



Tugâpvik NUNATSIAVUT

Winter 2024

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|---|---|
| Successful trial of portable x-ray unit in Hopedale..... | 2 |
| Nunatsiavut Government remains steadfast in protecting Inuit health and way of life amidst Churchill Falls MOU..... | 3 |
| Torngat withdraws registration document for Strange Lake project | 3 |
| The Mitik of Nunatsiavut and Beyond..... | 4 |
| Playground upgrades | 5 |
| Nunatsiavut Heritage Forum 2024..... | 5 |
| Opposing Indigenous identity fraud..... | 6 |
| Gros Morne moose harvest..... | 7 |
| George River Caribou Herd remains vulnerable | 7 |
| Supporting MUN's Indigenous verification report..... | 7 |
| Nunatsiavut Government staff in Postville..... | 8 |
| National Recognition | 8 |
| The Nunatsiavut Government participated in a career fair..... | 8 |

Inuit protected area one step closer



The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on November 28, 2024 in Ottawa, Ontario. Photo: Environment and Climate Change Canada.

Johannes Lampe, President of Nunatsiavut, Pita Aatami, President of Makivvik, and the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change and Minister responsible for Parks Canada, announced November 28 the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding to begin negotiations to create a new Inuit Protected Area/national marine conservation area in northern Labrador. This announcement follows the successful completion of a feasibility study announced in March 2024.

The proposed Inuit Protected Area/national marine conservation area is located in the Labrador Sea adjacent to Torngat

Mountains National Park. The area is a transition between Arctic and Atlantic habitats and is home to polar bears, whales, dolphins, seals, breeding and migrating seabirds, waterfowl, and a variety of fish species. Ranging from highly scenic fjords to long beaches and mudflats, the area is a cultural and ecological treasure. For the Inuit of Labrador and Nunavik, it offers sustenance and cultural richness and serves as a vital connection to the land and sea. If established, the Inuit Protected Area/national marine conservation area designated under the *Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act* will protect up to

continued on next page...



...continued from previous page

17,000 square kilometres of the coastal and marine waters of Nunatsiavut, helping to ensure a healthy marine ecosystem that supports the Inuit of Labrador and Nunavik in being prosperous now and for generations to come.

The proposed Inuit Protected Area/national marine conservation area initiative recognizes and respects Inuit stewardship, emphasizes the importance of Inuit Knowledge in conservation planning and implementation, and further supports the Nunatsiavut Government's Imappivut Marine Plan that safeguards the marine environment and Inuit interests, rights, and priorities. This ensures that the protection of the marine environment aligns with the cultural, spiritual, and economic values of the Inuit people.

This MOU highlights each party's commitment to advancing reconciliation and to implementing treaty rights

and obligations through renewed nation-to-nation and government-to-government relationships. Inuit Knowledge and scientific knowledge will continue to play a central role in the negotiations for the new Inuit Protected Area/national marine conservation area. The Nunatsiavut Government, Makivvik, and Parks Canada, with support from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, will now focus on refining the final boundary and co-management structure, and continuing consultations with rights holders, partners, stakeholders, industry and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

If established, this proposed protected area will contribute up to 0.29 per cent, an area nearly three times the size of Prince Edward Island, to the Government of Canada's ambitious target of protecting biodiversity and conserving 30 per cent of marine and coastal areas by 2030.

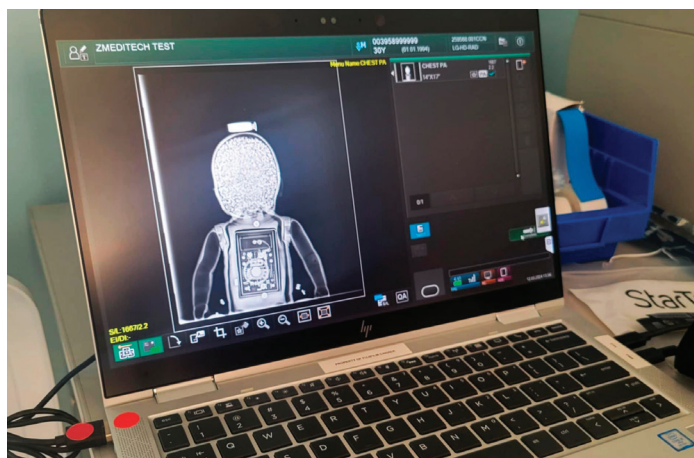
Successful trial of portable x-ray unit in Hopedale



The Nunatsiavut Department of Health and Social Development (DHSD), in partnership with Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) Health Services, is pleased to announce the successful trial of a Health Canada approved ultra-portable x-ray unit in Hopedale.

