



**Nunavut Canada**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT**

**Nunavut Leadership Forum:  
Election of the Premier and Minister**

Official Report

**Thursday, June 14, 2018**

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**Members Present:**

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

>>*Meeting resumed at 15:30*

**Prayer**

**Chairman** (Mr. Joe Enook)(interpretation): Good afternoon, members and Nunavummiut who are watching the televised proceedings and listening to the radio broadcast.

I call this meeting of the Nunavut Leadership Forum to order.

Before we proceed with the agenda, I call upon the Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet to deliver the prayer. Please rise.

>>*Prayer*

**Adoption of Agenda**

**Chairman** (interpretation): It is my duty to convene today's proceedings of the Nunavut Leadership Forum.

All members have copies of the procedures of the leadership selection process in front of them.

The procedures have been agreed to by Full Caucus.

A copy of today's agenda is also in front of members.

Do members agree to adopt the agenda?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Nominations for Premier**

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I will now open the floor for nominations for the position of Premier.

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

The floor is now open for nominations for the position of Premier of Nunavut. Member Mr. Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I nominate Mr. Netser for Premier. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I accept.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Nominations for the position of Premier. Member Angnakak.

**Hon. Pat Angnakak:** I nominate Mr. Savikataaq for Premier. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I accept the nomination. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Nominations for the position of Premier. Member Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Speaker, I nominate the Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Kusugak. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Speaker, sorry.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. This afternoon you can call me “Chairman.” Mr. Kusugak, do you accept the nomination?

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

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Nominations for the position of Premier are still open. Are there any other nominations?

I apologize. Thank you. There being no more nominations, I now close the nominations. We will now proceed to the candidates’ remarks.

Each candidate has up to 10 minutes to make their remarks.

We will proceed in alphabetical order by surname.

Therefore I first ask Member Mr. Kusugak to proceed to the witness table.

Mr. Kusugak, you may proceed with your remarks at any time. Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you. Every time I sit at the witness table, I know there are questions coming. Thank you, my colleagues. I also thank you for giving me an opportunity to appear before you at the witness table. I will begin, as the clock is ticking.

First of all, I would like to say that this is a speech I did not want to make. Seven months ago when the session began, we all had very high hopes and Nunavut had high hopes and expectations. We were all elected on a promise to point the territory in a new direction, to a better place, and to be more open and accountable. We promised a good government and real results. I know we all remain committed to meeting that promise, (interpretation ends) but this morning we decided that that promise cannot be continued under the current leadership. If we are going to deliver on our promise, we need to act now to restore confidence in this government; restore confidence in all of us.

I have really enjoyed the opportunity to serve as Minister of CGS and the Nunavut Housing Corporation. I am very happy with what we have done on what we have started here. I would be happy to finish out my term in that office, but I think our most urgent need right now is for experienced leadership to restore credibility to the Office of the Premier and to all of us. I believe that's how I can best serve Nunavut and that's why I put my name forward.

Why am I putting my name forward now and not seven months ago? Seven months ago I thought we had a lot of candidates and there were good leadership possibilities from them. I was just re-elected at that time and I needed to refresh my knowledge of governance at that time. Shortly after last fall's election, I stood before you and I told you what I believed in and what I would try to achieve. None of that has changed.

(interpretation) I still believe that we need to strengthen our cooperation with regional Inuit associations. We should be working as partners in every area. As Nunavummiut, we have a very small population to promote economic development, to develop Inuit-owned businesses, and to address our housing needs. I have served as executive director at the Kivalliq Inuit Association. I know how much we can achieve when we work together with the regional Inuit associations.

I still believe that we can see more Inuit working within the government under Article 23. We also have to look at the NNI Policy to promote Inuit (interpretation ends) contracting and businesses. (interpretation) There are a lot of Inuit out there who want to work and who want to stay in their community but have to relocate to where the jobs are. We are Members of the Legislative Assembly. We're not only here to make laws, but we can work on finding solutions to those problems.

(interpretation ends) I still believe in expanding leadership programs and promoting recruitment, promotion, and pre-employment training to get Inuit employment levels up in priority areas at senior levels; in fact in all levels. I want to see that done in a way that preserves and protects everything that has been achieved to date.

Let's be honest: there has been a real lack of communication within the government, between the Premier's Office and MLAs, and the departments that keep the territory running. We need to reopen those channels so that people aren't afraid to speak to each other.

Employment within the GN should be an honour, something that people do because they're proud of it. I would like to see the GN become a place where Inuit and all Nunavummiut can work with pride.

(interpretation) I want to see us having a good working relationship with regions and communities throughout Nunavut. We should refrain from talking only about the Kivalliq, the Kitikmeot, or the Baffin regions in an adversarial tone. Our regional set-up should not be a weakness and it should be our strength instead within the context of sharing Nunavut.

I believe we should bring our elders back home. We need to learn where we truly are now that seven months have passed. We really need to examine exactly where we are now.

I believe it's time to finalize the *Education Act* that has the full support of the Department of Education and the Legislative Assembly, but also full support from the DEAs and the regional Inuit associations.

I still want to see the Language Acts recognized, supported, and fully implemented through the *Uqausivut Plan*. I recognize that Aarulaaq shared that goal and I acknowledge his commitment, but there's so much more to do.

These were my goals seven months ago and none of them have changed and I know that you're committed to that as well.

(interpretation ends) But things have changed. For one thing, we have lost seven months. I hope and I know that you hope we would be much further down the road to those goals. We can't get that time back, but if we can act now quickly and decisively to restore confidence and credibility to the Office of the Premier, we can still go back to our communities at the end of our terms and say, "This is how the GN made this community a better place to live over the last four years. These are the jobs we brought home. This is the housing we built. Here are the elders being cared for right here in our community." We can still say that.

We have worked together for seven months now and you now know some things about me. You know how I work. I like open doors, I like open communication, and I like open decision-making, but that's not what I have seen in the past few months and I'm very concerned about the growing level of confusion and division, and sometimes even anger. That's not what any of us want.

This Chamber was never intended to be an Assembly of factions or an Assembly of regions. We're an Assembly of equals represented by our community to govern on their

behalf humbly and with their guidance and in accordance with their values. That's why they sent us here. I would welcome the opportunity to lead this Assembly as Premier to restore that spirit and those values with this government, and together we can make that happen. Together we can take those steps in deep water. Together we could take the ship and make it run in rough water. Together, collectively, we can steer it, not top-down or bottom-up but together. We need somebody who can bring this group of very intelligent people together and guide our territory to, I think, something that the territory wants to be guided towards.

You know how I operate, no frills kind of go at them and that's what I commit to doing, to being honest, fair, and equal to each and every one of you regardless of your territory, regardless of all that.

Thank you for the opportunity to address you. At an appropriate time I would be more than happy to answer your questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. We will now proceed. At this time I would like to ask Member Netser to go to the witness table to make his comments.

Mr. Netser, you may begin when you're ready. Mr. Netser.

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, if you see some butterflies flying around, please swat them for me.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation) I would like to thank Tony Akoak for asking me to run for Premier.

I'm sorry for almost calling you "Mr. Speaker."

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, today I offer you my pledge to work hard for you and with you and in partnership with our stakeholders, Inuit organizations, and the private sector. In times of uncertainty, we must stand united and work through our differences in how we reach our goals and our aspirations.

The path to our goal may not always be the same (interpretation) and that's okay. (interpretation ends) We are all different people and we all have different mindsets. The goal is clearing the path for a desired outcome. Every region in Nunavut matters, Mr. Chairman. The aspirations of Nunavummiut by region differ as none are alike.

We have a culture and our language as our foundations. (interpretation) We will never lose our language. Even though we come from different backgrounds, we all come together in Nunavut. The language of the people of the Kitikmeot, Qikiqtani, and Kivalliq is very strong and we use that as a base to stay together.

(interpretation ends) Our goals will never completely be alike, but those are the differences that we must work through and understand if we are ever going to build a strong economy for the people of Nunavut. Governments can't do it alone. Government has a responsibility to deliver important social programs like health and education as an example, but as a government, we also have a responsibility to developing policy that leads to economic development and a strong private sector. Government should be a road to prosperity to our people, not a brick wall.

