugak (interpretation): I would first 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. There's no doubt we heard many different things on the campaign trail and I fully believed those who are unhappy with what Nunavut is now. Where are the things we were promised? We thought we were going to get housing and that there would be improvements to the health system. Where are the jobs Inuit were supposed to get? These are the kinds of messages that I received, and 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 would 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 in collaboration with the housing corporation and local housing associations. I want to see it actually implemented and monitor the measures we have in place.

We need to make sure that Inuit finally get the fair share of the jobs following 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 levels up at senior levels.

(interpretation) I would like to see a program for our elders because we need to bring them home. Nunavut elders fought to this day on our behalf. Now, our elders are asking

for help to live near their children. They have to live near their relatives instead of being sent far away south. We must end this practice of shipping our elders south.

It's time to finalize the *Education Act* that has the full support of Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) I have quite a few things to say about the issues we will be dealing with over the next four years, but my time here is limited. Let me just point out the two key principles that tie all these ideas together, the principles that I will 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 a community better than the community itself. We can find new ways to build capacity and provide resources to local DEAs for education and 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 highlighting 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 in their home communities. 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. Thank you for the opportunity to make my remarks, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Moving on, Mr. Lightstone, I now give you the floor.

Mr. 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 our accounting 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 the 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 to address the 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 very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Moving on, I now give the floor to Mr. Netser for five minutes or less.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, (interpretation ends) as I was saying. (interpretation) I would also 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 6 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 and it has to stop. (interpretation ends) It is called community empowerment.

(interpretation) I believe that changes have to be made in the justice department. For example, our youth understandably make mistakes now and then and end up having a criminal record for life just because they're unable to get any help. It is natural to make mistakes as youth and as we get older, we regret those mistakes and change our ways and thinking.

We must help the youth who get a criminal record. Having a criminal record makes it much harder to find jobs. We have to learn to be trustworthy and be allowed to live a different way of life. Jobs become much harder to get because of a criminal record. If we have a criminal record, we are not even able to run for office because that is against the law. This is shameful.

If elected to cabinet, this is a job I want to do. 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 cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Moving on, I will give the floor to Mr. Savikataaq for 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 support 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 longest 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 (interpretation): 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.

(interpretation) I'm very pleased that the ceremony we just took gives us a good start. I know that Mr. Enook will be a very capable Speaker and I know that we just selected the Premier. Paul Quassa has been a long-time leader. In view of that, I can say that (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 we have 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's our human resources. We have lived here for millennia, we have persevered, and 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 the capital city's organization, but I certainly was involved with all the groups that she mentioned 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 Pauktuutit. I have worked for the federal government. I have worked in the public and private sector for the past 19 years. I have been the owner of the Grind and Brew. I am a mother and entrepreneur. I believe that I have 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 health care 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 over 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, that things will 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 practising because they have been on time.

>>*Laughter*

Moving on. The last candidate is Ms. Towtongie. You have five minutes or less.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have learned how to say “thank you.” I would also like to congratulate Aarulaaq. You and I have always been competing, so I congratulate you for winning.

I have visited all the communities of Nunavut, and I have visited the homes of Inuit who asked where the Government of Nunavut is now. Our issues are the lack of housing, unemployment, and having proper infrastructure in the communities, with the need to look at all of Nunavut. I believe the leaders have to listen to our constituents since they’re the voice.

Harry Towtongie, my husband, is listening. 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, we value our territory. I value Nunavut and I love Nunavut because it’s my home. 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, 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. 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.

>>Applause

I will say the names. Elected to be one of the ministers is Mr. Akeeagok.

>>Applause

Elected to be one of the ministers is Ms. Angnakak.

>>Applause

Elected to be one of the ministers is Ms. Ehaloak.

>>Applause

Elected to be one of the ministers is Mr. Joanasie.

>>Applause

Elected to be one of the ministers is Mr. Kusugak.

>> *Applause*

Elected to be one of the ministers is Mr. Savikataaq.

>> *Applause*

And elected to be one of the ministers is Ms. Sheutiapik.

>> *Applause*

That will be the Executive Council of Nunavut. The appropriate motion will be moved in the House at its first sitting to confirm the selection.

I now ask for a motion to destroy the ballots. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Please go destroy the ballots.

Today we have met and worked 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*