Although x-rays have been around since the late 1800s, they remain unavailable in many rural and remote regions. To address this gap, and reduce the need for community members to travel for medical imaging to Happy Valley-Goose Bay or beyond, the Nunatsiavut Government, through DHSD, established a collaborative working group in September 2022. The group is comprised of experts from NL Health Services, the Department of Health and Community Services, the Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists, and Indigenous Services Canada - Atlantic.

Led by DHSD, the working group identified the Fujifilm FDR Xair as a suitable solution for Labrador Inuit communities. A team from NL Health Services and DHSD conducted a clinical trial of the unit at the Hopedale Community Clinic on December 3. The clinical trial aimed to test the quality of the images, the ability to transfer and view the images



remotely, and the ease of use of the unit. The trial was a complete success, with several clients receiving x-rays over two days, notes Health and Social Development Minister Roxanne Barbour.

"The successful trial of the portable x-ray unit in Hopedale demonstrates our commitment to improving access to healthcare in our communities. We are pleased with the positive feedback and look forward to hopefully expanding this service to other communities."

DHSD will continue to work with its partners to ensure the availability of this valuable health-care tool across Nunatsiavut.

"Exploring innovative ways to work with Indigenous communities to increase access to services so that patients receive care closer to home is critical for NL Health Services," said Dr. Angela Pickles, Provincial Clinical Chief, Medical Imaging Program. "Partnerships like this demonstrate our commitment to bring NL Health Services' mission to life by working together to improve health outcomes through an innovative, integrated and sustainable health system."

Nunatsiavut Government remains steadfast in protecting Inuit health and way of life amidst Churchill Falls MOU

The Nunatsiavut Government remains steadfast in protecting Labrador Inuit way of life following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Thursday between the governments of Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec on a new Churchill Falls hydro development agreement.

While this potential agreement could bring up to \$200 billion in badly-needed revenue for the province, Nunatsiavut President Johannes Lampe emphasized that safeguarding Labrador Inuit from the downstream impacts of hydro developments and addressing energy security for Inuit communities must be priorities.

“Just like with the Muskrat Falls project, we worry about the downstream health and environmental effects future hydro developments will have on our way of life. The risk of increased methylmercury contamination is serious and could harm our traditional food sources and the health of our people. We know methylmercury concentrations are biomagnifying and bioaccumulating through the ecosystem from the Muskrat Falls development. This must be accounted for in any considerations of future hydro developments.”

The President added that the Nunatsiavut Government will hold Premier Andrew Furey to his commitment to work collaboratively in ensuring Inuit rights and way of life are protected.

“We will make sure Premier Furey keeps his word and involves us in discussions about these important issues,” said the President, adding that it is crucial to avoid repeating past mistakes, especially regarding how land is prepared for flooding. “We expect the lessons from the Muskrat Falls project will help guide future hydro developments on the Churchill River.”

The Nunatsiavut Government is also concerned that future proposed hydro projects do not plan for more power for Labrador Inuit communities.

“These new developments will not provide energy to any of our communities, and yet we face energy insecurity to the point that the Nunatsiavut Government is unable to build housing or other critical infrastructure because Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro is not meeting our energy needs. We rely on high-cost diesel generation to power our communities. We deserve a cleaner and more stable power source to support future growth and development.”

The President noted that the Nunatsiavut Government fully expects the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, as well as Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro, to only engage with legitimate section 35 rights holders when it comes to any future hydro developments on the Churchill River.

Torngat withdraws registration document for Strange Lake project

On June 28, the Standing Committee of the Nunatsiavut Assembly on the Detailed Environmental Review with Respect to the Strange Lake Rare Earth Mining Project (“the Committee”) received official notice that Torngat Metals Ltd. (TM, Formerly Quest Rare Earth Metals) withdrew its registration document for the Strange Lake Rare Earth Mining Project. The document was submitted to the Nunatsiavut Government as per regulations under the *Nunatsiavut Environmental Protection Act (NEPA)*, and the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement (LILCA)*.