In the last eight months I have seen and heard the concerns of our Members of this House, issues that are important to them and to their communities. I have watched with great disappointment our government's unwillingness to work with us and our Inuit leaders, no willingness to even meet with leaders to discuss how the government can develop a territory's complexity against the mandate developed by the Members of this House.

I have seen waste. I have observed the 8,600 square kilometres of offshore rich in resources taken and given to a third party environmental group without any compensation to the government or our Inuit organizations.

I have not seen this government stand up to the federal government that will impose a carbon tax which will hurt every citizen in Nunavut. Mr. Chairman, it's \$467 per person based on the \$15 million that the federal government will be imposing on us.

I have observed the government's reluctance to address the epidemic of domestic violence of our women and children. This is unacceptable. We must change it.

I have heard in this House, MLAs wanting to see a government embrace the emerging, growing sector economy of mining in our territory asking the government, "What are you going to do to train Nunavummiut for these great opportunities that lay before us?" These opportunities would help greatly the many unemployed people that live in our non-decentralized communities. We have heard no plans. This is unacceptable.

This is not why we all fought to get elected into this House. Our time is short, the needs are great, and we need to do our part in moving forward together by working together. We are a consensus government. Consensus can only be built by talking to one another, listening, learning, and engaging our partners and our Inuit leaders to building a path forward. We have a new mandate developed by each and every one of us. Our current budget is a deficit budget with no plans to grow the economy to create more revenue. We need to do our part to be a path into developing a strong, resourceful Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, I will build a strong team to move issues that lay before us. I will instruct my team to develop solutions and results on your behalf. We know the issues and more studies are not going to help anyone. I will instruct my ministers to restrict unnecessary travel and waste. I will immediately meet with the Inuit leaders from all three regions of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and hear what their aspirations are and challenges with this government. We need to address that.

I will develop an interdepartmental committee of health, justice, social services, and status of women to develop and put forward recommendations on how we can support our women and children in domestic violence situations.

I will instruct my ministers of Economic Development and Transportation, Nunavut Arctic College, and Family Services to develop plans to deliver training that is related to mining so Nunavummiut can benefit from these great opportunities.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, today I am still me. I am interested in running for the Premier of Nunavut. I would like to work with all of you because Nunavut was built (interpretation ends) off the backs of our people, and we need to benefit from the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*. I do not apologize for being a Nunavut beneficiary. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. I would now like to ask Member Savikataaq to go to the witness table to make his remarks.

Mr. Savikataaq, you may proceed with your remarks when you're ready. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to thank Ms. Angnakak for nominating me.

Right now we are in this House to choose a Premier together. I believe I'm the right person to be the Premier. I will tell you why I think I would be a good Premier. I used to be a regular MLA like you and then I became a minister. I know how the regular MLAs feel and how hard they work for the improvement of their communities. I understand that. That's very clear. This morning was difficult and it's over. We have gone through that and now we're in this situation.

If I am chosen as Premier, I'm not going to say this is what I will do and this is what I will not do. I'm trying to think of something proper to say. We did not approve of our former Premier's way of doing business, so he was removed. If it is agreed I should be chosen as Premier, I would do things with your approval. I would communicate with you directly and I would listen to you.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, I believe I'm the right person to be Premier. I'm honest and I tell it like it is. Some people don't like that, but you have to tell it like it is. I believe in giving people hope, but not false hope. There is no good in that. I'm open-minded, I'm willing to listen, and I'm willing to take advice. I'll just say one of my downfalls is that once I make my mind up, it's pretty hard to change and I'll work on that. We also have to make sure that we don't wiggle all over the place. When you get a direction, you go straight; you go to your goal.

I'm not going to talk about all of the stuff that we need to do. We all agreed on the mandate and we're going to work on that mandate to get where we want to get to. The question here is: who is the right person to take us to where we want to get to? It's about

leadership. I truly believe that I'm the one that will lead you to get where we want to go, not where I want to go, where we want to be when this government is done. We all want to say we did our best and we want our best to be to get us to where we should be, where we want to be.

I am a positive guy and I think that that's what is needed here at times too. We have so much infrastructure needs that we have to figure out how to use the little resources we have to get big results.

(interpretation) If I am elected, then I would work with the ministers, but I would advise them that they have certain responsibilities. I would not go behind anybody's back to get what I want. That is not the right way. I would speak directly with the minister and have a discussion. I would suggest my way of doing it. I already talk to the MLAs here. When you're here, I visit your offices almost daily and talk to you. We're not a party system. We have to work together as ministers and we all have to work together with the MLAs.

There was dissatisfaction with the way things were going under the leadership of the former Premier. I would not do that. I would try to do things differently and work with the ministers and MLAs as one team. When the MLAs are in town, they leave their relatives behind and they come here as one person and then we become a family here. That is great. When we are leaving, we sort of give sad goodbyes because we won't see each other for a while, but then we're happy for each other because we're going back to our families. I know you're all homesick. I thank you for coming here to do what you do and you all do good work. We managed to pass all of our bills and we did a good job.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, I believe people are accountable for their actions too. People have to be accountable for their actions and they have to be and should be rewarded for their actions too. We can't just look the wrong way if something's not right. It has to be fixed, and I don't look the other way and I don't look the wrong way.

I can make tough decisions when they need to be made. They might not be popular decisions at times, but sometimes you have to make unpopular decisions. As I heard from many MLAs, we only have so much money. There is some stuff that we would like to get done that will not get done and other stuff will take priority. I would work with the MLAs and cabinet to make sure that we make the right choice for those tough choices.

Just in closing here, everyone knows who I am. The re-elected MLAs have worked with me for four years. They know what I stand for. They know how I work. They know I don't mind working hard and they work hard too. It was a very late night yesterday, but we got it done. That's what we need to do. We need to work hard to get it done and I believe I'm the guy that can get it done. I will work hard and I will get it done. I just want to thank all of you for listening to me.

We're going to have question period shortly, and we will get questioned and you will be able to see more of my positions. I hope that my answers will be what you want to hear and I hope you heard what you wanted to hear here while I'm talking, but I was here

seven months ago and sitting right here and said the same stuff. I told the truth then and I didn't tell people what they wanted to hear just to get their vote, and I'm still not doing that. I will not tell you just what you want to hear to get your vote; I will tell you what's right here. I thank you for your time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

### **Questioning Candidates for Premier**

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Kusugak, Mr. Netser, and Mr. Savikataaq, thank you for your remarks.

We had agreed to the procedures for the leadership forum. I will now review the procedures for the question period for candidates for the position of Premier.

Any member who is not standing for the position of Premier may ask up to two questions.

Each candidate in line for Premier may then respond in turn to the question.

Questions do not need be asked consecutively.

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

I believe those procedures are clear.

Now I ask: do any members have questions for the candidates? Member Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a pretty simple question and it will probably be my only one. What was the biggest lesson you learned from this morning's exercise with the motion? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. We will begin with candidate Mr. Netser.

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the question, Mr. Hickes. The biggest lesson I learned this morning was we need to be truthful to the people that we serve and are going to be working with because we are the Premier's Office and the Executive Council is at the Regular Members' Caucus wishes, really, because we agreed that we would not have a mid-term leadership. The greatest lesson is that we need to work with the Assembly and tell the truth. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A very interesting question and not a simple one to answer nonetheless, but the biggest lesson I learned amongst many is that

when you do make a mistake, and in any job, these in particular, you will make mistakes, if you make your mistake, own up to it and move on and deal with your mistake. Mr. Chairman, that's in a nutshell. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess what I'll take away from this, you have to be truthful here, you have to have your integrity, and you will be held accountable to what you say. Make sure what you say is understood, communicated properly, and make sure you work with all the MLAs and cabinet to make sure that what you say is truthful and what you want to do, you get it done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I now invite Member Mr. Mikkungwak to ask a question.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. My question to the candidates is: what is your position on (interpretation ends) community empowerment? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I will begin with Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am in full support of community empowerment. Communities have their own priorities and should be able to make their own decisions without the government. We need to look for ways so that the communities can exercise their own discretion on what kinds of infrastructure or needs they have with the budgets we provide, how they can be more independent, and what the best use is for the budget received.

