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- Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
 - It's good to be back in Hopedale. I hope all members had a good summer break all members of this Assembly had a good summer break.
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- As we gather here today, Mr. Speaker, we are reminded of the strength and resilience of our ancestors who laid the foundation to where we are as one of the founding peoples of Canada. Our history and our culture bind us together, and our collective wisdom guides us as we navigate the challenges and opportunities that await.
 - As all Assembly members are aware, one of the most significant challenges we face as a people is safeguarding our unique identity from those who falsely assert Inuit or other Indigenous rights. This issue transcends legal rights or resources. Our rights, recognized nationally and internationally, are specific to us. False Indigenous claims can lead to cultural misappropriation and misinterpretation, undermining these rights and causing them to erode.
 - These false Indigenous claims have broader implications. They undermine the legitimacy of established land claims, leading to confusion, conflict, dilution of resources for legitimate claim holders, and diverting attention from the real issues and challenges, while stripping us of potential opportunities.
 - I want to thank all Assembly members for your support in our position on the NunatuKavut Community Council. It's important that, as a government, we need to do whatever we can to protect our rights, to ensure both the federal and provincial governments listen to our legitimate concerns and reject any claims to Indigeneity by groups like NCC.
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- Mr. Speaker, Language, Education and Economic Development Minister Roxanne Barbour, Lands and Natural Resources Minister Terry Vincent,

- and Deputy Minister Isabella Pain joined me in Inuvik last week for a Board meeting as well as the Annual General Meeting of ITK.
- During the Board meeting, we committed to the co-development of the approved shared-responsibility model for the federal Inuit Child First Initiative (ICFI.). This initiative was created in 2018 as an interim Inuit-specific equivalent to Jordan's Principal. The co-development of a renewed initiative that will better meet the needs of Inuit children and families will be led by ITK in close collaboration with the Nunatsiavut Government, the other Inuit Treaty Organizations and Indigenous Services Canada.
 - The Board also approved funding allocations to Inuit Treaty Organizations for more than \$59 million in new funding through the federal Harvesters Support Grant and the Community Food Programs Fund. These programs contribute to and enhance local food systems across Inuit Nunangat by providing essential supports to communities to harvest and distribute country food.
 - During the AGM, delegates voted on changes to the longest publishing Inuit language periodical. During a forthcoming redesign, Inuktitut Magazine will formally become Inuktut Magazine, reflecting the current terminology used to describe all dialects of the Inuit language in Canada. 2024 marks the magazine's 65th year of publication.
 - AGM delegates heard about research on quantifying and describing the amount of freshwater in Inuit Nunangat, done in collaboration with Natural Resources Canada. Estimations of the future of freshwater coverage for Inuit Nunangat will soon be possible with over 30 years of data, modelling enabling Inuit communities to predict water variations at important sites, like those used for fishing and drinking.
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- Mr. Speaker, as a government we continue to make strides in many areas, including increasing energy security.
- We have completed solar projects in all our communities. These projects will produce over 70 megawatt hours of clean electricity every year and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by over 60 tonnes. This is like saving over 20,000 litres of diesel fuel per year!
- The solar systems are connected to Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro metering and installed on each town's community centre. They're expected to meet between 20 to 90 per cent of each facility's needs during peak times in the summer.

- Through a partnership agreement with Natural Forces, Nain Wind Micro-Grid Project is a proposed wind turbine, battery system that will work with the existing diesel system in the community. We had hoped to have started construction this year, but are now looking at the spring of 2025, with commissioning in the fall of 2026.
 - We are currently in negotiations with Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro on a power purchasing agreement, and securing the remaining funding, through federal sources, to see the project completed.
 - We continue to work on replacing old residential woodstoves with new high efficiency ones that burn longer and emit less. Under the initiative, which started in 2021, our goal is to install 200 units throughout our five communities. All units are expected to be installed this fall.
 - This past spring, we launched the Nunatsiavut Energy Efficiency Retrofit, or NEER, program. This all-inclusive program is available to eligible homeowners and business. Applicants will receive an audit on their properties, receive recommendations for upgrades and be provided financial assistance from the Nunatsiavut Government, which will also coordinate complete upgrades.
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- To conclude, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you and all Assembly members for your commitment and dedication as we continue to advance issues and concerns on behalf of Beneficiaries and our communities.
- Thank you, Mr. Speaker.