Torngat Metal initially included in its registration document a road design including a section through *Labrador Inuit Lands (LIL)*, triggering the requirement for an Environmental Review under the Nunatsiavut Environmental Protection Act. That design was presented to the Inuit communities of Nunatsiavut in the fall of 2023. After exploring other options outlined in the

Variants of the Access Road, Torngat Metals has made the decision to change its design and select its “Option C1” leading to Voisey’s Bay, away from Edward’s Cove/Anaktalak Bay.

This new design, while still within the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area, does not cross into *LIL*. As detailed in the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement*, the legislative powers of the Nunatsiavut Assembly in terms of Environmental Assessment (and environmental reviews under the *NEPA*) only applies to **projects in Labrador Inuit Lands**, therefore the Committee will dissolve, and the Environmental Impact Statement Guidelines from the Committee are no longer required.


Nunatsiavut Government Staff will continue to engage with the federal and provincial governments as they continue the assessment of the project to ensure the voices of Labrador Inuit are heard. The Committee encourages Nunatsiavummiut to do the same.

The Mitik of Nunatsiavut and Beyond

In June, the Nunatsiavut Research Centre team, along with partners from Environment Climate Change Canada and Sea-Duck Joint Venture, successfully tagged 26 eider ducks around Nain. This project titled *The Mitik of Nunatsiavut and Beyond: Using satellite telemetry, contaminant analysis and Indigenous knowledge to uncover movements, key areas of habitat use and threats for Common Eiders* combines Inuit knowledge, tagging data and contaminant analysis to understand the threats that eiders in Nunatsiavut face throughout their lifecycle. The project was developed based on Labrador Inuit priorities to understand more about this important food source, and how eiders live both in the region and on their wintering grounds.




Photo credit: Nunatsiavut Research Centre




NUNATSIAVUT
kavamanga government

HOUSING



INVESTMENT


| 2018-2021 | 2021-2022 |
|---|---|
| <p>NG has invested \$37.5 million in housing programs from the Housing Fund. This includes 36 new homes being built, 105 major repairs (average \$40,000/home) and \$14 million in Land Development for new construction.</p> | <p>NG invested \$6 million in housing programs from the Housing Fund. This includes seven (7) new homes being built, and 30 major repairs (average \$50,000/home)</p> |




83 HOMES

NG has built 43 Homes since 2017; 22 homes are slated to be completed in 2024, and 18 homes to be started in 2024 with a 2025 completion date.


FUNDING



\$43.5 MILLION
provided by the Government of Canada



FUTURE

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Currently under construction are 22 units funded by NG and the Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI) with a completion date of 2024.</p> <p>RHI Project Costs: \$17,355,815.00 NG investment to RHI: \$8,686,815.00</p> | <p>For 2024-2025, NG is building 18 new units at a total cost of \$21 million from the Housing Fund to be completed in 2025. Set aside for major repairs is \$14 million.</p>  |
|---|---|

www.nunatsiavut.com

Playground upgrades

In spring of 2023, NG's Department of Health and Social Development secured funding from Inuit Early Learning and Child Care (IELCC) under Employment and Social Development Canada to enhance the work on Nain and Hopedale playgrounds for the regulated daycares.

All regulated daycares are required to have outdoor play spaces. The Pigutsavik Centre in Nain and the Ajagutak centre in Hopedale sites required upgrades or additions to their outdoor play spaces. The Nain site did not comply with accessibility standards of provincial licensing and health and safety inspections; and Hopedale did not have equipment on site. The upgrades included removal of old equipment, new fencing, landscaping, supply and installation of play space

equipment that fit within the licensed daycare regulations and incorporated cultural components.

Jenny Lyall, Regional Child Care Manager, and Terry Rice, Capital Project Coordinator, worked with Mills & Wright Landscape Architecture on the project management of this initiative. This included project design, consultation with daycare operators, and construction phases of project.

Benefits of outdoor play is it creates opportunities for children to explore, build social skills, and discover and strengthen their gross motor skills. The staff and children are very excited about these new additions to the playgrounds. It has enhanced the quality of programming in our Inuit childcare centres.



Nunatsiavut Heritage Forum 2024

The 2024 Nunatsiavut Heritage Forum, which took place in Hopedale from October 1-3, brought together leaders, local experts, academics, and community members all dedicated to preserving, interpreting, and celebrating Labrador Inuit heritage, culture, and way of life. Organized and funded by the Archaeology and Heritage Division of the Department of Language, Culture, and Tourism, this annual event continues to be a vital platform for collaboration and exchanging traditional knowledge.