We need to review how the municipalities can operate, allowing the communities to have the discretion as to what kinds of infrastructure or what they would like to do within their own community. The only way they can do that is when they can be provided additional funding, not necessarily all at once. I do believe that all the municipalities have to be given more power and authority. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with (interpretation ends) community empowerment. (interpretation) The hamlet councils are the local government and they are in a better position to know exactly what their community requires and in which direction they should go. With the system that we use for the communities, an official goes to the community to speak with the hamlet council, HTO, and the public and emphasizes and uses that system. That is our procedure. The hamlet council should be given more authority where funding is involved. If funding is not included, you are not empowering a community; it just stays idle. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have been asking that question here about the communities that I represent because they're always lacking in funding. The questions I asked earlier were regarding whether or not communities could be provided additional funding. We have heard of community empowerment. I believe that government projects, including housing or constructing infrastructure such as warehouses or garages, involve working with the hamlet council and providing them with funding for construction in the form of a contract. This will enable communities to develop capacity to get more employment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I will now invite Member Mr. Lightstone to ask a question.

**Mr. Lightstone**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For my first question, I would like to revisit the question that I asked during the original leadership forum and it's going to be related to the government's current human resources issue. I was wondering how the Premier candidates perceive the best way to address our current human resource issue, capacity, or other functioning or "unfunctioning" areas with relation to human resources. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I will begin with Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I recall getting that question seven months ago and my answer back then was I wasn't sure. After hearing more and learning more, I believe we should look at separating Finance and HR. I'm not saying it's going to be done, but it should be looked at because there are obvious issues.

I have worked in, I think, four different departments now and we have issues with staffing. We just can't get them filled fast enough. At the rate we're going, it's going to be a very long time until we have all the positions filled or near all. We will never get all because there are turnovers, but we have to get to higher capacity in terms of civil servant workers that we have here because we can't give Nunavummiut the service that they deserve and that they want if we have vacant positions. We have to work on making sure we fill the jobs that are vacant with qualified people that want to work for the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a regular member who is not in cabinet, it's confusing. I was wondering if the departments would have their own HR division. When I was speaking with cabinet members, they said that (interpretation ends) each department has a division dealing with human resources. (interpretation) I understood (interpretation ends) both sides of the story. (interpretation) When there is a division in the department, nepotism happens.

I believe that the HR department should be a stand-alone department so all the employment opportunities can go through that department instead of having separate HR divisions within individual departments. I would have a stand-alone HR department. Sometimes we do make a mistake. Sometimes the government is reluctant to admit their mistake. When we can admit our mistakes, there is integrity. I believe that HR should be separate, if the other members of the cabinet are in support of it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't have an opportunity to answer that question the first time you asked it, but I think, since I have been in cabinet, that is one of the biggest barriers I came across in terms of dealing within government. You have so many people out there that want to work for the government, but we can't because of the barriers that are put forth because of HR and Finance. I believe, when that was brought forward in the Third Assembly, the recommendation was not to put the two together.

With the support of regular members, if I was fortunate enough to become your Premier, I would get the senior civil servants to begin to see how quickly we can, if not remove it, make it stand alone within so that we can start hiring people into departments, so that we could hire...I totally lost track of where I was, sorry...to get the ball rolling so that we can get the hiring of people there. We have people that are on casual. We have people that are on contract services because of issues with HR, very serious issues. It will be one of the priorities to fix that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Kusugak, I apologize to you. Maybe I don't give reminders enough and I tend to think that we all remember that we have to mute our cellphones, as they can interrupt us. I'm reminding you now to please mute or turn off your cellphones when you enter the House. I apologize to you again, Mr. Kusugak.

Let us proceed. I now invite Member Mr. Main to ask a question.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think you're the Speaker right now.

My question is: if you became the Premier, how many hours would you work in a day? We all know that the ministers and Premier get paid very well. I think it's over \$200,000, if I remember correctly. They're not told how many hours to work. It's up them. If you were Premier, how do you foresee your work ethic? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I will begin with Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Being a minister or Premier, there aren't any work hours. You're working as soon as you become minister. Even at home, your phone never stops. With wireless computers and cellphones and

correspondence, it never stops. If I say 8:00 to 5:00, I would not be telling the truth. Your phone starts ringing before 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 or 12:00 at night to three o'clock in the morning. Some very happy people call you.

I can say that if I get the job, I'll work hard and I won't worry about what hour it is. Work needs to be done. I know that it will be tiring to some people and we all need to take holidays. However, as long as there is work to be done, we can't just stop the work that is before us, which is something I know personally. I had to think very hard about running for politics, especially when I have grandchildren who are still very small. Now that this day has arrived, I even mentioned it this morning that I have made up my mind after so much soul-searching. Even though I might be away for long periods of time, it's just part of what is required. It is the nature of the job and I intend to carry it all to the best of my ability Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was thinking about this when I woke up during the night.

>>*Laughter*

I was working for the hamlet before I became an MLA. I tried to make good use of my work hours. I went to work with integrity and they believed in me. I wasn't making much money, but I worked hard. I'm still thinking the same way.

Mr. Chairman, if I was elected Premier... I know that all of you are intimidating, but I am a hard worker and I think the regular MLAs know that. I also asked the minister some very hard questions. Being elected here means taking on a large workload and I know that the workload at the Premier's Office is even heavier. I'm not worried about the long hours that I would have to spend since my heart is already set on taking on that work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My work habits won't change. I come here before 8:00 in the morning and stay here all day. My colleague is right. Even if you're at home, you're still working. Even when you go to a community, you're still working, but I am known to be a hard worker. Being a cabinet member demands a great deal of work, but it's also very satisfying. As Premier, you would have even more work. My work habits won't change. I won't be so worried about the number of hours. You have to get the job done. When I'm in Iqaluit, I come in very early in the morning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I will now invite Member Keyootak to ask a question.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My first question to the candidates is... . We are all aware as MLAs that it was only because Nunavut was created that we are MLAs. If you were elected, how much consideration would you give to the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*? We were created under the land claims agreement. Our constituents always mention that we must operate more in the Inuit way. If you were elected Premier, how much would you support the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I'll begin with Mr. Netser.

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. When I was sitting at the witness table, I said that Nunavut was created for Inuit because of Inuit. We are here because we have the land claims agreement and we try to be truthful. The articles in the land claims agreement are part of the Canadian Constitution. If we don't adhere to its terms, we only have ourselves to blame. We are compelled to follow every provision it contains and I would work hard to do so. I would sit with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to discuss what is lacking in what the Government of Nunavut is doing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You have to follow the land claims agreement. It is a signed agreement and it is part of the Constitution of Canada. As parents and grandparents, we have to work harder on the Inuit language so that our children and grandchildren can speak Inuktitut. Talk to them in Inuktitut. Language has to start at home. Government cannot dictate it, but speaking Inuktitut has to be practised at home. Children go to school at age 5 and they learn how to speak when they're two years old. We have to use Inuktitut more at home. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you. That is our land claims agreement. We have to follow it and we want to follow it because it's our agreement. We gave up a lot trying to come up with a land claims agreement. Our government has to work with NTI, not just inform them of what the government is doing. When we were dealing with cannabis yesterday, we heard about whether the Inuit organizations and Nunavut Tunngavik were informed. They replied that yes, they were informed if they want to be part of the consultation. I think we have to get past that and not just inform them but have them involved.

The land claims agreement states that this agreement was made for the benefit of Inuit, to increase Inuit employment, to have Inuit improve their impact, to have more housing, to gain a better life. It's also part of Nunavut Tunngavik's mandate and it's also a part of our role. We need to arrive at an understanding and help them access funding aimed at benefiting everyone. I don't think that has been done enough by past government, even though NTI and government talk together, but according to the agreement on where

youth can go, on heritage sites, we have to work more towards and involve them in seeking funding programs.

