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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

Nunavut Leadership Forum

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Iqaluit

Chairperson: The Honourable Kevin O'Brien, M.L.A.

Nunavut Leadership Forum

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday November 15, 2001**

Members Present:

Honourable Olayuk Akesuk, Mr. Ovide Alakannuark, Honourable Jack Anawak, Mr. James Arvaluk, Mr. Donald Havioyak, Mr. David Iqaqrialu, Mr. Enoki Irgittuq, Honourable Peter Kattuk, Honourable Peter Kilabuk, Mr. Jobie Nutarak, Honourable Kelvin Ng, Mr. Glenn McLean, Honourable Kevin O'Brien, Honourable Paul Okalik, Honourable Ed Picco, Mr. Uriash Puqiqnak, Honourable Manitok Thompson, Mr. Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Rebekah Williams.

Opening Prayer

Chairperson (Mr. O'Brien): I would like to call on Mr. Irgittuq for the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Chairperson: Ublakkut, good morning and welcome to the Nunavut Leadership Forum. All members are aware of the rules that apply to the discussions over the next few days and just a reminder that the rules of quorum and dress are the same as if we were in normal session.

In reference to the agenda and procedures, do members agree to adopt the agenda and procedures and proceed with the Nunavut Leadership Forum. Do we have agreement.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Thank you. Members, just a reminder that the proceedings for the next few days will be covered by the various medias, including local TV here in Iqaluit. I would like to call on Mr. Irgittuq to make a statement on behalf of the regular members. Mr. Irgittuq, you have the floor for ten minutes.

Opening Statements

Mr. Irgittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will try to use my time wisely. Thank you, Members, Ministers and Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to address the Assembly today in the first leadership review in Nunavut.

As Chairperson of the Regular Members' Caucus, I want to introduce the process that we will follow for review. To give you some history, when we elected the Premier and the Cabinet in our first leadership forum in March 1999, we agreed that there would be a mid-term review.

Since we are at the halfway point of this Assembly, we are holding this review. We are not influenced by events in the NWT, in the rest of Canada or the rest of the world. This is our own Nunavut agenda and timetable that we agreed to two and a half years ago.

It is part of our commitment for transparency and accountability of the government and the Legislative Assembly. Members at any time can review the performance of the government or the performance of a particular minister. We agreed at the beginning to wait until the mid-term leadership review to talk about these issues.

As a new government we needed to get people to learn their job and carry out their initiatives. We are still new and as we enter the second half of our term it is an opportunity to reflect on the leadership to date. Over the next two days we will hear statements from the Cabinet about the work that they have accomplished over the last two years.

I know it will be an impressive list because a lot has been done. And I am sure the ministers will tell us the status of their current initiatives and perhaps new ones as well in their statements.

Over the next two days we will hear statements from the regular members and they will be directing questions to each minister. They will say how they feel about the leadership of the last two years and their hopes for the future. And they will ask questions about policies and their communities.

This Leadership Review is not a popularity contest. It is not about who we like or who we hate, as some people in the media have said. We like all the members of the Cabinet. We voted them into their position because we have confidence that they can provide good leadership to the Government of Nunavut.

The members will have some observations and some concerns about some things that have happened and some things that have not happened. For example, it is good that we have the Barthust Mandate but it is not good that Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit has not been incorporated into any government departments. This is an opportunity to talk about those things, good and bad. This is a consensus government and we will learn from this leadership review how we can all do our jobs better and put priority on the policies that are important to Nunavummiut.

After I finish speaking now, the Premier will speak for fifteen minutes. The regular members will then each have an opportunity to make a five minute statement if they wish. Then each member may ask up to five questions of the Premier. After the Premier is finished, we will hear from the ministers one at a time. The order for the ministers was chosen by drawing their names from a hat. Each minister is as important as the others. It doesn't matter who goes first and who goes last.

The minister will make a statement for ten minutes and then each member will have an opportunity to make a three minute statement. Then the members may ask questions of the minister. The members have agreed to only ask ten questions in total to all of the ministers, plus two supplementary questions to each question. We expect that the

leadership review will be completed in two days. However, if we need more time we would consider that tomorrow.

After the statements and the questions have been completed for the Premier and the ministers, the regular members will prepare a report on the leadership review and table it in the House. The report will contain recommendations based on what we have learned over those two days.

This process is what we agreed on Mr. Chairman. It's a little bit different than the usual day in the House but in many ways it is also very similar. The Speaker will chair the proceedings using the normal rules of the House.

Mr. Chairman I have a lengthy statement and I was wondering if I could have some more time.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Irqittuq. We had agreed on a specified time. I'll agree to allow for a few minutes if all the members agree to that.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Proceed.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For example, the chair will advise on the agreed upon time limits so some members will have to keep their comments short.

Now I would like to make comments about our hopes for the leadership review. Since this review is about leadership, the regular members discussed what it means to be a good leader in Nunavut and I would like to list a few of the qualities that the members believe are important. Members may say more about this in their statements.

Leaders are honest and truthful. They have completed the tasks that they have taken on and followed through with their responsibilities to the end. They don't make decisions on their own. They ask for input from others.

A good minister has good communication skills and keeps the people out there updated on what his or her department is doing. They work together with the rest of the Cabinet. They keep other Cabinet ministers well informed so that they can get their support. They keep regular members informed so that they can gain their support. They work hard to implement the platforms that they campaign on and are accountable to the people in their constituency and to all the people of Nunavut.

A good leader is a person who can go forward without being intimidated. They make the hard decisions without trying to please everyone in the best interests of Nunavut. A good leader is consistent in his lifestyle out there in the public and in the House and is also a good role model for our youth. A good leader is addressing the needs in all the

communities and not just the communities of the ministers. They make plans to make a good foundation for the future.

Those are some qualities of good leadership that we hope to see in our ministers. As we have said, the main purpose of the review is to look at whether the ministers are doing their job well. How will we do this.

We will look at what issues were identified as priorities at the beginning of the mandate and what progress has been made over the last two years. We will look at how they do their job. Are they responding to questions and enquiries from the members and the public in a timely manner. Are they identifying the resources they need to carry out of the mandates of their departments. Are they carrying out the Bathurst Mandate. Is Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit being implemented into their departments. Are they giving leadership to their departments.

These are the aspects of what we will be looking at in the leadership review. Mr. Chairman, since we were elected we have a pretty good idea of what has to be changed for the better for Nunavummiut.

Regular members are interested in policies and in changes to way the way things were but we want to see changes that improve people's lives. As one of the members, an elder member has advised us and I quote "We are sort of disciplining the Cabinet" end of quote.

This is what the leadership review is about. These are my comments Mr. Chairman. I know that my colleagues will have intelligent things to say, they will be frank and have vigorous discussions about the leadership in Nunavut, and we will become stronger for having had this review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Irqittuq. The next speaker is Premier Okalik. Premier, you have fifteen minutes.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning. Good morning, colleagues and to the members. As we approach the end of the year 2001, we are taking time to reflect that we are at the mid point of our mandate as a government and as elected Members of this Assembly.

The spring and summer seem to have flown and our days of camping on the land and enjoying the heat of the sun have slipped away. And as well the time since the establishment of the government two and a half years ago has swiftly passed. Although we know that Nunavut has existed in the hearts and minds of our ancestors for millennia, we as a government are in our infancy. We are in the midst of finding our way, of learning to balance ourselves. We have just begun to set our feet back upon the path of independence. In this early development we're anxious to go quickly and make the changes quickly that many Nunavummiut hope to see.

(interpretation ends) And sometimes we have had to retrace our steps, yet we have not been afraid to try new things, for example the single time zone. We have also not been afraid to listen and act in the best interests of all Nunavummiut. I welcome this opportunity to reflect upon my time as Premier and the honour and confidence you as Members of this Legislative Assembly bestowed upon me on March 5 of 1999 when you selected me to lead our government.

Since that time, it has meant many personal sacrifices but I'm committed to completing the job I was elected to do. I have not lost any of my enthusiasm and determination to help Nunavummiut realize the dreams they have for our government and the renewed hope for much improved lives for themselves and their families.

During this time as well, there have been numerous people who have supported me and my work. There are too many to name, however I want to share my successes with them and assure them that their assistance and encouragement has been immeasurable. The results we have achieved illustrates we are on the right path.

(interpretation) Very early on, our government asked Nunavummiut to tell us about their goals and ambitions. From the responses we received we formulated the Bathurst Mandate to guide us in our decision making.

We also identified two of our priorities, those of Education and Housing. I recall the glorious days in the summer of 1999 in Baker Lake when as a full caucus, we discussed the mandate and chose to support the principles and goals contained therein.

One of the core principles of that mandate is that people come first. As leaders, I believe what we have tried to do is in the best interests of all Nunavummiut within the constraints of the tremendous challenges we face.

(interpretation ends) It is no easy task but we are keeping in mind that people come first as the focus of the attention of our government. During the next couple of days you will be posing many questions to my ministers and myself as you examine and review our work as your Executive Council.

I will spend a couple of minutes providing a brief overview of some of our work. In one of our earlier decisions we removed the administrative areas between Nunavummiut and ourselves by removing Health and Education Boards. This made elected representatives more accountable, especially in the decision making process. We will continue to remove some of the barriers in operations.

(interpretation) I believe education and training are the keys to our future. Strong self-esteem is important if Nunavummiut are to choose what is best for themselves and their families. It is vital to Nunavummiut to provide the conditions to pursue an education from which to make those life enhancing decisions. As you know, a significant portion of our population is under the age of 25 and has specific education needs.

I fundamentally believe that education brings up numerous opportunities and it is this variety of choices that Nunavummiut expect as a concrete outcome of the formation of our government. We can embrace the philosophical dream of Nunavut, but as a government we must deliver the tangible results that are expected.

(interpretation ends) A significant portion of our budget has been allocated to this department. We have been constructing and renovating schools so our children will have a healthy area in which to study. We will take the initiative in the classroom to better educate our youth.

The Minister of Education will no doubt elaborate on many of the initiatives that our government has undertaken to reflect this commitment. As well we must provide training and employment opportunities for all Nunavummiut who desire to go beyond their current situation and pursue their career dreams, and in so doing, enhance our social conditions so Nunavummiut will be able to take advantage of choices provided to them. I am of the view that our government has been able to accomplish some of these goals. Yet we humbly acknowledge there is still much to do.

(interpretation) For decades Nunavummiut were held back from career development because of a lack of opportunity, lack of education and the lack of cultural understanding by non-Inuit.

Language barriers sometimes made it impossible for most Nunavummiut to pursue their dreams. Our government has begun to address this deficiency through a number of channels. We are in the midst of refining Inuit Employment Plans to guide our departments in hiring and training. In terms of employment levels, we have not yet reached our goal of a government fully reflective of the population it serves.

But the strides we have made since April 1, 1999 are enormous. Not since the 1950's have Nunavummiut been in a position to guide their destinies as they have been in recent years through participation in the public service at the highest levels.

(interpretation ends) Since April 1, 1999, our government has introduced specific programs in key sectors such as nurse and teacher training to increase Inuit employment in these areas of the workforce. We have also supported the establishment of a law school program, which began this year. I am pleased to report that high school graduations are up and enrolment in education training courses are on the rise. These all add to our goals in relation to Inuit employment.

Decentralization is another area that contributes to local employment for many of our residents. Through decentralization, Nunavummiut have had and will continue to have, access to specific job related training. Many have been able to find work with the Nunavut Government in their home community. Good paying jobs that provide secure income for their family. We are currently in Phase 2 of a three phase plan to decentralize government operations. Since becoming a government we have relocated 134 positions with another 62 positions to be relocated in Phase 3.

In addition, 222 incremental positions are in the process of being filled. To date all ten decentralized communities have had some positions staffed and we expect full decentralization to be completed by the end of our mandate.

(interpretation) There have been some communities in which positions identified prior to the establishment of the government have been altered. We are committed to seeking alternatives in reaching our targeted employment numbers in these effected communities. We have chosen to take a three phase approach to this key initiative in order that Nunavummiut are best able to benefit from training opportunities and obtain the necessary skills to take on these positions.

This protracted approach also allows our government to reassess the previously identified housing needs related to staffing these positions in the most efficient way possible.

(interpretation ends) As I mentioned, housing is a priority for our government. Nunavut has suffered greatly since the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation suspended activity in this area. Despite a modest budget, our government has allocated funding for the construction of 150 public housing units throughout the territory to allow Nunavummiut to improve their living conditions.

We realize that this only scratches the surface of what is actually required in our communities. I have asked the Prime Minister when the Federal Government will fulfil their commitments in this area of having more houses, knowing this will effect a significant number of our residents.

As we wait for a positive response we will continue to search for our own solutions.

(interpretation ends) Culture is an integral part of the lives of Nunavummiut. Our government is committed to implementing Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit within the workings of our public service.

In developing new programs and policies and in reviewing those that currently exist, Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit will provide the context in which we develop an open, responsive and accountable government, a government which reflects the aspirations of the people that it serves.

To reflect the importance of our culture a new department was created in the government structure to ensure that Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is not only a philosophical ideal, but also a tangible reflection of why our government is one in which people come first. As this new department continues to develop, we will see culture recognized and celebrated in more areas throughout our government and across the territory.

(interpretation ends) It is essential to work with our partner organizations in advancing the goals of Nunavut. In October 1999 our government signed a Clyde River Protocol

with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to guide us in our relationship and to ensure our government fulfils its commitment to Inuit under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

This foundation document allows our government to chart progress on various issues of importance to the population of Nunavut as a whole, but of particular concern to the Inuit of Nunavut.

(interpretation) To date this has been a positive and productive relationship through which we have been able to achieve significant progress on numerous issues. For example, through this partnership we developed NNI, the business incentive policy introduced by our government in Rankin Inlet to address our responsibilities under Article 24 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

Within the context of this relationship, I have also followed through on my commitment to examine the federal gun legislation, and if necessary challenge that in court. Currently our government holds intervenor status in the NTI court challenge in relation to the legislation. And we continue to work with this organization towards a viable solution for Nunavummiut. Under the protocol our government and NTI have been able to advance work on implementing the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

Inuit Impact Benefits Agreements under Article 8 are nearing completion. We intend to introduce a new Wildlife Act next year to implement the provisions of Article 5, which includes protecting Inuit harvesting rights and reflecting the core management system currently in place.

(interpretation ends) Our government has also developed strong relationships outside our territory with provincial and territorial partners. Participation at the Annual Premiers' Conferences has given me the opportunity to educate my colleagues across the country about the realities and challenges we are facing in Nunavut.

I have been encouraged by the increasing support of the Canadian Premiers to our situation as a new jurisdiction working through our policy and financial challenges.

(interpretation) One significant area of advancement has been in the recognition that per capita funding of national programs does not work for the benefit of Nunavummiut. Through my efforts at these conferences, as well as one on one meetings with my counterparts, Premiers across the country support our call to the Federal Government to re-examine how its national programs are funded for our territory in order that we may begin to see realistic, tangible benefits from these programs.

Our government has also taken advantage of close ties with our neighbours to sign Memoranda of Understanding to enhance our working relationships. We have agreements in place with Manitoba, the Yukon and the NWT as well as Greenland.

(interpretation ends) I would be remiss if I did not speak of our relationship between Nunavut and the Government of Canada. We are all keenly aware that a significant

majority of our funding flows from Ottawa and our dependency on federal financing has been well documented in the media in southern Canada.

Since April 1, 1999, our government has been working with many federal departments to educate decision makers about our realities, challenges and enormous potential. There is still much work to be done and I dream of a day when Nunavut has the fruits and benefits that other jurisdictions enjoy, whether these be economic development programs, transportation and infrastructure support, a satisfactory share of the commercial fisheries or resource royalties from our lands and waters.

We have been able to make progress in some bi-lateral interdepartmental negotiations such as health, transportation and more recently, finance. We are optimistic about the aforementioned.

(interpretation) During the past two years our government has focused significant attention on providing quality programs and services to our residents as well as developing and amending policies to reflect Nunavut and Nunavummiut. During a recent Cabinet retreat in Repulse Bay, we spent two days focusing our attention exclusively on the key elements of an economic strategy for Nunavut.

Economic development is vital to the success of Nunavut. We are aware of the vast potential in the territory in a number of sectors and we must develop a strategy that will enable various groups to work with our government in realizing this potential. We will not work on the strategy in isolation. Once we have a draft prepared later this year, I will encourage the full participation of this Assembly, Inuit organizations, various levels of government, the business community and Nunavummiut.

This input will be vital and valuable if the government is to enter into successful partnerships. (interpretation ends) As we develop the strategy we will look for innovative thinking and ways in which we can tap into our potential while maintaining the delicate balance between the environment and our traditional ways.

As I said, we will be seeking input on developing an economic strategy that will benefit Nunavummiut, and in particular those smaller communities outside the decentralization plan. Next year we will see the closure of two mines in the high arctic. This is yet another challenge our government will face in terms of providing employment for our residents.

We will be looking for solutions to this daunting challenge and we must be in a position to make the most of any opportunities that arise. Statistics reveal that our economy is growing, albeit slowly. This is encouraging and we want to continue in that positive direction.

(interpretation) I remarked earlier that the Bathurst Mandate guides us in our decision making. We have been able to achieve some of the goals set out in the mandate and we are working towards reaching our vision of 2020. I believe that Nunavut has had a strong, positive beginning and I want to ensure that we are in an even stronger position next year.