The theme for this year, *kinguvaKatinniuvtut: qullunivittinit, Ullumimut, amma Sivunitsatinut / Our Heritage: Past, Present, and Future*, chosen by the Hopedale planning committee, guided our discussions and reflections throughout the event.

“As Minister of Language, Culture, and Tourism for the Nunatsiavut Government, I would like to express my deep gratitude to all those who participated made this Forum a

success,” said Minister David Dicker Jr., now minister of Human Resources and Information Technology.

“A key highlight was the ‘Show-and-Share’ session, where community members shared their valuable insights into our heritage. The contributions made during this session were very meaningful, and I extend my sincere thanks to all the participants for their dedication and inspiring input.”

Additionally, the contributions of *Inotsiavik* were essential to the success of the Forum, especially for the Inuttitut lessons and presentations that provided a deeper understanding of language and culture.

The Forum was truly a celebration of the strength of our communities and the shared commitment to safeguarding and celebrating our rich cultural heritage. Together, we are ensuring that our traditions, language, culture and way of life are honoured and preserved for future generations.

Opposing Indigenous identity fraud

First Nations, Inuit and Red River Métis Leadership passed two support resolutions and one declaration condemning the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), the NunatuKavut Community Council and other fraudulent organizations during the historic Indigenous Identity Fraud Summit in Winnipeg in May.

Co-hosted by the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF), the National Government of the Red River Métis, and the Chiefs of Ontario (COO), the two-day summit brought First Nations, Inuit and Red River Métis leaders from across Canada together to discuss identity fraud issues.

The summit marked an unprecedented gathering of First Nations, Inuit, and Red River Métis leadership from across Canada who share concerns about the wholesale theft of their ancestors, heritage, language, and culture.

United by these concerns, Leadership and an expert panel of academics highlighted the scale of identity theft from individuals looking to gain personally to contemporary groups who form organizations that steal from Indigenous Peoples on a national scale.

One support resolution was passed that denounces the actions of the MNO and calls on Canada and the Métis National Council (MNC) to withdraw their support of the federal government's Bill C-53. The support resolution calls Bill C-53: "the ultimate reward of identity theft at a collective level," and calls on provincial and federal governments to stop pandering to those who wish to expropriate Inherent and Treaty rights.

"We have come together as the legitimate Indigenous Nations to show the generations to come that we are united in fighting for their future," said Ontario Regional Chief Glen Hare. "Legitimate rights-holders have put Canada and the fraudulent organizations they endorse on notice-we will not give in."

Leadership unanimously adopted a declaration that condemns any person or group falsely claiming an Indigenous identity for financial gain, academic recognition, or any other purpose, and that such actions are unacceptable and contribute to the ongoing marginalization of authentic First Nation, Inuit and Red River Métis voices and experiences.

"The intent of this summit is not to pick a fight. We have every right and all responsibility to stand up for ourselves and protect our identity. The time to bring this to a head is now," said Manitoba Métis Federation President David Chartrand. "It is the blood, sweat, and tears of our Red River Métis Ancestors and leaders that have earned us our place as Canada's Partner in Confederation, the Founders of Manitoba, and recognition as a National Government. I ask these other groups to show us who you are-tell us your history, what your language and culture are, who your heroes are-without stealing what was born at the heart of the Red River Métis Homeland."

The declaration states that First Nations, Inuit, and Red River Métis will assert their rights to protect and revitalize their cultures, languages, and traditions. The declaration also calls on each level of government, national organizations, academic institutions, and industry proponents to cease any actions that accommodate individuals and groups, and to work with legitimate First Nations, Inuit, and Red River Métis to end the appropriation of our Peoples respective cultures and identities.

MMF and COO will continue to work together on this critical issue in a collective manner against Indigenous identity theft.

The second resolution calling on Leadership to denounce the illegitimate identity claims of the NunatuKavut Community Council was also passed unanimously.

"Identity fraud threatens the very core of who we are as Labrador Inuit. It erodes our sense of self, disrupts our way of life, prolongs historical injustices, and threatens our collective progress as true founding peoples of this great country," says Nunatsiavut President Johannes Lampe, who introduced the resolution, supported by Innu Nation Grand Chief Simon Pokue. "By coming together at events like this summit, we demonstrate our commitment to finding solutions to addressing this real threat. We must collaborate, share knowledge, and develop strategies. Our collective efforts will ensure that our children, grandchildren, and generations yet to come, can proudly embrace their heritage without fear of deception or exploitation."