That's what I think when we talk about the land claims agreement and that's how I believe it. We need to find the motivation to achieve those goals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I will now invite Member Mr. Qirngnuq to ask a question.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I only have one question. How do you see the people of Nunavut in the future? I hope I was understandable, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I will let Mr. Savikataaq respond first.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would see the future with more Inuit working for the government, more Inuit students graduating and going to post-secondary school, and those who lack housing being housed. I'm looking at that for the future, to have a happier future and less poverty. A lot of people have mental health problems and we need to improve that. There should be a mental health treatment centre for those with mental health. We all know that if we have mental health issues, it's harder to do things physically and it will be less satisfactory. Your question is very difficult to answer, but I look at a better future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I like looking at the vision, looking into the future; where my children are going to be, where my grandchildren and their children are going to be in the future. We have arrived at a very fast pace to where we are today and even some of the people who are here were born in tents and igloos. Our parents first saw skidoos. For example, in Rankin Inlet I even remember when we were able to call long distance, and then the TVs arrived. Everybody had their TVs on when the power went off and Montreal won that time.

>>*Laughter*

From there to here, it seems like lightning. Yesterday we heard that there were 40 graduates in Arviat and just recently it seems like we just went into the school system a few years ago, and then there are the residential schools and then the reconciliation. Not long after we got grade 12 education, we are now getting lawyers, nurses, electricians, and carpenters, but there is a shortage.

However, I look into the future and people in Toronto and British Columbia want to hire people from Nunavut because of their trade skills. I can see the people of Nunavut going out into the provinces and working as electricians and nurses. That's the future I envision

through education and training. That's my vision for Nunavut, for Nunavummiut to go up there and work out there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We all have a vision of what we would like to see how Nunavut is, to become self-sufficient. However, it's not going to become a reality if we continue to be separate. Kitikmeot seems be apart from Nunavut and forgotten, even though they're part of the territory. They should be having the same types of services and programs available. Nunavut is huge and we are all different. We have to work together for the sake of our future. I see my grandchildren and their children becoming more capable than we are as lawyers, doctors, and engineers. However, if we don't work together and if we don't have good leadership, it's not going to become a reality. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I now invite Member Ms. Nakashuk to ask a question.

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you. Just as a preamble, it has been touched up on quite often and I didn't think that today we would have to have another leadership forum. The people from Pangnirtung are watching and most of the communities are tuned in. We're not playing games here. I would like to thank our previous Premier and again we will be working with him because that's the way it is with us here.

My question to the Premier candidates is: what are your priorities? We have to realize we have to prioritize what we need in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I will begin with Mr. Netser.

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is one the most difficult questions today. We hear a lot about murders, suicide, and not having any safe shelters. We have to work collaboratively and if we just stand by doing nothing, nothing will change.

One thing that I work hard on, coming from a small community... . The communities that benefit from decentralization couldn't care less since the government just gives more money. Nunavut communities are just going to keep growing. With the lack of available jobs, people in small communities tend to turn to illegal activities. As Nunavut grows, more jobs are becoming become available, but only to the decentralized communities.

We have a lot of graduates coming out each year, but when a job comes up, it's only in a decentralized community. With more youth graduating, we need to include non-decentralized communities. Take for example the (interpretation ends) Human Rights Tribunal. (interpretation) They had an office in Coral Harbour and they had three positions there. It's something you're very proud of when there is job availability in a smaller community.

We have to look at having those jobs and see if we can locate them in a non-decentralized community and not just in a decentralized community. That would be one of my priorities as the Premier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you for the question and I agree with you. The leadership forum is something we didn't want to see today.

This past spring session alone, we lost six people that I know from the hands of other people or by suicide. There may have been more, but the ones I counted are six. We need to empower the communities and place community wellness as a higher priority. There are the elders. We have made plans on making a long-term care facility for elders, which is already in the process under the *Turaaqtavut* mandate.

Community wellness contains many things and I was talking about the need to empower the communities. We need to review funding needs to enable community empowerment. Decentralization became a reality quite a while ago, even before we got Nunavut. (interpretation ends) So many things have changed since then and things that were not able to be decentralized at the time are so doable now. Don't forget, we have wireless Internet now, we have high-speed Internet, and we have communications galore. We have five- or six-year-olds being able to communicate on cellphones. We're so much more mobile now. We're able to do so much more that we realized as a government.

I hope this government can really take a look at decentralization and see if it's still relevant today and see if we can't decentralize even more from back then. Are there departments that can go to non-decentralized communities? Could we do that? Why can't we do that? I would explore that. I believe that would be one of the priorities I would look at with the cabinet to look at those opportunities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we were campaigning, we heard repeatedly that we should repatriate the elders who are in long-term care facilities outside of the territory. This is included in *Turaaqtavut*. As a top priority, even though we're a new government, we want to repatriate our elders from outside Nunavut and to establish a rehab centre. There are mental health issues or alcohol and drug addictions or even addictions to stronger drugs. I believe those should be a priority with this government.

We hear about our elders who were sent out of the territory not to be seen again in their communities and it is something our government wants to address and which I'll lobby in order to repatriate them before the end of the current government's term in office. I would lobby to get an elders' care facility operating in Nunavut. We also heard the need for a rehabilitation facility.

Shortage of housing and overcrowding is way over the top. Those would be a priority and I would look at finding more money so that we can build more houses, rehab centres, and long-term care facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I now invite Member Ms. Towtongie to ask a question.

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Nunavut-wide there is \$100,000 set aside for search and rescue operations, but all of us know that if you're going to purchase a boat, it's about \$75,000. I think this \$100,000 is way too small. In the south when a farmer's crop fails, they get financial support from the federal government.

As the Premier, what kind of support would you give the hunters? Some of them will lose their equipment like skidoos and Hondas, which are \$20,000. What would you do about that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have another question afterwards.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I will begin with Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's very true. Hunting equipment is getting more and more expensive every year. There are people out there who can't really get a loan because they don't have a full-time job and just focus on hunting. The Harvesters Support Program at NTI is not available anymore. If the hunters don't have equipment, then there is not much they can do. They do need financial support. The hunters don't just to wait for handouts because they're very independent, as they have always been, and they help their fellow citizens. They don't want to just wait for handouts.

If we would provide more support for the hunters, it would be a tremendous help. Some say that there are laws that are hindering us from providing support. We became Members of the Legislative Assembly to review the laws and make changes, not to just blindly enforce the laws. I would also look at funding programs that were underused and eventually terminated, such as the fuel subsidy program. That's just one example. We have to work with the regional Inuit organizations and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated so that we can focus on the hunters and provide more support for them in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That \$100,000 is small for all of Nunavut, but the intention is to pay it out to the unemployed. Yes, their equipment is expensive and the people who have jobs can buy insurance for their own equipment. That \$100,000 should be increased, but we would have to find the money somewhere else. Maybe we could make it into \$1 million and build fewer houses or something else that was approved would be delayed.

We have only a certain amount of money in the government. That \$100,000 is not much. However, if the MLAs wanted to increase it, we could increase it, but then we would have to find the money within the government. We don't get money for that purpose from the federal government. If we're going to increase it, we would have to take it from somewhere. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This was discussed in Naujaat when I was visiting there. The support program for hunters is useless and it would be better to just get rid of it. People try for it, but they never get approved. This comes from hunters who had lost equipment. They wanted me to get rid of that program because it's useless. The \$100,000 is not much, but it helps some hunters in Nunavut.

As my colleague Mr. Savikataaq said, we do have budget limitations in the government. We're working with a deficit budget and we have to use what money we have very wisely. We rely on funding from the federal government, which we have to use wisely. We have to use it the best way we can.

If we increase the budget for hunters, maybe we can initiate a different program that is better. You can't replace a boat with the funding we have now because one boat can cost over \$100,000. We have to find a way to spend the \$100,000 more wisely. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Before we proceed, we will take a 15-minute break.