We must continue our work until we reach or surpass the standard of living enjoyed by other Canadians in our country.

We understand our challenges and we have faced them with determination and vigour. We will continue on our path and I welcome and value your contribution in working together to complete the important work we have begun.

(interpretation ends) Thus far as Premier, I have met with each and every one of you in this Assembly. I have visited or tried to visit, weather permitting, every Nunavut community. I have found the discussions informative and very productive. We have been able to resolve many issues and concerns. I look forward to continuing these relationships and by working together achieving what is best for Nunavummiut.

We are on our path to putting in place the conditions for Nunavummiut to realize the goals they identified in the Bathurst Mandate. I believe we are also on our way to creating a territory where our residents have the hope to dream and the confidence and inspiration to fulfil those dreams. I embrace the challenge ahead to continue this work. Merci, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Premier, I ask that you remain at the witness table. Each member will have five minutes for a statement if you wish and after that we'll break for a few minutes. Members, are there any statements. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'm very happy to speak today in this first leadership review in Nunavut. I thank the Premier for his comments and also the Chair of the Regular Members' Caucus for his comments earlier.

First, I first want to make some general comments about leadership and then make my comments about the Premier. I believe that a good leader should think of all the people of Nunavut and go forward with the wishes of the people to the best of their abilities. Good leaders should be accountable to the people and to the regular members of the legislature and keep the public and MLAs informed by giving out information as it is needed.

Whatever religion people are, whether they are Inuk or non-Inuk, the leaders should represent them equally and should represent all communities equally and everybody in Nunavut, keeping in mind that people are all the same. When you look at an individual to see whether they are a good leader or not it is important that leaders should be accountable to the people who voted for them and not think of themselves as being in a higher position than the ordinary public.

A good leader should be responsive and interact with them equally as if each one is on the same level that he is. This is the way it used to be. These were the qualities of a good leader back then and should be now.

Also, they should be able to organize themselves to do a good job to inform the public and ordinary Members of the Legislative Assembly of all the programs and changes the government is planning so that everyone is informed at the same time.

A good leader should be a good person and should never change the way he is if he is good. This is what I am hoping for in the leadership of Nunavut. Mr. Chairman, for the Premier the way I see him at this time is as a good person and a very educated person in doing his job.

But he doesn't always follow the wishes of the Inuit people. For example, last summer he seemed to make decisions the Qallunaaq way. He didn't follow the wishes of the people. The year before he pushed the single time zone on the people, he did not consult the people to find out what they wanted. He made the legislation right away for the same time zone. He seemed to put the wishes of the people on the back bench. He seems to do things he wants. These are my comments for now Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Alakannuark. Members' Statements. Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try to make my statement very brief. Mr. Chairman, to start off I want to thank the Premier for his comments and make a few comments about my own hopes for the leadership review and good leadership.

When we elected the Premier back in 1999, we did not just do it for the heck of it, although the government system is not our traditional way of life. If we had governed in an Inuit way we would not be judging whether our leaders are good or not, as we are doing today. We would not be doing this today.

But, our leaders say that they will be incorporating Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit within the system. Since our government is new and since we are using the parliamentary procedures of Canada we have to use them even though we are Inuit people and even though the Inuit population is the majority of Nunavut.

We have to use it as a new government. If we run our government with our own system it would be different and since we are using the parliamentary procedures we have to use the government system.

Mr. Chairman, the procedure we are following today is good because we interact and communicate with our Cabinet members and they understand some of the statements we make. For example, there was a lot of displeasure in regards to the time zone decision. In those days I felt as if the Cabinet didn't want to follow our wishes and the wishes of the people of Nunavut. When bills are tabled we discuss the contents of the bill and then if

we used our procedures and voted for the time zone, I am sure it would not have passed, but it was already done before we had a chance to make the decision.

Even though it wasn't approved it was going ahead. As regular members if we were given that information we would not have discussed it for a whole month. If we were told that it was going to be implemented whether we supported it or not, we would not have dragged it on for such a long time because we have other issues to deal with that were more important.

For that reason, if the government is going to table a new bill, the regular members should be informed as to whether the government will take our input or not. So these are the examples that I am using. If we were given a clearer understanding we would have made more informed decisions. A good leader should be honest and true and this is a fact. This is not a game, it is very serious and we would like to get our values back. We are still using a system that contradicts our way of life, because we have to abide by legislation. The Inuit people wanted to get money because they have never been given any form of funding.

The Federal Government should have been paying for these things but because of legislation we aren't using the Inuit values. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

Chairperson: Thank you Mr. Irqittuq, for keeping to your allotted time. Next member is Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will also make my statements brief. Mr. Chairman, I am looking forward to the leadership review. At the beginning of our term we said that we wanted a leadership review. I am sure the other members have come up with excellent comments that we will hear over the next few days.

During this process I am going to ask some intelligent questions and represent my communities' concerns to the ministers as best I can. I am sure the other 26 communities have concerns that they wish to raise and their members will be raising their concerns. I thank the Premier for his comments and also the Chairperson of the Regular Members' Caucus for his comments earlier.

Mr. Chairman, when we were elected in 1999, the ministers got together and came up with the Bathurst Mandate. This document is a good example of leadership because the government wrote down what it wanted to do. But a lot of what is in there hasn't been done.

This is probably because the government doesn't have a lot of money. But there are some important things that haven't been done and I hope our leadership review will look at these things.

Education is a priority in Nunavut and this is one of the areas that haven't been really developed. During the Premier's opening statements he talked about the government not having a lot of money.

They are working towards putting more houses in communities. But like I said in Gjoa Haven there are 20 people living in one house. This is huge overcrowding and we seem to not be dealing with this problem.

This affects a lot of people and it will take good leadership to address this problem. We feel for the families that have to live in overcrowded houses and we have to correct this problem.

We have worked on decentralization and with decentralization we were going to put new infrastructure in the communities. But a lot of equipment still needs to be improved in the communities, when during decentralization we recognize that the population is going to increase in each community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My time is up.

>> *Applause*

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Puqignak. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I have to speak quickly just to be able to finish my statement. I would like to thank the Premier for his comments and for the work that he and his Cabinet has done to date.

The Bathurst Mandate that was put together and the work that was done in Baker Lake is something that members support. We are not against what was put together but we are concerned about what has been done to date.

Our concern is about the money that is being spent on employment of civil servants. We have concerns about whether the money is being allocated equally. So this is something that I would like the government to look into and I hope that this is something that the Cabinet will look at. I was going to make my comments brief, so I just wanted to make that comment.

The other area that I wanted to speak about is our elders. We respect our elders. In the community, when an elder is not able to go out hunting any more, we try to provide for them and their family. We work with the elders to get information from them about traditional knowledge because we feel that their knowledge is very important to us. As an individual we try to work with them and I am wondering why the government does not approach those with much experience.

For example, there are individuals that helped create Nunavut through the ITC for over 30 years. What have we done to thank them. In the Inuit organizations we see a lot of

Inuit that have worked with different organizations, but to date the government does not seem to recognize the work that these people do.

For instance, these individuals could be hired to work as Deputy Ministers or Assistant Deputy Ministers and in the different boards and agencies. I think we need to start using the knowledge of individuals that have worked with Inuit organizations and hire them or work with them within our boards and agencies. There are a lot of former leaders that we can work with and these are people that have worked to create Nunavut.

So these are areas that I would like the government to look at. I would also like the government to look into transportation. With the high cost of living, the airlines need to be looked into to try and lower the high cost of living in Nunavut. I think my time is up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

Chairperson: Thank you. Members' Statements. Mr. Haviyok.

Mr. Haviyok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going to read this in English so I can complete it quickly.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, I am proud to address the House on this important occasion. This is the first leadership review of the first Government of Nunavut. As we said right from the beginning, all MLAs are accountable to their constituents and the ministers of the government are accountable to Nunavut.

It is important that the government keeps their commitments and this leadership review will allow us to do this. I thank the Premier for his comments and also the Chairperson of the Regular Members' Caucus for his earlier comments.

The leadership review gives us an opportunity to receive updates from the Cabinet on what they are accomplishing and it is my hope that it will allow us to ask questions.

Are we going the right direction. If we are off the track from the Nunavut plan we can use this review to get ourselves back on track. I'm not looking at this review in a negative way. Perhaps this review will allow Members of the Legislative Assembly something that should have been done by ministers in a timely way.

We all know that expectations are very high for the first Government of Nunavut. We can't expect them to accomplish everything. Sometimes these things take time to do. Some things need to be done sooner rather than later.

I am worried about our youth who really need our assistance. We should be working with elders and youth together and this is not happening. Cabinet says that Culture, Language, Elders & Youth is important. Yet they are not following through with funding to allow

the Department of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth to carry out what is important to work properly.

It is not a budget priority. But the needs identified by youth are not just the responsibility of one department. The whole government needs to show leadership for youth and each department must do more within their mandate.

Since this is the leadership review I want to comment on what makes a good leader. I think the leadership should be a good example to the youth. A leader should always keep his or her ears open in the communities and in all of Nunavut.

They should be able to work with the issues that need to be addressed instead of keeping things inside and working on them alone. They should be aware of their surroundings in their communities and what is happening in Nunavut.

A good leader should be a true open and accessible. I would like to see all the ministers show this to be truly open and accessible. For the Premier it is most important for his leadership that he has a good working relationship with other Cabinet and regular Members of the Legislative Assembly.

He must also have a good relationship with the Commissioner of Nunavut and the other levels of government. We ask to make sure issues that are on the table are not forgotten about. The Premier works with Cabinet on a level basis, but he must put more effort into working with the regular Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Some ministers are very open to the Members of the Legislative Assembly and listen to them. Some respond to letters in a timely manner and some don't. Sometimes they find ways to ask us questions without really answering them. They answer but not really dealing with the problem the Members of the Legislative Assembly are trying to bring to their attention. I would like to see the Premier discipline the ministers when they are behaving this way to the Members of the Legislative Assembly in the House and in their dealings with the Members of the Legislative Assembly.

The Premier must not only have a good working relationship with the Cabinet, he must show leadership in the Cabinet as well as control. There may be some times that the ministers need some support. The Premier should be saying I will help you on this or we will find answers together.

This is especially important to the new government which is trying to establish new programs and changes....

I have a few more paragraphs here, can I ask for an extension.

Chairperson: Do members agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Proceed.

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Premier is the most experienced with Federal/Provincial matters, setting the priority areas such as housing and health. Is he giving additional support to his ministers when they go to the Federal Government. If the Premier identifies weaknesses in the ministers' performance, he should be providing support and advice. If necessary, give the ministers an opportunity to be more effective in different departments.

He is doing a good job, but needs to do more on this. Mr. Chairman, those are my comments. Thank you. But I will be asking more, raising more issues later on. Koana.

>>*Applause*

Chairperson: Thank you. The next member to speak is Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is an honour to participate in the first leadership review in Nunavut on behalf of my constituents and on behalf of all Nunavummiut. I thank the Premier for his comments and also the Chairperson of the Regular Members' Caucus for his comments as well.

(interpretation ends) I would like to praise the government for producing the Bathurst Mandate as an example of forward looking leadership. It was an innovative step to set out short and long term goals for the Cabinet in the very early stages. It also provides a standard to measure the performance of the government. The government also showed leadership by initiating a number of departmental policy review processes, such as the income support review and the establishment of the law reform commission to review a number of pieces of legislation for Nunavut.

The Cabinet itself held a number of focus retreats to develop new policies that are more appropriate for Nunavut. I believe that the Cabinet has been working to make Nunavut a better place to live for its residents.

(interpretation) However, I feel the government has to re-focus and re-direct its efforts in two key directions. When Nunavut was created, all of the communities looked forward to being more involved with a new government in determining their future. Over the last two and a half years, a lot of emphasis has been put on decentralized communities. Deputy Ministers and key departmental officials must go to the non-decentralized communities, become aware of their needs, understand, and appreciate what will work in each community.

If we are to encourage students to continue their post secondary education, there must be an incentive of jobs. But the students are already seeing that there are no jobs to look forward to in the smaller communities. The government must work with the non-decentralized communities to develop jobs and opportunities for their residents.

(interpretation ends) I would also like to say that the focus has been on infrastructure, staffing and decentralization in the first two and a half years. The government must now show leadership on social issues in communities, such as family violence, self-esteem, crime prevention and healthy lifestyles.

The government must provide community support to ensure that people are healthy, feel good about themselves and take more responsibility for their own lives. How can the government support people to be more responsible in their own lives. This is the question that the Cabinet must redirect its attention to in Nunavut.

(interpretation) In order to address these issues, a number of leadership qualities will be necessary. Perhaps most important is the ability to work together. The leadership cannot come from one department alone. The whole department must redirect its effort to put comprehensive and holistic approaches in place in the spirit of the healthy intersection of the body, mind, spirit and environment. This will take political will. The Cabinet will also have to be courageous enough to make hard decisions, even if they are not popular, if it's the right thing to do for Nunavummiut.

We must be committed and accountable. They must be able to listen as well as talk to the people about those issues. Lastly, the ministers must be good role models out in the community and in the House. Mr. Chairman, I would like to get unanimous consent to complete my statement.

Chairperson: Are members agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Proceed.

Ms. Williams: The Premier must be the one that leads the Cabinet and encourages them to work together. Similarly, his Department of Executive must direct and encourage the other departments to work together by giving them a clear mandate that is sensible and reasonable as well as support in resources. Policy staff across all departments need to be strong and knowledgeable about Nunavut and we need more continuity at this level in order to promote more stable policy development and government wide policies.

(interpretation) It appears to me that the Premier has earned the credibility of other provinces and Ottawa. But when he and his ministers go outside of Nunavut and Canada they must do a better job of reporting back to MLAs and to Nunavummiut on the meetings they have attended and what impact they have for Nunavut. Also that we are not creating a complex bureaucracy that confuses people needing services. We need a government that is working together to serve the people to achieve reasonable results. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These are my comments.

>>Applause

Chairperson: Thank you, Ms. Williams. The next member to speak is Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm very happy to speak today in this first leadership review in Nunavut. I thank the Premier for his comments and also the chair of the Regular Members' Caucus for his comments earlier. I agree with the comments of the Chair of the Regular Members' Caucus.

The leadership of the government has listed what it hoped to do since before Nunavut was created. They put it in a poster, the vision for Nunavut and afterwards in documents put out by the Cabinet following the Baker Lake retreat and Bathurst Mandate.

These are good principles. It would be good if the leadership could follow the principles and guidelines listed in these documents. For the Premier I would like to see him achieve what was set out in Baker Lake. What is happening in achieving those things in Nunavut. What has been actioned so far by the Premier in carrying out the Bathurst Mandate and the goals set out in the Baker Lake retreat.

The Premier should give more support to Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. If the Premier does not action those items it slows down the process. An example where leadership was not good was how the single time zone issue was handled. Communities didn't have the opportunity to provide input before there was pressure put on them. I wouldn't like to see anything done like this again.

During the territorial government days, ministers never gave the communities any information. This government says it wants to consult with communities. Information that is supposed to be distributed to communities, we all get it right now, but communities don't always get the most important information that they need to hear. It is a little bit better than under the GNWT but just a bit.

As long as legislation is not amended to what we want in Nunavut, and as long as Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and the job situation stays the same, it is not going to get any better. If we do this, then maybe things will start to change. The Premier has responsibility for his portfolio. Cabinet should help each other, but because of the lack of leadership of the Premier, the Cabinet is doing its own thing. It seems like they are unhappy because they are not working together.

They should have a project that they are working on together. Also the Premier should be able to sit down and talk to his Cabinet if they have done something that he disapproves of. He should be able to communicate with them properly. Mr. Chairman, I just have a few more comments to make if I could have an extension.

Chairperson: Are we agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Proceed.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Lastly, the Premier attends First Ministers' Conferences, but he doesn't report on these to the other ministers or in the House. These are my comments for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>*Applause*

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. The next member that wishes to speak is Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to say that from tools that were given to me by the elders, I am here to bring back the things that Nunavummiut want.

If you want to help the people of Nunavummiut and you want to help your constituents, there is a string that we can use to bring back what Nunavummiut want. I am heavily burdened because I have not continued with the wishes of the people of Nunavut. I would like all the members to know that I am heavily burdened and need some help from you. This item I am holding is a symbol to help the people in Nunavut.

You are looking at things that you have never seen before and this is how I am dressed, because I was told by the elders to bring these things that symbolize helping the people of Nunavut. These were used for hunting purposes and this is what we are still using today by getting food from the land. This is what we used at that time to carry the load when we hunted. This is what I am using, this is what is symbolized.

It is very important for the people of Nunavut. I am here to get back what the people of Nunavut wanted. I have a backpack that I use to carry back the things that the people of my community need.

I would like to thank the Chairperson of the Regular Caucus and make further comments. During this leadership review I will give you an overview of what I will be doing. Before I make any comments to the Premier, I will be participating fully in saying things that come from the bottom of my heart. I will be very frank with what I have seen over the two and a half years and I will be making those comments representing the people in my riding.

A few years ago, during the GNWT days, the people of Nunavut were not truly represented. We now have our own government and we will be working hard to achieve what we set out as our goals. We do not want to be doing the same things that the GNWT was doing, we want to truly represent the people of Nunavut and the goals that we set are achievable. With the forced growth in the communities, we have to represent our people properly. We have to look at the needs of the people of Nunavut and make rules so that we can overcome these problems.

