

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

September 2025

Mister Speaker,

I am pleased to present my quarterly report as Minister of Lands and Natural Resources. This update highlights key developments since my last statement.

Renewable Resources – Fisheries

The 2025 cod management plan increased the Nunatsiavut Government quota to 1,266 tonnes. While we welcome the increase, we remain concerned about how additional quotas were allocated to other interests and have shared these concerns with the DFO Minister.

We also invested \$1.6 million in the Torngat Co-op processing plant in Makkovik for new cod-processing equipment, enabling some northern cod to be processed locally this year.

The snow crab, turbot, and arctic char fisheries are complete, while the northern shrimp inshore fishery will continue until at least November 15.

Wildlife

The 2025 moose season is now open. The Kiapokok harvesting area remains closed, but harvesters can now harvest in areas south of Zoar, and additional licenses were allocated to Rigolet.

Parks Canada approved 30 moose licenses for Nunatsiavut, with staff scheduled to hunt in Gros Morne beginning October 19.

Fall classification for the George River Caribou Herd is planned for early October.

Our Caribou/Meat Project continues to deliver successfully: all communities received allocations of elk, boar, and bison. Staff are in discussions with KAF to secure caribou for next year.

Lands Division

To date in 2025, 25 land use applications have been submitted and are at various stages of review.

This summer, the Lands and Non-Renewable Resources divisions inspected fish camps, the Fraser River char research camp, Torngat Mountains Base Camp, and NG's Hebron Ambassador program.

BERA Limited has applied to open a rock quarry outside Postville for road maintenance. Legislation under the Labrador Inuit Lands Act to address this will be tabled this session.

Impact Benefit Agreements

Mister Speaker, At Voisey's Bay, Vale conducted a planned preventative maintenance shutdown of the concentrator in early September.

Vale's Aboriginal Affairs Advisor and the IBA Coordinator recently visited all communities, except Postville (to be scheduled soon), to present the IBA Report and Job Readiness Training Program. The Tasiujatsoak Committee will meet October 6 in Voisey's Bay.

The Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve Co-Management Board met August 2–8 at KangidluasuK Base Camp, discussing caribou management and research projects. Their next meeting will be in Kuujjuaq in early 2026.

The Mealy Mountain National Park Reserve Co-Management Board met September 9 in North West River, followed by a joint meeting with the Innu Nation Board on September 10—the first time both boards have met.

On September 11, NG, Parks Canada, and EVOKE hosted a community engagement session in Rigolet to present design options for the Beaver Brook Visitor Experience Hub. The session was well attended, and another engagement is scheduled for November.

Non-Renewable Resources

Mister Speaker, Since the last Assembly, several exploration projects have advanced:

- Ricky Edmunds approved to prospect near Postville (English River Pond).
- Fermi Exploration / Titjaluk Logistics approved for surveys and drilling in Moran Lake, Central Mineral Belt.
- Churchill Resources approved to explore Florence Lake, Central Mineral Belt (prospecting, sampling, geophysics).
- Aurora Energy approved for trenching, drilling, and mapping in the Central Mineral Belt; program ends October 18.

- Azincourt Energy began work August 12 in Moran Lake, Central Mineral Belt (soil sampling, drone surveys).
- Labrador Gold completed exploration at Hopedale in July; inspection found only minor concerns.
- Viridian Metals explored the Wolverine Property (RC drilling) July 24-August 10.
- Altius Resources completed work near Nain, exploring multiple lake areas.
- Geological Survey of Canada (GEM GeoNorth Program), with Newfoundland and Labrador, wrapped August 12 after mapping, sampling, and community studies based out of Nain.

We also welcomed Abigail Amo as NG's new Mining Analyst, based in Hopedale.

Environment Division

Mister Speaker, The Environment Division, with support from the NG Climate Change Committee, continues implementing Sungiutisannik Nunatsiavummi (Nunatsiavut Climate Change Strategy). More than half of the 91 actions have begun, with some to be completed this year.

The division is reviewing two Environmental Assessments under NG jurisdiction: the Nain Wind Microgrid and the new Nain Airport. Work continues on EIS guidelines for the airport. NG also remains actively engaged in the Strange Lake project review and expects the Land Use Study to be completed by the end of September. Discussions are ongoing with provincial and federal agencies to formalize a harmonized EA agreement. The summer research season was productive, with projects across Nunatsiavut, Torngat Mountains, and the Labrador Sea. Fall research will focus on the marine environment. Mister Speaker, this concludes my report.