*>>Meeting recessed at 16:54 and resumed at 17:11*

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. We will now reconvene the Nunavut Leadership Forum. We are still under questions to the candidates for Premier. As we proceed, I would like Member Kaernerker to ask the next question.

**Mr. Kaernerker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity. I just have one question. You are running for premiership. How would you proceed with devolution? Would you just let the devolution negotiations go the way they have been running up to now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I will begin with Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that in Nunavut right now we're not fully prepared for devolution. Right now as a government, we have to straighten our own affairs first. It's very hard to find staff. That's number one. We have a whole bunch of jobs that have never been filled. If we get devolution, then we will get all those new PYs we will not be able to fill either. I would not stop the

devolution talks, but I would delay to a further date. We have to make sure our government runs well first and have full capacity of workers.

Since last year when the federal government introduced a moratorium on oil and gas exploration in the Arctic, it is impossible for companies to explore by drilling in Nunavut waters. That is not part of the devolution negotiations either. Prospective mines in Nunavut and most of the mineral activity are under local Inuit organizations. There are different mines that can produce gold or other minerals.

I would not stop work on this, but we would have to think hard about what we are trying to do for Nunavut. If something isn't running right, then why do we want additional responsibilities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I support the devolution talks in principle, but I don't think we should be meeting a deadline just to get an agreement in principle. I understand it's this September. (interpretation) I agree with my colleague that we should not rush into this. We need to find the best agreement for Nunavut. Once we sign that agreement, it will probably stay that way forever.

The only hope of royalties we have right now is through mining. If the prospective mine sites are owned by the Inuit organizations, then we won't be able to get any royalties out of them. We rely on the federal government for funding. Once we get more independent, we will be able to access royalties and more revenue from mining.

Oil and gas exploration in Nunavut has been closed. If it's going to be closed forever, it will be no good if we had a devolution agreement. With these possible ways of making money being frozen, I would be cautious of an agreement on devolution right away. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I now invite Ms. Kamingoak to ask a question.

I'm sorry. I think I'm already getting tired. I apologize, Mr. Kusugak. Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you. I know you're not doing that on purpose.

I also think we need to keep a real good eye on devolution. We don't want a devolution deal just for the sake of getting devolution. If only we can run it the way we want to run it, then I will support it. If our government isn't settled down and then we try to get into that agreement, it may take us through a dangerous route, but then the federal government would just tell us that we agreed on this.

I do support the fact that we can run things more independently, but we have to get the government ready. We have to get our staff ready first. I believe we have to look more

into our staff and negotiators. We have to make sure we have the proper negotiators for devolution to make sure that they come up with a good agreement. We have to keep a good eye on them. We just heard that we're getting a new negotiator as well. We have to settle these things properly. I would want to look further into this as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Kusugak, I again apologize to you. I now invite Ms. Kamingoak to ask a question.

**Ms. Kamingoak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you all know, I have been advocating for this for the last seven months. What is your position on the Hamlet Council of Kugluktuk's proposal on the 24-hour care elders centre? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I'll begin with Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. We all stated in here, I think every single one of us believe and agree, that we need our elders not closer to home but at home and, if not at home, then as close to home as we can get them. Ottawa and Edmonton are really not that close to Nunavut. That being said, I think that we should try to find the best way to achieve that. I think, as legislators and as MLAs, we collectively need to look at that.

I said that as a Nunavut territory, we need to try to look at our territory as a whole and all too often I think we start dividing and looking at regions when we should be looking at a territory. I know there are many people from the Kitikmeot that live in Rankin Inlet that have been there as long as I have been born. They went there when the mine opened up. We have this varied mixture of Nunavut.

In terms of the elders facility that you're talking about in Kugluktuk, it should be looked at in a fair and equitable way like we should look at all of them and say that it deserves the same merit as any other and it shouldn't be looked at any less because it was brought by the hamlet. I think it should not have an attachment to it where it said, "Oh, yeah, but that's from them"; it should be the same merit as all the others. I assure you that if I am fortunate enough to be your Premier, that and other proposals I assume that would come forward would be given the same light and same merit as that of any other. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the question. I think, in our mandate, we want to bring elder care closer to home. Having said that and being a public government - and you had asked questions to the Hon. Minister of Health a few times over it - we have to be fair in the tendering process. I am much in favour of bringing elder care closer to home, so I would support any endeavour for our elders to stay in Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Elders' care is important, it's a hot topic, and it's one of the priorities. It would be looked at, like my two colleagues, as all the other proposals that might come in. We want to look at Nunavut as a whole, not piecemeal. We want to find out what's the best solution for all of Nunavut, but in saying that, since they have a proposal already, they have a step up from everyone else because they have a proposal. I have seen the drawings and designs in the previous government.

Everybody would be looked at fairly, squarely, and equally, but as of right now the Department of Health is in charge of elders' care and they will come up with a solution. As a Premier, I would encourage them to look at all proposals, but first we have to figure out what is the best solution for Nunavut to get as many elders back home and close to home with X amount of dollars to do it. First, we have to come up with how we do it. For your proposal, it's not that why it should be there; it's more or less why it couldn't be there. It would be looked at as all other proposals would be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I will now allow Member Angnakak to ask a question.

**Hon. Pat Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a lot of demand placed upon the government to be the answer for all needs for everything big or small. We all know that there is much work to be done to address the lack of housing, the high poverty rates, or the issue of the lack of jobs in our communities. We have a huge infrastructure deficit. Those are some examples.

Since the Government of Nunavut won't be getting a blank cheque anytime soon, how will you go about addressing these needs with our limited finances? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I'll begin with Mr. Netser.

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe she asked a two-pronged question, (interpretation ends) lack of housing and poverty.

(interpretation) When we were still part of the Northwest Territories, I used to be a public housing tenant. I keep talking about the HAP housing program. I was living in public housing at the time the Northwest Territories introduced the HAP housing program. I was approved for that and it took me two years to build my own home.

Ever since I built my private home, I still haven't requested for a home. When I left the house that I was renting, the people who didn't have a house could rent it. If we bring back the (interpretation ends) HAP house program, we can kill two birds with one stone. (interpretation) If we move out, there's new room for a homeless person. If we're looking in the long run, it's not too expensive. I know that we can slowly eradicate the shortage

of housing. As I said before, we need to bring back the (interpretation ends) HAP house program.

(interpretation) In regard to poverty, the government has a mandate and they have a poverty reduction strategy. I haven't reviewed that strategy yet and I would review it diligently to see how we can reduce poverty. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you for asking that question. We would have to diligently review this issue because we have limited funds. Since we became Members of the Legislative Assembly, we have been talking about funding since last winter and we have been reviewing budget allocations. I believe we have to find a better avenue.

We have heard from regular members that departments try to use up their budgets before the end of the fiscal year on March 31. I believe that we should look into how we deal with budget proposals and see if the system is good. For example, we have heard at CGS that they would put in a budget line item every year, whether it was expended or not. I think we need to look at that again.

(interpretation ends) I think it has been made very clear by our colleagues that we need to rethink the budgeting system. I know Mr. Lightstone hammered at me and hammered at all of us on this side of the House to say that we need to rethink how we budget. We can't be trying to just spend as much as we can before the deadline or we lose that money. Well, we're actually not losing money; we're actually trying to save money.

I think, through this, we need to take a look through the finance minister and their staff to see, "Could we rethink that? Do we need to give everybody the same size balloon and hope they don't pop it?" We need to look at those. We need to rethink how we deliver services in departments such as Health to see if the way that we are going with it is good. We have no choice because of certain things, but in some places we do. I think we have to take a look at those and take a hard look at what we're dealing with in terms of funding the things we want in Nunavut and the things we need in Nunavut. I think we can do that collectively here. I think there's opportunity. Every million dollars we save is a million dollars we need to use somewhere else.

Thank you for that opportunity to answer, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Everyone is correct. We only have a limit on our dollars. I think the best way, in my opinion... . There's a problem with procurement. We present our budgets here. They watch TV, people watch TV. They look at the budget. This says, "We're going to build a school in Baker Lake. The budget is \$35 million." Well, what do you think they are going to bid? They're not going to bid \$25

million because they know what the budget is. If we had real competition, it wouldn't be such a bad deal if they knew the budget, but there are only a limited number of companies that bid on big projects.

