



Mental Wellness & Healing and Family Services

Mr, Speaker, Youth Services

In April, the 27th annual youth symposium happened, in Hopedale. It was a successful symposium with most youth attendees from Nunatsiavut and some within the Canadian Constituency. Elders from Nunatsiavut attended the symposium, so that youth and elders could connect with each other, and for the elders to share their knowledge. Participants had opportunities for language workshops, sealskin cleaning workshops, mental health workshops, and dog sledding. I attended for a few days, I had a great time interacting and learning from all participants. I want to thank President Lampe, Minister Terry Vincent and AnguKkak Marjorie Flowers for attending. Also, to Youth Services Manager Ocean Wyatt for doing a great job organizing this event and all DHSD staff who helped out. Nakummek

In April a youth Hebron trip had also occurred successfully, with the opportunity for youth to go on the land, build connection, and be connected to land-based programming

Justice

Ms. Erin Broomfield, and Ms. Kim Oliver both completed their Gladue reports. A proud moment to have two reports undertaken and completed by staff within DHSD.

The Gladue report is a pre-sentencing or bail hearing report, usually prepared by Gladue caseworkers at the request of the judge, defense counsel or Crown Attorney.¹ These reports contain recommendations to the court about what an appropriate sentence might be, and include information about the Aboriginal persons' background such as: history regarding residential schools, child welfare removal, physical or sexual abuse, underlying developmental or health issues, such as FASD, anxiety, or substance use.

A sentencing circle occurred in Hopedale in April, in which our justice team were involved. Reports were that it went well with involvement from the community, justice partners and families involved. DHSD is seeking more community support for volunteers.

Mr, Speaker, Trauma & Addictions

This team had a two-day planning meeting (May 14-15, 2024) to have planning session, so that we can move towards a six-week treatment model, to be offered within Nunatsiavut. This model is moving towards having a coordinated approach not only with the Trauma & Addictions team, but other teams under the Mental Wellness & Healing, and other divisions such as family services, and community programming to be involved

The Trauma & Addictions team had a program in Hopedale in May and in addition, the team helped to provide support in Nain.

Mr. Speaker, Child & Youth Mental Health

We have applied for additional funding to extend the four Child & Youth Mental Health positions for this team. Currently we have three vacancies, but because our funding is set to end 2025, we are hopeful that Inuit-Child First Initiative will grant us the opportunity to carry on the critical work

We are aware that being down three team members, and having one person in the position has caused for a gap in services.

Mr. Grant Gear has continued to offer support in Nunatsiavut, and had traveled to Makkovik in May for therapy work

Mental Health & Addictions

Staff in Nain have been supporting the community during a time of considerable loss & grief. Additional staff within MH&W offered their support to fly into Nain

Mr. Lito Libres had also traveled to Nain, and had completed a considerable amount of work with children, youth, and families.

Staff have explained the need for more regional support, which was acknowledged that it needs to be a priority for regional staff positions to travel to Nunatsiavut more often, not only in time of crisis, but for consistent face-to-face support be a priority.

Management & staff are going to look into the crisis response team model that was occurring in previous years, to adapt the model to meet the needs of the work today, and to consider each community and their needed support. It is likely that it may be model to be setup up as community support, and to compile a binder of resources/stakeholders/staff within DHSD, to better have a way to come together as a coordinated approach to crisis, loss, and/or grief

Family Services Updates

Mr. Speaker, Inuit Child First Initiative

We are working diligently with ITK and Indigenous Services Canada on a shared responsibility model for the ongoing delivery of the Inuit Child First Initiative. We first began this work in 2020 and submitted a 5-year proposal to ISC, which has been granted. However, we are currently in the last fiscal year of this proposal and are working with our federal counterparts to work toward a new vision and sustainable model for the ongoing delivery of the ICFI for Nunatsiavut Beneficiaries aged 0-18.

New Staff

We are pleased to welcome two new staff to the Family Connections Program:

Mr. Johnathon Tuglavina started as Family Connections Driver in Hopedale on May 10th.

Ms. Pauletta Tremblett started as Family Connections Manager in Happy Valley Goose-Bay on May 27th.

Family Services

The DHSD are preparing to mobilize an information sharing agreement with the Department of Children, Seniors and Social Development to collect information and data pertaining to Inuit children, youth and families in various areas of:

- Adoptions
- Youth services
- Children in care
- Protective intervention
- Kinship

This type of information will support the DHSDs efforts in providing the future protective and preventative programs and services for children, youth and families and will assist in future planning for the devolution of child and family services. The goal of this proactive information sharing is that it will encourage an improvement of relationships between governments, and will most importantly benefit Inuit children, youth and families.

Lastly Mr. Speaker,

Partnership: The Institute of Fiscal and Social Democracy, NG, & ITK

The NG are working on the development of a **performance framework and funding approach for Inuit Child and Family Services** in partnership with the Institute of Fiscal Studies and Social Democracy (IFSD). We are currently in the first phase of our work together. This phase includes the gathering of information, defining the vision for Child and Family Services for Nunatsiavut Government, collecting data and building an environmental scan.

We are hosting an in-person meeting in Nain on August 6th (full day) and August 7th (9-12).

- vision for child/family services

- serving urban Inuit
- human resources
- programs and gaps
- recruitment/retention challenges
- financial resources
- infrastructure
- external engagement
- IT resources
- Housing
- annual budget for child/family services
- capital needs and assets
- challenges faced by communities in Nunatsiavut
- language & culture
- sources of support in Nunatsiavut
- etc.

This meeting covers a broad range of areas, and the Director of Family Services has invited expertise from many divisions across NG and DHSD for participation. We thank you for your involvement and look forward to the collaboration in this important work.

Nakummek Mr. Speaker