

Thank you, Mr. Speaker,

We have had some staff changes within the Department since our last Assembly seating.

- Our Interpreter Translator Trainee, Simeone Merkuratsuk, has left his position to pursue his education in Inuttitut. He is attending the Kimattuvik program for professional Language enhancement. We congratulate Simeonie and wish him well in his studies.
- In late June, Corey Hutchings and Deirdre Elliot resigned from their positions as Archaeology Assistant and Heritage Program Coordinator with NG Archaeology. They have contributed greatly to Nunatsiavut Archaeology; successfully obtaining federal funding for Adaptive Archaeology and climate change, 3D scanning partnership project at the Rooms, and the purchase of Magic Lantern slides.
- Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to share that we have filled the position of Operations Manager for the Torngat Mountains Base Camp file within the Division of Tourism. Stephanie Webb started with us last week, she is based out of Goose Bay and we are excited to have her as part of our team.

**I would now like to highlight some key areas that we are working on
Mr. Speaker, in tourism:**

- The Division of Tourism is continuing to work on many projects within our tourism strategy including the 2025 Visitor’s Guide, Community maps and other projects relating to tourism development.
- The Hebron Ambassador season ran from July until the end of August. We had 4 staff working with us this summer and received a lot of positive feedback from people who visited Hebron. We would like to thank the Staff: Noah Nochasak, Hulda Fox, Boonie Merkuratsuk and Steven Gear for all of their hard work this summer.
- Our current contract for the Torngat Mountains Base Camp and Research Station with Air Borealis and the Nunatsiavut Group of Companies will soon expire. The RFP for another 5-year operating contract is currently out and we are on schedule to have a contract in place before the end of this year.
- Our Tourism staff will be attending the Atlantic Indigenous Tourism Summit happening in PEI next month. We also have 3 tourism partners attending with us.

- We also had 3 artists attend the Sustainable Fibers Conference in Rocky Harbour earlier this month. This is a great opportunity for the Artists to learn new techniques for their work.

I will now highlight some key areas that we are working on Mr. Speaker, in Language & Culture:

- Director of Culture, Brenda Jararuse, Deputy Minister, Jenna Gilbride, Language Program Coordinator, Shirley Jararuse, and Language Nest Manager, Aimee Lane met with Inuktitut Director, Robert Watt of the Office of the Commissioner of Indigenous Languages the week of June 17th. This meeting was to discuss possible area of collaboration and partnerships with the Commission of Indigenous Languages Office.
- The Inuagualuit Language Nest Program has started as of September 9th. Two children from Nain and two children from Hopedale have been selected for the program.
- The Master Apprentice Program will begin by the end of the month. This program pairs one Master and one Apprentice together for one on one in person Inuttitut learning. As of now, there is no Master for Hopedale and Postville. We are reaching out to fluent speakers to fill these positions. There are also no apprentice applications received from Postville.

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- Director of Culture, Brenda Jararuse; Language Program Coordinator, Shirley Jararuse; Language Nest Manager, Aimee Lane; and Indigenous Program Specialist with the Labrador Schoolboard, Shannon Dicker, traveled to Toronto on September 9th to meet with Inhabit Media and partners to learn more about their Inuttitut resources and supports. This was a great meeting where staff are now planning on the partnership moving forward. The department plans on producing Inuttitut books and videos, the creation of some Inuttitut games and cultural toys.
 - We have a date selected for our next Language Summit. On May 6-8, 2025 the department of LCT will host the Language Summit in Nain. Here, we will develop goals for the 2027-2032 Language Strategy. Please mark this date on your calendars as we will soon be sending invitations out to certain departments.
 - Our department is currently working with Pirurvik in Iqaluit in development of a proposal to begin planning and delivery of an Inuttitut Teacher Training Program and adaptation of teaching and learning resources. We are hoping this contract will begin by the end of this fall of 2024. Pirurvik will develop the program, train staff and help to implement Immersion programming as a part of this contract. Our department is also currently supporting students

attending in person Inuttitut Immersion classes with Pirurvik by funding two apartments for Nunatsiavut students.

