



Tugâpvik NUNATSIAVUT

Spring 2024

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ARCTIC INSPIRATION PRIZE Congratulations to the winners



Nunatsiavut President Johannes Lampe extended his congratulations to the teams behind three outstanding projects that were awarded this year’s Arctic Inspiration Prize (AIP) during a ceremony held in Whitehorse, YT May 7.

Inotsiavik: Empowering Youth Through Education
Award: \$1 million

Inotsiavik, meaning “a place to live well” in Inuttitut, is an Inuit youth-led initiative dedicated to language and culture revitalization. This program will increase proficiency in Inuit cultural skills and Inuttitut in a safe, welcoming environment. Inotsiavik’s goal is to establish a not-for-profit cultural centre in Hopedale to host a range of programming committed to strengthening skills, confidence, and pride in Inuit

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identity. Inotsiavik aims to nurture traditions, promote inter-generational healing, and enhance overall health and well-being within Nunatsiavut.

Hebron and Nutak Reunions Project

Award: \$298,000

The Hebron and Nutak Reunions project has been recognized for its efforts in fostering connections and preserving cultural heritage. The project will provide an opportunity for the remaining able-bodied evictees to return to their homeland together at Hebron and Nutak/Okkak Bay this summer. Though the program is short in duration, the impacts will be far-reaching and long-lasting. These reunions will provide a healing opportunity for the evictees and those participants who may be impacted by forced relocation.

L.O.V.E. Inuktit: Language Revitalization and Healing

Award: \$100,000

L.O.V.E. Inuktit is a ground-breaking initiative dedicated to

revitalizing and safeguarding the 11 main dialects of Inuktit which was determined by the expertise of Inuktit Tusaa-langa, across Canada's Arctic through the creation of beginner-level immersion-style videos. This project will work on an innovative app that integrates these language-learning videos into daily life. The key differentiator of this project lies in its emphasis on youth-driven initiatives, fostering inter-generational knowledge exchange and preserving Inuit wisdom.

"It's great to see innovative ideas from Nunatsiavut be recognized and rewarded. Through these initiatives we witness the resilience and strength of our people and our communities," said President Lampe, who attended this year's awards ceremony along with First Minister Melva Williams. "These projects empower our youth, help preserve our cultural heritage, and promote healing. Congratulations to the winning teams. Your dedication, vision, and commitment have not only earned recognition but also provides hope and positive change."

Nunatsiavut Government launches campaign to fight false Indigenous claims

The Nunatsiavut Government (NG) has launched a public awareness campaign to educate the public, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, and Government of Canada, about false Indigenous claims from the NunatuKavut Community Council (NCC).

The "Our Beautiful Land" campaign includes a powerful series of videos with Inuit and visuals of life from Nunatsiavut.

Additional components of the campaign will unite Inuit voices and experiences against the threats of these false claims.

The Nunatsiavut Government has the support of national Indigenous representative organizations, including Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and the Assembly of First Nations.



Joan Dicker, Inuit Elder, oversees the swearing in of Johannes Lampe as President of Nunatsiavut during a ceremony held in Nain. Mr. Lampe was acclaimed President on April 2, 2024.

Tourism online course available

Did you know the Nunatsiavut Government's Tourism Division has a 45-minute online *Introduction to Tourism in Nunatsiavut* course? The course is designed to help all community partners, such as Inuit community government staff, hotel staff, museum committee members,

experience providers, and others interested in being involved in tourism. It is also hoped that community partners and members can gain a better understanding of tourism development in Nunatsiavut.

New appointments to Nunatsiavut Executive Council

The Nunatsiavut Executive Council (NEC) has two new Ministers. David Dicker Jr. and Roxanne Barbour, both Ordinary Members for the Constituency of Nain, were respectively appointed as Ministers of the Department of Language, Culture, and Tourism, and the Department of Education and Economic Development, during a sitting of the Nunatsiavut Assembly March 5 in Hopedale.

This is Mr. Dicker's first time serving as a member of the NEC, after being elected as Ordinary Member for Nain during a by-election in February. It's the second time for Ms. Barbour being appointed to the NEC, after previously serving as Minister of Language, Culture and Tourism. The two took over portfolios that had previously been vacated.



Diminishing risks related to oil-contamination found in bird eggs in 2022: Health Canada

The Nunatsiavut Department of Lands and Natural Resources advises that an updated health risk opinion by Health Canada on the consumption of seabird eggs and levels of oil-related contaminants shows lower health risks in eggs collected in 2022, especially in Postville, as compared to previous years.

