

Questions from attendees (answers provide by Darren Flynn where otherwise indicated):

There are 25 communities [in Nunavut]. What is the Government of Nunavut's position [on this vote]?

The Government of Nunavut is not taking a position in this, we are remaining neutral. We have been tasked with being the plebiscite authority, so it is our job to educate the public on what is happening with this, the reasons why it came about and what it could mean for people [living in] Nunavut.

Every year, I pay \$250 a year for my land lease. If I buy my land, what will I have to do?

Right now, you are paying \$250 a year for a standard lease. That is a contract between you and the hamlet council [of Kimmirut]. As long as you are in good standing with your lease payments now and there has been a proper survey, you would have the option of continuing leasing the land or buy it depending on the results of the vote [in Kimmirut] and depending on the direction of the hamlet council [of Kimmirut] takes after the vote.

For the people who are leasing, what happens if the leasee dies?

That would not be affected by a yes or no vote, that would be affected by the bylaws in place now; that's the hamlet [of Kimmirut]'s by laws. Also, this would have to be settled by someone's will and the transfer of their estate.

How does this affect the community? I don't always agree with buying or selling of land.

This will be a decision that each Nunavut community will make. As it is now, the hamlets develop lots and recover the costs of this through leases to private home owners and owners of other buildings in the community.

There is so much to know about [owning the] land and you just can't take it.

That is correct, the lands that are affected by this vote are only those that are within the municipal boundaries. In this, the control of those lands will still remain with the hamlet councils [in Nunavut].

If a person is buying land, does that go back to the hamlet when he dies?

No, that will remain with that person's estate. Even with a lease situation, the land will remain with the estate.

We will probably have to vote no. We would keep more power if we vote no. If we vote yes, there will be changes and we will not be able to vote after that.

Thank you for those comments and you are right that if you vote yes, you cannot change that decision by another vote. I should make it clear that this is a result of article 14.8.4 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement which has expired. It was said that after 20 years from [1995], there would have to be another vote to see if the hamlets [of Nunavut] could have the option of selling land within their municipal boundaries. The Government of Nunavut is doing this now, but it will not hold another vote after this. If you vote no [in Kimmirut] you will have the option to vote again. It will be totally up to the hamlet [of Kimmirut] to organize this vote process.

I wanted to encourage people to vote no.

That is fine for you to do that, you are free to state your opinion on this matter. In this vote, the communities in Nunavut will decide yes or no, the Government of Nunavut through [the department of] Community and Government Services, is encouraging you and others to get out and participate in the vote so that you are being represented in the vote results.

I hope you are not here just to encourage us to vote yes. In the past years and also for upcoming years, people just keep taking over – it becomes hard to do things in the community. Are you here just to get information from our community [of Kimmirut].

Thank you for your comment and your question. We are here to provide information to you. We are not here to push you to vote yes or no, that will be your decision. As far as what will be done with the land [in Kimmirut]; the community [hamlet council] sets by laws and people coming here from somewhere else will have to conform to those by laws.

Will people be able to buy my land away from me? Will people be to come here and take over the land, we have been hearing this for centuries.

When someone is leasing land from their hamlet, that means there is a contract between that person and the hamlet and there would have to be a legal procedure involved in renting or buying land. If there was a yes vote or a no, that will not change.

How is the value of the land set?

Municipalities [in Nunavut] set the value of the land to recover the costs of developing it. If you owned land, you could sell it at a profit if you so choose, the hamlet [of Kimmirut] will not be able to interfere with that.

Could others who have a lot of money like the big companies or individuals with a lot of money, could they take the hamlet [of Kimmirut] to court [if there was a dispute].

The hamlet [of Kimmirut] can maintain control of the sale of lands to minimize disputes; they could put a residency clause in their bylaws to determine who can buy land. They can also indicate that land has to be developed within a certain time frame after it is purchased, otherwise, it would have to be turned back over to the hamlet [of Kimmirut]. In this, the hamlet [of Kimmirut] will have to put forth accountable by laws, so that, ultimately, they can maintain control through these by laws.

If other communities vote yes and Kimmirut said no, will we have to follow a yes vote.

Each community makes its own decision, what other communities vote will not affect Kimmirut, the residents who vote will make their decisions independently of other communities.

Will they kick me out of my home if I owe a large amount of money on the lease?

No, because that lease agreement is a contract between you and the hamlet [of Kimmirut]. If you are in good standing but there is still a large amount owing on the lease, you couldn't be kicked out of your home. If you are in arrears, you may be able to make a payment arrangement with the hamlet. It is important to remember that the land referendum vote will not affect this.

Which part of our land will be available for sale? There is blueberry land and land with precious metals – I don't want to lose that.

The land for sale is within the municipal boundaries, there is a map here tonight which you can look at to see where those boundaries are. The land for sale will not include lands for public use or within 100 feet of the ordinary high water mark. As far as land with minerals, the Government of Canada owns subsurface rights which cannot be sold outright without significant negotiations.

MLA David Joanasié (comment): The Nunavut Land Claim Agreement is very important and this vote is bring new meaning to the word "Nunavut" because we are talking about land ownership being opened up to individuals or companies. There is still time to ask questions to see if this will be effective for our communities. I ask you to think about this more, to keep this information in mind. The Nunavut Land Claim Agreement is very important and this vote is bringing new meaning to the word "Nunavut" because we are talking about land ownership being opened up to individuals or companies. There is still time to ask questions to see if this will be effective for our

communities. I ask you to think about this more, to keep this information in mind. There have been lots of changes since the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement; this vote could mean more changes for us. Thank you to Community and Government Services for coming here to tell us about this – please make sure you vote so that we can use this effectively.