Innu Nation Grand Chief Simon Pokue, Nunatsiavut First Minister Melva Williams and Nunatsiavut President Johannes Lampe at the Indigenous Identity Fraud Summit held in Winnipeg.

Gros Morne moose harvest

The Nunatsiavut Government harvested 31 moose within the boundary of the Gros Morne National Park.

Parks Canada approved the non-profit licences to the Ulapit-saiijet (people helping people) committee in 2024. The project is an ongoing initiative of the Nunatsiavut Government to provide an alternate source of country food for Labrador Inuit communities since the provincial hunting ban was enacted on George River caribou in 2013.

The Nunatsiavut Government sent four employees to Rocky Harbour to partner with four local hunters. Logistical details for the hunt are arranged in co-operation with Parks Canada staff in Rocky Harbour and areas are identified within the park where moose should be taken.

Newfoundland Helicopters were chartered to fly the hunters into the remote areas of the park, where access for local residents is more difficult. This ensures the Nunatsiavut Government harvest has a minimal impact on the local resident harvest and it removes moose in higher density areas.

The meat is professionally cut and vacuum-sealed by a local abattoir before transport to Happy Valley-Goose Bay, where it is held in cold storage for shipment to the coastal communities. The distribution is decided upon by population and is provided to the Inuit communities of Nain, Hopedale, Postville, Makkovik, and Rigolet in addition to the Inuit community corporations in Happy Valley-Goose Bay/Mud Lake and North West River.

George River Caribou Herd remains vulnerable

The Nunatsiavut Government, along with the governments of Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec, collaborated in an aerial census of the George River Caribou Herd in July 2024.

This year's census results show the population still remains at a vulnerable low with an abundance estimate of 8,600 caribou. The population declined by 99 per cent from its historical high, and remains at one per cent of its highest level.

The adult population has grown an average of seven

per cent per year from 2018 to 2024. Calves now make up 26 per cent of the population, and calf recruitment levels are the highest they have been in 60 years.

While this is positive news, the George River Caribou Herd is still at a historically low level. Hunting of the herd is prohibited under provincial regulations and compliance with this ban is necessary.

Any questions regarding the 2024 census can be sent to Jason Dicker, Wildlife Manager, at jason.dicker@nunatisavut.com or by calling (709) 922-2942 ext. 249.

Supporting MUN's Indigenous verification report

The Nunatsiavut Government supports an independent report on Indigenous Verification at Memorial University. Conducted by First People's Group (FPG), and released in late May, the report offers insights and recommendations on ways to improve the university's approach to confirming Indigenous identity.

"The issue of false claims to Indigeneity is a serious concern faced by universities across Canada," says Nunatsiavut President Johannes Lampe. "As the governing body representing true Labrador Inuit, the Nunatsiavut Government recognizes the importance of accurately documenting and affirming Indigenous identities within educational institutions like Memorial University."

The report emphasizes the need for vigorous systems based on consultation to prevent false Indigenous claims, and highlights the importance of establishing meaningful relationships with recognized Indigenous collectives.

It also recommends MUN utilize a two-pronged approach with regard to "outlining recognized Indigenous collectives within a confirmed protocol, including federal recognition under section 35 of the Constitution Act and/or recognition

as a legitimate Indigenous collective by their federally-recognized neighbours." This protocol will be applied to situations where individuals may benefit from claims related to Indigenous identity, such as targeted hiring, designated seats for Indigenous students, scholarships, and research funds.

"This report not only serves as a testament to MUN's dedication to fostering an inclusive and culturally-diverse environment, but also underscores its commitment to reconciliation with the legitimate Indigenous peoples in Newfoundland and Labrador," says President Lampe. "We encourage MUN to accept and implement the recommendations contained in this report, and urge other educational institutions in the province and across Canada to prioritize truth, reconciliation, and Indigenous representation within their establishments."

