

Speaking Notes

President Johannes Lampe

Address to the Nunatsiavut Assembly

June 4, 2025

Hopedale, Nunatsiavut

PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY



- Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
- Welcome back to Hopedale for our final sitting before the summer break. I want to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Assembly, as well as our dedicated staff and for the tireless work being done to advancing the interests and well-being of our communities and, indeed, all Beneficiaries of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement.
- Mr. Speaker, our language is central to who we are. It carries our history, our traditions, and our way of life. This past month, I had the honour of bringing remarks at the Nunatsiavut Language Summit in Nain, where we reaffirmed our commitment to revitalizing Inuttitut in our homes, classrooms, and everyday lives. We must strengthen and protect our language so that future generations continue to carry it forward as a living, breathing expression of who we are as a people.
- Last week, Mr. Speaker, I was in St. Anthony to provide Moravian Church Lay-Pastor services for families seeking closure for loved ones lost to the tuberculosis epidemic of the 1940s to the 1960s. The Nanilavut Initiative, launched in 2019 in collaboration with the Government of Canada and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, has been essential in helping families retrieve information and reconnect with their history. It is time to bring closure to those who have spent generations searching for answers.
- Healing is an ongoing journey, and by acknowledging this painful chapter in our history, we take steps toward reconciliation. I extend my sincere thanks to all who have worked tirelessly to support families and honour the memories of those who were never returned home.
- Mr. Speaker, I was in Ottawa in March for an ITK Board meeting where we discussed a number of key issues affecting Inuit. Among our priorities was securing long-term, Inuit-specific investment in infrastructure and housing, as well as ensuring sustained funding for the federal Inuit Child First Initiative. The need for continued social, health, and educational support for Inuit children remains critical, and we must work to ensure funding is not lost or deprioritized in future government budgets.

- We also received updates on the Inuit Nunangat University initiative and efforts to select a host community for its main campus, as well as additional satellite campuses across Inuit regions. This project is a vital step in ensuring that Inuit have access to higher education institutions rooted in Inuit knowledge, culture, and identity.
- Mr. Speaker, as we approach the summer season, let's reflect on the work we have done to advance issues and concerns on behalf of our people and our communities. I encourage all Assembly members to continue engaging with our communities, listening to the concerns and acting to address the needs of Labrador Inuit.
- I wish you all a safe summer, and I look forward to gathering again in the fall.
- Nakummek, Mr. Speaker.