



NUNATSIAVUT
kavamanga Government

Nunaliginikmik amma Nunamiutani
Ujaganik Imaniklu
Lands and Natural Resources

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES
NUNATSIAVUT ASSEMBLY, QUARTERLY REPORT / MINISTERS
STATEMENT
September 24 2024

Mister Speaker, I am pleased to table my quarterly report to the Assembly as Minister of Land and Natural Resources. I will provide a short update on several files in the department since my last report.

Renewable Resources

Since the last Assembly meeting the Renewable Resources Division has been engaged in the following files and endeavors.

Fisheries

Mister Speaker, the 2024 commercial fishing season is still underway, with several designates landing shrimp from both SFA 4 and 5.

The NG cod allocation of 599.4 MT is now awarded to six beneficiary designates and they are starting to arrange vessels to catch it, we were pleased with the DFO management measures for 2024 allowing Nunatsiavut to significantly increase its share of the cod allocation.

Mister Speaker, Makkovik processed most of our crab quota this summer and the turbot fishery went well also. One fisher was sent to the LFUSC plant in Lanse Au Loup at the end of the season, due to a worker shortage in Makkovik.

Fishers in Nain landed 56,000 pounds of arctic char and 8,700 pounds of scallop this season.

Wildlife

Mister Speaker, the moose hunting season is now open from September 16th to March 21st and as Minister I have restricted harvest to North of Zoar and South of Michael's river. The Kiapokok moose management areas is showing extremely low abundance. We will be reviewing the season as it progresses and I will make changes to the system should the department see a need.

Mister Speaker, from July 7 – 11 the GRCH survey was completed. Our Wildlife Manager participated in the survey along with Quebec and NL representatives. The results of the survey will be released later this fall.

Mister Speaker once again Parks Canada are offering approximately 30 moose licenses to the NG/ Ulapitsaiijet committee this year and the Department will send 4 staff members to Gros Morne to hunt the moose. The meat will be distributed to the communities afterwards.

Lands Division

Mister Speaker, 59 land use applications have been submitted in 2024. 33 applications are from DFO for minor shore lights, while the remainder are for cabins, mineral exploration, cruise ship visits and quarries.

Mister Speaker, since the last Assembly, James Williamson resigned his position as the G.I.S Specialist in June. On behalf of the department I would like to thank James for his expertise and contributions to the Nunatsiavut Government and to wish him good luck in his future endeavors. We are currently in the recruitment process for a new G.I.S Specialist and hope to have this position filled in the near future.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker the Lands division attended the NG Data Management workshop in Goose Bay at the end of July and provided comments on the draft Data Governance Strategy.

Impact Benefit Agreements

Mister Speaker, The Voisey's Bay Mine Expansion is nearing completion and VBME contracts have begun demobilization of their workforces. As a result, the IBA Coordinators have been engaged in correspondence with Vale as a result of inquiries that have been received from our Nunatsiavut beneficiary workforce. The IBA Coordinators expect this fall to be busy and are working with Vale to ensure layoff protocols are adhered to and IBA commitments take precedence.

The Torngat Mountains Co-Management Board met in person from July 27th - August 3rd in kangidluasuK Base Camp. Discussions included various research happening in the

Park, caribou survey information and discussions on involving more youth in the Park. The next meeting is scheduled for Kangiqsuallujuaq in the first quarter of 2025.

The Mealy Mountain National Park Reserve Co-Management Board participated in a Best Practice Mission in Gwaii Hanaas, BC from May 27 – June 1. They had an opportunity to meet with the Haida Co-Management Board during this time. Similarities from both boards include land and water-based Parks. There was also an opportunity to participate in various activities that might help guide experiences here in Nunatsiavut.

Non-Renewable Resources Division:

Since the last Assembly meeting, the Non-Renewable Resources Division has been engaged in the following files pertaining to mineral exploration.

Mister Speaker, Aurora Energy received approval from the Nunatsiavut Government to fly an airborne geophysical survey over their claims. The claims are located on LIL and LISA in the Central Mineral Belt (CMB). They will be based out of Michelin camp this summer and fall. Aurora has also submitted a workplan application for drilling, that application is still currently under review.

Mister Speaker, Hardline Exploration, a new company to the region, has been approved to explore for uranium in the CMB, south of Ghost Lake. Their claims are located on LISA and they will be collecting rock, sediment, and stream samples.

Mister Speaker, Saga Metals received approval from the Province to explore their Double Mer claims in LISA. They will be conducting grassroots exploration, along with potentially setting up a temporary fly camp to support their program.

Mister Speaker, 1386067 B.C. Ltd, received approval from the Province to prospect their claims on LISA and Crown lands. Their claims are in the CMB, Moran Lake area. They will be collecting rock samples, soil samples and biogeochemical samples. They are exploring for uranium and copper.

Mister Speaker, Altius Minerals has completed their airborne Radiometric and EM survey over their claims. The claims are located on LIL in the West Voisey's Bay and Tasisuak Lake area. Altius has also completed a two week follow up reconnaissance prospecting on Sept 7th.

Mister Speaker the division and the Department of Lands and Natural Resources is pleased to welcome Bernie Andersen, as NG's new Environmental Enforcement Officer. Bernie began working out of Makkovik on July 29th and we are pleased to have him as part of our team.

Mister Speaker the Division and Human Resources are in the recruitment process for our Mining Analyst vacancy. We are hoping to have this position filled in the near future.

Mister Speaker I would like to Congratulate our Director of Non-Renewable Resources on the birth of his son Royce. Congratulations Claude.

Environment Division

Mister Speaker, The Environment Division continues to work on the Environmental Assessment files, but there have been some changes with the Strange Lake project. Torngat Metals has changed the road routing for the Strange Lake mine, road and port project to an option that no longer enters into Labrador Inuit Land. As a result, they have

withdrawn their Environmental Review under the Nunatsiavut Environmental Protection Act, resulting in the Assembly Committee for this review to be disbanded and the Nunatsiavut Government no longer having a formal decision point in the project. The Provincial Environmental Assessment and Federal Impact Assessment still are continuing for this project, and the NG is intervening and providing input into those processes to raise the concerns and issues of Labrador Inuit. The comments and issues raised through our Environmental Review processes have been integrated into the Provincial and Federal processes. On Thursday, September 12th, Lands and Natural Resources held an in-person session in Nain to explain the situation and talk about the next steps. We will continue to engage on this file and provide regular updates to the NEC and the Assembly.

Over the summer there has been significant progress on the climate change file. The information and results from the past NG Climate Workshops and engagements, along with community information sessions and targeted interviews have been summarized into a document showing priorities areas for climate change for Labrador Inuit, the underlying principles that Labrador Inuit want to see included and the priorities and needs of different departments within the NG. This document has been reviewed and edited by the Nunatsiavut Government Climate Change Committee and is currently under review at NEC. This document will be the basis of the Nunatsiavut Climate Change Strategy, which is progressing to have a draft complete by end of this year for NEC review and approval.

Mister Speaker, the summer research season was busy in the Environment Division, with contaminant monitoring taking place in Lake Melville, Inuit Knowledge interviews for the Torngat AOI, ongoing monitoring of the ecosystem to determine impacts of the Postville fuel spill, and a 3 week long scientific mission onboard the CCGS Amundsen that was led by the NG, which included the discovery of additional coral forests. The

Nunatsiavut Government Research Advisory Committee reviewed 27 research applications.