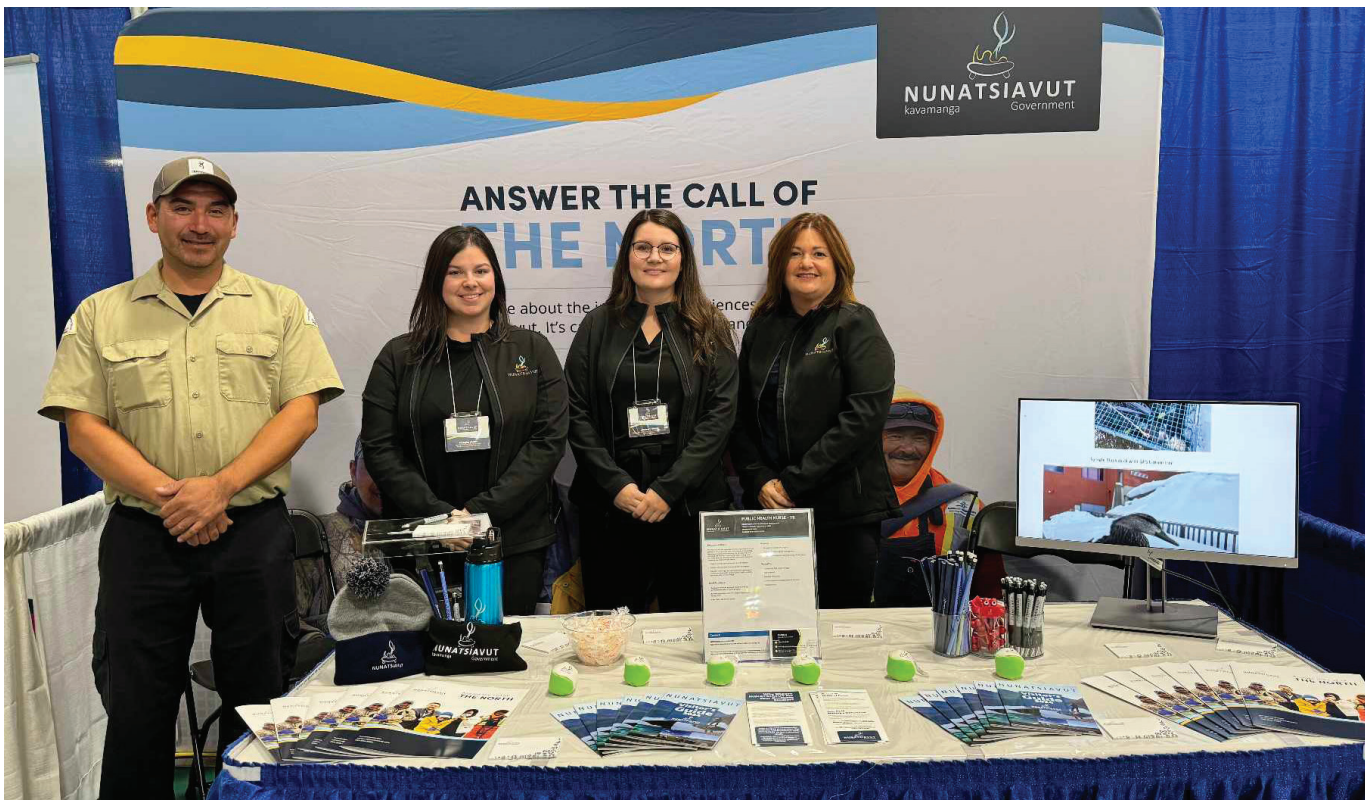
FPG engaged in extensive consultations with self-identifying Indigenous faculty, staff, students, and alumni of MUN, as well as Indigenous governments, nations, communities, and organizations within Newfoundland and Labrador.



Nunatsiavut Government staff in Postville transformed into Christmas characters for the annual DHSD kids Christmas party. Pictured (left to right) are Barb Edmunds, Betty Edmunds, George “Bud” Gear and Vanessa Burden.

National Recognition

Nunatsiavut Government’s public health staff were recently recognized nationally for having one of the highest rates of childhood immunizations across the country. This success was highlighted by Dr. Theresa Tam, the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada, in her 2024 report. She highlighted roles of vaccines in population health and spoke to the future of vaccination in Canada and how the PH system can support it. She provided several examples from across the country and included Nunatsiavut.



The Nunatsiavut Government participated in a career fair hosted by Memorial University and the College of the North Atlantic in September. Four staff members participated at the booth – Joseph Townley, Tina Buckle, Kayla Kearley and Joann Wall. There were over 1,600 students attend the fair.