



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

Election of a Member of the Executive Council

Official Report

Wednesday, May 2, 2012

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Members Present:

Honourable Eva Aariak, Honourable James Arreak, Mr. Moses Aupaluktuq, Mr. Tagak Curley, Ms. Monica Ell, Mr. Ron Elliott, Mr. Joe Enook, Mr. John Ningark, Mr. Johnny Ningeongan, Mr. Hezakah Oshutapik, Honourable Keith Peterson, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Honourable Fred Schell, Honourable Daniel Shewchuk, Honourable Peter Taptuna, Ms. Ugyuk.

>>*Forum convened at 9:30*

Prayer

Chairman (Mr. Ningeongan)(interpretation): Good morning. We can now proceed with the leadership forum. Before we start, I would like to welcome you and I ask that (interpretation ends) Member Taptuna (interpretation) lead us in prayer. Mr. Taptuna.

>>*Prayer*

Adoption of Agenda

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. (interpretation ends) Do members agree to the agenda that is before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Members have before them the procedures for the Nunavut Leadership Forum. Do members agree that we can proceed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Nominations for Cabinet Position

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I will now open the floor for nominations to the Executive Council. I remind members that if you are nominated, you must immediately accept or decline the nomination. Nominations are now open. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish to nominate Monica Ell. Thank you.

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

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Yes.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to nominate Mr. Hezakiah Oshutapik. Thank you.

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Yes, I accept the nomination.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. The member has accepted the nomination. Are there any other nominations? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish to nominate the member from Natilik, Ms. Ugyuk. Thank you.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Yes, I accept the nomination.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Member Ugyuk. (interpretation) The member has accepted the nomination. Are there any other nominations? There seems to be no more nominations. Using my discretion as Chair, the nominations are now closed. We will now proceed to speeches by candidates. I remind candidates that you have up to ten minutes to deliver your speech. We will proceed in alphabetical order. I would first like to ask Ms. Monica Ell, Member for Iqaluit West, to proceed. You have 10 minutes to deliver your speech.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you also for having my name added by my colleagues. (interpretation ends) I believe I can make a difference by providing a new perspective to the Premier's agenda and to cabinet.

My past experiences, such as operating and owning a small business will be invaluable to moving forward. It is very important, in my view, to provide more opportunities to local Nunavut businesses and Inuit firms. It is also equally important to provide good paying, long-lasting jobs for Nunavummiut. This is one of the keys to moving forward on economic development opportunities for Nunavut. This is an area where I can help.

My experience working in economic development with Inuit organizations is also relevant. We have to reach out and encourage local businesses. This is where we can maximize local benefits and this is where social and economic development begins.

We need to foster, recognize, and further encourage women, entrepreneurs, as well as our young population. We need to grab opportunities when they are available to us. The reality sometimes is that some services are provided elsewhere. That is why we need to work together to find ways to make it available here.

I have always believed in collaboration and will continue to be a team player. This is the only way to move forward.

My focus on and commitment to housing will remain. The lack of affordable and available housing across Nunavut is in crisis. I am not just saying this; I see this every day. I am blessed to own my own home. Well, the bank does.

>>*Laughter*

But what I'm saying here is I would work hard and I have an open mind, so others can say I have a home.

As a member of the executive, I will be able to add to that conversation and others and to cabinet priorities.

Infrastructure remains a key component to the local agenda. That is why we can improve on these. Infrastructure development remains a key priority for all local communities. We need to make this a top territorial government priority.

Our local elders need to be heard. They have great wisdom, and it would serve us well to listen and to hear while we can. Elders across Nunavut should live with dignity and be shown the respect that they deserve.

I am fully aware that there is a need for better mental health support in Nunavut and more suicide prevention programs. I will continue to work and improve the services in these areas. We can do more. By working together, we can accomplish more.

I will listen. I will work hard. My door will always be open and I will humbly serve. It would be a great honour and a challenge, and I am up to meeting that challenge. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Member Monica Ell. (interpretation) We will now proceed to the next candidate. (interpretation ends) Member Hezakiah Oshutapik, (interpretation) you may proceed.

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I'll have to change my glasses first.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the people of Pangnirtung who I asked before I accepted the nomination, and I say "good morning" to all.

I will give you a brief overview of what I would like to see if I should be elected to the cabinet. I know that should I be elected to the Executive Council, it will not be possible to implement all of them.

As that's the case, I would only like to say that I have dealt with different levels of government to date, including the federal, territorial, and local governments. Even though it hasn't been on a continual basis, I have been involved in one capacity or another. As a councillor for the Pangnirtung Hamlet Council, where I started in the early '80s to just recently, my experience will be a valuable asset if I should get elected to the Executive Council and I sincerely want to work closely with our government.

