



**Nunavut Canada**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT**

**Nunavut Leadership Forum:**

**Election of Two Ministers**

Official Report

**Saturday, September 23, 2023**

## Table of Contents

Prayer.....	1
Adoption of Agenda .....	1
Nominations for Cabinet Positions.....	1
Questioning Candidates for Cabinet Positions .....	5
Election for Cabinet Positions .....	15

**Members Present:**

Hon. David Akeegok, Hon. P.J. Akeegok, Mr. Bobby Anavilok, Ms. Janet Brewster, Hon. Pamela Gross, Mr. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasié, Mr. Joëlie Kaernerck, Ms. Mary Killiktee, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Hon. John Main, Mr. Solomon Malliki, Hon. Margaret Nakashuk, Ms. Karen Nutarak, Mr. Daniel Qavvik, Ms. Joanna Quassa, Mr. Inagayuk Quqqiaq, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Mr. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Craig Simailak.

>> *Meeting commenced at 8:58*

**Prayer**

**Chairman** (Mr. Hickes): Good morning. I would like to call this meeting of the Nunavut Leadership Forum to order.

Before we proceed with the agenda, I would like to call upon the Member for Aggu to deliver the opening prayer.

>> *Prayer*

**Adoption of Agenda**

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Quassa. Members, it is my duty to convene today's proceedings of the Nunavut Leadership Forum.

All members have a copy of the procedures for the leadership selection process in front of them and the procedures have been agreed to by 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 Cabinet Positions**

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

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

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

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to nominate the member to my right, the Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Qavvik. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Qavvik, do you accept the nomination?

**Mr. Qavvik:** Yes, I accept.

**Chairman:** The member has accepted the nomination. Are there any other nominations? Ms. Nutarak.

**Ms. Nutarak:** I would like to nominate the Member of Sanirajak and Igloodik South; Amittuq. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Does the member accept the nomination?

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you. I accept. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kaernerker. The member has accepted the nomination. Are there any other nominations? Mr. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok:** I would like to nominate Bobby Anavilok. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Does the Member for Kugluktuk accept the nomination?

**Mr. Anavilok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do.

**Chairman:** The member has accepted the nomination. Are there any other nominations? Mr. Quqqiaq.

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member I was going to nominate is already nominated, so it's good. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Just for the record, I'm not the Speaker just yet. I'm chairing the Leadership Forum and after, with the proceedings, then we'll step into that hat for a moment as well. The Member has accepted the nomination. Are there any other nominations? Ms. Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I nominate Member for Uqqummiut, Ms. Killiktee. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Does the Member for Uqqummiut accept the nomination?

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): I decline. I apologize.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The member has declined the nomination. Are there any other nominations? Thank you. Seeing none. Thank you. Right now we have three members nominated: Mr. Qavvik, Mr. Kaernerker, and Mr. Anavilok.

Just bear with me for a moment so I can pick the order that the members will speak in. Thank you. We will go in alphabetical order. Like I mentioned in my opening comments, the candidates will have five minutes to speak and then we will go after that. Mr. Anavilok, you're up first.

**Mr. Anavilok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, Nunavummiut. First, I want to acknowledge Daniel Qavvik, MLA for Hudson Bay, and Joeline Kaernerker, MLA for Sanirajak, for submitting to Executive Council positions. I wish them well.

I know it's a big step for me or for anyone to submit for an Executive Council position. There are more responsibilities, and it requires more commitment from the individual to work with any portfolio that serves all of the communities in Nunavut.

I would be consistent in helping, as I did for my constituency, but if voted in, I intend to be consistent for all of the Nunavut communities, working closely and openly with regular members who strongly advocate for their communities they represent, and to also work with all government departments to help make all Nunavut communities strong and healthy. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Next name. You have five minutes available to you, Mr. Kaernerk.

