



March 16, 2020
For Immediate Release

Nunatsiavut Assembly to sit under strict conditions amid concerns over COVID-19

Following is a statement issued by the Speaker of the Nunatsiavut Assembly, Edward Blake-Rudkowski:

Members of the Nunatsiavut Assembly will gather in Hopedale tomorrow, March 17, in order to vote on key legislation, including the 2020-21 Budget Act, to ensure the Nunatsiavut Government continues to effectively operate beyond April 1.

A Nunatsiavut Government chartered airplane is scheduled to depart Happy Valley-Goose Bay at 6 a.m. tomorrow, and will fly to all Labrador Inuit communities to pick up elected officials. No other people, including staff, will be permitted to board the flight. Snowmobiles will be available at the Hopedale airstrip for Assembly members, who will drive themselves to and from the Nunatsiavut Assembly building.

The Nunatsiavut Assembly building will be closed to the general public, and all staff have been given permission to work from home for the day.

All Assembly members will return to their home communities by the end of the day.

These are unprecedented measures, but there are no provisions under Inuit Law that would allow the Nunatsiavut Assembly to make decisions through any other means than in a face-to-face setting. All steps are being taken to minimize any potential exposure or spread of COVID-19 to and within Labrador Inuit communities.

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