We have seen too many people of Nunavut who are not getting jobs that were promised. If we are truly going to represent the population of Nunavut there have to be more Inuit going into these positions. We have seen the people of Nunavut and the Inuit going into management positions, but we have to see more.

These are the questions that have been raised from the people in my riding. What are we going to be doing to create more employment for the people of Nunavut and to get economic development going at the community level. The ministers and the Cabinet members have to work hard. I would like to ask for an extension to complete my statement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Please proceed.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These are the comments I would like to make, I will just be asking questions afterward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

Chairperson: The next member that wishes to speak is Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, contrary to popular belief, I don't hate any of my Cabinet colleagues, but on the odd occasion they seriously irritate me.

Mr. Chairman, I am hoping that out of this leadership review we are going to start making Cabinet aware of the policies that we inherited from the NWT that haven't changed and need to be more in line with Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and the special circumstances of Nunavut.

I would like our focus to be on policy. Good leaders are paid to make hard decisions. They need to give direction on policy that will make sense in Nunavut on matters like chronic unemployment, suicide, self-sufficiency, mining, our young population, the traditional economy and more.

Out of this review I want a commitment from Cabinet to review policy and start doing the simple little things that do not cost a lot of money. We don't need a big policy review before we can start taking actions now. The government is listening. The Repulse Bay statement about the traditional economy was good, but we need more of this. To me a good leader is someone who is caring, understanding and who helps the average person. Good leadership would make the difference in the lives of the more than 50% of our population that rely on social assistance and the almost 50% of the population that is currently enrolled in the school system.

Where are the jobs going to come from in the future. I would like to see Cabinet working together more. This is my vision for good leadership. For example, on housing. All of the

Cabinet should be working together to identify creative ways to meet the housing needs of Nunavut more effectively and more efficiently than we are doing now.

We need seniors' housing, youth housing, housing for people with disabilities, housing for people who are in custody, staff housing, rental housing, home care housing, boarding houses, tourist houses, almost every department has some interest or some program that could result in new housing initiatives or the skills to build houses. Don't get me wrong, I think the Minister Responsible for Housing is doing a good job, but our leadership model puts the responsibility all in her department alone, which is unfair.

We need a more collaborative leadership model. We need innovative projects designed for multiple housing, efficient fuel and electricity, economic development, job training, legal regimes for condominiums, and co-operative financing. If we all work together with the Federal Government, NTI, Habitats for Humanity, employment programs and the many groups that have an interest in these issues, we could come up with better ways to help people in Nunavut, within the budget and all the other limitations that we have to deal with in the north.

It is the same for drug and alcohol programs. We aren't doing treatment now in Nunavut, so we should move more on prevention programs with departments working together. One of the most effective programs in our community was the RCMP DARE program that was run in our schools. Why aren't we training Inuit RCMP Constables in the DARE program to go and work in the schools in every community in Nunavut. At least three, if not more departments could do this very easily if they were working together. Justice, Education and Health and Social Services.

Do we even have a drug and alcohol program for people in conflict with the law. These are not issues for one department alone. Same thing with Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Why are we waiting for one small department to come up with Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit policies. Every department should be working on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit initiatives from their department and they should be working together collaboratively to make this happen as well.

Why aren't elders being used in the schools to teach Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit more than a few cultural days in a year and a few sewing classes. Why aren't elders in Sustainable Development and Justice advising on how they could be running their departments and programs in line with Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Is there anything in the job interview process which recognizes the values and gives points to Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Why aren't elders involved in counselling people on some mental health issues. They are doing it now.

Why can't we make it more formal that every department has a role to play. Lastly, Mr. Chairman, not once has a minister said how we could improve as a Standing Committee. The government could be working more effectively on these policy issues with the MLAs in the Standing Committees.

The roles for everyone, Cabinet and regular members, haven't been fully enough outlined to our potential. We are learning from our mistakes and this is one thing that is good about Nunavut. I would sooner see bad leadership than none at all. If we make a mistake we just make a change and try again.

One of the things that I can say about the Premier, is the exemplary leadership that he has done on decentralization. He has committed to decentralization and he follows through and delivers. When people high up in the Department of Education were publicly saying that decentralization is not going to work, he gave them strict direction. Without this Premier, I don't think it would have happened.

I would also like to say that the Premier is receptive. I can go in and talk to him at any time, he tries to make things happen in spite of his bureaucracy. Could I have unanimous consent to continue. I have two more paragraphs.

Chairperson: Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Proceed.

Mr. McLean: Thank you. I guess the bureaucracy of the Executive & Intergovernmental Affairs is one of my key concerns with the Premier. His department, we seem to be at odds with his department officials about key issues such as decentralization on occasion, program review and policy review.

The Premier has been helping to address the leadership problems of some key officials in other government departments, but I feel he needs to look at his own department too. Another concern I have is whether the Premier has a strong enough federal connection for us in how he is ensuring that key people in his department have strong connections with the Federal Government, who is our banker.

On the national front he is excellent. When he goes on trips he is as good as anyone in the national role. He has made sure that other provinces know about the needs of Nunavut, but the Federal Government is very important to us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Chairperson: Thank you Mr. McLean. The last member to speak is Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is going to be tight, I will be asking for a little bit of time, I know when you practice it always seems to take longer than when you do it for real. So.

I guess like everyone else, I am very pleased to be able to speak at our first Nunavut Leadership Review. It is my hope that during this leadership review, some of the

concerns that we have had to date as regular members will be addressed. I hope that it will be sort of a wake up call to Cabinet that some of us are tired of the treatment that we have been getting from some of the ministers.

Some don't seem to be properly prepared to address issues raised in the House through questions, they either don't have the information, they haven't been briefed by their staff, or they don't care to give a full answer. Some of the ministers seem to be led by their staff and they are not showing leadership to their departments or to Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, the qualities I would like to see in a leader are the following. They are able to listen, they know when to be flexible and when to flex, they lead by example, they are professional and committed. They recognize that this is their job and they don't take things personally, including criticism. Perhaps most importantly for Nunavut, good leaders should build leadership in others.

The Bathurst Mandate talks about building community capacity and self-reliance in Nunavummiut. But we seem to be putting our emphasis on individual oriented leadership of ministers focusing on power, control, charisma and influence. We should be emphasizing a more team oriented leadership of the whole Cabinet and one that would truly empower people at the community level.

To achieve this leadership would be seen as a collection of skills and actions that encourage broad based participation, facilitates consensus building, distributes shared responsibilities, develops new leaders and enables groups to work effectively to achieve shared goals. This would be more consistent with the goals set out in the Bathurst Mandate.

If ministers don't have these leadership skills, more should be done to develop them. This model of leadership would also recognize the strength of each Cabinet member and by putting them together in a team, they would pool their strengths and shore up any weaknesses.

Mr. Chairman, I hope that the leadership review will help re-focus Cabinet. I want to see Cabinet more unified and going in a common direction. This is not my problem, it's his, is not the approach that we want to see in this government.

Everyone agreed to the Bathurst Mandate and Cabinet should be working together more to achieve the goals in that document. Working with the communities is the key to good leadership in Nunavut. The Bathurst Mandate boldly sets out the first priority of the government as healthy communities.

It commits that in the first five years the government will work with the communities to create within the departments of the Government of Nunavut the ability to support community capacity building and support and fund the communities and programs in a manner consistent with these plans. We are already two and a half years into our five years and I don't see much evidence that the departments are co-ordinating this.

In fact, I see the opposite happening. Department headquarters are taking on more and more decision making and community decision making is getting token support. An example of this is the draft Education Act. The Government does not seem to realize the impact it will have on the people. Our District Education Authority says they have never been consulted less on important issues effecting education. The government is supposed to be closer to the people and devolution and inclusion are supposed to help make this happen. But it seems to be going the other way.

This is not the leadership that we need in Nunavut and we must identify why this is happening. Perhaps the problem is that there are too many people in senior positions who have never lived in the communities or are very new to the north and they are disconnected from the people and the principles laid out in the Bathurst Mandate.

It is important that the government takes risks and tries things for the betterment of Nunavut. In some ways the time zone debacle was a good example of leadership. The government tried it and when there was opposition over time, said we made a mistake, and they modified what they had done. Although the process of putting the one time zone in place may have been wrong, the government learned that you can't short circuit consultation and you can't take for granted consensus or support.

Important changes effecting Nunavummiut need time for consideration and understanding as well as input from the people of Nunavut. Cabinet needs to be more aware of the political ramifications of decisions, they need more political experience and insight in the advice that they are receiving to identify how their policy and program ideas impact on communities and how the public will feel. Government isn't a business.

Mr. Chairman, I have one more paragraph, I would ask for consent to finish.

Chairperson: Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Proceed.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you. In terms of leadership of the Premier, one of the things that I have noticed and I have heard feedback on, is how good an ambassador the Premier is outside of Nunavut.

This has made others more aware of the unique needs and circumstances of Nunavut. He is articulate about the needs of Nunavut to his colleagues in the Federal/Provincial meetings and he will stand up and speak on behalf of those needs and on the needs of Nunavut to the Federal Government. He is not afraid to disagree with them.

I think he does see the bigger picture and I believe that this is important in a Premier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Chairperson: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. That concludes the Members' Statements. I think we can take a break until 11.15 and I will ask members and staff if they want to join me in the members' lounge. Thank you.

>>Leadership Forum recessed at 11.00 a.m. and resumed at 11.22 a.m.

Premier Okalik

Chairperson: We will start the question period now. Questions from regular members. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation:) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have two questions. My first question is how could the Premier have showed better leadership on the time zone issue. In this upcoming fiscal year how will they be making legislation, will you be consulting with the people first before implementing any legislation.

If you could understand me that is my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation:) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was not just our own decision. We were asked by NTI and by the Association of Municipalities to make changes to the time zone. We followed through with the recommendations. We learned from that, that we need to get input from the public, hear from the Members of the Legislative Assembly, and get input from the public.

In all of our endeavours we tried to involve the Members of the Legislative Assembly in consulting with the public on Bills and other legislation and on our decisions. We would also like to look at new things and we'd like to look at Inuit values more.

In the future I would like to look at what is best for Nunavummiut, not just borrowing systems from the other jurisdictions. So I would like to consult with Members of the Legislative Assembly along with members of the Cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation:) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My second question is how can the Premier show better leadership on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in the government. It seems like he has given this away. We state that we will incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and we used that during our platforms during the election.

Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is not coming out and it is not visible. How can we speed this issue up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Alakannuark. Mr. Premier I believe that is a new question.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, incorporating Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is a complex issue and will take some time to complete. I am sure there is more room for it. As a government when we try to make changes we can't make them in a day.

We will probably complete the review of the legislation next year and also we have set up a review on how we can incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. It is evident that we need to use Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit more within education and with the assistance of the elders we have started working on the school curricula. The elders have been very useful in supporting the teachers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Premier. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (Interpretation:) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Supplementary to my question. When, what year and what time frame do you have to incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, is it 2003. Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is not very visible. When do you plan on making it more visible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. I cannot reply on what year it will be. We need to start educating our staff on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Many of our staff are non-Inuit people and they need to be oriented on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and traditions.

We want to continue incorporating Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into the system, we are open to any suggestions, and we invite you to make your suggestions as to how we can improve it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Members' questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): I'll ask the Premier about the Bathurst Mandate and Baker Lake resolutions. What has been personally done by the Premier in carrying out the Bathurst Mandate and goals set out on the Baker Lake retreat.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are now implementing the Bathurst Mandate that was set out. Some of the items still need work, some areas have a longer time frame and our goals and objectives we hope to complete by 2020.

Our goal is to ensure that our lives can be equal to the other jurisdictions by using our language. We have attained some of the goals and we are inviting you to help us to complete them. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask another question and you can stop me when my time is up. What leadership is the Premier showing in getting Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into the government.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't quite understand his question. I would like to ask him to repeat it. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): According to the way we speak about Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, what plans does the Premier have to get Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into the government. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We could go on and on with Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, but when we make decisions we can't implement them just like that. We need to make plans, so that is what we are doing. Although we have asked for a review on all the departments, some of the issues I mentioned, such as education, we need to incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit more.

We would like Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit to be properly used, not being given lip service, we would actually like to see our government working with Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, but I know we can't do this right away, but we will strive to do it. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. Part of my statement asked if the Premier sits down and talks heart to heart with his Cabinet colleagues when he has a problem with them. Do you work with them, do you sit down and meet with the Cabinet members if they have a problem, to try and resolve the problem. Do you sit down and talk to them heart to heart. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you. That's a new question. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To date if there is a concern or something we need to resolve, we meet and discuss it. But I can't tell you

these things in detail because they are confidential. But I do meet with my colleagues from the Cabinet regularly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Since I have the opportunity to ask questions I will be asking some more on the time zone and the problem that we encountered. What did the Premier learn about leadership in Nunavut in the time zone decision after his mistakes in handling the issue. Thank you.

Chairperson: Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was not new, we stated that we want to hear from the public and that we would review the decision after a year. We had asked the members and the communities for their input and then we made the changes.

Whenever a new decision has to be made not everybody is going to agree with it. I know it is going to be the case in the future. But I don't want to be intimidated and I don't want to be scared in bringing up new initiatives. We can make corrections to the errors we made.

But if there is a request to make changes in anything I will continue to work on that because I am responsible for that. We should not be scared. If I were going to be scared of the initiatives and the decisions that I have to be making I would not be here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): I'll be going back to one of my questions earlier. Did he learn from the time zone issue when the changes were made in Nunavut and all of Nunavut was put into one time zone. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I learned from that experience and I think all the members learned from that issue. Because we learn from things like this and we learn from our mistakes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): My last question Mr. Chairman. As leaders, we have to be kept informed of what is happening in the communities and we have to have consultations with communities. Since being under the GNWT changes have been made and with those changes we have to keep communities informed.

What is the Premier doing to ensure that the communities are consulted on the most important issues. Things that come up on a daily basis, how is he keeping communities informed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. That was your fifth and final original question. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Community consultations are very important to us as a government. We try to keep a continuous effort as a government to keep the communities informed. We encourage any ideas and suggestions from the other members. When the members bring community concerns to me, it is very helpful. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Mr. Nutarak, you have two supplementaries left. Do you wish to continue now. The next member that wishes to ask a question is Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My first question is, has each department been given funding to incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some departments have funds to implement Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and some departments are looking for or trying to find funds to implement Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. We are continuing to put money aside for Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. If we need to train people to work on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in the departments we will find the funds to do so. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To add to my first question. I have concerns with all the ministers. There is a 500 thousand dollar reduction in funding for Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit leading up 2007. I am wondering how Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit could be implemented with this reduced funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Supplementary question. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, not only one department tries to work on one issue, we are trying to incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into the education system and we will continue to work with other departments to incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into different areas. Each department is working on implementing Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in their work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I could continue to ask questions regarding Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, but I will move on to a different item. As the Premier of Nunavut, I am sure that your department has worked towards trying to make your departments more efficient. What have you done about that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, if he could re-phrase his question, I didn't really understand his question.

Chairperson: The Premier is asking for the question to be re-phrased and to be more precise. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Premier do you provide good leadership within your department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. We are still trying to get a clear picture on your question. At this point we are not taking questions on individual departments. That is to follow. Mr. Premier, do you have a handle on the question he asked.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I try to work as well as I can within my department. It is my job as the Premier to lead the government, so I do try to do my best to deal with the responsibilities that I have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Further questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't really have any other questions. I will have questions for the other ministers once they are up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. The next member that wishes to speak is Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a brief statement and then just one question to the Premier. Early on with the construction of the new Baker Lake school, the Jonah Amitnaaq replacement, I was talking to the architect in the initial design stages. This company was building and designing schools in northern Manitoba on reservations.

A topic was brought up about us putting huge amounts of dollars into fire suppression storage tanks under the buildings and sprinkler systems. The conversation got to, in northern Manitoba in communities much like ours, instead of building hundreds of thousands of litres of storage tanks under the schools and sprinkler systems, they were

adding swimming pools on to the side of the schools at no additional costs. In fact the architect at the time said it was cheaper to build a swimming pool on the side of the school and use that water storage for fire suppression. If the school caught fire you just empty the swimming pool and you had pumps into the swimming pool to put the fires out.

We talk about infrastructure in our communities, and I am sure there is not one MLA that would stand up in this room and say that they don't want a swimming pool in their communities. The point that I am getting to here is that they said it would be cheaper and you would have an extra swimming pool in your community for phys-ed classes. I thought that was a very innovative idea and somebody thought about that, it was a good idea I thought.

So I said, maybe I want to try that. So I went to the first department and I am not going to say what departments they are because I don't want to pick on the departments. I went to department A and they said no we can't do that because department B, and I am talking I never went to the ministers, I went to the officials.

I went to department B and they go, yeah it's a good idea, but that's not our department. Then I went to department C and they said the same thing. Yeah, it's a good idea Glenn, but I am not sure if department A and B could agree that this is a good idea and it works within the scope of our current policies in the department.

And I'm sitting there going this is not about the policies in the department, this is about providing a swimming pool in the community for the children and providing infrastructure at a lower cost. It was an innovative idea. I didn't have the resources as an MLA in my constituency accounts to fly over and meet individually with the three ministers involved.

But you know, it's things like this that really, really come home to a territory of 27 thousand people. We have twenty seven hundred civil servants and I sometimes wonder if they're here to assist us in making the community better, in accordance with the Bathurst Mandate. I'm hoping that the department officials that are watching this today or sitting there writing this down, if they are going to design some schools in the future that they are going to use some kind of brain power to think about doing some innovative things to provide additional infrastructure in our communities.