**Mr. Kaernerk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, colleagues. Good morning to the people of Amittuq and I warmly welcome Nunavummiut who are watching the proceedings of the leadership forum. Good morning.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the Member for Tununig for nominating me. To my constituents of Amittuq, I thank you for being able to be here again today. As you probably know, I should have said at the beginning, you probably remember the song *Let's Have Tea Together*, but it is Saturday. We call it *Sivataarvik*, so I think a biscuit would be appropriate. I believe humour is a good part of politics.

First of all, when I was first elected, my goodness, those were the most embarrassing times and I would get really hot too, however, I started out representing the constituents in my riding and that is first and foremost. That is where I was, and that is where I am now.

We have to learn the proceedings at our own pace, and we did talk about different matters that are important. So that is what we've done to date. I have made mistakes, I have made adjustments, and only through errors do you make for the better.

If you have a belief and a passion, and if you have a goal, you work hard to pursue it. Obviously, we travel here, leaving behind our families to attend our sessions here at the capital of Nunavut.

One of my foundations is *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*, or Inuit traditional knowledge, as that is something I find very informative and interesting and to help ensure that our elders are repatriated back to Nunavut.

Again, we must collaboratively enact decisions, which is something that I have also placed as a priority. At our retreat in Cambridge Bay, the *Katujjiluta* mandate was drafted, and I will pursue these goals. Working together cooperatively is the route we must follow to ensure that the vision we have for Nunavut becomes a reality and our foundation.

(interpretation ends) First of all I would like to thank the MLA for Tununig for nominating me. I would like to touch on the IQ principles that I have talked about during the Fifth Assembly. I have been really vocal and I have been really advocating for my constituents as hard as I can. There are sacrifices I have made and the mistakes I have made; I have learned from those mistakes. Once you learn and once you believe, you can do some common good for Nunavummiut. It's a hard learning process at times, and my, my, I had to learn the hardest way at times. When I learn the way I am, I move forward. I would like to see this government moving forward rather than going back. That is my goal of trying to get to the ministerial- [level.] I believe in myself and I am ready.

(interpretation) I thank you and good luck. Thank you.

**Chairman:** We'll go to the next candidate: Mr. Qavvik.

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr.

Chairman and good morning colleagues, people of Nunavut, and thank you again, to the people of Sanikiluaq. I would also like to thank the Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak for nominating me.

I will introduce myself first of all. I am a husband and a father to five children. Like many Nunavummiut, I enjoy spending my time out on the land. In the spring of 2013, I completed and received a diploma at the Environmental Technology Program here in Iqaluit. In that same year of fall 2013, I became a conservation officer, employed by the Department of Environment. I held that career for seven years.

As you all know, I have been a Member of this Legislative Assembly for close to two years now. It has been challenging and rewarding at the same time. After two years of being an MLA, I have gained some confidence to run for Executive Council, to advocate within my full potential for the people of Nunavut and for the betterment of our youth and elders and our territory.

I will outline what my priorities are.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman and colleagues, we have sat as MLAs for a period of two years now, and to date, specific initiatives for our elders are still not developed as we see no examples yet. If I am selected for the executive, elders' issues will be my priority within the government.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman and colleagues, the future of our youth depends on education, education, and more education. In my personal view, education begins at the forefront of our daycare system.

Mr. Chairman, if elected, I want to work with the cabinet to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman and colleagues, I fully agree 100 percent with all the members in consensus that the housing shortage is a full-blown crisis here in Nunavut and it has to be our utmost priority. I wish to work with all levels of government if I am selected, and would work in partnership with all involved to work towards our stated goals in *Katujjiluta* mandate regarding housing.

(interpretation ends) The opportunity of boosting our economy is viable, with our current and future economic opportunities for a blue economy, mining, tourist destinations, and future alternative energy. If elected, I want to work with the cabinet to create more local jobs and assist all residents, whoever is interested in opening small businesses.

Mr. Chairman and colleagues, mental health and addiction programs are areas I want to work with the cabinet to achieve for the future of our next generation to end the cycle of suicide, trauma, and mental health issues.