Results showing an overall lower amount of oil-related contaminants in 2022, in both Nain and Postville, had already been shared in a public release and during community meetings last summer. However, this health risk opinion was necessary to confirm the actual significance of these reduced levels in terms of egg consumption. The new estimated maximum monthly intakes provided with this health risk opinion can be found in the tables below.

Following a diesel spill of 3,000 litres in Kaikopok Bay near Postville in 2020, the Nunatsiavut Government,

in collaboration with Environment and Climate Change Canada, began testing for oil contaminants to determine any long-term, lasting impacts. Results of the analyses showed elevated levels of oil compounds in Postville compared to Nain, and elevated levels in both communities for 2021. This resulted in a harvesting advisory and a request to Health Canada for a review of the potential health implications, the result of which were shared in July 2023.

The Nunatsiavut Government is continuing its efforts to understand the impacts of the diesel spill in Kaikopok Bay, as well as to get a better understanding of oil-contaminants in Nunatsiavut in general. Sampling efforts in 2023 included the expansion of seabird eggs and arctic char collections to all communities and the beginning of collections for salmon, mussels, sediments and water. Significant results will be made available as they are obtained.

BUDGET 2024-25

Paving the way for unprecedented growth and development in Nunatsiavut

Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology Minister Tom Evans delivered the Nunatsiavut Government's 2024-2025 budget March 6 during a sitting of the Nunatsiavut Assembly in Hopedale. This year's financial plan is built on improving the health and social well-being of Labrador Inuit, building Nunatsiavut's economy, and celebrating Inuit culture and language.

The budget reflects \$108 million being remitted to the Nunatsiavut Government from the Government of Canada, with an additional \$225 million carried forward from previous years. These funds will support governance activities, health, housing, infrastructure, Indigenous early learning and child care, and more. In addition, the Government will support its operations, programs and services with revenues from personal income taxes, GST and investment income.

Key highlights include investments in housing units for Elders and vulnerable populations, the Labrador North Wireless Broadband project, support for the Nain airstrip, a

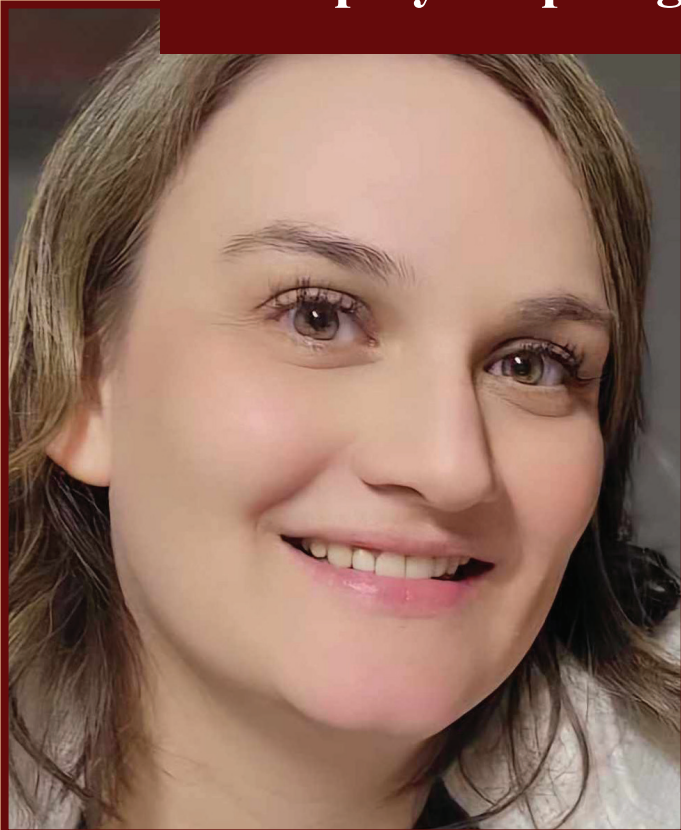
refresh of the Nunatsiavut Housing Strategy, and funding for language and cultural programming. The Government will also continue to support the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission and its programs, as well as invest in a new community office for Rigolet and a regional education office in Makkovik.

The budget also includes investments in employees, staff housing units in all communities, and other initiatives to encourage Labrador Inuit to live and work in Nunatsiavut.

"Employees are the key to the success of our government, as well as to the programs and services we deliver to Beneficiaries of Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement," noted Minister Evans. "We are committed to sustainable growth and development for the benefit of all Labrador Inuit."