But, I just wanted to bring this out because it was like running into three brick walls dealing with the departmental officials on simple little issues that could be innovative in Nunavut. And it's not like, you know, I wanted to build a whole different school or do something different it was just a simple, you know, response. And when I was out doing my Nunavut tourism consultations, and by the way, I tried to get to as many communities as I could. I got to thirteen before the financial reins were on again on me.

And one of the things that came up and it really hit home to me, I was in a small community, and I'm not going to say which one, an elder came up to me and said, Glenn,

we're building visitors' centres in Nunavut. We're trying to build visitors' centres in every community. And there's not one MLA in here would say no I don't want a visitors' centre. But they're only open anywhere from four to six weeks and then they're shut down and these are perfectly good facilities.

And on the other hand I hear my colleagues saying that we need youth drop-in centres in every community, mine too. And I'm thinking we have a visitors' centre that's closed forty-six weeks of the year. And I have youth groups that are meeting with me on a regular basis looking for funding from the minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth to build a new drop-in facility so they can meet with the elders to provide some kind of a drop-in centre or things like that.

But to sit down and work with the departmental officials to try to say okay we have a visitors' centre, can we expand it a bit to provide a drop-in centre. But then I'd have to go to minister E, D and F who'd probably say well our policies don't include to pay for wages or to pay for O & M on D, C and A. So my question to you, what I'm getting to here, is can you please, please sit down with your ministers and tell them or advise them to sit down with their staff and try to do a co-ordinated approach on the simple little things that won't cost us additional dollars.

And I know, if I was a minister, that I would be very territorial with my budget. I would say well oh that's my budget, you can't have it. Don't tell me what to do with my budget. But if we could have a more co-ordinated humanistic approach to try to provide opportunities and facilities in our communities then I think it would be better for all people in Nunavut.

I think over the next two years I'm going to make a point of going into your office and saying and explaining to you different things I don't think are happening in regards to maybe yes we can build a swimming pool on the side of the school and it will cost less and we'll save money. And the money that we save maybe we can open up those visitor's centres to be drop-in centres for our young people in our communities. So, that's my question today. Will you please try to make your ministers work together. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. McLean. Just to remind members that you are only permitted one statement in this whole process. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have worked closely with my Cabinet colleagues and they have been quite open to new ideas. So, if I'm told about this, that's part of my job is to try and go over, and that's our job as ministers to go over to our departments and say we want this done.

We usually work quite well together when we're doing a project together as a group of Cabinet ministers. It usually works out quite well. When we pool our resources on a given issue we tend to get a pretty good result.

So I look forward to calls from all members when an issue like that happens. Please let me know and we will try and do something about it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. The next member that wishes to speak is Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a few questions to the Premier. According to what we have heard from the Premier, he kept informing us that the gun legislation is in the courts. He stated that he is dealing with it when we ask questions in the House.

He has responded by saying that this is not our legislation and we cannot deal with it. And then he said a little while ago that he is dealing with the gun legislation. Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the Premier how much he has been dealing with the gun legislation. Can we see a written statement or written material from the Premier in regards to what they are doing with the gun legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is federal legislation and I have stated numerous times that it is such. We cannot change it as the Nunavut Government and it could only be changed by the federal government. It is being dealt with by the courts at this time. Also, even though it is in the courts we do talk with the federal government to make sure that they change it according to the wishes that we have stated before.

So we have talked with the federal government and we have given you some material in this regard. I will be able to give you some material as to what is happening with it. But I cannot say at this time how it will turn out until such time as NTI and the federal government have dealt with it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize that this is federal legislation. Do we have any say as the Nunavut Government, or how can we influence the Federal Government in regards to gun control, or are we just going to let the Federal Government do their own thing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said before that if we believe we can challenge it and win through the courts I would do this. According to the agreement that is in place, it has to be dealt with through the courts. So up until that time I can't say how it is going to come out until the courts have dealt with it. We don't know at this time what stage it is at in the courts. If we can deal with it in another way besides going through the courts, then we will try any other avenue to do this.

So we are working with NTI to deal with gun control. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you Mr. Premier. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a lot of questions about gun control but I have other questions. My last question to the Premier is not about gun control or gun legislation. The Premier said earlier in one of his responses to Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, that it is slowly being incorporated into the departments. But they mentioned the non-Inuit. Who is he speaking about that is going to be learning Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and who are going to be the teachers.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said earlier in response to one of the questions, there are a lot of non-Inuit employees within the government. We have to be able to teach them the ways of the Inuit and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit within their departments. We have to ourselves, let them know and teach them these are the ways of the Inuit. Because we can't make them Inuit, but we can teach them and instruct them as to the Inuit ways. However, at this time we can't do this overnight. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): He didn't really answer my question. He said that Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit would be taught. Our elder asked a question and his response was that he would be teaching Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and that way the departments will be able to use it more. My question is who is going to be teaching Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, and to whom.

Who will be taking that schooling in Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't really respond to that question because we are looking at it at this time and there is a committee in place that will be dealing with Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

I would like to see that being done in the future for those non-Inuit, but I can't say a certain date when this will be finished because some people learn faster than others. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you Mr. Premier. Mr. Irqittuq, if this is a supplementary question, we will proceed, if it is an original question we will wait and break for lunch.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I could re-phrase my question. Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit has to be taught. We know that. Do you have any plans

or any material, or do you have any plans for materials so that you could teach some of the non-Inuit staff Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Or are you just saying it for the sake of saying it. Is there such material. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a committee in place to deal with Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, but I am not exactly sure and I can't respond to when they will complete their work. But in various departments of the government we have this Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in place and the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth is also involved in this. But I can say that various departments are dealing with Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and there is no date set to finish dealing with it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you Mr. Premier. Mr. Iqittuq, that was your last supplementary. You have further original questions and if you wish you could continue after lunch. So we will break for lunch and report back to the chamber at 1.15. Thank you.

>>Leadership Forum recessed at 12.08 p.m. and resumed at 1.20 p.m.

Chairperson: Members we will continue with the question period with the Premier in the witness chair. We left off with Mr. Iqittuq asking questions. Proceed.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before lunch I had a question in regards to Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. I am not going to be asking any more on that because I wasn't getting any responses to it.

But I do have another question that I would like to pose to the Premier. During our sittings the regular members ask questions to the ministers in reference to our communities or to the whole of Nunavut. We ask those questions for a good reason. It is because we can't do it on our own. We are usually asking for support from the ministers. Sometimes we get good responses and support from some of the ministers. I do know that we are very limited financially.

But at times when you don't get a good response from a minister it makes it extremely difficult. When we get a response saying we have a policy or rule that prevents us doing whatever you are requesting, we want to help the people of Nunavut out there but there is a policy or regulation that prevents us from doing so.

It could be in anything that the people in our constituencies want for the community. But it is a hindrance when we have to go through these policies and regulations and it prevents us from getting what we need in our communities. I don't know how I could phrase it. I do not want to directly come out with the question that I want to lead to.

When you get a response from a minister saying something like it is another minister's responsibility, I can't do anything about it. Is that still going to be going on with this government.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To date, and whenever we can, we can always make changes to our policies and it's a living thing. If it is something that is within our portfolio we can change the policies so that we can help and support the people out there.

Even if it is a piece of legislation from outside of this government, we can always approach the Federal Government for example, and lobby on behalf of the people of Nunavut. We can talk to our counterparts and see if we can change things either through the courts or through other procedures. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To make my question a little clearer. There have been instances when I am directing my questions to a department, I have meetings with the minister, the minister agrees with me and then there are changes made. I am told that if I make those changes in my community, then I can go back to that department and an appropriate amount of money would be allocated to my community.

So, when I am told that I get extremely pleased with myself, then when that letter goes to your department it doesn't go anywhere. There are no changes. The two departments that are responsible for whatever I am requesting agree to my request, then when it goes to your department, it doesn't go anywhere after that, it doesn't get approved. Nothing happens. Then the whole thing falls apart. Is that still going to be the case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have to review all requests against our policies. If we have to be blamed, sure we can be blamed, but if it is something that was done by somebody else and if we get blamed for it there is not much we can do about it.

There are contributions that are made by the various departments and if we agreed to every request we are going to run out of money. But if another jurisdiction has made that decision, then we can lobby on your behalf, but I can't approve all requests for donations, contributions and so on. We can't agree to them all because we will run out of money. We will give you all the support you need and we will do everything I can do, but if we are going to be giving you money every time you ask for some, it's not possible, we don't have a bottomless pot of money.

We have to represent the people of Nunavut to the best of our ability. If there are things that are outside of our responsibilities we can't do it. But we will be involved in trying to fix things so we can help and represent the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is something that is good to hear. The first questions that I referred to, I was told that the government would be operating using Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and the government has said that they are all for incorporating Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. But when you get that type of response it has nothing to do with Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

We know that we get our financing from the federal government. That is one of the reasons why I am asking this question because we are still in the same situation as it was in the GNWT days.

It seems that we are a separate government now. We are the Government of Nunavut. But of course the federal government would like to see everything written and everything documented before they proceed with anything.

And we say that we as a Nunavut Government are going to be people friendly and going to be incorporating Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. That's why I keep going back to that same question over and over again. Because I don't see any changes. We are not trying new things and if it is something new we are trying to do we don't get approved for funding for it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Iqittuq is there a question there. Or just a comment.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am sure the Premier understood what I have said because I was speaking in Inuktitut. I asked him if he would deny any requests if it is not done the Qallunaaq way with everything documented and everything else.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well if we were responsible for an issue, we will take it following Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and if anybody does something wrong they have to apologize. But if you are being blamed for something that you didn't do then I don't agree with that. If there is anything embarrassing or anything that comes out then that person has to be blamed. We have written letters to the federal government in regards to some of the wrongs that have been done in the past.

If anything wrong happens we will have tell that person not to do that and apologize to the people that they've done something to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): I have no further comments. Thank you.

Chairperson: The next member that wishes to speak is Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will want to ask my questions as clearly as I can. My first question is in regards to the comments that I made in my opening statement. It is in regards to the decentralized communities in Nunavut.

The decentralized communities have had staff housing built in their communities and offices. And of course we want to work with the non-Inuit in our communities. There are more and more of them coming up to our communities. I am grateful that there are jobs that have been created because of decentralization.

Once the staff move there is an increase in the population but there is no increase in the essential services that are provided within that community. For example, water truck delivery, sewage and so on. I would like to ask the Premier about these essential services that, because of forced growth, there is not enough equipment to handle the sudden increase in population.

There is not enough equipment to provide those services. What are you going to do about that as the Premier. Have you had meetings with the ministers so that there will be adequate services provided to these communities that have forced growth. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This applies to all the communities of Nunavut, if any of the communities would like help, especially the decentralized communities. Over here with this capital plan, when you look at it you will find that there has been additional money allocated to the communities where there has been decentralization.

There has been a sudden increase in population in some of these communities and if there are additional financial resources required we should give help to those communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. I know that there is support for the communities, and I appreciate that. But in view of my other community, it seems like it is ignored at times.

We don't have equipment for sewage truck and we lack all of that equipment for essential services. We cannot go forward. So I was wondering if you could ask one of your Cabinet members to go find out what is happening in the other communities. No one, not

even one member of the Cabinet visited my community to find out what is happening there. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I have been to your community, I have heard from your Hamlet Council, and I met with the Mayor in one of your communities. We have heard about the problems, we have had to rectify the water situation, we have worked on that.

When they had a water problem in your community, we rectified that situation. When there is an urgent problem we try to respond to it right away. When Nunavut has urgent situations we try to respond to them right away. Now we are trying to make strategic plans for all of Nunavut.

Although we have various responsibilities, at this time while we have the funding it would be ideal to get some heavy equipment. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very glad to hear the response that I was searching for and I would also like to ask another question. The Cabinet stated in the Bathurst Mandate that the government departments have to incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

In view of that I would like to ask you a question. At the executive level of the government do you have an advisor on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. When you don't know the answer or when government officials don't know the answers to some of these questions have they approached this individual for advice on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. We need a foundation to develop Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and to incorporate it. Have you asked the advice of the elders when you get stuck on a decision.

For example, I know some Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and some of the members and other Inuit people have Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Members of the Legislative Assembly know Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. When we are building a foundation for Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit what are you basing it on. Do you go ask for advice from the elders when you get stuck. I was wondering if the government could base the system on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, sometimes we do ask questions. Various members of the Cabinet have been asking advice of the elders to find out what they want, especially when we were dealing with the polar bear issue. The Department of Sustainable Development Minister at that time did not go ahead and make a decision on his own but got advice from the elders on how to deal with that.

Yes, with various decisions that we have to make we get the advice of the elders. But this is not done on a daily basis, but we do ask the advice of the elders if and when it is very important. It has been very beneficial to us and at this time we don't really incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in our daily operations but perhaps next week we can find out how to deal with this in detail. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As residents of Nunavut, on behalf of all the residents of Nunavut, we have to represent all the 26 communities on Article 24. NTI and the Government of Nunavut have agreed and signed an agreement saying that they would like to work together.

We applaud this, we are very happy about it. We want to live freely in our Nunavut and also achieve our goals. Regarding Bill C-33, was it only NTI that was supposed to be involved. When they were trying to approve Bill C-33 I felt that we should have been involved in the decision making. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We were involved in the Bill C-33 issue. We worked with NTI. I told them about our support. We are keeping good communication with them. Once this is presented to us we will be able deal with it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Premier. The next member that wishes to speak is Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question for the Premier. The Bathurst Mandate talks about healthy communities as one of this government's priorities. What has been the progress with this goal. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are different areas that we cover in the Bathurst Mandate and we are dealing with different priorities like education for example. Other departments like Justice have been doing a lot of work in overhauling our laws to build on this goal of Inuit Inuuqatigichiani. There are different areas that we need to deal with to make life in Nunavut better for the people. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is my only question at the moment. But my question was regarding the holistic healthy lifestyle and I am just wondering how we are going to make healthy lifestyles widespread in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): I know the different departments will be working together on this. We need to work together to make a healthier lifestyle. It hasn't gone very far but we will be working together within the two years that are coming up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Ms. Williams, further questions.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. With this response I understand that they are going to be working further on this and as the people of Nunavut, if we want to have a healthy lifestyle we have to have a good home, good job and our young people have to be healthy.

I don't want the government to just talk about how this should be done, but actually do the work so that this will become visible. We will need to work towards self-reliance. What is the government doing so that the people of Nunavut can be self-reliant. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I spoke about this during my opening statements today. We seem to be caught up on what needs to be done, but there are areas that we still need to work on. There are improvements and we are working on what benefits need to be out there in the communities. In the years that are coming up we will be working on these areas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Ms. Williams. Mr. Haviyok.

Mr. Haviyok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted clarification. As was mentioned by my colleague regarding decentralization in Kugluktuk, Cambridge Bay and Baker Lake. There are government employees in those communities. For instance, I am aware there are 28 new jobs in my community.

Those people that are employed there have difficulties. They may be employed but there is no housing available. They don't come into the community because housing is not available. If an employee came from within Kugluktuk, they wouldn't qualify for government staff housing. They have mentioned that to me.

Is this being rectified. Those employees should be there but because of housing they are not. Is this being rectified. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we are currently assessing staff housing and hopefully in the next year we will have some concrete proposals in place, but we have to work with what we were provided. So, what we are trying to do is rectify it and we hope to start constructing additional houses that are needed for the decentralized communities for the employees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Further questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You just mentioned that you are planning and you are working on it now. But have you identified where they might be. Are you prioritizing each community where they may be needed first, or are you going to build first and do you have some deadlines to be in place soon. Koanaqutit.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we have to prioritize where we need them the most right now. Some communities are being held up, so we have to prioritize in order to get the job done. So where they are needed the most we will build first, but some communities can wait another year because the plan is to decentralize additional positions.

We have identified areas where we need them the most, but that's what we plan to do is have those houses built before our term is done and have those positions in place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Further questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe some time this week it would be nice to have a copy so I know when the decentralized communities can expect some of these staff houses, if you already know. I think you mentioned that you have already prioritized where you are going to build. So that would be good information to pass on. I would like to ask another question.

Chairperson: Continue.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will pose this question. As MLAs we speak to our constituents about what the government is up to in terms of programs and services. We get feedback from the communities as to the difficulties they run into.

We are aware that the Premier goes to different places such as Ottawa or other places. That is fine. As Regular Members of the Legislative Assembly we should hear from our Premier as to why he went to a particular conference. We should be made aware as to

when he is going and where he is going so that we can have input to him representing us and let us know prior to leaving. So that we can assist you in terms of your speeches. For instance, prior to leaving I'd like to know. I'd like to hear from you. Will you let us know where you are off to so that we can have some input as to your presentations and what not. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All anyone has to do is contact my office and they will tell you where I am and my plans. So as members request my itinerary I can provide it as I do to anyone that requests it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Any further questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We like to hear from you prior to your leaving. That is what I meant. That is fine yes your office is there. You have come back already before some of us even are aware that you left and returned. That is what I tried to say.

That should not be the case. We should be supporting each other because we are representing Nunavummiut. But we'd like to hear from you prior to your leaving so that we can assist you as much as we can. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the offer. And I would love to hear from you. I should caution you I spend over half of my time on the road. And every time I leave the country or territory I do interviews to the media and report back to the entire territory on what took place. So I will continue to do that. If you need reports, I provide reports to my Cabinet on any results of any meeting that takes place. If you want those then I can provide them to you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Any further questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your response. Let us know prior to leaving. I'll move on to another question. The Bathurst Mandate states in the year 2020, Inuinnaqtut and Inuktitut will be used within the workplace.