Mr. Chairman and colleagues, our government is a consensus style government. We are all independent MLAs with the roles and responsibilities as elected officials. If you choose to elect me today, I am open to fairness, equality, and transparency as a minister.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman and colleagues, two years have already

passed, with still many issues yet to be resolved and ahead of us, and although we only have two more years in our term, a large amount of work remains that we can develop into results by collaboratively working together.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, that is my statement for this morning. I thank you all for listening to me today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

### **Questioning Candidates for Cabinet Positions**

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Qavvik. With the rules that we had agreed to in Full Caucus, any member may ask one question of the candidates. I will now open the floor for questions. Mr. Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning. This question I wish to pose towards the candidates revolves around health, which comprises a major portion of government operational challenges throughout Nunavut, and my question towards the prospective ministers is: in looking at your constituents and Nunavummiut as a whole, how should health care be managed and what is your vision towards achieving that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Anavilok, you're first.

**Mr. Anavilok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How would healthcare be dealt with? I see first, gathering the community and visiting community to get detailed information from all members of the communities on their concerns, and work with the other departments, such as patient relations,

maybe, and other entities that might be also in the communities. I think that dealing directly with the communities and all individuals in the communities, to get there, and hear their concerns. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaernek.

**Mr. Kaernek** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for that question on healthcare issues. Indeed, ever since the Fifth Assembly of the Legislative Assembly, I too worked diligently on health issues, especially related to mental health challenges our residents face, and in looking at their difficulties, this too is something I have seen become a priority.

I would like to enhance services provided to Nunavummiut, in using mental health as an example of how tangible changes can be made without revolutionary ideas, and this is what I would first concentrate on to see where we can improve our services. All systems can be enhanced, and with all systems being capable of being improved, and with the focus on health issues, we are still seeing areas requiring improvement in our communities related to health, so I would first focus on our communities.

Another matter I would look at is legislation, and the bill being debated to become legislation is the *Mental Health Act* to seek real solutions for people facing mental health challenges. I would first review that with colleagues to see where we can look to improve our services within the Department of Health as the minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, and finally Mr. Qavvik, same question.

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the member for the question. One of our biggest moves in our territory is in regard to the medical travel for our Nunavut people. There needs to be improvement in the ways that we, as a government, move our people down to southern Canada for treatment, and also programs that can be relevant to our Inuit societal values. For example, mental health and addiction programs are areas that we need to improve, and I look forward to the opening of the Nunavut Recovery Centre that will improve the lives of our people in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Next name I have on my list, Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and to the members present at this forum. This process has become necessary due to the steps required to ensure the required numbers through this leadership forum.

To the candidates, I wish to pose this question to you all. The workload is tremendous in this area under the Government of Nunavut operations connected directly to our communities. Now, I want to ask you this: can you highlight, if possible, one issue you would pursue if you were selected, just as an example.

What exactly have you observed or noted that in your estimation, requires prioritizing and further emphasis? What are your foremost priorities, which you can speak to directly within our government which you feel needs to be

placed in the first category based on our representations? I mean, our constituents as the priority within the government operations and the requirement to meet commitments. What would you bring to the government that is the base that you feel needs change? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Killiktee. Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for the question. Ever since I was first elected as the member representing my riding, the biggest issue I have noted is the need to increase the number of Inuit employees within our government.

Now, this includes as we sit in the Legislative Assembly, the Premier of Nunavut who has introduced new positions such as (interpretation ends) Associate Deputy Minister (interpretation) as they are called, and I have observed that very clearly. Another issue relates to this fact: we still have two years left in our mandate, and this period will expire quickly, so we must quickly determine the priorities to focus on during this time period.

We must also ensure our smaller non-decentralized communities are included in this review and I try to ensure they are considered for every government initiative. This has been one of my focal points since the first time I made a statement during the Fifth Assembly. Again, I will continue to advocate these ideas, and in keeping everything equitable between larger and smaller communities which will remain a priority.

When developing priorities, if this process is rushed, then the priorities tend to be short-sighted so to speak, so I would concentrate on communication, debates and negotiations to resolve them and that would be my focus. When a process is hurried, problems tend to crop up, however, I believe more emphasis must be made towards our smaller communities and this will continue to be something I advocate. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Qavvik, same question.