I believe we have to somehow deal with the procurement process. We have to make it transparent still, but it has to be in a way that all these big projects that we as a government do, the proponents don't bid the budget. I'm not sure how it's done down south, but there are more companies down there, so there is competition. An example of that is a project that was supposed to be done in Pangnirtung for the airport studies there. The bids came in and they were higher than what it was budgeted. I am sure they knew what the budget was.

I don't have the solution on how to fix that. We want to be transparent, but we don't want all the companies to know what they can bid. I would have to have a good, long discussion with Finance, the legal people, and the MLAs. There's got to be a halfway system where the MLAs question on a budget and they know the budget, but when it comes out to be tendered, the people that are bidding on the project don't know what the budget is. That's one area that I believe has to be worked on.

As for the poverty, we have to get our people educated. People of Nunavut have got to get educated. We've got to encourage them to go to school; do good in school, get training. That doesn't necessarily mean you're all going to become lawyers, doctors, nurses, and teachers. We need tradespeople. We need people to get themselves employed. We need role models so that the communities can look up to someone and say, "Look, I want to be like him, someone who's got a job." When someone has a job and they take care of their own family, they feel good. They do good. We have to help Nunavummiut to get that plateau. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I will now allow Member Akoak to ask a question.

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a different type of question. I don't know how to really ask it, but as leaders, we all mistakes and sometimes we can't correct it. I'm going to ask the Premier-to-be: if you ever made a great big mistake that you couldn't undo and just apologizing wouldn't save you, how would you handle it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I'll begin with Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's really quite simple. If "I'm sorry" doesn't fix it, I would do the honourable thing and if it meant resigning, then that's what I would do, if that's what it led to. It depends again what it was, but again, we're here, we have jobs that require us to be honest and truthful, and if it was something that an apology couldn't solve, then you do the right thing and remove yourself from the position which you hold. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't think of a situation where a Premier would be put in that situation. It's very hard for me to imagine that, but I have no problem apologizing and I have done it in the House. You make a decision with the best information you have at the time. If it turns out you get more information and it's the wrong decision, then you correct it. I don't know if it's a mistake, but you correct it. If it's a mistake, you say, "Well, I've got better information."

If it's something really bad, I can't think of a situation where an apology wouldn't fix it, but if it's criminal, if it's fraudulent or something like that, then yes, you would have to resign. The Premier and all the ministers are held up to a higher standard. We're up in the plateau. You have to be able to look at yourself in the face in the mirror and know that what you're doing is to the best of your ability, you're honest, and that you're doing it for the betterment of everyone. If something happens that is so bad that nothing can fix it, then yeah, you would have to resign. People have to trust you. People have to look up to you. People have to know that what you say is the truth. People have to be able to know that you've got good integrity and you have good intentions.

I myself can't think of being in a situation like that, but if it came that something happened like that, yes, anyone who is cabinet, the Premier or ministers, would have to do the honourable thing and step down. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Heaven forbid that we could ever get down to that stage when we have done the unpardonable sin. We witnessed it this morning when our leader that we removed today apologized a bit too late.

If I had done the wrong thing and an apology could not fix it, I would give my keys, go home and watch TV. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Laughter*

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Let me ask: are there any members who haven't asked a question yet? If not, I will go to the second line of questioning. Is there anyone who hasn't asked a question yet? I'll allow you to ask your second question, Ms. Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Across Nunavut, mental illness and disabilities affect families and communities and there is nowhere to turn to across Nunavut and are sent to Selkirk. If you were to become Premier, what would be your position on mental health issues? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I will begin with Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think I quite understand which place or community. I would like to ask for clarification. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Towtongie, please clarify your question so that you can get a response. Ms. Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question was: where would you list mental health as a priority should you become the Premier? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you for clarifying that. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Earlier it was asked what our priorities were and I stated that my priorities would be to bring our elders back and to have a health facility/addictions centre in Nunavut. We have to heal the people of Nunavut. There is a whole lot of healing that needs to go on and we have to do it. The two priorities would be right up there: bring our elders home and help the people of Nunavut heal mentally, whether it be trauma or addictions because they are both related. It would be a high priority up there, as I stated earlier in a previous question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday we passed Bill 7 and I commented at that time that I used to have an older brother who was destroyed by cannabis. It's obvious that it will be easier to deal with once interpreters are available. People who have mental health problems are increasing and I know they will need help.

We will be going through difficult times ahead if we will not be able to discipline our children. The main problem is that if we don't stop that problem at home... Healing begins at home. By the time they are sent to the health centre or psychiatrists, it's too late. Disciplining begins at home. It helps to make you wiser. I know we will work hard and we already work hard to deal with people who have mental health issues. All I can say is it has to start at home. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you for asking that question. There are many people with mental health issues in Nunavut. There are even people who are not aware that they have a mental health issue. There are many of them. This has to be dealt with. They are working on it, but we have to look further. We say, what is *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*? We keep saying Inuit traditional knowledge should be incorporated and applied within government when it can be used a lot more when it comes to mental health issues or physical disabilities. I believe *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* can be very effective in these fields.

Do we need a mental health facility where people can get help or do we need to build such facilities in smaller communities? I think the only way we can move forward is by working with the Department of Health and mental health workers. I believe we have to move forward on this and we will work harder as we have decided as a government. We have to move forward on this at a faster rate.

There are many people with mental health problems, as I stated earlier, youth and elders, and they're not even aware that they are being put aside by other people, but they only have mental health problems. We have to start dealing with them in Nunavut and not send them to a hospital outside of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I will allow Mr. Lightstone to ask a second question.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Many of our MLAs have voiced their concern over Nunavut's many social issues. I would like to ask the Premier candidates: what specifically would you do to address Nunavut's high rates of violence against women and child sexual abuse? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I will begin with Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** One of the biggest pains I had to endure, like you, was violence that was inflicted against my sister. Unfortunately I had first-hand experience in that like you, something that many of us should never have to, but those things happen because of the way the system is. I would shudder to think what would happen if somebody would have assaulted my little children while I sit and do nothing.

I think we need to take a really hard look very quickly in terms of what is there to protect women and children. Obviously it's not enough. What do we need to advance the agenda so that work begins yesterday in making sure things that happened to your sister and mine don't happen to anybody else? The violence that goes on to innocent little children is not acceptable and we shouldn't be able to sit here and say. "Well, we tried." If it happens, trying is not enough.

I assure you that I will work with cabinet and with you, and I encourage you to keep pounding the table until somebody listens. I encourage you to do that. I encourage all my colleagues and people out there to continue to demand that something be done. If I have the privilege of being Premier, I assure you that the cabinet will hear loud and clear that something has to be done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That's a serious issue that we face today, violence against children and women. In my speech earlier, I said I would develop an interdepartmental committee of health, justice, social

service, and the status of women and develop and put forward recommendations on how we can support our women.

We know that an unhealthy relationship eventually leads to the unfortunate death of women and children. Now, I believe we need to create an intervention program, introduce legislation that would allow us to take the family away from that relationship and give help to the men that badly need it. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have to take families that are in those situations and help them, but that is like a bandage solution. We have to get to the root of the problem. Why is it happening? What's the reason? We have to help those people at the root of the problem and having an addictions centre, a trauma treatment centre, a mental health facility, all that would go towards that.

We can't just keep treating the symptoms; we have to treat the cause. If we keep treating the symptoms and dealing with the symptoms, we will never get ahead. We will be treating the aftereffects of what happened. We've got to get down to the problem and treat it before it happens. We've got to help these people that need help and find the root of the problem. I don't know what the problem is; I can think and I can guess. Each individual case will be different. There is a solution to help these people that need help, but we have to get to the cause, not the symptoms. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I will now allow Member Kamingoak to ask her second question.