This is our future. In 2020 our workers within the government will use Inuinnaqtut and Inuktitut more, that's what we said. Today how are you letting Canadians know so that they are aware of our future, that we will be using Inuinnaqtun more in our workplace. How are you preparing this process so that people are aware. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that we are offering a course to our employees in Inuktitut. I don't know if we provide them in Inuinnaqtut yet. But I know that I am aware that we have been training our employees that request or want to take courses in Inuktitut to offer them to our employees so that they get some basic knowledge of Inuktitut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Further questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Perhaps you didn't understand my question. (interpretation ends) I will try to say it again in English. It is about the exposure of the Bathurst Mandate to other Canadians. What could the Premier do to give more exposure to the Canadian people regarding the goals set out in the Bathurst Mandate by 2020 concerning Inuinnaqtun and Inuktitut being the working language as I said earlier. In other words what are you doing to promote it to the other jurisdictions or even in Nunavut or the Northwest Territories.

How are you promoting it so the rest of Canada knows and Canadian people realize we are doing this up in Nunavut. Koanaqutit.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, of course that is my job to educate the outside world of the challenges we face and where we want to be. As I often say I want to be like other communities, have the same benefits and the same standards of living as any community. That's my dream. It is a dream of any Nunavummiut, and it is going to take a while to get there but we need help from the rest of the country for us to reach that goal.

That's been the main focus of my meetings outside the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Mr. Havioyak, you have one supplementary left.

Mr. Havioyak: I don't have any more supplementaries on that but I have one more question. Earlier on in my statement I spoke about youth. I talked about the department because it is the responsibility, I mean I should say the cabinet, including all the ministers, to review all the budgets for all the departments.

When we go to the budget, whether it be the capital or the main estimates it seems to me for a department for example Culture, Language, Elders & Youth, which was identified as one of the priorities. It seems not to be a Cabinet priority. Why is that. I am wondering if there are going to be more funds for them to do their work in that department in the future properly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I mentioned we try and spread that work of the government not just through Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. There are other departments that deal with issues relating to culture, language, youth, education, sports, language training. Not just one department deals with the issue of culture, language, elders and youth.

So to focus it on one, I don't think is fair. We have to look at the entire government if we are going to focus on those areas. So in terms of increasing budgets we have increased budgets elsewhere that deal with those particular issues. But if you want to try and identify specific areas that we need to address, we'll listen. That is our job, to try and meet your concerns. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Any further questions. Next member that we have to speak is Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I recognize that there has been a lot of time spent on meetings and other administrative work that the Premier has to attend to.

However, there are programs the government has not started or which have not completely served their purposes. One of them is NNI. The NNI policy. I know that this has been supported by NTI and the Government of Nunavut. However it kind of back fired on the small businesses in the communities. Because it includes the larger corporations like Arctic Cooperatives, Canadian North and other companies that are large enough to compete with anybody in Canada for that matter. NCC, I support all these companies.

However there have been some experiences in the last years, especially the small companies in the communities have lost out on this. They are also under NNI. An example is petroleum products delivery services. They are given largely to co-ops that are assisted financially by ACL.

Some construction companies in the communities are left to try and survive with the heavy equipment and their bank loans. I'd like to ask the Premier under this initiative that there would be a review of the NNI to ensure that the spirit of that policy to assist the small companies in the communities and are 100% owned by community members are served properly under that policy. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, when we approved the NNI we included a requirement that it be reviewed. That review is being undertaken now. We are soliciting input from all the businesses throughout Nunavut. You may have seen advertisements in the newspapers last week asking for input from anyone in Nunavut in assisting us to review the policy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you . Further questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: There was an article not too long ago that in the year 2020 that provinces and territories will be spending approximately forty three percent of their budget on health. The different reasons for this is that we'll be on the old age pension, the baby boomers. At the same time it's rather bleak with our present circumstances in Nunavut that economic development is not going as fast as the birth rate is.

We have recognized in two and a half years that we have been very slow in recognizing non-decentralized communities, getting their fair share of economic development and training. Also very slow in recognizing the logic in placing sound development initiatives in some communities, for example, I'll use Chesterfield Inlet for example.

Most of the fish that goes to the plant, the fish plant in Kivalliq comes from Chesterfield Inlet. Yet the fish plant that's being used is in Whale Cove. I applaud Whale Cove for that and their MLA. Wouldn't it be cheaper for transportation to have the fish plant in Chesterfield because the fish comes from there. I'm using that question as an example.

The second one is in Coral Harbour. It's been two years now trying to get the meat plant there. In fact before it became government run the plan was to ship all the meat, six thousand caribou, to Rankin Inlet, instead of creating jobs in Coral Harbour. Is there a plan to start looking at potential economic development in the smaller communities rather than leaving the source of potential behind. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is the hope, our hope, is that we can put a plan together for the whole territory and we're just trying to focus on our economy. We worked on a draft document and we will be asking for your input to help us along with businesses throughout the territory on what we should be doing with our economy throughout Nunavut, with an emphasis on smaller communities because we know that the smaller communities need special attention. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Mr. Chairman, new question. The Premier and the government, along with the Federal Government I think, made an announcement that they will get fourteen new RCMP officers stationed in seven communities.

This is an unrelated question, that I hear that I also applaud that Grise Fiord will get two officers with a population, I don't know maybe Rebekah could help me, of around two hundred or even less than two hundred. They used to be between ninety-nine and one hundred a few years ago. They will be getting two officers, whereas in Chesterfield Inlet there are over four hundred and Chesterfield has a concern on the protection of the citizens because of the proximity to Rankin Inlet.

Not because Rankin is bad, it's just that it is a transportation hub that is very attractive to residents as it is only sixty miles away. They don't have RCMP and they rarely get visited. When they call the RCMP in Rankin Inlet they say well we will check with you tomorrow. These are emergency calls. I guess my question to the Premier is, what was the logic behind putting the priority on Grise Fiord for the policing services in Grise Fiord over Chesterfield for example, maybe some other communities too. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier, you can decide whether you want to answer that question right now or whether it is a question for the Department of Justice when that comes along. But if you feel comfortable, please proceed.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Well I will dispense with one question right now and save myself one later. So on this issue, after some unfortunate incidents that took place, we had to evaluate and we asked the RCMP to evaluate their requirements and they did a study on what they had in most of the communities and what else they would need.

They introduced a policy that there would be no single-person detachments in the territory. We had a number of those throughout Nunavut, including Grise Fiord, Kugaaruk. So we had to decide do we shut them down, so we asked those communities, do you need them. Because they already had the detachments in place. They said they needed them. Additional communities that we identified, Repulse Bay, is large. It has grown quite considerably and there are tourists that go through there. A lot of outside traffic.

So we introduced a new detachment there. So this is to address the immediate needs right now. We didn't close the door on future RCMP needs. But for the time being we have trained local constables in the two communities where we don't have RCMP. So perhaps if there is a real need in the future we will look at it, but we are also adding additional officers that will service Chesterfield Inlet and Whale Cove, in Rankin Inlet. So hopefully there will be an improvement in the services there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since the Premier is also the Minister of Justice I will save my supplementary questions for later. Especially on the special constable or the community policing programs which I hear have been working very well in Coral Harbour. We would like to see them more in other communities.

My next question Mr. Chairman, is on part of my statement that I made earlier, regarding Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit, that it is to help your elders, especially those in your family or extended family, who have looked after you when you were a child, fed you, clothed you and given you your guidance etc. We support them in turn, supporting them financially, economically or even continue to use their wisdom and knowledge for the advice that we need especially in environmental questions, hunting trips, and craft technologies.

However, the government is not doing the same thing to its own leaders and former leaders that have worked very hard in the last 30 years. Recognizing that ITC is celebrating its 30th anniversary on December 2nd and the leaders have been asked to go down.

I would like to ask the Premier. Can he review this trend on the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and start recognizing those who have made this a reality and place them in their assignments. They are still very capable leaders and managers, as Deputy Ministers or ADMs or in the corporations the government has.

The power corporation president is one of them. Or other corporations that the government sponsors financially. I would like to ask the Premier will he now review how they can reflect Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit better with their own people. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What we do in terms of employment is have priority hiring for Inuit. That will continue. For anyone to be hired they have to be able to meet the challenges with the job. We'll hire anyone who is qualified and especially if they are Inuit. The more qualifications, that is great.

In addition, every time we are looking at appointing members to any boards or agencies under our control we solicit all members' input along with the public. So we will continue that practice. So any names that you want to put forward we'll consider it like anyone. If anyone is interested we are definitely interested and we'll listen. If the person is compatible with the Board or agency that is under consideration, we will appoint them.

We will continue that practice, especially with women, because there aren't enough. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Supplementary Mr. Chairman. Mr. Premier completely misunderstood my question. Yes, we recommend but it is the government that has the final say as to who they pick. That has not been representative of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, of recognizing what these people have gone through in the last 30 years. Mr. Chairman I guess what I am trying to say here is, what can be a harder or more difficult job than something that was new in Canada 30 years ago. The Government of Canada did not even recognize multiculturalism.

They did not have enough funding whatsoever for aboriginal people. It is through the hardships, ideas, ingenuity, and intelligence that these people started to be recognized by the Federal Government and later on Provincial Governments.

If you look at the libraries, what they used to say is a fact, and that actual data the Premier can recognize. Nothing is harder than what they have done, because it is already

in motion. This government is already in motion. All you have to do is use your experience as to where you want to go with it.

My supplementary question to the Premier, Mr. Chairman is, that what will he do as to the method of management in the government so that those able bodies can take roles with this government, rather than take what the degrees or the masters that are required for management positions. I understand that if you are going to be a doctor, yes you need a medical licence. I understand that.

I am talking about management, what the Premier is doing. He is capable. So are those who have led to the development of this to date. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the opportunity to work with anybody. I have had the joy of working with a lot of those people that helped us in getting Nunavut. They requested a special day, a special law to recognize them. I truly have a large respect for those individuals.

Because they deserve it. In terms of finding employment opportunities we consider anybody. Especially for the management boards that we have in place, they are usually pretty qualified. So please give me the names and a lot of them are still working and they are still contributing. So perhaps we asked some of them, but they are usually working on another project. So a lot of times we try but we can't get them. They are content elsewhere. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Mr. Chairman, I will need your guidance on this one, if this is a new question. Thank you. Also from my opening statement, I talked about a need to look at the government expenditures and a very limited budget and making it more useful to serve the people of Nunavut.

At the moment when we review our budget annually, we look at very high percentages of it going to administration to run this government. As a result, less than is needed goes to the communities. With your good Finance Ministers' initiative, through your leadership to do a program review, do you have plans, or maybe I should ask, what is your plan to set a percentage rate that should be used for services and administration at the headquarters and regional level to deliver the programs that should go to the communities, individual communities. Will you have a target of a percentage. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have a set figure but what we are doing is looking at all the programs that we have and see what we can adjust. I agree that we want to deliver as many programs to our constituents because the money should be

utilised at the local level as much as possible for the benefit of our constituents. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Any further questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Supplementary, Mr. Chairman. Are you telling me that will be part of the program review objective is to get a realistic ratio between the services to the programs in the communities or in the regions in comparison on how much you'd be spending in administering them or servicing them.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We want to be open to any suggestion on how we can better spend our tax dollars as a government. So we will look at anything that we can improve. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would that include prioritizing your economic development opportunities in communities to lessen people's dependency on the government through income support etc. Will you take that as a serious issue as part of the program review. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe a very able minister started the review on Income Support and we look forward to the report and hopefully we can improve the system so that our constituents that are less fortunate, that may be out of work, are trained and educated. So they can assume a lot of jobs that will be created at the local level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Mr. Arvaluk you have one question left. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) My last question. We all recognize and believe in the Bathurst Mandate, which was reviewed in the Baker Lake retreat. When you are looking at these goals they seem very achievable. I know it takes a lot and it is a lot harder implementing them because of course it uses money.

The Premier has stated earlier and we also heard that there are going to be some additional funds from the federal government, as a one time contribution. Are you going to be looking at other sources of funds from the federal government or from other agencies so that we can implement the Bathurst Mandate that was created in Baker Lake. So that we can get additional funds for schools and other vital services. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We've been looking at all sources of funds that we can obtain. We have looked at all the avenues and we will keep working on that. We'll be doing all we can to supplement the budgets that we have to invest money so that we can have additional revenue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Next member to speak is Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have too many questions. One that I have in there and it was indicated in my comments earlier talking about the Bathurst Mandate and the first priority in there is healthy communities.

Also it stated in the mandate that the government departments would work with communities to create the ability to support community capacity building and the move to support and fund community programs in a manner consistent with that philosophy. I would like to ask the Premier, as they indicated, this is something that we wanted to accomplish in the first five years, in our mandate, in our term.

Is the Premier committed to this priority and I see it as more of a devolution or empowerment or a devolution of power and authority to the municipalities and communities throughout Nunavut. I would like to ask him if he is committed to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that we are trying to address this in this session. There is proposed legislation for communities through Community Government & Transportation which will hopefully build more capacity at the local level. So we are trying to implement this through legislation to build additional capacity and hopefully we will deal with it this session. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Further questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A supplementary I guess. The Premier indicated that the Department of Community Government & Transportation is planning on bringing something forward for this capacity building at the local level. But I am wondering is it just a priority that is focused on one department or is it any and all the departments who should be looking at ways in which they can foster, develop and devolve authority and responsibility. Not just Community Government & Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe there may be others that we have and will continue to try and address. We will be reviewing an Education Act in the spring session next year. So there will be added responsibilities for the local level, which all

members will have an opportunity to have input on. Along with local Education Authorities. I don't know if there are any others that I am aware of. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Further questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am just wondering if it would be up to the individual department or if the minister could instruct his cabinet colleagues if there are any ways in which they feel that their department could help develop and foster this devolution of authority and responsibility.

That this should be something that they will jump on and go with. Not just wait for specific departments, I think it should be an objective that should be sought after and sought through all of the government departments. I know we have heard comments about the size of our bureaucracy and that they are running everything. The whole idea of some of the changes that were mentioned in your opening comments were to pass authority and responsibility down from government to the municipalities, to the other levels of government.

So I would like to hope that if you could commit to this initiative, not just by this department on this Act or this department on that Act, but it would be an ongoing initiative that all departments would keep in mind. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There have been additional departments that have done some devolution, like Public Works for example, have contracted the Hamlets to do some repairs for our buildings at the local levels. So there are some other departments that are doing it, it's just not as visible.

I believe we will continue to do that but at the same time we have to ensure that there is capacity at the local level before we transfer additional responsibilities. So we make sure that there are capable bodies at the local level and in some cases, where it is cheaper for our government to carry out the functions with one employee who handles a number of communities, we will probably continue to do that. Because we don't want to just add additional costs where we don't have to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Further questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although part of my question has been asked already, I will be asking two different questions. The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement is how the Nunavut Government was established. If there was no Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, I am sure that this government would not exist and we members would not be sitting in this House.

The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement was signed and created the Nunavut Government. It seems that since the Nunavut Government has been created we have been working outside of the Land Claims Agreement. I would like to ask the Premier, I was wondering if the Premier has been using the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement when they come out with new initiatives.

Also, I would like to before I go on again, I would like to say to that for those of us who grew up outside of the schools and without any formal education, nobody is concentrating on us. The government is more concentrating on those educated people in Nunavut, that's how I see it. The Nunavut Government today is doing this according to the way they work.

We are forgetting about these individuals, we have to focus on all the people of Nunavut equally. We also know that the individuals that don't have formal education are not believed as much as the formally educated people, even individuals that have academic education don't seem to have human support to their fellow people. So therefore I would like to ask the Premier, I know there are various contracts that have been set up in the communities, and it seems like we have not been adhering to the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement such as the Water Board.

We know the issues and the concerns and I know we are quite concerned about those, but when you come into the smaller communities, we view the Nunavut Government as the same, that they should be adhering to the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

The smaller communities, if we want to have economic growth, we have to pay particular attention to the new entities that are being created so that they could have better economic opportunities in the communities. If we don't provide them with opportunities we are not going to have full capacity. If we don't support them we won't go ahead. So therefore, we need to support them.

My question is, are we adhering to the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement is very important and we have to adhere to it. Sometimes we even go beyond it, providing that we can and it's going to be in the best interests of Nunavummiut.

Therefore, I am not scared to support the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and beyond it. Even though it is outside of our jurisdiction we give support to NTI to encourage them when they are facing the Federal Government. Also we have been working on the mandate that has been set forth in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. Especially on the parks management, we are now in the final stage of working on it and also the Wildlife Act. We will also review the Wildlife Act and make amendments in accordance with the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

We don't mind going over and above the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, we don't mind that and we work very closely with Nunavut Tunngavik. I have said before we would like to work very closely with NTI, and to date this has proceeded very well. At times we have disagreements, but when we have a stalemate we ask the elders for advice. That's what we do, that's the procedure we have followed. We ask the elders for advice to help us out in the decision making.

Therefore I would like to see that procedure followed again so that we could use the knowledge of the elders. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Further questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate his response and I encourage him to continue. Living in a smaller community we often observe what is happening. So my other question is on another topic. We are working towards 2020 to have Inuktitut as the working language within the Government of Nunavut.