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. (interpretation) During my first campaign in running to become a member, the utmost priority was to ensure Inuit elders issues are resolved.

Throughout Nunavut, we have elders in every community, and smaller communities also face the same issues as they too have elders locally, yet without these elders we would not be here and it is due to their hard work we are able to be here today.

Our ancestors ensured our survival, and our society would soon collapse if elders were taken away. This will continue to be a priority if I am selected for this, along with my wish to conduct a careful review of the operations under the portfolios. I just spoke earlier about the work to date revolving around the challenges faced by our elders, especially poor service provision.

They should be one of our critical priorities, especially in reading the language used in the *Katujjiluta* mandate we developed, as currently elders are almost an afterthought with only

southern institutions viewed as options. We are slowly making progress and we must look to our future to plan out proper elder care in our territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Qavvik. Mr. Anavilok, same question.

**Mr. Anavilok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Apologies for not rising earlier. I would like to thank the member for that question.

Priorities for me would be to get down to the base of the communities to find out all the concerns and all the real concerns and get our government to get all in all, they have dealing with the communities and help communities in ways that their concerns are brought, using all the technologies for the concerns. The priorities would be to evaluate everything, what the government can do to help these communities in Nunavut and take it from there and try to solve as equally as possible, using all departments and all the community members. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Next member to ask a question: Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question for the three cabinet candidates is: what do you believe to be the most significant traits necessary to be an effective leader on the Executive Council and minister responsible for departments and territorial corporations as they provide services to Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. The first candidate to respond will be Mr. Qavvik.

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. I believe the areas where we need to improve is within trades and apprenticeship. One of the government's priorities is to build housing in our territory. We need to train our youth and people of Nunavut to have the skills to be employed. Areas for the corporations, I believe in the opportunities of providing alternative energy to our Nunavut communities, as a government, so that we can lower our carbon emissions as our federal government imposed upon us to achieve for our future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Next candidate to respond to the same question: Mr. Anavilok.

**Mr. Anavilok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for the question. I think the traits that one should bring is to find the real cause of the government is for employees in Nunavut; we lack behind in the government employment and training, and to fill more positions for the government and all the positions for the government and all positions in the communities that are not taken. There is, I think, a lack of training. We need more training for all of the Nunavut communities, and one should bring what the government has to offer in the communities, look into the communities, and see where we can start there and all the communities have all these spaces where there's employment unfilled, and the youth need to be informed. They need to get involved with the

communities through the government to help Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Anavilok. Mr. Kaernek.

**Mr. Kaernek:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank you, member, for asking about the trades. As we all know, when it comes to trades, there are more... . Let me put it this way: when we are trying to strategize for how we can diversify our economy and when it comes to trade in the mining sector, it's not just the mining sector, but if we can actually see it as a whole, when it comes to arts and crafts, tourism, and how we can promote small businesses in communities, I think it's the way to strategize how we can make these resources more available in the communities. That's how I see it.

Also, when it comes to these harvesters, we have to support them. It is their daily lives going hunting and harvesting for the community and so I think the best approach would be to enhance and support those harvesters, and not just the harvesters; we have to see the whole aspect of the trades. That would be my [answer]. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The next member to ask questions of the candidates: Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I congratulate the three who are running for cabinet. We have three choices, and they put a lot of thought into this before running.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, we have been working with all of the MLAs, whether we are ministers or regular MLAs and we all know each other pretty well now. It's been two years, so my question is going to be aimed towards commitment, commitment into doing the work as a minister.

Mr. Chairman, we all know that to become a minister you make sacrifices, whether it be family, friends, and relocating here to Iqaluit as a minister. As a minister, the roles and responsibilities are huge. To be an effective minister, you have to be here in Iqaluit for a lot of time; the time necessary.

