

- Nakummek, Mr. Speaker.
  - I want to welcome members back to the Assembly, and to thank you all for the work you continue to do on behalf of your constituents, and indeed all Beneficiaries of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement.
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- Last week, I had the pleasure of attending the Terminology Workshop held in Nain, organized by the Department of Language, Culture and Tourism. It was a pleasure to welcome the delegates who gathered with a shared commitment to preserving and promoting Inuttitut. I want to thank those who organized this workshop and acknowledge the work that's being done. The dedication to preserving our language by those who participated was clearly evident.
  - Our language is what makes us unique and the foundation on which our identity is built. We must continue to support and encourage initiatives, such as the Terminology Workshop, that promote language retention and preservation, so that Inuttitut remains a vibrant and integral part of who we are.
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- Mr. Speaker, I also had the opportunity to attend and present at the first Aqsarniit Conference and Trade Show in Ottawa a couple of weeks ago. Many thanks to the organizers for bringing us together for this inaugural event, which essentially replaces the former Northern Lights Conference.
  - The Nunatsiavut Government stands in unity with Canada's other Inuit treaty organizations and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami in the decision not to participate in the planned 2025 Northern Lights Conference due to the involvement of the NunatuKavut Community Council, which continues to falsely claimed its members to be Inuit.
  - This decision was not made lightly, Mr. Speaker, but was a necessary step to uphold our commitment to protecting the rights and interests of Labrador Inuit and Canada's true Indigenous governments and organizations.

- The Aqsarniit Conference and Trade Show provided a valuable platform to foster unity and collaboration among true Indigenous peoples. From all accounts, Mr. Speaker, it was a big success. Again, thanks to the Baffin Regional Chamber of Commerce for taking this on, and we look forward to gathering at the next Aqsarniit.
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- On a final note, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Premier Furey for his dedicated service to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador. His leadership and commitment to public service have been greatly appreciated, and I believe his efforts have made a positive impact on our province overall.
- My relationship with Premier Furey was, for the most part, very positive. He was approachable, easy to communicate with, and willing to listen. I do believe, Mr. Speaker, that he was committed to building a strong relationship with the Nunatsiavut Government and to reconciliation. However, we did have our differences, particularly around the issue involving the NunatuKavut Community Council.
- Premier Furey was well aware of our concerns, yet he continued to support having a member of the NCC serve as the Minister responsible for Indigenous Affairs. He continued to engage with the NCC as if it were an Indigenous collective – which it isn't – and by doing so, in my view, set back any progress that had been made in recent years towards reconciliation.
- It is essential that the future premier prioritizes sincere and mindful engagement with only legitimate Indigenous communities if meaningful reconciliation is to be achieved.
- Thank you, Mr. Speaker...