If we are going to work towards 2020 to finally have Inuktitut as the working language, a lot of the elders will be gone by then. So because we are younger people we are going to have to work hard to keep our language strong. A lot of the elders are passing away. They are the ones with the knowledge of the language and it seems like the government is waiting for the elders to pass on to finally do this. What is happening to improve this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We agreed that we would work towards 2020 and this is just a date to show where we would like to be at that time. This is what we are working towards. I know a lot of the elders are passing on, but being from Nunavut our education system is not as good as other jurisdictions but we want to improve the educational system so that we can keep up with other jurisdictions.

We encourage our people to work towards keeping our language strong. As Nunavummiut we are encouraging them to keep our language strong. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Further questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a supplementary. Some of us grew up when there were no schools. When we were young they started to build houses in our communities. And as a young person we were free to learn. It is unfortunate that a lot of our people are getting assistance through Income Support. A lot of our young people could have gone to school if the education system came to the north earlier. So are you working towards making sure that the people that don't have an education are trained for certain jobs in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are continuing to look at the education system and training for our people and we continue to look at the jobs that are available. Jobs that need to come out or be created. We will get input from the members as to what is needed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Further questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During my opening statement I talked about carrying a heavy load. I am glad that I was able to bring these issues out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. The last one that we have to speak is Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In my statement earlier I mentioned that there should be a good working relationship with the Commissioner of Nunavut and other levels of government. There is a day to day relationship between the Office of the Commissioner and your office. What type of working relationship is there on a day to day basis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well on day to day issues we sometimes disagree like any people that work together there some issues that arise that have to be resolved. And so it is an on-going developing relationship. It is no different from any other jurisdiction where there is a Head of State and there are elected officials that have to make decisions at the end of the day. So it is an on-going relationship. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Any further questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Did you say you had regular meetings or monthly meetings with him. And the other would be working co-operatively on the things that we do for Nunavut or elsewhere, just for information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't say that there were monthly meetings. At times it is not possible because we are both travelling. There are disagreements here and there like any relationship. There are requirements that the Commissioner be in the territory and that may not always be possible.

So there are disagreements there. But I don't feel comfortable discussing those matters when the Commissioner may not be here to respond. So I would rather leave it at that for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Premier. If there are no further questions at this time we will break until 3.20. The members can meet in the members' lounge. Thank you.

>>Leadership Forum recessed at 3.01 p.m. and resumed at 3.27 p.m.

Chairperson: Before we proceed are there any further questions for the Premier from the members. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was a question raised earlier by one of the members regarding our youth. A question was raised regarding increasing funds to assist youth. I'd like to thank the cabinet ministers for providing funds for education and I'd like to thank the government for teaching our youth, our children, how to speak our language, teaching them literacy in the schools and giving them an education.

I appreciate the education that our children are receiving but I think we need to look for ways to work more closely with the youth. We need to find out what is important to the youth, what values they have. I'm going to use an example just to clarify what I'm going to talk about.

The school operates Monday to Friday and they attend school from nine until four but in the evening they are not utilized. There are some youth centres in the communities but they're just open for a certain amount of time in the evenings. I think we need to find out from the youth what they are interested in, what they'd like to see in the communities.

When I was visiting one community, I met up with this young lady who was I think eighteen years old and she started talking to me about how the government can assist the youth in the communities. For instance, how they could build more youth centres. This young girl started to tell me that there's really nothing for the youth to do in the community.

As a government and as the cabinet, do you have any plans on providing more activities in the communities for youth. Do you have a plan on what kind of activities could be provided for the youth in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure about how I could respond to this question but we have provided funds for youth centres. I think this can be provided to the communities if requested and I'm sure this will continue. But this is something new. The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth is a new department. This is a unique department within Canada. So I know there need to be

improvements. We need to do more work within that department and we will continue to deal with these issues. I'm open to any suggestions from the members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I talked to the young lady in that community I felt for her. The young people are looking at getting more youth centres and I know the government, the departments, have a budget that they have to work with. The Department of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth I know deal with youth issues but this department alone cannot deal with all the issues that relate to youth.

As a government I think we need to wake up and realize how important it is for us to assist youth in the communities. We encourage them to stay in school, but the young people are looking for different activities that can be held in the evenings. I think we need to find activities for the young people in the evenings in the different communities in Nunavut. Because when this young lady came up to me and talked to me about her concerns, I told her that I would look into it and that I supported her ideas as to how we could better assist our young people. Can they be given assistance in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't respond to this right away. We will have to look at where we can spend less money and we will have to work within our budget to see where we could find money for these things. I know it is a concern of all the members. But if we were to deal with this right away, we would have to take money from another source. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Further questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand the response. There are 28 thousand people in Nunavut and we receive our funding from the Federal Government. We get a lot of our budget from them and I really appreciate that. Our young people, our teenagers, I guess between the ages of 13 and 18 are a lot in each community. So I will continue to wait for a response as to what the government can do further for our youth.

I will bring it up again in a Members' Statement at a later date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Puqiqnak. No further questions. Are there any further questions. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You will have to let me know who your new optometrist is, because my glasses are getting a bit weaker also. Mr. Premier, on March 5,

I think the day was, I am getting old, my mind is getting a little vague, a question was asked by the Member from Arviat about the road link between Manitoba and Nunavut.

It is two and a half years later and over the last six months there has been a little bit more interest in it. You said that some day you would like to drive from Nunavut to a province. I think it was a mandate of the federal government at one time or another to have a road link with every territory and province in Canada. Seeing that we are probably the only territory left without a road link, in my opinion and it is just my opinion coming out of the Kivalliq, there doesn't seem to be a lot of support for this road link.

There doesn't seem to be a lot of support in the House in general for it because we get very territorial and I know this is Nunavut and we always say one Nunavut. Can you please give me a commitment that you are going to make this a priority in the government because I think this territory has got tremendous potential in mining, tourism, oil and gas.

Probably 100 years from now it is going to be the richest territory in Canada because of the mineral base and the tourism potential and things like that. Could you give me assurances that you will be directing your minister responsible for transportation and yourself to commit to lobby the federal government to bring this dream to reality. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. McLean. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is that an Atlantic question Mr. Chairman. Well we have been lobbying. I have had the pleasure of meeting with the Manitoba Premier this last month and we want to get going. It has been slow this last little while. We have been doing our own transportation studies and the power line we couldn't do much about until we got our own power corporation and now we have it. Now we can do something about that. So we are hoping in the next little while to undertake further studies. Because the studies that are out there are very preliminary and the only way to move forward is to get more details on it.

So that is what we are hoping to do and then from there I think we can go to the Federal Government and ask for concrete steps to go forward on it. So that is where we are and it hasn't stopped. It will continue. It is still my dream to be able to drive out of the territory because we are the only jurisdiction in the country, two million square kilometres where you can't access it. Anywhere else in the country you can do that. So we want to change that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Like I say if I live long enough I'd like to join you on that trip south to Manitoba. On another issue, the power grid. I know it is not the priority of the government. There are so many priorities like housing, education, and health and stuff. And to build a road and a power grid we are in the billions of dollars.

But you know the flexibility of giving an independent power corporation some flexibility in imagination.

And the power corporation is an organization in this government that is showing good leadership. Fifty five percent of their employees are Inuit and it is probably the highest in government. I am hoping that it stays that way. But sometimes ministers are so caught up in running their departments, hiring nurses and doctors and taking care of anti-smoking campaigns, there are other issues like a power grid. The reason why I bring the power grid up is that Manitoba 20-30 years ago established some hydro power electric dams and there was a lot of outcry on how it was going to ruin everything.

But they made a profit of about 1.2 billion last year. Like I say a territory like this is new, and it is going to take years to develop our infrastructure, our roads and our power grid system. On the other hand a territory like this depends on fossil fuels, we are totally dependent.

We know that when the price of oil goes up and we are held to ransom. Could you also commit to me that you are going to give your Power Corporation minister a little bit more of a prod and some flexibility for him to give these power corporation people a bit wider scope. Maybe start looking at sources of power and a power grid, hydro electric power and whatever, windmills because again I think it's been a slow down and I wonder if you can also commit to me maybe looking at that also. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. MacLean. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Another planted question, Mr. Chairman. The minister responsible wanted to deal with this last year and I said no because I wanted the attention on creating our own power corporation.

Decentralizing the jobs to the member's riding was my focus at the time but since we have that under control, we are now moving into alternate energy sources so it's just slow. It's not just the minister fault, it's mine, if you're blaming, blame me because I wanted to make sure that the power corporation, we were setting it up with full attention, and to be fully operational and that's taking place. So from here on in we are looking at alternate energy. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you Mr. Premier. Mr. MacLean.

Mr. MacLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's very noble of you taking the blame. Ed didn't blame you by the way when I was talking to him and yeah, he's got to have it. But maybe, I was waiting to ask these questions of the Minister Responsible for the Power Corporation but I only have 8-10 questions to ask and I don't want to ask all of them to him.

Is the Ikuma Report going to be available to this House soon. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: I believe so, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have all the details, but it should be soon. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you Mr. Premier. Any more from the members. If not we'll continue on. Thank you, Mr. Premier, now take your seat with the rest of your colleagues.

>> *Applause*

I would like to move on to the next phase of the forum, and that will be each minister will approach the witness table, they have ten minutes to make a statement, in return members will have three minutes if they wish to respond in statement form. Following that before the minister leaves the witness table each member will have an opportunity to ask ten questions in total of the ministers.

So in other words the minister will stay at the table until he makes a statement, until they ask their questions, and after that they can return to their seat. Starting off the list we have the Honourable Peter Kilabuk. Mr. Kilabuk you have the floor for 10 minutes.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all just before I begin with my opening statement I would like to thank my wife, my children, my family and my constituents of Pangnirtung for their support in putting me here. I would like to thank my fellow MLAs for supporting me as a minister for a little over two years.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to start with a brief overview of the two different departments that I have been responsible for since April 1999. As you recall, I started with the team of the Department of Sustainable Development. It was a privilege for me to start my term with the Department of Sustainable Development because it exposed me to different issues linked to that department that I was familiar with.

I shared and learned a lot more about the department by working with the staff and its partners in wildlife management, fisheries, economic development, environment, tourism and the development corporation in trying to make it more accessible and accountable to the people of Nunavut. In November 2000, a year and nine days ago, the Premier moved me to the Department of Education. Under this department I set out to try and meet the visions and goals set out in the Bathurst Mandate.

Under this department I am responsible for early childhood programs, from kindergarten to grade 12 learning divisions, financial assistance for Nunavut students, adult learning and post secondary education, with our partners in Nunavut Arctic College and its Board of Governors. We also have the income support program and the delivery of programs through partnership arrangements with thirteen different municipalities within Nunavut.

Where there are no partnership agreements, the government delivers the services in those communities. To help my department reach their goals I have supported the hard work my department staff and partners have been undertaking to re-shape some programs, services and legislation that we are responsible for, based on the needs of Nunavummiut.

Currently, to reflect some of our actions with the same rules I used at the Department of Sustainable Development, we are doing the following crucial reviews for people to be and/or become more self-sufficient and self-reliant as per goals set out under the Bathurst Mandate.

The Education Act Review. I am intending to table an update in this session and I am hopeful that I will introduce the actual legislation in the House in the spring session.

Income Support Review. I will be tabling my responses to the 46 recommendations I tabled during the session in Cambridge Bay this past May. FANS review, which is to revisit the policies of this program to make it more reflective of Nunavut students and their needs. Language of Instruction Report. This report has been unfortunately delayed from being released to the public because of the time consuming work and internal referral it has needed. I am hoping to release this report before the end of the year.

Funding Formula Review. A crucial review we are undertaking for the financing of our partners in education in the communities, to make sure that the limited dollars are benefiting the schools and programs through the DEAs. NAC Formula Funding Review. Again to ensure that we are maximizing limited dollars and opportunities to the adult learning and training divisions.

Skills Training Agenda. This is being done with different regional Inuit organizations and other government departments to try and meet the needs of adults to enter the workforce and also to build our own workforce in Nunavut. We are also developing a proposal to explore the concept of the Inuit culture school with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. Curriculum review for the department to see how we can develop a long term curriculum development strategy for the Inuktitut language curriculum and resources.

As you can see, we are well underway in trying to meet the needs of Nunavummiut as set out in the Bathurst Mandate. We are doing those reviews and changes to tackle our biggest challenge for this department, building a Nunavut made education system and school programs based on Nunavut's own language, culture, traditions, values and beliefs, while at the same time preparing students to become competitive both in the workforce and the business world, within and outside of Nunavut.

One that is unique and allows and helps Nunavummiut become self-sufficient, self-reliant, strong and sensitive to the needs of Nunavummiut. I am glad to report that my department is moving well towards these goals supported by the reviews I mentioned earlier, and also using the best of methods and practices used within the government systems today.

Lastly Mr. Chairman, I feel it is important to note for the purpose of this review, these can only be achieved if our department is equipped, committed and supported with the goals it has been tasked to accomplish. I, along with my staff and partners, remain committed to the goals set out in the Bathurst Mandate.

To close Mr. Chairman, I will try and answer members' questions about my performance over my two and a half years while having served as the Minister Responsible for the Department of Sustainable Development and today as the Minister Responsible for the Department of Education. Thank you for this opportunity.

>> *Applause*

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Just a reminder to the members that once again you have three minutes if you wish to make a statement. If not you can go right into your questions for the minister. Members. Statements or questions. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question for the Minister of Education. Mr. Chairman, the first Minister of Education was very responsive. He kept the public informed, but this new minister is not as vocal and informative as the first one.

Since the retreat in Baker Lake, I am not sure what he has done since or what he is doing now. The minister should be more vocal and informative to the people and the communities about what is happening in education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, those are my comments.

Chairperson: I don't think there was question there.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those were just comments Mr. Chairman. My first question to the Minister of Education is this. Could the minister show more leadership by going on the radio to give people more information about education issues. That is my question. The people out there have to be more informed about what has been happening to date on educational issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to keeping the people informed about educational issues, it is something that is very important to me. I haven't heard any of the members say anything about me not keeping the people informed enough about educational issues.

I do publish periodicals about educational issues. I try to keep everybody informed about what is happening. I keep in touch with the District Education Authorities. Just recently we sent out some information to the committees. This is just some of the information that we disseminate to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Further questions. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A new question about the income support policy. As this minister is also responsible for income support, how has the minister improved the income support policy to better serve Nunavummiut. That is my next question.

Chairperson: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I mentioned in my opening comments, we are still using the old income support policy. This is the policy that was grandfathered from the Government of the Northwest Territories. We did make additions and we are also reviewing the income support policy so that it will be more Nunavut friendly.

I tabled that in Cambridge Bay and in this upcoming session I will be responding to the recommendations that were made in regards to income support. Thank you.

Chairperson: Further questions. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is more of a statement than a question. I hear that there are some problems with income support and from what I understand today it's because of the old policies that we have these problem areas. So that's why I was asking if there was going to be a review or any policies written for Nunavut. Thank you.

Chairperson: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, in regards to the last comment, I don't believe I heard a question in there.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Any further questions. Next we have Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I feel this minister is quite capable. Income support is very important but we'll have to see how this review goes.

If Culture, Language, Elders & Youth and Education could only build a school to teach Inuktitut and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit like the one in Greenland, this would show a lot of leadership. Just to elaborate further there is a folk school in Greenland where they only speak in Greenlandic and address their cultural issues.

Could the minister inform us if there are any plans to build a folk school in Nunavut, where they would build a school to teach Inuktitut and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit similar to the one in Greenland. Thank you.

Chairperson: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Over this year if I'm right the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth and myself want to go to Greenland to see the folk school, with the President of Nunavut Tunngavik.

We went to Greenland to see how their folk school runs. When we were there we had discussions and worked with the people who ran the school. We discussed how we would operate a school and just recently I was again approved by the cabinet to make a request and to work further on building a folk school in Nunavut using the Clyde River Protocol. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): I think it would be better if I ask those questions during our formal session. I'm sure that we can't build the folk school overnight but I would like to ask how long planning will take, would it take 20 years or how many years would it take to actually construct such a school. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to be very clear that our staff are working together with NTI staff but we do not have an agreement that states when this school will be constructed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Members' questions. Members' statements. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just make a statement at this point. Mr. Chairman, the Department of Education was very successful with the previous Minister of Education. But it seems that this minister doesn't know what the communities need and want.

When we were talking about the revision of the Education Act the people of Clyde River were involved but not any more. We have no idea what's happening. The Minister of Education does not go and visit the communities. He should be involving the communities when he's making such decisions.

We have heard that he had gone to Greenland to look at the cultural school. But there are no plans to build a cultural school here in Nunavut. It would be very good to see one of these constructed. At this point I would like to ask the minister what he's doing about the Education Act. It's something that's very important to my two communities. To find out what they want. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To make it clear we are currently reviewing the Education Act. I would also like to thank the previous minister who initiated the review of the Education Act. And yes, it's very true the minister kept the communities informed about what was happening within his department.

There have been two drafts given back to our department. Because of the feedback that we got from the education committees we would like to involve them further in reviewing the Act. Yes, the previous minister was very close to the communities and since I became the Minister for Education we have spent more time consolidating the information. We have now set up committees.