I will come up with two examples. When I first became a minister in 2015, I lived in the hotel for just about two months waiting for a house because the job is important. I know of another minister that lived in a hotel for almost six months until a house was available to relocate here. So I ask each one of the candidates: how soon will you be relocating to Iqaluit to work... ? They will be working as a minister right away. How soon can relocate to Iqaluit, and that will determine commitments whether they say "one week, two weeks, six months" and please don't say "until a house is found." Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The first candidate to respond will be Mr. Anavilok.

**Mr. Anavilok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Commitment, I believe, I thought about this and even when I first started being an MLA I knew I had to be committed, and there would have to be

some things that I would lay back on; for instance, the big one is hunting. The commitment, I think that is what I'm going to have to do. I'm going to do that more is be committed to what I'm going to be doing if elected. I have to let go of some activities at home for sure, and the biggest one is hunting.

I have friends and family that also do it and that can do it for me, so that commitment there is strong for me to be here and to help for all of Nunavummiut, all of the communities, and to help with the government and all of the departments.

How soon? I thought of that too for quite some time since I noted that Executive Council was open. I feel ready. Any time is good enough for me and I just need to find on the way that I would deal with [relocating] family, all the equipment I use for hunting or anything at home, but I know that I would have to find issue. I know that I'm going to find issues that if I have to locate and I'm ready to locate as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The next candidate: Mr. Kaernek.

**Mr. Kaernek:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for the question on commitment. As I just stated in my opening comments, I stated that there are mistakes that I have made, but I will put a 100 percent effort into how committed if I get elected. I will prove that I will make a commitment. You are right. There are sacrifices that we have made leaving our family members back home and so that is a commitment of how we can help Nunavummiut. I will put my commitment to this strategy and I will let

go of the things I have done in the past. As you guys know, when I put effort and commitment to the job I am seeking, I put 100 percent effort into it. I am sure committed and I will be more committed if I get elected.

For the other question: yes, I will be willing to move here with in a matter of two weeks, or so. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The next candidate to respond, Mr. Qavvik.

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question from the member. I'll answer the question in two parts. How soon will I want to be in Iqaluit if you elect me today? I want to start working on Monday, this coming Monday.

I have been a student. I know what it feels like. I was here in Iqaluit for college and I was here for two years, being away for six months a time. That is my first part.

Commitment-wise, I am willing to learn and adapt to the changing environment. I know that it will take some time for me to get to know my material as a minister, so I may not know every policy, guidelines and procedures, but once I get to know my material, I can absorb like a sponge. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Laughter

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Qavvik. The next name I have on my list: Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, all. There are

opportunities for youth and working people to gain more education. Kivalliq has been a mining hub for over a decade now. Baffinland is operating in the Baffin and there is a possibility of the Kitikmeot region having one or two mines within the next few years.

Nunavut has a very young population and I'm wondering: if elected, what will you do to ensure Nunavummiut have the best opportunity to gain the required education to get into the mining field? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Simailak. The first candidate to respond will be Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. Under the Katujjiluta mandate, when it comes to investing in the schools, yes, it will be a priority to have our youth start their school. It really opens the foundations of how the youth can plan ahead, so it will be very interesting how we can start investing in the schools, and it is a priority here in Nunavut. There are a whole lot of other resources if they want to go to Nunavut [Sivuniksavut] down in Ottawa. It has to be a priority under the Katujjiluta mandate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The next candidate: Mr. Qavvik, same question.

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question from the member. One of our commitments in our Katujjiluta mandate is diversifying our economy. In the area of education, our mandate is to assist our youth and our people in Nunavut in regard to training fields. There are pros and cons in the

mining sector. There are disadvantages and advantages, the advantages being more Inuit being educated in the mining sector with help from Nunavut Arctic College. We cannot simply start from nowhere. We need to start from the corporation side, and also the education. This event, the mining sector, is the duration of the mining, whether it will close. This event, this part leaves our people with unemployment and that will create some tension to our youth and the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Qavvik. Mr. Anavilok.