**Ms. Kamingoak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What concrete immediate steps will you take to truly implement Arctic 23, specifically in middle management, such as the director level? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I will let Mr. Netser respond first.

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the question, Mila. The Government of Nunavut is signatory to the land claims agreement. I believe in our people being promoted to positions within the government, but I don't believe in promoting people that are not ready for these high-paying jobs or these kinds of responsibilities.

We need to allow our people to grow up into the job instead of just for the sake of fulfilling Article 23, just for the sake of filling up these positions with Inuit under Article 23 because we would be doing an injustice to our people when we put them into positions that they're not ready for. I would really push for training and proper education so that our youth or our future generations could properly do the jobs that we are putting them into. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a complex issue. They have been trying to come up with a solution since 1999, 18 years roughly. We need to get Inuit into these positions, but like Mr. Netser said, they have to be qualified and they have to be trained.

We need more training positions, more intern positions, and more mentoring positions. I agree that this level should be concentrated at the management and director level because that is where most of the decisions are made. My goal would be to try to get as many internships, mentorships, and training positions to do that and also encourage people of Nunavut to get trained. Get your grade 12, go to more schooling. There are jobs there if we get qualified to do it. The jobs are there.

Specifically what I would do is I would just continue on with more mentorship, more training and in ways that people will start off at entry-level job, get training and you can go up the stepladder. You can come up with a work plan. Even if you're not at the higher level there, you can start here. You do this job, you can go to the next job, next step, and I believe it's doable. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm glad you asked that question because, when I spoke for a ministerial position, it was one of the topics I brought up and again this afternoon. Article 23 is a very important article and they didn't put it there to waste ink or give false hope.

I think it's crucial for the department that deals with that article to take a hard look at what it is really trying to do. The government often says, "Well, we can't because, we can't because, we can't because..." Do we want to be a "We can't because" or "We're going to try because"? We need to change things. We can't carry on down the same road that is not working and expect it to work.

Yesterday when we were discussing I can't remember which department it was, but Mr. Main said that we can't continue to try something knowing it's not going to work and keep going down that road. We have to take a hard look at what we are doing with this article. Are we putting too much emphasis on trying to get that in the top level and middle-management levels when we should be working on it from the junior levels and work its way up? We need to take a hard look at those.

I think it's important for us and for leadership to say, "Okay, let's take a look at this. It's obviously not working," and seek ways to make it work. Talk with the clients, talk with the Inuit employees and ask them why they are still not advancing or why they don't want to advance. There are a lot of barriers out there that we don't know about because we don't consult with them and we don't talk with them. There's not enough communication between those who want to advance and those who control the

advancements of things. We need to do something because what we are doing doesn't work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names on my list. I have one now. Member Ms. Nakashuk, your second question.

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you. I have a question. The population in Nunavut is very small compared to the rest of the world or even the rest of Canada. (interpretation ends) There are over 35,000 people and 4,000 GN employees. We hear about issues like how government needs to be accountable for not providing the service it should have done. We talk about HR issues, (interpretation) the lack of human resources, and non-functioning departments. (interpretation ends) In the next three years and four months, how do you as a Premier expect to be able to change these issues (interpretation) so that it's better for Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I'll begin with Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have to work harder or change the system in terms of our hiring practice so that we can get employees into these jobs so that Nunavummiut could get service, but we also have to work on keeping them. We want to make people want to work for the Government of Nunavut. We have to have an atmosphere where they want to work for us. We are competing with other entities and companies in Nunavut and outside of Nunavut.

As Mr. Hickes said one time, we don't know what service we could be able to offer if we had a fully functioning and filled civil service, and we would like to get to that. We have to change something so that we can hire quicker and we could retain our employees because there are jobs where the employees go in and out all the time. As I stated earlier, we look at Finance and look at ways to see if maybe HR and Finance should be their own department so that HR could concentrate on that. That's one of the things to be looked at.

We also have to make it so that, once people start working for the government, they want to stay working for the government. We have to be an employer that is welcoming and that people want to work for and feel good working for. When a person feels good at their job, they want to do it, they want to be productive, and they want to help Nunavummiut. If you have someone that goes to a job and they hate it, they're not going to do a good job. We have to make people want to work for us and enjoy their jobs and enjoy servicing the people of Nunavut. The people of Nunavut deserve to get served fully for the services that they are entitled to that we should be providing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you for asking that question. When I became a minister this winter, I was told that there were two Inuit from one of my departments who quit the government to work for an Inuit organization, which I

found very despairing. It is good that the Inuit organization got two very hard-working people, but we have to do the same thing.

(interpretation ends) We have a really good workforce out there. Often we are very critical of the services that they provide, but a lot of those positions are thankless positions. They work very hard and there are very committed workers out there, but it takes a few to ruin that. I think it's important for us to retain our staff, the good staff. I think there's not enough communication that happens within government. You get into a government job and the first week is like "Wow, I don't know why people quit this place; it's just the greatest workplace I ever had." Six months later, "This wasn't such a good place after all."

Communication breakdowns and communication barriers really start to build up walls in any workplace, anywhere. When you go and participate in and see special days where the staff are allowed to let loose a little bit, Inuit IQ days they are called, when they go berry picking or fishing or where they go do things, all of them, some of them who don't talk to each other very often become best of friends and everything is all hunky-dory. A couple days after that everything's good.

I think there are ways we can improve the workforce atmosphere in the workplace and I don't think we spend enough activity doing those things. Those are just as important as putting in a good day's work and we don't do that enough. I think the government has to, obviously, review how we operate because the government should be a place where you say, "I got the best job, I got a good salary, a great workplace, and good people to work with," regardless of whether you're Inuk or non-Inuk. It's important that our staff be happy. Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to respond.

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

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It's obvious that we have a serious problem with the HR issues in Nunavut. We keep hearing from our colleague from Baker Lake and from you, Mr. Chairman, of beautiful Baker Lake and beautiful Pond Inlet and I think what we need to do is promote Nunavut as a place to work. I think, collectively, we can make Nunavut the best place in Canada to work and we should promote Nunavut to be the best place where people are felt valued. As your Premier, I would promote Nunavut as the place to work. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names on my list. There were almost no more questions.

>>*Laughter*

I will allow Mr. Main to ask his second question.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our government plans to make amendments to the *Education Act*, but we still don't know how we will amend it. If you were selected as Premier, how would you support our schools and students to acquire the necessary education and skills for the future? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I will begin with Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was on the special committee when we reviewed the *Education Act*. We came up with recommendations to the government and a new Act was amended...it was updated and it was presented, but it never got debated. It died on the order paper. That doesn't mean we don't have to deal with it; we do. We're going to be in contravention of the Act next year because it states that we will have a fully bilingual education system in 2019. As Premier, I would instruct the minister to deal with the amendments and deal with the problem.

One of the big pushes I had when I was on the special committee is that we have to standardize our education system in Nunavut. If someone is in grade 6 in Whale Cove and they move to Cambridge Bay, the grade 6 there will be at the very same level. All the subjects should be the same and everything will be the same. We don't want it so that if you live in a small town, the quality of your education could be less than if you live in a bigger community. We don't want that. We want all Nunavummiut to be educated to the same level. Whatever the level that the *Education Act* implies, it should be the same across the board to every community in Nunavut.

We need to have an education system here where, when you finish your grade 12, it's just as good as someone who graduated from Winnipeg. We don't want a second tier system in Nunavut. We want well-educated Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to our colleague Mr. Main's question, we are always talking about education in Nunavut. It's not adequate right now. The education system is broken. People who think they graduated from our schools and once they get into college... I'm sure you're tired of hearing me say that their education level is too low. The college then has to re-teach these students in order for them to take the college courses and they lose a whole year.

We put too much pressure on Arctic College and that's because the present (interpretation ends) *Education Act* (interpretation) is inadequate and broken. (interpretation ends) I think we have a golden opportunity to fix our broken education system because with social passing, we're doing an injustice to our youth. We're fooling them to thinking that they have a grade 12, all the while that they're only in grade 6. That's an injustice and we need to fix that.