We would like to get feedback from these committees about what they think and what they would like to see integrated into the Education Act. And also, for your information, again with this particular Act it will be going back to the communities so that the people out there will have another opportunity to provide input. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

Chairperson: Thank you. Further questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the minister if we are going to be bringing the Act back. The local education committee has been stating that they returned the draft Act to the department after they had reviewed it and it comes back totally different to the wishes that they wanted to see. I was wondering if this was going to continue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it will be the same. There will not be different rules for each community. It is going to be all the same. If I could use an example of the school hours in the communities. There are not going to be different policies in regards to school hours for example. What we tried to do is compile all the information together and then draft a new Act.

There are not going to be different policies for each community. It is going to be the same right across the board. Thank you.

Chairperson: Further questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't like the minister's response. There are different populations for the communities. I don't think it is going to work if the policies are the same right across the board, but the amount of funding that they receive varies.

Smaller communities operate differently from the larger communities. If he is not going to be looking at that, nobody is going to be smiling anywhere in Nunavut. I know that your department has to include the wishes of the people out there. There are totally

different operations within a small community and a larger community. We have to look at everything. Could you do that Mr. Minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was trying to be very clear and concise when I was reading my opening comments. I will read again what I said in my opening comments if he wasn't listening. The Education Act was mentioned in my opening comments. I will be tabling it again in the spring session, and again I said that we will also be reviewing the funding allocations to the communities.

It will be stated how the funding to the communities will be more flexible. Some communities won't get more than the others. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Iqaqrialu. Final supplement, I think for that question or do you have a new question.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask about another topic and although I might not be too pleased with the responses I'm sure I will have more opportunities to ask these questions.

My other question is in regards to income support. When and how are you going to implement the changes to income support in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, although I had mentioned it earlier on, we are reviewing the income support program. There were 46 recommendations made for changes and these recommendations were tabled in May in Cambridge Bay. I expect that my responses to the recommendations will be tabled during this session. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. Further questions from the members or statements. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the minister. Mr. Chairman, his department is a very important department since it is educating our future leadership in Nunavut.

I have a number of matters that I would like to raise that need more leadership. One of the primary issues is the lack of Inuktitut education programs. The commitment to teaching Inuktitut and Inuit Culture throughout the system needs to be implemented, from kindergarten to grade 12.

(interpretation ends) Day-care is a reality for many young children and the preschoolers will begin to learn their language. Are we ensuring that these children have Inuktitut

daycare providers. Are we providing early childhood education in Inuktitut to insure we are training Inuit speaking daycare providers. This is a very real problem in Iqaluit, where many people are relocating for employment but the daycare operates almost entirely in English.

(interpretation) Inuktitut needs to be taught through kindergarten to grade 12 and proficiency must be recognized as an academic achievement. We need to value this still, if we are to reach the goal in the Bathurst Mandate of having Inuktitut as the working language of government and it is this department that needs to show leadership in delivering Inuktitut education.

(interpretation ends) Another matter is respect to what message we are sending to people. In some schools, the only high school students who have access to the on-the-land program, and the culture program are the students who are not performing as well academically as others. Academic students also need these skills.

This department needs to take a hard look at the standards in our high schools in comparison to other jurisdictions to ensure they are equivalent. Many of our graduates have been required to take further upgrading before taking post secondary or training programs. Therefore our high school programs are not properly preparing students for secondary education or training initiatives.

(interpretation) The need to review the Income Support policy has been recognized and a process has been initiated. The leadership must have a vision for achieving self reliance for Nunavummiut. This is of vital importance to Nunavut since it impacts on almost half of the population of Nunavut, if not over. Many people receive income support. These are my comments Mr. Chairman. I do have questions.

Chairperson: Thank you. If you'd like to continue on with your questions. Please proceed.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): For secondary education. Iqaluit is different from the high school programs in the communities. Also the high school programs differ from the other jurisdictions. How are you going to change this.

Chairperson: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the education system in the communities varies from other jurisdictions. I would like to get further clarification on your question so that I could respond properly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: My question is, smaller communities have high school although the levels are lower than the high school in Iqaluit. Also Iqaluit high school is lower than other

parts of Canada. How are we going to, in the leadership, how are you going to look at this and do you have a plan to improve this so that if students are going to school in Clyde River they are the same as the other parts of Canada so that they could go to training, so that they could go to university. What are your plans to make sure that the schools are equal.

Chairperson: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You are aware we are using the Alberta system here in Nunavut. In the higher grades they are separated into groups where the higher academic students are set aside into one group and the lower ones into another group. The curriculum is set for the year with the consultation of the parents.

Chairperson: Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Supplementary to my question. My last question. When we inform the parents in the communities that your child is in grade ten and they go to Iqaluit, although they are at the grade ten level, when they arrive in Iqaluit they are at a grade eight level and when they go to Edmonton with a grade ten level, they would put him in grade seven. So that's what I am trying to say.

How can we improve this with your leadership in your portfolio. Thank you.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The goals and objectives that we have are to provide grade 12 in all the communities. At this time we do have other goals and objectives such as the Bathurst Mandate. In the year 2020 we have a vision that we want to see graduates who can read, speak and write English and Inuktitut fluently.

Today I could tell the MLA that this has been a great concern of the parents and the District Education Authorities. They want to have a uniform education curriculum all across the communities. As I said before, at times we are receiving input pretty late, so therefore we are hoping to table the information before the fiscal year ends. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the Minister Responsible for Education and also in his previous portfolio I don't have many comments and I will try to make them as brief as possible. During the election times most of us who were running used education as a platform. It is very important. It is true what my colleague has been saying, why the educational level varies between communities.

I felt this myself as well quite a bit. Because education in our territory should be very important and it seems like we are not fully supporting education and our government needs to work very hard, not just the Minister Responsible for Education but also the staff that work in the education field should be encouraged by the minister to teach properly in Nunavut.

It is becoming rather embarrassing at times, although we don't want to belittle or put down our students, and I am not fluent in English for example. But this morning when I was reading my material at times I can read well, at times I couldn't read it properly when I was making my comments this morning.

That's where the majority are stuck. For those who have gone to formal education, that are my peers, they do understand. Even I who didn't get a formal education, I can still understand the issues. Although I don't want to put down grade 12 today.

For example, when the students take their teacher education program for example, they go through a hard time even though they had completed their grade 12 at the community level.

It is true that people from my community come here to take their training courses and they go through hard times. This has to be rectified within Nunavut and improved. I don't have time here and I would like to thank the Chairman for giving me the opportunity to make these comments. I know that we have to work very hard so that we could keep up with other Canadian jurisdictions. But we do need to have two languages within Nunavut and I know that education is very important and it is very huge.

When I was campaigning during the election, I used education as my platform and also I requested Inuktitut teachers who are certified, although they may not be formally educated. With the previous minister I asked this question, but I haven't asked it of you as the minister. We hear that training programs are very hard to come by because there are no written materials for teaching Inuktitut language, culture and everything else. Although they set up some educational materials through Brighter Futures and they teach on the land skills and how to make kamiks for only three weeks out of the year.

Every time they make funding available, a small amount of funding at least, but the funding never even lasts for up to two months. The education department and also the teaching professionals should know that there are ways to teach even though it may not be from written materials. Every time there is a small amount of funding allocated to the communities for cultural training purposes, we teach right away, instead of waiting for written materials.

We know our government, if they recognized these elders as certified teachers, we have 27 communities, and we would have to use huge amounts of money to get the elders recognized as teachers. I don't have time, so I will conclude now with that Mr. Chairman, and I will have some questions. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you. Further questions.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman for giving me this opportunity to ask this question. I have a question for the Minister of Education. He travelled to Greenland at one time and told me that he was very impressed with the Inuit Studies program that is offered there. Because he said that he was impressed with those programs, does he have a plan to offer those kinds of programs in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My staff and NTL officials are working on bringing programs like that into Nunavut. As a government official and the Minister of Education, I will continue to work with NTL.

There are different areas that we need to work on, the courses that are offered. When I was in Greenland there were different courses offered on Inuit culture and we are working towards bringing those kind of programs into Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a supplementary to my first question. I'm glad that they're working on this. Do you have a date or year as to when this kind of program might be available in Nunavut. I know it won't happen overnight but do you have an idea of when this kind of a program might be offered here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To date I can't say when that kind of a program might be offered here but looking at the Bathurst Mandate this kind of program is supported and so by 2020 we are working towards having those kind of programs available. But I will continue to work with my officials, with my staff on this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is, I didn't bring it up during my opening statements but, it is an important area. Mr. Chairman we have people in the communities that need additional training for heavy equipment operations or housing maintainers. We have people in the community that are able to train in that field or those fields or they could get into trades, different trades. In Nunavut are you working towards making sure that those kinds of courses made available in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The apprenticeship programs have been offered since October 2000. Mr. Chairman, you can take these courses through on-the-job training or you could take the courses through programs that are available in colleges for people that live in Nunavut. Training on the job we are hoping that we will be able to offer those courses in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Supplementary to my questions. I know this won't be an easy task to deal with, to bring programs into Nunavut but if the companies in Nunavut would be providing those programs in Nunavut would you encourage taking apprenticeship training in those companies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Unfortunately I did not really understand his question. Perhaps he can rephrase his question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Clarification, Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question was there are Inuit mechanics in the communities who are able to train individuals to become mechanics. Would you be in support of utilizing such resources. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes we would agree to that, we would support such an idea and we have also used Inuit, Inuk people to train for different programs.

Funding is also available for assisting individuals who might want to take further training within Nunavut and assistance funding, assistance is made available and courses are available in different communities if applicants are putting in applications. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you Minister. Members' questions. Members' statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman. In Nunavut education is very important.

We want our children to go to school and Members of the Legislative Assembly often say that when a young person reaches the age of 16 teachers say now they can do what they want. That is not always possible. When a young person is told that he or she can go on their own it's hard on a young person when they are told that they don't need to attend high school any more that they can go onto secondary school or take adult education.

For example, he should be able to attend Arctic College and utilize Arctic College more. In Gjoa Haven there are 37 people in a classroom with one instructor. Arctic College needs more support. When we ask for more space we are often told that it is unfortunate that are lacking space. But if an individual wants to take training we shouldn't turn our backs on them.

Under the Bathurst Mandate Education is a top priority. I know that education is very important and we need to keep it as our top priority. When a young person reaches grade 12 people that want to go to secondary schools such as university or college, is there something available for them.

It doesn't seem to be the case for all the youth of Nunavut. Also Mr. Chairman, in my communities as an example, there are two schools in my community and they are over crowded. Because they are overcrowded one of the schools doesn't have a gymnasium and one of the schools does not have a home economic room. The other school has a gymnasium, shop and library. Because the other school doesn't have the facilities in their school they tend to fight over who is going to use those spaces.

In Gjoa Haven they have to share classes, a gymnasium, shop and kitchen. I'd like to say again that I would want to invite the minister to come to my community and see what we have.

As a Minister of Education, before he became the minister the former Minister of Education spoke about increasing or expanding the school.

They were going to look into expanding the school but there is no capital funding for this. I know that the smaller communities, like the other communities probably are in that same situation. So with that Mr. Chairman, our communities have not been approached about how much space we lack. There are other people that want to upgrade but they can't. Is this department and minister assisting all communities equally.

The minister is not aware of the size of our school and he would not know what our school looked like because he hasn't visited our community. When we write letters requesting upgrades. I would like to complete my statement. Mr. Chairman, thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Chairperson: That was a statement. I would just ask the members to watch their clocks, they are functioning now. Do you have any questions. Proceed.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): My first question. In Nunavut we have an Inuktitut curriculum and an English curriculum. As the Minister of Education in listening to the young people and the parents, they say that their children are no longer literate in Inuktitut. We care very much for our culture but it is being taken away by English speaking people.

As the Nunavut Government if your department is not going to be aggressive, I think there has to be a goal whereby Inuktitut has to be taught in the schools. A person said before that if a person goes to an Inuit community it is good to grow up in a place where there are no laws, rules or regulations. How is Inuktitut being taught in the day cares and in the schools. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said earlier about the report on the language of instruction in schools, I will be able to table a report in this regard. We talk about Inuktitut being taught in school. I feel it is very important like the member feels it is very important.

I would like to tell him that recently I met with my staff and we tried to set out goals and some ideas for the future in about 40-50 years. I don't know if we are going to be using our Inuktitut language and our culture in 40-50 years. We have our values as Inuit and we cannot belittle the culture and values of the Inuit and the language.

This is the foundation of our ancestors and we have to continue to use that. We know we use Inuktitut and English and it will be stated in my report and I will be tabling that in the near future. I would like to say that I am glad that I will be able to report to the Assembly on these issues later on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Further questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I thank the Minister for giving me that information. As Minister of Education you are an Inuk as well. And you have that responsibility in that regard and your deputies should be working on bringing out the Inuit values and language in Nunavut.

You have to be leaders in doing that and you have to work with the Members of the Legislative Assembly and the people of Nunavut. That I would like to see in the near future. Mr. Chairman if you don't mind I said in one of my statements that you had two positions as a minister or two portfolios as Minister. You have to be aware of what is missing and what things you are not doing in your department.

Yes, I will have to be able to inform my constituents but you also have to be aware of what is in your department that you are lacking or that you are not doing. And when are you going to be going to my community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member asked me that question before, he wanted me to visit his community, and his constituents were expecting me. I am so sorry that I wasn't able come to his community. But we have said that this year, when we visit the community of Cambridge Bay we will try to make it to the community of Gjoa Haven.

Even though I have not been there personally, the concerns from Gjoa Haven schools have been relayed to my department and me and my staff is also doing something about them at this time. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Members' questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A brief statement. You know listening to the minister's opening comments I'm disappointed and concerned over the fact that I didn't hear, and it's something that we've been told all long and I believe the Premier even mentioned in his comments, the fact that with the dissolution of the district boards that more authority and responsibility would be devolved down to the community level. It really disturbs me that wasn't even mentioned in the minister's comments.

It kind of makes me think sometimes that ministers are just doing what they are told by their departmental officials, you know they were saying one thing and the department seems to be going in a different direction. I'm just curious and wondering all of sudden you stop hearing about something that you've been carrying for quite some time, you know what happen to it. I look forward to this session and addressing that issue.

You know the minister is supposed to be devolving those responsibilities to the District Education Authorities in their communities and we were told that as MLAs by the government when they wanted to abolish the Divisional Boards of Education.

DEAs used to be consulted on everything and now almost nothing. No reallocations of teachers, teaching positions, resources, a lot of this is done now without any consultation with the DEAs. The DEAs hardly have a role now in the operations of the schools or any control. It seems like they are getting all the responsibilities and everything has been turned over and pointed towards them but they have no control and no authority over anything.

In previous years for example, here the DEA used to sign off on school budgets, this year they didn't even see it. There was a big push on overhauling the Education Act. Again they haven't been properly consulted here. They didn't start off very well, it was quite some time ago and they sent out big packages with the draft act and a bunch of information with no explanation and told to review it and tell me what you think.

They had a very short time frame in which to respond and I believe the last thing the minister indicated was only six communities, six DEAs out of 23 responded. I think they

should have sent out someone with the document to the DEAs within the communities to explain what the changes are, where they are and what they mean and what kind of impact they will have in the communities.

And later on the minister, the department set up a working group on the Education Act and we haven't even seen the results of that yet. I believe my understanding is over 50 recommendations were made on that.

The Iqaluit District Education Authority was offered a finance position, a finance officer position and an office manager position to enable them to take on additional responsibilities provided in the Act. Now all of this has been put on hold.

This is happening at a time when cutbacks in education funding are resulting in District Education Authorities and schools having to access third party funding to get special education support, phys-ed, music, cultural programs and English as a second language programs.

If the communities are expected to make up the shortfalls in education funding then at least make sure the District Education Authorities are supported and if they want it, are given the authority to administer their own resources. The communities know how best to meet the needs in their communities. Mr. Chairman, my last paragraph, I won't be too long.

An important group of children that one of my colleagues mentioned already, that I feel continue to be neglected in the education system is children under five. We need an early childhood education and pre-school program in all of our communities that are accessible to all the children. Not just the ones in day care. These children will be entering the school system and the more support that we can provide them before they do so, the better they will perform.

These kids are our future and we have to give them the tools that they need to move forward and fulfil the goals and the jobs and the needs that we will have and require of them in the future. These are my comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the minister, and he can probably guess from my statement, my comments, is his department committed to devolving more responsibility and authority for education and the administration of the schools to the District Education Authorities along with the resources, the resource support to enable them to carry out these responsibilities as was promised to us and the District Education Authorities when the divisional boards were abolished. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a matter of fact, yes the Department is committed where the District Education Authorities are capable and have the resources to carry out the tasks of empowerment. Our department heard of this issue last winter when there was confusion about a statement that I had made. But I would like to clarify this and address it here, that we are committed, where District Education Authorities are capable of taking on the responsibilities and where we know they want to take over the responsibilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A supplementary. I am glad to hear that the minister is committed to this and saying that his department is as well. I would like to ask the minister if he intends to show leadership and instruct his department to carry out that commitment to community capacity building as identified in the Bathurst Mandate and that the District Education Authorities would play a more responsible role in the delivery of education in the communities.