**Mr. Anavilok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for the question. Working with the mines, I would first work with the mines directly and seek out what all positions are and from there, find out all the training that's needed, especially for the new mines. Even with the existing mines, it still needs to be done. Working with the mine closely is, I think, a big deal. You first find out what all the positions might be, and there might be some for later on in the future as to how developed the mine is and get detailed information from the mine.

I would go to the communities that might be associated and hold meetings and try to find out what needs to be worked on in the community that could be able to work in the mine, and then get back to the government and say, "okay, we can come up with these training and these apprenticeships," and we can help with the mine, work with the mine. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Next member to ask a question, Ms. Gross.

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Chairman and *quana* to all the members for putting your names forward. We appreciate you coming and sitting before us today. My question to the candidates is: what words of advice do they still carry today from an elder that has been significantly important to them in their lives? Thank you.

**Chairman:** First candidate to respond would be Mr. Qavvik.

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the member for the question. The first words that pop into my heard is *inuuqatigiitsiarniq*. We have to work together as people. (interpretation) Only through working together can we proceed, without putting anybody down. Putting somebody down could be a very heavy burden on an individual. That's first and foremost to myself. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Next candidate to respond, Mr. Anavilok.

**Mr. Anavilok:** I would like to thank the member for the question. Words of advice from elders, I think is respect for all, respecting concerns, being straightforward, and not worrying about the future, not worry about it until you get there. It's mostly respect to all that surround you, even if maybe it is somebody that doesn't agree with you, respect their thoughts. Respect goes a long ways. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaernerck, same question.

**Mr. Kaernek:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you first the question. Let me first start off by saying that I grew up from elders. The first thing that came to my mind, and I'm sure both my late parents are listening, rest in peace; the best advice that I've been given was respect one another, try to be a team player, because when we try to work on ourselves, all these obstacles are right there, but if you work together in creating the foundation that we have been given, it is real commitment that I have been shown.

Being respectful to one another is another thing. (interpretation) Perhaps I will say it this way. I grew up with elderly parents and my mother used to tell me "Don't try doing things on your own regardless of what you're working on. It makes it a lot harder if you're trying to work alone without the help of others. However, if we work together in order to complete our tasks, it makes it a lot easier, and you are more likely to succeed." To this day that is something that I still hold near and dear to my heart and thank you for that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kaernek. Next member to ask the question: Mr. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to ask this question to the candidates: would you be able or willing to expand from the needs and desires of the local constituencies to the whole territory of Nunavut so that you are fighting for, and support each and all of the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. First candidate to respond, Mr. Anavilok.

**Mr. Anavilok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to thank the member for the question. To expand, I would expand openly and honestly and with consistency to work with all of the Nunavut communities. I know they're not all the same, but we have these assurances of traditions we all share, and to make it all equal for all the communities of Nunavut and with all the entities that are involved too; private sector and everything that goes with our communities, and to help each and every one, not just the community I come from, but try to make it for all for all of Nunavut, even for the regions, to help all the regions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaernek. Same question.

**Mr. Kaernek (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for that question. (interpretation ends) When it comes advocating for our constituents, I've been very strongly vocal when it comes to advocating for my constituents, and if I get elected to Executive Council, yes, I will be in open dialogue as to how we can help one another. So yes, and I believe that equality is the way to do it in the vast territory of Nunavut. (interpretation) As representatives of our constituents, I do get nervous at times representing my constituents, and I get very hot. However, yes, I would look at the whole of Nunavut and how we can better represent the people of Nunavut and how we can be a better voice to our Nunavut communities. I would always treat everyone as equals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Same question, Mr. Qavvik.

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question from the member. As a minister, I would continue to be in dialogue with all Members of this Legislative Assembly to see what they would like to see in their communities, to see what community infrastructure they would like to be implemented for their communities.

Looking at the other side, our community local governments; we all have hamlets. I would vigorously look into the integrated community sustainability plan for each community, to see what their priorities are, what they would like to see from our government, in terms of community infrastructure and all the pieces that fall into place. That's my answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Qavvik. Next name I have on my list: Ms. Nutarak.