As your Premier, I would really work hard into fixing our education system because I always say the product is only as good as the producer. (interpretation) I think some of

our teachers need support as well. (interpretation ends) I would introduce a program too to upgrade our teachers into being able to teach in the classes that we put them into. Mr. Chairman, as your Premier, this would be one of my top priorities and I would work with the Department of Education to ensure that we fix this broken system. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we all understand how important education is and to complete education. If we can't graduate, we should at least try to attain the highest grade possible before giving up and before we fall asleep.

Education is one of the hardest departments and it is attached to poverty reduction. Those who have gone to school do better when you see your children go to school. My reply is simplistic, but the Minister of Education is aware of this and he says that he's working on the (interpretation ends) *Education Act*.

(interpretation) If I get elected as Premier, I would work with the minister and push him and his officials to expedite the work on the *Education Act*, to do it properly but do it soon. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I will now invite Member Ms. Ehaloak to ask a question.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is: how will you address the homelessness in our communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I will begin with Mr. Netser.

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That's a real difficult question to answer, and my colleague to my right who nominated me to this position has brought it up many times over the session that we have. It's a really difficult question to answer because I think some of our homeless people have lived in social housing where they have gotten back, have not paid their rent for many months and then have been evicted from these homes.

People coming in from other communities, Iqaluit is a prime example. A lot of people are here that are homeless. I think Iqaluit is one of the greatest communities in Nunavut that is so welcoming to people from outside, from Nunavut to make these people welcome.

I would certainly want to work with our ministers and get ideas from them because really, I don't have the answer for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you for the question. That's probably the hardest thing to deal with. If we've got 3,000 houses in Nunavut today, we would still be short houses, yet we only get enough money to build a couple hundred a year, barely enough to keep up with the needs of housing of people who are not on the housing list, but people who are getting on the housing list are even greater than the houses we build for them.

I think, in short, if I was fortunate enough to be your Premier, that would give the opportunity to have direct one-on-one meetings with the Prime Minister's Office, with the other premiers in this fine country of ours, and I would take those opportunities to hammer home the need for Nunavummiut to be housed. We do get housing funding, but it's nowhere near enough because a house that would cost \$100,000 in a city down south costs us \$400,000 or \$500,000 to build here. We have people living in houses that are the size of a \$500,000 home in Toronto's living room, yet there are nine or ten people living in that house. I think that is where I would go with it.

It's very important that we lobby with NTI, ITK, and any other bodies out there that have the common goal to at least begin housing Nunavummiut adequately, and the federal government funding Nunavut adequately just for housing, never mind all the shortage of funding we get. We need to hammer home to the Prime Minister's Office and other provincial leaders that very need just for the right to house people in Nunavut. That is where I would start. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the other two candidates said, this is a tough issue. There is no easy answer. We have homeless shelters in a few communities. I think that is the way to go, to get more, but like my colleague said, there are many reason why people get homeless. Some are evicted because they never ever paid their rent. Some have mental issues and the family doesn't want to deal with it anymore.

Just building houses, like my other colleague said, we can't get enough. Any extra we can get will help, but there is talk of getting transitional housing and that's a step in the right direction. I don't have a solution for homelessness. I know it's a lot bigger than we think because we as Inuit, if one of our relatives doesn't have a place to stay, then often they stay at someone's house for a while and then they stay at someone else's house for a while. There is hidden homelessness that I believe is bigger than what we actually see out there.

I don't pretend to say I have a solution to end homelessness. If there is any way we can get federal monies to help us out with it, then that would help to go towards a solution of making homelessness less of an issue. I don't think we will totally eliminate it, but we have to do what we can to lessen it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

### Election of Premier

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names on my list. There being no more questions for the candidates, we will now proceed to balloting.

I ask all members to proceed to the voting table. I ask that members on the left enter and leave through the left and the members on the right enter and leave through the right. We will be voting in an orderly fashion.

The ballots will now be taken to a secure area in precinct for counting.

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

*>>Meeting recessed at 18:24 and resumed at 18:35*

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, members. The Nunavut Leadership Forum has reconvened.

I wish to advise the members that there is a requirement for another round of balloting.

The following candidates will be on the ballot: Mr. Kusugak and Mr. Savikataaq.

As the ballots will take a few minutes to prepare, I will ring the bells when we are ready to proceed. Thank you.

*>>Meeting recessed at 18:36 and resumed at 18:40*

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. The forum will now reconvene. The ballots have been prepared and are now ready. We will now proceed to balloting.

We will follow the same procedure as the first vote. I ask all members to proceed to the voting table in an orderly fashion. Those on the right will leave on the right and those on the left will leave on the left side.

*>>Meeting recessed at 18:44 and resumed at 18:46*

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

Members may wish to wait at their desks or in the lounge while we take a brief recess. I will immediately inform you of the results.

*>>Meeting recessed at 18:47 and resumed at 18:52*

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. The leadership forum has reconvened.

I wish to advise members that Mr. Savikataaq has been chosen to serve as Premier of Nunavut.

>>*Applause*

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

I will now invite the Premier-designate to make a few remarks. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you very much for selecting me. I am humbled that you believe in me. I will follow the remarks I made and I will try to do my best as Premier. I will not change towards you. I am very happy and the people of Nunavut, I will work hard for Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) I want to thank each one of you that voted. I will work with all of you. I will work with cabinet, the MLAs, and everyone else so that we can get our goal and get to where we want to be in Nunavut.

This is a new page in my life, a new page in my political career, and I will work my hardest and I will do my best. Everyone knows I'm approachable. I thank everyone here who voted and I would also like to thank Arviarmiut who voted me in. If I was not voted in, I would not be here. (interpretation) Residents of Arviat, I thank you very much.

(interpretation ends) I'm looking forward to getting to work and doing what we want to get done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>*Applause*

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I know that we're tired of going on breaks and I know that you're tired of going on breaks, but some refreshments were just brought in, so I would like to take another break for 20 minutes. Thank you.

>>*Meeting recessed at 18:56 and resumed at 19:17*

### **Nominations for a Cabinet Position**

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. We will now proceed. Thank you for coming back. We will now proceed to the selection process for a Member of the Executive Council of Nunavut.

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

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

The floor is now open for nominations for a Member of the Executive Council. Member Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I nominate Mr. Hickes for cabinet.

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

**Mr. Hickes** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I accept.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. The member has accepted the nomination. Are there any other nominations? Member Mr. Netser.

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I would like to nominate Simeon Mikkungwak for cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I decline.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak has declined the nomination. Are there any other nominations? Member Mr. Netser.

**Mr. Netser**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to nominate, again, the member for Sanikiluaq for minister. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>*Laughter*

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

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I decline. Thank you.

### **Acclamation of a Cabinet Position**

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. The member has declined the nomination. Are there any other nominations?

Thank you. There are no more nominations. As the Chair, I am pleased and proud that Mr. Hickes has been chosen to serve on the Executive Council. (interpretation ends) Congratulations!

>>*Applause*

(interpretation) Thank you. I will now invite Mr. Hickes to make a few remarks. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll make this really short.

I can't thank the members enough for the confidence they have shown in me, not just in acclaiming me to this position, but the amount of members that came and offered to nominate me. It's pretty humbling.

I have been a member of cabinet in the past and I know how much hard work it is. I know any returning members know how hard I did work and how approachable I was and how I took their concerns seriously and responded to any constituent concerns as expeditiously as possible. To my new colleagues here, we have just been getting to know each other the last seven months.

This opportunity has shown that I think the team that we have built is fantastic and just because I'm going to be sitting over there in a few months doesn't mean that any of the relationships have changed. I look forward to continuing to work with all of you and please, I am super approachable if there are any issues that are going on in your constituency or anything that you would like me to assist with. My door is always open.

I would just like to really take this time to thank everyone for their support and I look forward to getting to work. Thank you.

*>>Applause*

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Members, let me remind you that the House will sit at 8:00 p.m. this evening.

The leadership forum stands adjourned.

We will return to the House at 8:00 p.m. Thank you.

*>>Applause*

*>>Meeting adjourned at 19:23*