The budget also includes funding for operations of the Inuit Community Governments, recreation, economic development, and the placement of Community Development Officers in each community to focus on tourism and economic development priorities.

Employee Spotlight – Erin Broomfield



Erin Broomfield, NG's Regional Justice Services Manager, is the first Beneficiary to complete a Gladue Report for another Beneficiary.

The importance of Gladue reports cannot be overstated. They provide a crucial framework for judges to consider the systemic factors that may have contributed to an Indigenous person's involvement in the criminal justice system. Erin's contribution as an Inuit Gladue writer ensures these reports are not only comprehensive, but also culturally sensitive which empowers individuals to reclaim their narratives and pursue meaningful pathways to healing and reconciliation.

Erin's dedication and passion for justice has paved the way for meaningful representation and understanding within the Gladue report process. By bringing her unique perspective and cultural insight to this vital aspect of the legal system, she's not only advocating for individual rights but also fostering greater respect and recognition for Indigenous peoples' experiences.

Federal Housing Advocate cites human rights concerns with NL Government over Inuit housing

Nunatsiavut President Johannes Lampe and Federal Housing Advocate Marie-Josée Houle met with Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Andrew Furey and provincial housing officials in January to discuss the dire need to find solutions to the housing crisis in Inuit communities.

The meeting came on the heels of a report on housing conditions in the North, which affirms what has been said by Inuit for decades: that the right of Inuit to adequate housing is being violated.

“Our report documents very clearly that Inuit continue to live in deplorable housing conditions, despite repeated promises by governments to solve this crisis,” says Marie-Josée Houle, Federal Housing Advocate. “We welcome the engagement of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to implement the recommendations in our report. This work must be carried out in full cooperation and collaboration with the Nunatsiavut Government. Inuit know what solutions are needed, and must be guaranteed the right to control and manage their own housing. This ongoing

human rights failure requires urgent action at all levels of government.”

The Federal Housing Advocate has a legislated duty under the National Housing Strategy Act to engage with “rights holders,” or people whose human right to adequate housing has been violated, such as those who are unhoused or precariously housed. Under this mandate, the Advocate travelled to Nain and Hopedale in October 2022 to listen, observe, and bear witness to the housing challenges being faced by Labrador Inuit within both communities.

“Our communities suffer every day, and have for generations, due to these shortages and indignities,” says Nunatsiavut President Johannes Lampe. “Reconciliation with Canada and with Newfoundland and Labrador, for Nunatsiavut particularly, cannot be meaningful until Inuit can live in dignity.”

The provincial government has agreed to continue seeking housing solutions alongside the Nunatsiavut Government.

Shaping Our Future

The Qanuippitaa? National Inuit Health Survey (QNIHS) is a permanent survey that is Inuit owned, led and determined with a holistic focus on the health and wellbeing across Inuit Nunangat.

Our first round of data collection was completed in November 2023 with great success (see table) and we are looking forward to preparing for the next round (2027/2028).

We are hoping to have preliminary results available to Nunatsiavut in the fall of 2024. This will be a great start to help shape our Regional Health Plan in terms of policy development and programming decisions at the regional and community levels. While participation is not mandatory, it is a great way to contribute to this ground-breaking opportunity.



Community	Targeted	Completed Survey	Target Reached
Hopedale	137	144	105.1%
Makkovik	94	98	104.3%
Postville	63	51	81.0%
Rigolet	90	88	97.8%
Nain	203	193	95.1%
All	587	574	97.8%

Changes and updates to Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB)



Optometry services

New vision equipment has been purchased and is being delivered to all five (5) communities. The vision equipment will be set up permanently in the DHSD offices in Nain, Hopedale, Postville and Rigolet, and in the Labrador Health Building in Makkovik. NIHB plans to increase the number of optometry visits per year into communities, ensuring better vision health for all Beneficiaries.

Air Travel

For north coast Beneficiaries, once you've landed in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, you must check in to the Client Liaison office at the Labrador Health Centre right away.

Beneficiaries travelling outside of Happy Valley-Goose Bay can now use their own judgement when flight(s) is on a weather advisory. NIHB will cover accommodations whether you decide to attempt to get to your destination or to stay where you are located. If the weather advisory happens after hours, Beneficiaries will be responsible for paying accommodations up front and claiming back for reimbursement.