**Ms. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am proud of you for putting your name forward. I would like to ask a question. (interpretation ends) Conflicts can arise at times, whether from interpersonal clashes or external stressors. How do you handle conflicts on a team? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaernek, you're up.

**Mr. Kaernek** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. There will be conflicts at times, but again I would like to emphasize that it is only through

working together. There will be arguments, but I believe working together can resolve those problem areas.

If I should be elected to the Executive Council, I would treat everything with equality. There will be arguments, there will be disagreements, but I will pursue representing the people of Nunavut and focus on moving forward so that we can treat all the communities of Nunavut with equality. At times, at meetings, we do have arguments, we do have discomfort at times, and we do argue at times, but we have to put our voice forward on behalf of the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Next candidate to respond, Mr. Qavvik.

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question from the member. I have to be honest and say that's a very difficult question. In terms of how to handle conflicts would be to deal with the conflict right from the first hand, rather than deal with the conflict later, at a later time.

In terms of how I would envision to handle, as a Minister I would look at policies and guidelines and procedures in terms of how to correct the conflict to an employee. That is my answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The same question, Mr. Anavilok.

**Mr. Anavilok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for the question. Conflicts arise in every meeting or so, and there are always differences. The way I would

handle it would be to let individuals respect each other and respect their space as in the different nexus of the individuals, and respect one another. There are ways that might be difficult, but the first thing, I guess, would be to respect one another and get it noted, and later on, start to deal with the conflict and resolve it as equally as possible between individuals with no compromise and no efforts in pointing fingers. I would make it all equal and have everyone respect each other. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I have one more name on my list: Mr. Quqqiaq.

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a very tough subject to talk about; suicide prevention. I feel it has to be talked about more frequently. There are a lot of factors to suicide, and it involves all of the departments. There can be many, many factors to why one commits, and my question to the three candidates: when it comes to Executive Council meetings, will you bring this topic up during the discussions and to try and help prevent it at all costs? That is my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Quqqiaq. The first candidate to respond would be Mr. Qavvik.

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, member for that question. (interpretation) It is a very heavy subject to discuss. (interpretation ends) I have been very vocal during my time as an MLA that every life matters. (interpretation) Every life matters and it is something that I have brought up in the House at all times. (interpretation ends) From the question again, I would

speak to the Executive Council and especially the Department of Health-side, and also to the leader; the Premier.

The Premier has stated that suicide is a crisis in the beginning of our term. I will bring the subject if elected to all Executive Council to look at ways of how we can help our people in terms of training, relevant Inuit societal values, career programs that can help the people, like on-the-land training. One of the successful programs that is not on the top of my head is somewhere in the Kitikmeot area. They have a very good program there where they take men out on the land. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Same question: Mr. Anavilok.

**Mr. Anavilok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for the question.

Suicide prevention, you are right; that is a really big issue in Nunavut. As an Executive Member I would work with societies that deal with suicide prevention in all of the communities of Nunavut because you get good detailed information from the societies from working with their communities, and in turn, go to communities and really find out what is the cause of suicide prevention, and bring it to Executive Council. I know our government has entities and departments that deal with this issue, and I would get them to work with the societies and the communities directly for firsthand detailed information. I feel it works better with detailed information, and direct detailed information, working with communities, especially with suicide because it is a really strong issue, and hits and touches

everybody in Nunavut that go through suicide.

I would work closely with all of the societies and with the departments that deal with it and go right to the face of the community to talk to people. We have to talk to individuals, and then from there, you have detailed information to bring it up to the council and hopefully it would help with everything. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, and finally, Mr. Kaernerck, same question.

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I also thank the member for the question. Yes, there are many factors related to people who die suddenly due to suicide. The mothers, fathers, sisters, and brothers are thrust into this unexpected situation, and this incites extreme confusion and how our government can take this responsibility on in partnership with other levels of government.

I would be able to work with the different levels if I were to be placed in that position as this is an urgently critical matter, especially in searching for preventative measures and we must dig for further ways to impede this trend. We must look for further avenues, albeit I can make a statement here that yes, we can embargo this process because life is complicated and impossible to predict.