- Staff are traveling to Inuvik from October 1-4 to attend an Inuktut Terminology Gathering held by ITK. This meeting is for organizations who plan and host Terminology Workshops within each region. Here we will share and learn about best practices when delivering effective Terminology Workshops. Director of Culture, Brenda Jararuse, Deputy Minister, Jenna Gilbride, Language Program Coordinator, Shirley Jararuse and Interpreter Translator Coordinator, Peggy Andersen will be attending from Nunatsiavut.
- LCT departmental staff Inuttitut classes have begun with Inotsiavik Center. These classes will occur twice a week for a half hour at a time, totaling one hour per week. Inotsiavik staff will use the resource Tusâlanga that our team has already developed, as well as their own resources to deliver this course.
- Staff are continuing to take lead from the Language Strategy. Year three activities are now occurring, these include the IlinniaKatigennik program, Tupik program, Elders socials, Language resources, sewing programs, etc.

I will now highlight some key areas that we are working on Mr. Speaker, for the Nanilavut Initiative:

- The Nunatsiavut Government, Nanilavut Initiative, is happy to report that three families were able to travel to the cemetery in Cartwright, Labrador to say a final farewell to their loved ones who are buried there. On August 10, 2024, the Henoches, the Pottles, and the Mitsuks each had a service for their loved ones. The commemoration event was a beautiful summer day which helped with the family's healing and each service had singing and the thoughtful readings in English and Inuttitut. A plaque will be placed in the Cartwright Cemetery in memory and to honour the Inuit who did not come home from Tuberculosis treatment. The families were thankful to have an opportunity to locate their loved one, have some healing and closure with having a dedicated memorial service for them.
- The next family event will be mid-October in Northwest River. There will also be the call of interest for Artisans to design and create a Monument in memory of Labrador Inuit who died of Tuberculosis which will be placed in Hopedale, the capital of Nunatsiavut. There will also be plaques in erected in the cemeteries of HVGB, NWR, and St. Anthony hopefully this fall.

Lastly Mr. Speaker, I will highlight some key areas that we are working on in Archaeology:

- In July, the Hebron and Nutâk Reunion committee were able to successfully bring Elders home to both Nutâk/Okkak Bay and Hebron, with support from various departments within Nunatsiavut Government, as well as multiple external funding sources, such as the Arctic Inspiration Prize, MakeWay Foundation Northern Program, Labrador Inuit Settlement Trust and Tasiujatsoak Trust. The Nutâk Reunion was held on July 7-12, 2024 with support from the Royal Canadian Navy and took place on board the HMCS Harry DeWolf. The Hebron Reunion was held from July 19-26, 2024 on the M/V Polar Prince, which was sub-chartered from the Students On Ice Foundation. Of the remaining Elders who were forced to move from their homes in 1956 and 1959, we were able to bring a total of 40 elders home. The two reunions were enriching experiences that brought together Elders, youth and community and provided a sense of healing and closure for many.
- NG Archaeology has been working with the Agvituk Historical Society to host the annual Heritage Forum in Hopedale. This will be taking place from October 1-3. This year's theme is Our Heritage; past, present, and future.

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- Axiel EMu museum collections management software has been installed on our new server. The next steps will be for initial staff training on the software and software customization to suit the unique needs of Nunatsiavut collections, which has been delayed due to staff departure and capacity within the NG Archaeology team. Collections management software will enable us to effectively manage the NG's collections of Archaeological, Cultural, and Archival Materials, and preserve and promote them for generations to come. Thank you to all involved, and special thanks to the IT division for their support.
 - NG Archaeology has secured Capital Project Advisory services from the Canadian Conservation Institute. This service has assigned two experts in repositories and museums to assist with and provide advice on the design and potential construction of our own Nunatsiavut Repository for Archaeological, Cultural, and Archival Materials.
 - Repatriation requests are increasing, highlighting a potential need for dedicated staff for this important part of Inuit heritage management. The policy remains a priority to complete.

- Thank you, Mr. Speaker.