Often, we rely heavily on staff and look to them for direction. I will also want to be open and available for advice. It is the only way that we can reach our goals. I also know that within Nunavut, many things that are dealt with by government do not all receive support. Even though that is the case, there is no doubt that development is going to take place in Nunavut, so it is important that we build a strong government.

I have no doubt that having had numerous meetings with various leaders as well as being a leader myself, especially in recent years, as mayor for four years in Pangnirtung, I have learned how government functions and how it should function. That is why I believe my experience will be useful.

With the various tasks we face, we must always remember that we work on behalf of Nunavummiut and that we must work to make their aspirations become reality. I know that we have to work not just for our particular communities but the territory as a whole. I do tend to support specific requests, but I understand that each community has different needs. If I was not here to represent those needs, I would not be able to speak about them.

My background in construction, I believe, will be my strength whenever those kinds of issues come before us. This is an area I am familiar with, so I believe I can make a contribution when we deal with construction and similar issues.

A part of what is most important to me in seeking election is that I am open and I have always tried to be open during election campaigns. It is my intent to remain open to my constituents and to the government. I also want to keep an open door to my colleagues.

I did say my comments were going to be brief, so I will conclude on that note. Thank you for allowing me to be here for consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Member Hezakiah Oshutapik. (interpretation) We still have another candidate. (interpretation ends) Member Jeannie Ugyuk, (interpretation) you may proceed.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, Nunavummiut and I say "good morning" to my husband. It is still early morning in the Kitikmeot.

I rise today in my desire to participate as a member of the Executive Council. I believe I can make a contribution to cabinet. It may be that we don't know what will happen

tomorrow, but as members, we are reaching the end of our term as a government. We will be holding a general election in 2013 for the next Legislative Assembly. It is my opinion that the *Tamapta* Mandate can be successfully concluded and that we can contribute to its implementation to the end of our term in office.

I am pleased to be a full participant of our government. I have given full support as well as disagreed in following what is in my beliefs. Whatever I do, I do so with sincerity and I believe I can make a constructive difference. We are elected by each of our own ridings to serve as Members of the House, but when we actually get here, we have an obligation to look at Nunavut as a whole.

Along that line of thought, I believe I can make a positive contribution and that is why I don't hesitate to throw my hat in the ring, particularly now with the Executive Council. I am very pleased that I can participate in this event today. Should I be appointed to the Executive Council, I know that I will work to the best of my ability with Nunavummiut in mind.

I didn't want to make a long speech, so I'll leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Member Ms. Jeannie Ugyuk. (interpretation) All candidates have delivered their speeches.

Election for Cabinet Position

We will now proceed to balloting. The table officers will distribute the ballots.

Please note that the Member for Amittuq has assigned his vote by proxy to the Member for Tununiq, who will receive two ballots.

Please note that the Member for Iqaluit Centre has assigned his vote by proxy to the Member for Hudson Bay, who will also receive two ballots.

We will now proceed to balloting. When you receive your ballots, you can proceed to the voting table in an orderly fashion to enter your ballots. You can now proceed.

Thank you. Balloting is now over. The ballots will now be taken to a secure area for counting. Members may wish to wait in the Lounge while we take a brief recess.

>>*Forum recessed at 9:51 and resumed at 9:58*

Thank you. Most of the members are now present. The forum has reconvened. I wish to advise members that the Member for Iqaluit West, Monica Ell, has been chosen to serve on the Executive Council of Nunavut.

>> *Applause*

Ms. Monica Ell, I now give you the opportunity to make comments. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Do I have to rise? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, my colleagues. I also thank my constituents in Iqaluit West and I have them on my mind. There is no doubt that they're enjoying the day and I wish them a good day and I thank them all.

I also want to say "thank you" from the bottom of my heart to my relatives who are listening or watching and who have encouraged me. If it wasn't for them, their support and their actions would be sorely missed. I thank them wholeheartedly. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ell. Congratulations on your election. I will now ask for a motion to destroy the ballots, (interpretation ends) motion to destroy the ballots. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I so move to destroy the ballots. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. The motion doesn't require a seconder. The ballots will be destroyed. (interpretation ends) They will be destroyed.

(interpretation) I am grateful for the opportunity to hold this leadership forum and declared your choice for a cabinet position. I remind all members that the House convenes at 11:00 a.m. today. Thank you. These proceedings are concluded. We will see you at eleven o'clock.

>> *Applause*

>> *Forum adjourned at 10:01*