If you fail to inform NIHB of any change to your air travel or miss your flight without a valid reason, your ticket will be forfeited/lost with the airline and you will be invoiced for the costs to NIHB.

Accommodations

If there are any changes to your accommodations, please notify NIHB immediately. If you are a 'no show' at a hotel because of a change to your accommodations or trip, you will be invoiced for the costs to NIHB.

If you are required to stay longer due to additional appointment/s, please contact NIHB and the appropriate arrangements will be made. NIHB staff will determine if it is more cost effective to extend your stay or arrange return travel and book an additional trip for your next appointment.

NIHB currently has a 3-month contract for accommodations in Happy Valley-Goose Bay with Kerry's Place and R&C Cornerstone. If you have stayed at these accommodations while attending appointments, we would like to hear from you! Please provide any and all feedback to Abby Webb, NIHB Manager at Abigail.webb@nunatsiavut.com or 709-896-3165.

NIHB has Compliment/Complaint boxes set up outside the Medical Transportation Office at 218 Kelland Drive in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, and also outside the Client Liaison Office at the Labrador Health Centre. We would love to hear your feedback on the NIHB Program. If you do not reside in Happy Valley-Goose Bay and want to provide feedback, please feel free to email or phone Abby Webb, NIHB Manager.

Contact Numbers for NIHB Staff:

Regional Office Goose Bay (Toll-Free @ 1-866-606-9750 or 709-896-9750)

Pharmacy Analyst & Medical Supplies and Equipment (MS&E) Analyst

Patty Oliver direct line: 709-896-3556 or ext. 245

Vision Analyst & contact for Nunatsiavut Dental Clinics

Wanda Blake direct line: 709-896-3918 or ext. 239

Dental Analyst

Jenny Gear direct line: 709-896-3166 or ext. 253

Medical Transportation Analysts

Muriel Edmunds direct line: 709-896-5308 or ext. 230

Peggy Blake direct line 709-896-3557 or ext. 226

Anne Webb..... direct line 709-896-8587 or ext. 247

Client Liaison Worker (located at the Labrador Health Centre in Goose Bay)

Caroline Semigak-Elson or Amanda Edmundsdirect line: 709-896-8827

Interpreter/Translator (located at the Labrador Health Centre in Goose Bay)

Selma Suarakdirect line 709-896-2668

Ground Transportation

Desmond Chaulk..... direct line 709-896-1995 or ext. 246

NIHB Policy Analyst

Linda Shepparddirect line 709-899-2138

Director of Health Services

Sylvia Doody direct line: 709-896-9757 or ext. 229

NIHB Manager

Abby Webb direct line: 709-896-3365 or ext. 224

Fax numbers

Medical Transportation.....709-896-9761

Pharmacy & MS&E.....709-896-9670

Vision.....709-896-9751

Dental Fax.....709-896-9751

Main Regional Office.....709-896-9751

Merkuratsuk, Flowers named first recipients of Inuttitut and Cultural Preservations Recognition Awards

Maria Merkuratsuk and Nicholas Flowers are the first recipients of the newly created Inuttitut and Cultural Preservations Recognition Awards.

These awards, which will be awarded annually, acknowledge people who are committed to preserving the Inuttitut language and Inuit culture within Nunatsiavut.

“Maria and Nicholas showcase their language and culture every day, and actively share their knowledge and skills with others,” said Shirley Jararuse, Language Program Coordinator. “We are thrilled to be acknowledging Maria as the first recipient of our Cultural Award, and Nicholas as the recipient of our first-ever Inuttitut Award.”

Maria Merkuratsuk



Maria grew up on the land with her parents and siblings. She loves to take people to her cabin to show them the land and things that her parents taught her. Maria has a lot of knowledge of traditional skills and sewing and is always willing to pass along what she knows. She volunteers/works in her hometown of Nain with different organizations offering on-the-land based programs, and often shares her lived experience with participants.

Nicholas Flowers

Nicholas’s interest in learning Inuttitut started when he was in high school. He goes out into his community of Hopedale to speak Inuttitut to community members and Inuttitut teachers, and even visits elders to learn from them. Nicholas recently moved to Iqaluit to complete the Aurniarvik Program with the Pirurvik Centre to learn Inuttitut as a second language. He took what he learned from Pirurvik and aided the Nunatsiavut Government by instructing Inuttitut online adult classes with the assistance of his sister, Vanessa.

Nicholas volunteers to teach cultural projects at the Amos Comenius Memorial School in Hopedale and is active in the Moravian Inuttitut Church Choir.

