

Thank you, Mr. Speaker!

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

- Belinda Webb finished her role as Deputy Minister on May 26, 2023 after being in the position for a little over five years. We would like to thank her for her dedication to all of the files with the Department of Language, Culture and Tourism. During her time with us Belinda worked extremely hard and we wish her all the best in her next chapter.
- Chantelle Evans, our Arts Services Manager, is currently on maternity leave and we wish her all the best.

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

- Our tourism staff will be visiting all of our communities this summer to meet with our community partners. The first community visit was to Makkovik June 7-9. During this time staff met with community partners and also organized a “Tour of Makkovik” and invited the community to see and experience their home through a visitor’s lens. Staff will follow up with partners to help turn ideas into tourism experiences
- We are excited to update that we have begun offering square dance lessons in Rigolet, this was an area identified as a possible experience to offer visitors who are interested in going to the Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve.
- Our Director of Tourism continues to work on the Torngat Mountain Base Camp and Research Station file, we have a vacancy for the Torngat

Mountains Activities Planner position that we hope to have filled in the near future.

- The Torngat Mountains Base camp and Research Station will be open to visitors from July 19-September 6.
- The Youth Leadership Program will be happening at Base Camp from July 19-26.
- We are in the last year of our contract with Air Borealis and the Nunatsiavut Group of Companies as the Operator of the Torngat Mountains Base Camp and Research Station and we are drafting a new Request for Proposals for a five-year operator. We hope to have this released in the near future.
- The Hebron Ambassador Program planning is well underway. Staff will begin work the beginning of July and will spend a week in Nain to prepare for the season before heading to Hebron.
- We have organized another National Indigenous People’s Day online auction this year. It will run from June 19 – June 25. This is a highly anticipated auction with many beautiful pieces from our artists
- We have partnered with the Winnipeg Art Gallery on their annual CRAFTED event. This is taking place in November and includes a Fashion Show and Craft Sales. We have shared the application online and if people are interested in learning more they can also reach out to Inez Shiwak, Arts Program Coordinator.

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

- Noah Nochasak and Andrea Proctor have begun the work on the Kajak book. They are on contract until March 2025. This book will have a collection of stories and interviews gathered by Noah through various interviews and archival records, the how to’s of building a Labrador Kajak, photos, etc. This book is meant for Nunatsiavummiut to have accessible information on

Labrador Kajak history, and will be available to all schools as well as for sale for anyone interested.

- Kajait are being sent to each Nunatsiavut community, as this was one of the goals of the Kajak lead. Kajait are being sent to DHSD staff for future programming.
- Tusâlanga. We held a successful launch of Tusâlanga in May. We held an open house at the Illusuak, with an online component through Facebook live.
- The Illusuak staff are working on finalizing the Marketing & Promotion strategy.
- The Inuttitut Blitz is underway. Numerous activities and launches are taking places, with resources made available to all Nunatsiavummiut.
- Aullâsimavet Program. Community consultations in Postville and Rigolet will take place once we hire the Cultural Program Coordinator.
- Staff are continuing to take lead from the Language Strategy. Year two activities are now occurring.
- We are in the process of hiring the Language Nest Manager position. We are hoping to have this position filled in the next week or so.
- The Guardian Program planning has begun. This partnership with Parks Canada and Makivik in Nunavik will allow Inuit with connections to the Park to visit each year through an application process. We are still finalizing dates, but this year it will happen in August.

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

- We have received funding for a summer student who we hope to hire later this month
- The request for proposals for the repository feasibility study has closed and a contractor has been selected.

- The request for proposals for a Language, Culture and Tourism Strategic Plan refresh has just closed. We hope to hire a consultant to develop a refreshed strategic plan for the 2024-2029 fiscal years.
- We continue to review land use and mineral exploration applications
- We have three permits so far for this season. Two internal from our team and one external researcher from Memorial University who plan to conclude the excavations at Double Mer Point, near Rigolet.
- The archaeologist hired by Octant for the Nain airport archaeology assessment is also in the process of submitting their permit application.
- Corey Hutchings and Deirdre Elliott will be doing some survey work in Rigolet area to assist with the upcoming Ground Penetrating Radar work that will happen there this summer as well as visit some archaeology sites in the area.
- Deirdre Elliott and Lena Onalik are currently in Germany with five Inuit and three researchers visiting two museums in Dresden and Herrnhut where there are Inuit human remains as well as Inuit artifacts. The purpose of the visit is for Inuit to see the old collections understand how they feel about the repatriation of archaeological collections and the care of Inuit artifacts currently held in collections internationally.

Thank you Mr. Speaker.