With that being the case, I too have lost loved ones to self-immolation. I too have lost family and although this process is extremely emotional and difficult, we can only keep pressing the message that life is precious and to tell youth not to

contemplate suicide due to its lasting negative impacts.

People who lose loved ones undergo mental stresses due to having to deal with these unexpected events, and one feels empathetic to them. If we can look at this part, it is only through intense deliberations, by speaking about the factors and causation although we cannot put a stop to it, nonetheless, we must work together to brainstorm and perhaps then our youth can work towards a better future.

If we can show them hope for the future, and a place or space to speak, then we can encourage them to visit elders to ask for advice. Actions like this are what we all know, but it requires more deliberation of all parties in my opinion to deal with this challenge. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

### **Election for Cabinet Positions**

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kaernerck. I have no more names on my list at this time. If there no more questions for the candidates, we will now proceed with balloting.

Members may fill out their ballots in their seats and after filling out the ballots, please deposit them in the ballot boxes that will be established here.

Just for the record, the Member for Cambridge Bay will receive two ballots as that member has a proxy for the Speaker. Mr. Clerk.

*>>Meeting recessed at 10:03 and resumed at 10:06*

**Chairman:** Thank you. I believe all the ballots have been accounted for. At this moment, the ballots will be taken to a secure area in the precinct for counting and we will break until the results come back. Thank you.

>>*Meeting recessed at 10:06 and resumed at 10:22*

**Chairman:** Thank you, members. The ballots have been counted.

Before I go to the results, I would just like to acknowledge Senator Patterson in attendance in the Chamber today.

>>*Applause*

Thank you for your attendance, Senator.

Members, now that we have reconvened, I wish to advise members that you have chosen the Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerk...

>>*Applause*

...and the Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Qavvik, as the next members of the Executive Council.

>>*Applause*

The appropriate motion will be moved in the House at its next sitting to formally confirm the selection.

I will now ask for a motion to destroy the ballots. Mr. Malliki.

>>*Inaudible*

To the motion. No?

**An Hon. Member:** Question.

**Chairman:** Thank you. All those in agreement. Thank you. The ballots will be destroyed. Thank you.

I now invite members-designate, Mr. Qavvik and Mr. Kaernerk, to make brief remarks, starting with Mr. Qavvik.

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Thank you. The very first thanks I give are to God for providing me with the ability to stand and for being allowed to wake up every morning. I also thank my colleagues who voted for me. I wish to express my appreciation to my constituents of Hudson Bay and I will continue to represent you firstly while I am here.

And further, I wish to thank my wife, Margaret along with our children as they have unwaveringly supported me, so thank you very much! I also want to thank my mother and my father, and I am grateful to them.

(interpretation ends) I am ready to go to the second floor and get to work.

>>*Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>*Applause*

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Qavvik. Mr. Kaernerk.

**Mr. Kaernerk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you, colleagues. I wish to make a correction to my earlier response to a question proffered by the Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak.

(interpretation ends) First of all, thank you again for your belief in me. Let me correct myself with the one question that was asked with the Iqaluit-Manirajak's question with the traits. I know the meaning of the word; I was just in too much of a hurry.

As you guys know, I'm a passionate person and I'm a hard-working individual, and now that we're not talking about trades with a "d"...

>>*Laughter*

...yes, I know the meaning of the word and that's my answer now, Adam. I'm a passionate and hard-working individual.

At the foremost, I would like to thank my spouse and Amitturmiut for believing in me, and the next two years, I know, are going to be very short and we have a lot work to do. I am a team player and I will still have an open dialogue with the regular members. Once again, I'm greatly appreciative of your believing in me and confidence in me, and I will prove that my commitment and my effort will come into play. (interpretation) I thank you all. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

>>*Applause*

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kaernek. I would like to remind members that we will be reconvening later today at 11 a.m. In just over 30 minutes, we will have a short session. I will now declare the Nunavut Leadership Forum adjourned. Thank you.

>>*Meeting adjourned at 10:26*

