



NUNATSIAVUT
kavamanga Government

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Ujaganik Imaniklu
Lands and Natural Resources

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES
NUNATSIAVUT ASSEMBLY, QUARTERLY REPORT / MINISTERS
STATEMENT
March 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, March is a busy year for the fisheries sector the division is busy attending various DFO stock assessment meetings in preparation for the 2025 fishing season. The division is also in policy review of the Fisheries Fund, this included various other Nunatsiavut Departments.

Mister Speaker, we are continuing to review all applicable applications for the 2025 fishing season, and are pleased to see that we have had multiple applications for the

Nunatsiavut fisheries specialist position.

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, 5 licenses have been filled, all in Nain.

Mister speaker, the polar bear hunting season is now open, to date 6 of 13 licenses have been taken, three in Nain and Three in Hopedale. We were also able to offer a license in the ULM area for the first time in 2025.

Mister Speaker the National Polar Bear Technical Committee (PBTC) met in Nain in February, it was the first time the PBTC has met in Nunatsiavut. The meeting went well and I am pleased to say that our Wildlife Manager Jason Dicker has been appointed to a second term as co-chair.

Mister Speaker, The Province are planning collaring of GRCH in March, depending on favorable snow conditions, staff from LNR will also assist the Province in this collaring.

Mister Speaker it disappointing for me to announce that the Caribou distribution project will not be able to access caribou from the KAF this year. Harvesting in Nunavut has been difficult and the KAF will not have caribou available for us to purchase. I have my staff looking into other regions for caribou as well as other species.

Lands Division

Mister Speaker, 6 land use applications have been submitted to date in 2025 and are at various stages of processing.

The Lands Division is once again partnering with the Non-Renewable Resources Division in Labrador Inuit Lands inspections this year.

Lastly, Mister Speaker, the job ad for the G.I.S Specialist position closed last week and we are hopeful the position will be filled in the near future.

Impact Benefit Agreements

Mister Speaker, Vale has transitioned into full operations, including Surface and Underground operations. Vale recently initiated a restructure, that have resulted in a number of support positions with Vale becoming redundant. President Lampe, Deputy Minister Goudie, Deputy Minister Pain and the IBA Coordinator met with Vale on February 3rd to better understand these changes and how they will affect Vale's commitment to uphold the Impacts & Benefits Agreement moving forward. The IBA Coordinator have been working with Vale on contractor demobilization, ensuring that contractors in Voisey's Bay follow the IBA demobilization process.

Mister Speaker, Vale hosted winter Shipping Information sessions from January 27th – 29th in Hopedale and Nain. Discussions included Vale's proposed winter shipping schedule and an opportunity for community members to ask questions and express concerns. The quarterly Tasiujatsoak Committee meeting was scheduled for February 27th but has been postponed until a later date.

The Torngat Mountains Co-Management Board had a virtual meeting on February 18th. Discussions included updates from the CMB, Parks Canada and a continued discussion

on management of Caribou in the TMNPR. Parks Canada also provided an update on their proposed 2025 season

Mister Speaker, Parks Canada has assigned John Wall as the new Field Unit Superintendent for Labrador, replacing Eric Nielson. John started in his new role on January 31st and will oversee the TMNPR & MMNPR activities moving forward.

The Mealy Mountain National Park Reserve Co-Management Board had a virtual meeting on January 21st. Discussions included updates from Parks Canada on the work that is happening in MMNPR.

Mister Speaker, The IBA Coordinator is working with Parks Canada on hiring a Community Liaison in Rigolet as part of the Parks Impact and Benefits Agreement. This is a key position that will connect the community of Rigolet to Parks Canada as it relates to the MMNPR.

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 has been approved for a diamond drill program. The winter program started on February 27th. Drilling is scheduled to start at Michelin in the first week of March until mid April and again from July to mid November. Aurora has been approved for 129 drill sites total 10,000m of diamond drilling with 2 rigs.

Mister Speaker, the Non-Renewable Resources and Lands divisions will be attending the annual Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) conference March 2nd

to 5th in Toronto. This year they have a booth to encourage and promote exploration in our region.

Mister Speaker, the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) GEM GeoNorth Program and the Geological Survey of Newfoundland & Labrador held a public session in Nain on January 27th and met with the non-renewable resource director to discuss their upcoming field research programs for Nain and Hopedale. The GSC plans to visit the other communities this spring and update the public on their ongoing research and findings.

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

Environment Division

Mister Speaker, The Environment Division, through the support of the Nunatsiavut Government Climate Change Committee, has finalized the Nunatsiavut Climate Change Strategy, with approval being received by Nunatsiavut Executive Council on February 12th. The strategy will be launched on March 25-26th in Nain, with a celebration event and community feast. Community members that participated in the development of the strategy from throughout Nunatsiavut, Upper Lake Melville and the Canadian Constituency are participating, as well as the Provincial and Federal Governments, and representatives from the Inuit Community Governments.

For the Environmental Assessments for the new Nain Airport, both Canada and the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador have released the project from assessment with conditions. However, the Nunatsiavut Environmental Review is continuing and will

ensure that the negative impacts of the project on the environment Inuit are minimized, while ensuring the project meets the environmental expectations of Inuit. This work is supported by the Assembly Committee for this project.

Winter research programs in the Environment Division are underway, focusing on areas such as monitoring of sea ice, understanding ocean temperature and salinity, and focusing on a winter research program out of the Torngat Mountains Basecamp and Research Station. Additionally, planning for the summer research season is underway, including planning for the annual co-led NG and DFO research mission onboard the CCGS Amundsen this summer.