



NUNATSIAVUT
kavamanga Government

Speaking Notes for
Tom Evans

*Minister of Finance, Human Resources
& Information Technology*
Budget 2024-2025

Date: March 6, 2024
Check Against Delivery

- Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure today to deliver the Government's 2024 – 2025 budget, my second as Treasurer of the Fifth Nunatsiavut Assembly.
- I want to thank the President, the Ministers and all of their staff for their critical work in developing strategies and action plans; securing funds; setting annual goals; practicing strong financial management and holding themselves accountable to Labrador Inuit and to the Nunatsiavut Assembly.
- This financial plan is built on their work. It appropriates funds so that the Government can implement these plans and achieve the ultimate goals of improving the health and social well-being of Labrador Inuit; and building the economy of Nunatsiavut, while celebrating our language and culture.

Revenue

- Mr. Speaker, the main source of funding for the Government's operations, programs and services comes from the Government of Canada. These funds are remitted under the Fiscal Financing Agreement or, as we commonly refer to it, the FFA.
- The Government of Canada sends an Annual Fiscal Plan that outlines the core funding and other sources of negotiated targeted funding.
- Mr. Speaker, this budget reflects \$108 million being remitted to the Nunatsiavut Government in the upcoming fiscal year. These funds are received for governance activities, health, housing, infrastructure, Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care, to name a few areas.
- Another key element of the FFA is the ability to carry over funds that are not expended in any given year. This flexibility allows us to properly plan for projects, programs and services that are multi-year, or cost more than a single year's funding.
- There is a significant amount of funds being carried forward from previous years – about \$225 million, Mr. Speaker. All of these funds have been appropriated in this budget to ensure that the Government has the necessary authority to expend them as needed.

- The Nunatsiavut Government also generates its own sources of revenue; through personal income taxes, GST, income earned on bank accounts and investments, and an allocation from the Implementation Trust.
- Mr. Speaker, these revenues enable our Government to make strategic decisions grounded in evidence and needs, and to monitor our success.

Housing and Infrastructure

- Investments in housing and infrastructure are priorities for Nunatsiavut and, indeed, for all of Inuit Nunangat. Through the work of the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee, our Government has received a significant amount of targeted funds to address critical needs in Nunatsiavut.
- Some key highlights for the 2024-2025 year include: the construction of housing units for elders and vulnerable populations and an emergency shelter; an investment in the Labrador North Wireless Broadband project; continued support for the Nain airstrip and the development of strategies to address Nunatsiavut growth, land development and housing; economic development of the construction sector in Nunatsiavut; and alternative lands, to name a few.
- Our Government will continue to support the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission and its programs, as well as continue the Affordable Warmth Nunatsiavut Home Repair and the Emergency Repair programs. The Nunatsiavut Housing Strategy will also undergo a refresh.
- Mr. Speaker, our Government has outgrown its office and program spaces. This budget commits funds to continue the construction of a new community office space for the Department of Health and Social Development, to begin the construction of a new education regional office in Makkovik, a daycare in Postville, and to start the design of office extensions in Nain and Postville.

Recruitment and Retention

- Recruitment and retention of employees is a top priority for the Government, Mr. Speaker. This budget continues to invest in employee benefits, such the new fuel and utilities benefit, enhanced bilingual allowances, as well as set aside funds to implement new or improved benefits packages.

- This budget also commits funds for the completion of staff housing units in Nain and Makkovik, as well as for the design and commencement of new units in Postville and Rigolet.
- Our goal, as a Government, Mr. Speaker, is to have Labrador Inuit working and living in Nunatsiavut. We feel that these investments are key to obtaining this goal.

Other areas

- Our investment of \$8.146 million in the operations of the Inuit Community Governments is a testament to our belief in empowering local governance and decision making. We are ensuring that resources are distributed effectively to support the unique priorities of each of our communities. There are other commitments to the Inuit Community Governments for recreation and – I am pleased to announce – for economic development.
- The Tourism and Economic Development divisions are collaborating on an early stage of a plan to work with the Inuit Community Governments to place longer-term Community Development Officers in each community. These positions will focus on community tourism and economic development priorities, as well as support regional-focused priorities.
- These are only a few highlights of the Financial Plan; there are many exciting plans for the 2024-2025 year.

Conclusion

- Mr. Speaker, as we continue on this journey of progress and prosperity, let us not forget the importance of sustainability and foresight. This plan is a testament to our dedication to creating a brighter future for generations to come.
- I am confident that this budget will pave the way for unprecedented growth and development.
- Nakummek, Mr. Speaker.