I say that, Mr. Chairman, because I know recently I have heard contrary comments made to me by members of the District Education Authority and concerns raised by our District Education Authorities, not only here in Iqaluit, but in other communities as well. So I would like to ask the minister if he will ensure that's the direction that his staff are to take and his department is to take in moving. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a matter of fact, following that discussion and my discussions with the staff we wanted to ensure that our message to District Education Authorities was the same and consistent. We wanted to ensure where the District Education Authority is ready to take on additional responsibilities that message is delivered the same, both by my staff and out of my office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again the minister has directed his staff to do so. But where they are willing and where they are able. Will the department provide the resources for them to be able to do these functions. You can have it but you don't have anyone there do it. Or there is no capacity to do it. Is there a commitment from the department and the minister that where the DEA wants to take on these responsibilities the resources are provided to them in order to carry out those additional responsibilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. That was your final supplementary. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As most members are aware the District Education Authorities in each of the Councils are funded through the funding formula

and it is very important that this be considered during the talks of where the DEA is wanting to take over some responsibilities, that they have the financing to carry out those tasks and that can be addressed at the time.

But I am committed to making or rather ensuring that where we hand down additional responsibilities the financing goes with it when it is handed down. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I ran out of supplementary questions. So here is another. Mr. Chairman, the minister indicated that they will be providing that support to the department. I want to make sure about what he said about how they determine whether they will or will not devolve any responsibilities or authority down to the DEA.

An example here is that the DEA here has been looking to move in this direction for maybe over two years now and they don't seem to be having any success. It keeps almost getting there and then it seems to go back again. It is right off the table again. How do they determine this. Is it upon a request to the DEA or someone within the department who determines whether they can do it or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. A new question. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to make sure that I have this clear, or rather I want to make sure that this is clear to our members. It is determined in consultation with my Department of Education and also the District Education Authority as to the additional responsibilities they will take on. I want to also make sure again I go back to my earlier comment to ensure there is funding for the additional responsibilities. This is addressed up front with the department and also the DEA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It has been brought to my attention recently and I think I am correct in assuming that I was told that these types of positions that they are looking for here already exist in other regions of Nunavut and other communities. I would like to ask the minister when we will see these types of positions offered and available to the DEAs in the Baffin. That seems to be the only reason that they don't have these types of positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: If I can ask the member to clarify which position he's talking about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Tootoo. Clarification on the question.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hear what they were looking for they were calling it Office Manager and Finance Manager. I know in the other communities and other regions they have what I believe are called Secretary Treasurer positions for the DEAs. That's something that we don't have as far as I'm aware, I know in Iqaluit and other Baffin communities as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not aware at this time and I'd have to, I apologize to the member for not having this information but I'm not aware if the other regions do have office managers hired under the government. Because normally the office managers are hired by the DEA themselves. I know this matter, I have been in discussions with the DEA on this matter and unfortunately at this time I'm a little hesitant to go into much detail on an issue that is currently in discussion with the DEA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify for a minute. I know I didn't say these other positions were part of the government. I mean they're positions allocated and funded and paid for and are employees of the DEA. I just want to tell him to make sure he doesn't go away thinking that it's that. That's not what I said.

I want to make sure his staff are keeping records and track of what's being said here. I know it'll be in the Hansard. There is a difference. I never said, I said resources and staff positions. I never said whether they were any part of the government or staff members of the DEA.

Another question Mr. Chairman or just a comment to clarify and move on to another question, it's a new question. And I'm sure everyone's happy that I'm using up my questions here. Last year the DEAs throughout Nunavut suggested that a Nunavut wide District Education Authority Association would be important to establish as a network and a support mechanism for all the communities, especially in light of the devolution that was going to allegedly take place.

This would allow them to become more effective leaders in their own communities on education issues. Does the minister support this concept and do you have any plans to assist them in establishing this association. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I heard of the forming of the association last year I was also made to understand that there will be an organizing committee or interim committee to set this up. But I have heard nothing since from this

group and I really don't know how serious or how far they've taken it in pursuing this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I'll ask my question again. I didn't ask if he heard anything or if he thought they were taking it seriously or not. I asked the minister would he support this concept and has he had any plans to assist them. I'd still like to have an answer to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Tootoo. I think the minister did answer your question. Are you posing another question. Another supplementary.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I heard the minister say that he hadn't heard anything from the organization, but he never indicated, and that he heard about it last year but he never indicated whether he was supportive of this concept or not. I guess that's what I'd like to hear an answer on and I guess he answered that he hasn't got any plans because he hadn't heard anything. But I'd like to hear if the minister supports this concept or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well again I'm going to say that not knowing if this group still exists, I won't indicate if I support a group that may exist or may not exist. But however I will indicate to the House today that if the association would like to work with my department, I am committed to working with them to address their issues pertaining to education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Final supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This won't be a supplementary, just a very brief comment and another question. The minister said in referring to this group, I referred to it as a concept so again maybe take that back with him when he leaves here. I may have said group but does he support the concept.

Mr. Chairman, I also would like to ask the Minister of Education what leadership he is showing in developing education programs for the children of Nunavut that are the under the age of five. Thank you.

Chairperson: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a matter of fact in September 2001, the Department of Education agreed to formally engage in joint planning activities designed to maximize the effective use of resources to support the healthy development and well being of children and youth in Nunavut.

As a matter of fact we now have the children first secretariat, which is an action oriented inter-departmental committee designed to facilitate the co-ordination of programs and services that promote the healthy development and well being of our children across Nunavut.

I am committed to providing the leadership to ensure that our children, zero to six under this program will benefit to the maximum from the available resources and activities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to go back to September, the minister talking about that commitment there. I am aware of that and I think we are all aware of that. One thing I guess is news to me, and I don't know where it came from, is this children's secretariat.

I'd like to maybe ask the minister if he could provide a little bit more information on this secretariat or if he's planning on publicizing the fact that this secretariat is there and what it does, so that other Nunavummiut and other organizations throughout Nunavut would be able to approach this if they feel it necessary. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have the privilege of having the details in front of me on this matter but I'll be more than happy to share this with the members by way of letter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am aware of a situation and I just want to comment on the minister's performance. Yes he has assisted my community very much and has tried to rectify a lot of concerns and tried to work with the DEA.

For instance if something is not useable they don't just put it aside but they try and repair it. As for me his performance he seems to be going well. (interpretation ends) An example, there is no specific funding for libraries in community schools or buses. DEAs are told they have to reallocate for things like this within their school budget.

The minister is not shying away from these ideas. He is trying to deal with them. He consults on options. Flexibility at the local level is a good thing. The fact remains that the DEA needs more money. The minister must show leadership in ensuring adequate funding will be available at the community level for education.

Some things are more urgent. There needs to be more leadership in the Innuinaqtut and Inuktitut education. Without the proper materials and teachers our target of the Bathurst Mandate of 2020 won't be met. If we want our language to be the working language of

government we need to be teaching this in our schools now. We need to bring this issue back to the table to see where the minister and his department are going with it.

We have some great programs at the Arctic College such as the NTEP program. Some of the policies are quite rigid and are discouraging people from continuing. For example, the policies that prevent students from re-entering the program for several years because they have failed a subject. The students should be allowed to continue the program the following year so that they can pick up a subject that they failed and move forward with their education.

I'll say it now and I'll say it again, whose policies are these and what leadership is the minister providing in changing them. These are my comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll be asking questions shortly.

Chairperson: Thank you. Members' questions. Statements. Questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: The minister stated that there is no specific funding for libraries in the community and the other one would be school buses. I am aware that they do have a bussing policy and it is mainly for O&M. Correct me if I am wrong.

First of all, let me ask you about the library. As you know in my community the library is needed for the youth of the school and the community. But what kind of leadership are you going to be doing to make sure we have maybe not a bus policy just for the O&M but for the size of the community. Because of the size of the community you won't be able to buy the bus. Because of the miles of how big the community is or how far away the end of the school is. I think that is the policy. Those have to be changed. Back to my question. Libraries. Are you going to show leadership in getting libraries that can be used by the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will take those questions one at a time. The question regarding public libraries. We are contributing to the libraries with an agreement with the DEAs, Hamlet Councils and community organizations to provide part time services at the community level. And we also have the headquarters function in Baker Lake which provides support and training to community organizations.

My department will continue to support these libraries with the provision of services, training, administration support, computer assistance within existing resources. I also want to mention the great support that we got from the Bill Gates Foundation. We were able to get the equipment and provide the training for our librarians to be able to operate these computers with a kind donation.

And so our libraries are becoming better equipped and we are addressing more of the training needs now with the new equipment the libraries do have.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you for your comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. But DEAs have their own funding and I am aware of his answer. The funds that need to be utilized in certain areas are allocated to those areas as to how the schools are run and how the library would run. I mentioned earlier on the library should have its own budget and its own O&M funding.

Not in this way. We give it to the DEA it is up to them to decide that matter. Put funds aside and those are the funds that will be utilized for the library. That's what you responded to me in a letter. That is how you responded. I just mentioned that there needs to be more funding so that those monies could be set aside in that manner. That is what I wanted to mention. That is something I want to see before I ask another question.

Not to give to the DEA and it is up to them to utilize it in whatever manner they wish. But put those aside and have it run on its own. Not so much a question but I want you to be aware as to my concern. I will have another question if that is ok with you Mr. Chairman in regards to buses.

I would like to know because the populations in some communities are not many and depending on how far the school is in the community, there are policies that need to be reviewed and amended. Will the minister look at this task so that this is rectified so that communities are able to get obtain busses in a manner that is not difficult for them because of their policy.

Once the policy is renewed maybe things will be a little bit better. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. if I understand your question correctly that your question is in regards to bussing of the students policy yes, the communities operate differently among the various communities.

The reason why it varies is that some communities under their hamlet status they own their own school bus under the municipality and in some communities they don't even have a school bus. When they don't have school busses under the hamlet council they use private companies and also the way they are funded varies.

Mr. Chairman, in the larger communities they are eligible for bussing services according to the population and to the distance of the school and they are provided funding. Also in the three regions, Kitikmeot, Kivalliq and Qikiqtaaluk, the people who are responsible for dealing with these bussing services, they do get the contract or the people who run the bussing services to negotiate with the DEAs at the local level.

If the community doesn't have a bus of their own but the communities will be providing bussing services, the school operations would know. They do know which roles the DEAs are taking on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): I want to bring a question again while we're sitting here, although some of the question was already answered. There are many questions in terms of how to go about this. I have another question in a different area in terms of education.

Earlier I talked about students when they come to Iqaluit to get further education, perhaps enter them to a program when they have difficulties. When one of the courses is hard for them and is difficult for them, the student is let go and is returned home. Once the student is let go the student is told they have to wait another three years before you can re-enter the course or the program.

That is not a policy I agree with, perhaps as I said while the student still has a fresh memory of what the course is about I don't want them to wait three years to re-enter the program.

That's a comment I want to make and I wanted to ask whose policies these are we are using. While you are the minister how would you use these policies and how would you make them appropriate for our students. Thank you.

Chairperson: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. To date this has been a concern and it's just recently they started identifying this concern. We have to work closely together with the Nunavut Arctic College Board of Governors and also staff of the Department of Education.

Just recently they started discussing this topic and I will ask my officials to review this, this concern has been brought up just recently. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you for your response, we need to review this program because this is a program for our young people to utilise the program.

I have another question in terms of education, as well for those in the communities. I'll use an example in Kugluktuk. We've been using the new writing systems with the r's these are used in the schools but outside of the schools, these are not used the q's, the r's are not used.

As a minister how are you going to go about working on this with the q's, the r's the new writing systems in the school versus the language of the old writing system in the community. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize, the report already contains this which we will be tabling before the fiscal year end. The contents of the report I cannot divulge that information during the leadership review. Once we table the information we can give you an adequate response and your responses are contained in that report which has not been tabled yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Further questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have another question is that okay. Mr. Chairman. I have comments in regards to Arctic College and the programs. I see we are all aware as MLAs and we know as future development goes on in the mining industry, there are many young people who are in need of jobs.

In terms of the Hamlets using buildings that are being used for programs. These are buildings that are being utilized by the Arctic College programs where the mining programs are in place, for training trades or the mining industry. Where would they be without the buildings where the programs are being run. As a minister are you aware or are you in support of opening more buildings for these types of programs where the mining industry programs would be utilized. Thank you.

Chairperson: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Yes, thank you Mr. Chairman. The Board of Governors of Arctic College I'm trying to work with them very closely and we have had a very good working relationship. We've kept each other informed of all the goals that we are setting.

Arctic College has been working with the capital planning in building, in construction of the schools and they are now part of that planning and we are reviewing in what community they need more Arctic College facilities. They are in our five year capital plans. This has been a great concern of many communities. Yes, I agree to work with the Board of Governors of Arctic College so that we can complete the capital plans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize, yes it's Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you for answering my question. When will the planning process be tabled or when will we hear from the Arctic College in terms of training centres in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The plans aren't available at the moment but I'll be able to provide them to the members as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Minister. That's the end of the list of things that I have for questions. Are there any further questions. I want to remind members that some members have used up more than half of their allotted questions and we're not quite finished the first minister yet.

So that means that possibly by the end of the review there could be no questions left for some of the ministers which is frustrating for the ministers. So keep that in mind using up your questions now they won't be there at the end of the day.

If I am not mistaken, are we finished with the Minister Responsible for Education. We are not. Further questions. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I haven't made a statement yet for the minister. Thank you. I had a prepared statement but my colleague Mr. Tootoo covered most of the points in regards to devolution of authority to DEAs.

Mr. Minister. The dissolution of the board, the regional board and I supported this as an MLA and being a former member of a regional board, I think it was a step in the right direction on behalf of this government.

With the dissolution of the board, you will find there's a lot of accountability now, before a lot of phone calls, requests for funding for some things and various other requests were stopped at the board level. Now they are gone and what I'm finding, is I am having to deal more as an MLA on one on one issues with yourself or with your regional director.

I call the director in my region quite a bit to deal with my local DEA issues and if he doesn't respond to me than I send a letter directly to you. I think that's good because it makes me as a politician as an MLA accountable to the DEAs who I pass on my comments and requests to you personally.

So I think the dissolution of the boards is a good thing but I'm starting to hear from my DEA that there's a reluctance sometimes, not all the time, the reluctance on the part of the board people to respond to them on issues. I take it upon myself to deal with you on those issues and directly with the board staff in my region.

I think it is going to get better once we define the roles more of DEAs. I'm a firm believer that DEAs should assume most of the responsibilities for education issues at the community level. I'm quite aghast at the fact that in Baffin that none of their DEAs have financial authority over their own facilities and staffing. You know to me it looks like it's just the old colonial attitude of we're the capital we're going to do what we think is good

for you guys out in those communities. I'm hoping we can beat that out of the government in the next few years.

My next issue and it looks like I only have 17 seconds left, is Inuit teachers. They go through this training program for two to three years, they get into the schools and most times than not, they are in the classroom with the largest amount of students, 30-1 25-1, 26-1 and they get the blame, later in 7-8-9 when the kids are behind a year or two.

In most cases, most of the teachers in the high schools are non-Inuit. I've not seen once in my history being involved in the DEA in ten years, I have made requests and I said it to Standing Committees before you were minister, that we should do more training at the local level of our Inuit teachers to get them up to professional levels so that later on they can maybe teach in the high schools.

And it's seriously lacking. In fact, if we're not careful we're going to lose most of them because I hear that unrest out there in the elementary schools grads who are teaching thirty kids it's difficult.

Why don't I go up the hill and get a job at the power corporation or with Sport Nunavut and make just as much money and work a quarter as hard and that's a fact, and I'm hearing it in other communities also.

So what I'm asking you to do and I know there might be a union thing but we've got to give our teachers in elementary classrooms a bit more help and some training.

The pupil teacher ratio in the elementary schools is out of control, it's so high, you go into the high school in the region and there's probably a student teacher ratio there of five to one or six to one. A lot of parents don't know when their kids are supposed to go to school. There on this credit program and I'm sure it's an Alberta curriculum but I just recently talked to a student in my community who is working at the restaurant there and she said that she has twenty two free period a week, and she's only sixteen years old in grade eleven, that's a tragedy. Why isn't she in there learning or advancing or doing something else. It's a sad day when gym has a credit, well these are my comments.

Arctic College, my colleague Enoki brought up the fact that how come we're not training in the communities. I've been beaten on that one for the last five years, we constantly seems to be sending people out to Fort Smith or somewhere other place in the world or the planet, to learn how to drive a caterpillar. The reason we can't teach them up here is because the guys working on heavy equipment for twenty, thirty years don't have a simple piece of paper to instruct a local person how to drive a truck or a piece of equipment.

I can fly into any community in Nunavut and see anywhere from ten to twenty to thirty pieces of heavy equipment sitting idle for 10 to 12 months of the year, owned by the private sector. Why can't we mobilize this stuff, provide snow clearing through a training

opportunity so income support, through Arctic College through whatever, build up infrastructure in our communities with the private sector. And that's about it. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. McLean Do you have any further questions or do you wish to save them for tomorrow.

Mr. McLean: Mr. Chairman, I don't want to be the one that keeps everyone here past six o'clock so no I don't have any more questions for the Minister of Education. I'll question him in the House on various issues in my community and that's why I'm not going to ask any questions here today.

I think the questions that we should be asking today are Nunavut wide and broad based and I can deal with my questions in my community during question period next week. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Chairperson: Can I assume that members are finished with their questions for the Minister of Education.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: So we'll resume tomorrow morning at 9 am with Minister Kattuk in the witness chair.

>>Applause

>>Leadership Forum adjourned at 6.03 p.m.

