



NUNATSIAVUT
kavamanga Government

Nunaliginikmik amma Nunamiutani
Ujaganik Imaniklu
Lands and Natural Resources

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES
NUNATSIAVUT ASSEMBLY, QUARTERLY REPORT / MINISTERS
STATEMENT
January 2025

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 complete, any left-over shrimp will be transferred and sold offshore as per policy. Our commercial Cod fishery landed almost all of our 599.4 Tonne cod quota inshore.

The 2025 commercial fishery applications are now available at the NG offices. They are required to be filled out and returned by February 28. This is standard under policy guidance.

Wildlife

Mister Speaker, the moose hunting season was opened on September 16th and will continue until March 21st. 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. To date, 4 licenses have been filled, all in Nain

Mister Speaker, from July 7 – 11 the GRCH survey was completed. The population is now estimated to be 8600 animals, with a 7% growth in the adult population, furthermore the fall classification is now also complete, with a current calf recruitment of 38%. While these demographics are positive, illegal harvesting is still impacting the overall growth of the herd.

Mister Speaker the National Polar Bear Technical Committee (PBTC) is scheduled to meet in Nain in February, this will be the first time the PBTC has met in Nunatsiavut. Logistical details are being worked out by our Wildlife Manager, who is also the Co-Chair of the PBTC.

I am pleased to announce that the Caribou distribution project has a budget once again this year, currently my staff are in talks with KAF on numbers and pricing. We hope to have distribution from march onward.

Lands Division

Mister Speaker, 64 land use applications were submitted in 2024; 31 applications are for minor shore lights related to shipping (26 existing and 5 new), while the remainder are for cabins, mineral exploration, quarries, research and cruise ship visits.

Mister Speaker, a new Application Register app, is currently being implemented to replace the existing Application Register Access Database. The purpose of the Application Register is to store information from land use applications.

Mister Speaker, to date we have been unsuccessful in filling the vacant G.I.S Specialist position but we will re-advertise the job competition in the next few months.

Lastly, Mister Speaker we are pleased that the Assembly passed legislation authorizing two new quarries in Nain for the Nain Inuit Community Government.

Impact Benefit Agreements

Mister Speaker, The Voisey's Bay Mine Expansion is complete and Vale is now into both surface and underground operations. Most contractors at site have completed their demobilization of workforce with the exception of a few contractors that require additional workforce as per Vale's needs.

Mister Speaker, Vale has initiated a new reporting structure across Base Metals Operations, including Newfoundland and Labrador. The IBA Coordinators, along with leadership is working with Vale to ensure that this will not negatively impact the commitments set out in the Impacts and Benefits Agreement.

Mister Speaker, The Torngat Mountains Co-Management Board had a virtual meeting on December 12th. Discussions included updates from the CMB and Parks Canada, as well as continued discussion on caribou. The next meeting will be an in-person meeting in Kuujjuaq in February.

Mister Speaker the Mealy Mountain National Park Reserve Co-Management Board have not met this past quarter due to availability. The next meeting is virtual and scheduled for

January 21. Parks Canada is hiring a Community Liaison in Rigolet as part of the Parks Impact and Benefits Agreement. The job ad is now closed and the IBA Coordinator is working with the MMNPR Visitor Experience Manager on hiring for this position

As of January 17, Theresa Baikie has retired. We would like to thank Theresa for her service over the years and the valued work in ensuring Vale and Parks Canada adhere to the commitments set out in the Impact and Benefits Agreement and Parks Impact and Benefits Agreement. Moving forward, Trent Pottle will be the sole Impact and Benefits Agreement Coordinator.

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, despite being approved for mineral exploration on LIL, Vale did not do any mineral exploration on Labrador Inuit Lands this year. However, the division has completed the final mineral exploration inspection on September 20th, the drill site from 2023 has been completely rehabbed

Mister Speaker, Nunatsiavut beneficiary Ricky Edmunds has been approved to prospect his claims located on LIL in the Big Heads and West Turnaviks area, near Postville.

Mister Speaker, this fall Aurora Energy has completed their airborne geophysical survey over their claims. Also, Aurora has submitted a workplan to continue drilling at their Michelin property located on LIL. Aurora Energy anticipates they will have a winter program starting in February, the workplan is still under review. The division has also

completed a mineral exploration inspection on October 2nd, the inspection went well, only a few minor infractions were identified.

Mister Speaker, Saga Metals has applied to the Province to drill their Double Mer property in LISA. They are proposing 40 drill holes totaling 6000m, they have also acquired the old Silver Spruce camp to support their program.

Mister Speaker, Altius Resources Inc, has been engaged in mineral exploration in Labrador for most of its 28-year history. Over that time, they have forged many great relationships with the Nunatsiavut Government as well as the people from the communities where they work out of. This December Altius and partner Teck made donations amounting to \$7,500 to the five coastal Inuit communities. They also donated \$1,500 to the First Light Friendship Center in St. John's.

Mister Speaker, the Non-Renewable and Lands division, the DM of Lands and Natural Resources, and I attended the Canadian Institute of Mining (CIM), Metallurgy and Petroleum Newfoundland and Labrador branch annual conference, Mineral Resource Review during the first week of November in St. John's NL. We made a presence by attending the technical talks, meetings, chatted with provincial and federal counterparts, as well as company representatives, and prospectors.

Mister Speaker, in November the division has completed inspections of the active quarries on Labrador Inuit Lands leased to NICG, RICG and PICG. The inspections went well, and the reports has been shared with the ICG's.

Mister Speaker, the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) GEM GeoNorth Program has completed their research for 2024. This year the GEM GeoNorth researchers were based out of Makkovik. This summer's work included bed rock mapping, and surficial geology.

The Geological Survey of Canada also followed up on an anomaly detected by last year's airborne radiometric survey. The anomaly on Black Island in Kaipokok Bay was investigated and a new uranium occurrence was discovered. Also, the airborne radiometric survey detected a thorium anomaly at Caravalla Point (Carwallo Point) near Rigolet. The source of anomaly is unknown at this time; however, this could potentially be an area of interest for future collaborative research. Both of these anomalies are located on Labrador Inuit Lands that are Exempt Mineral Lands.

Finally, Mister Speaker the Division and Human Resources are still in the recruitment process for our Mining Analyst vacancy.

Environment Division

Mister Speaker, The Environment Division, through the support of the Nunatsiavut Government Climate Change Committee, continues to make progress on the Nunatsiavut Climate Change Strategy. A draft strategy was presented to NEC in early December for review and approval, and a decision was made to create a tri-lateral climate change table with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Government of Canada to address ongoing and emerging issues. Final edits to the Nunatsiavut climate strategy are being received now with a goal of launching the strategy in March 2025.

In December 2024, staff from Lands and Natural Resources attended the Arctic Change conference of ArcticNet. The conference was successful and research results from most of the Environment Division projects were presented and discussed. Additional funding opportunities were secured for existing research work and multiple meetings took place to develop and evaluate our ongoing partnered research projects.

The winter research programs in the Environment Division are beginning to take place. There are research programs focused on sea ice, ocean dynamics, and a winter research program planned for the Torngat Mountains Base Camp and Research Station.