

Mr. Speaker,

I would like to highlight key developments in Department of **Language, Culture and Tourism**.

Division of Tourism

- We would like to welcome Gemma Pottle to the Division. Gemma began work with the Division as Tourism Development Officer last month. We now have both Tourism Development Officer positions filled.
- We are working on offering an Inuit Games workshop in Hopedale with Danny Jararuse and possibly Rigolet. Our hope is to also offer hospitality training for front line staff in the near future, to help community members who offer Inuit Game demonstrations to visitors become more comfortable with the experience that they offer.
- The Division has been working on a long-term plan for Hebron for a few years. Now that we have extra Human Resource capacity we are finalizing the plan to bring to the NEC for approval.
- We had a one-year contract with Arctic Kingdom to operate the Torngat Mountains Base Camp and Research Station. This season wasn't a typical operating season, there were major infrastructure updates completed and NG programming such as the Inuit Connections Program, DHSD Youth visit,

and a few other smaller groups. We are planning a debrief with Arctic Kingdom and Parks Canada for early October. Negotiations for the 5 – year contract for the base camp operations is on-going.

- We are working with the IBA Coordinator, Parks Canada and Innu Nation on a design concept for structures at Beaver Brook within the Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve to help support community programming and tourism development. Last week staff were in Rigolet for the Open House organized by Parks Canada to present 3 different concept designs for Beaver Brook to the community.
- In August we had 7 artists, from across Nunatsiavut, Upper Lake Melville and Canadian Constituency, attend a sealskin dying workshop in St. John's. During the workshop artists learned how to naturally dye sealskins. The class went extremely well.
- We are planning a snowshoe making workshop in Makkovik for September 29 – October 2. There are 6 spots available. Participants will learn how to fill snowshoes.
- The Nunatsiavut Christmas online Auction will be happening November 17-23. The online auctions have been extremely successful in the past.

- There will be instructor parka making workshops in Hopedale and Postville.

The goal is for participants to be able to instruct park marking workshops in the future. The instructor for the workshops is Winifred Nunguk. Workshop details are as follows:

- Hopedale – 8 participants (4 from Nain, 4 from Hopedale)
- Postville – 8 participants (2 from Postville, 3 from Makkovik and 3 from Rigolet)

Details on how to apply will be released soon.

Division of Language & Culture

- In July 2025, Benjamin Mitusk was hired as our new Director of Culture.
- Other staffing updates include:
 - Cherlyn Allen was hired as Language Program Coordinator for Rigolet;
 - Four Aullâsimapvet Administrators were hired: Gabriella Hunter for Nain, Kate Mitchell for Makkovik, Glenda Sheppard for Postville, and Kathy Pottle for Rigolet.
 - We were also joined by a summer student, Samantha Saksagiak from July until the beginning of September; we wish her the best as she returns to her studies for the school year.
- Work on the division's five-year **language strategy** for 2027-2032, continues. We held a language summit in May that was attended by over 60

language experts and champions. We have finalized a report based on the summit and it is currently with Translation. Once translated, it will be distributed to workshop participants and social media posts will be prepared in both English and Inuttitut.

- Bridge Building Group are the consultants who are assisting with the development of the Language Strategy and we anticipate to have it completed by March 2026.
- In August, staff attended the **WAVES 2025 Global Indigenous Languages Summit** in Ottawa. It was hosted by the Office of the Commissioner of Indigenous Languages and was a four-day conference with presentations from Indigenous language champions based in Canada and from other parts of the world. The Summit was highly informative and inspiring for staff. Shirley Jararuse also delivered a presentation as part of the Summit about the Department's language work.
- **Aullâsimapvet Program** supports families reconnecting with the land through seasonal camps and environmental monitoring; 22 families have participated in the program to date. Additionally: Training programs have been organized for 2 Chainsaw Safety Courses, 4 Bear Guard Courses, 2 CFSC (FAC) Courses, 2 SVOP Courses, and 3 First Aid and Wilderness First Aid Courses. The families are working with the Aullâsimapvet Coordinator – Brandon Lane, and the four Aullâsimapvet Administrators, on their safety plans and routes to ensure a safe and successful program. The

Fall Program is scheduled to run until October 30, with 8 families selected to participate.

- **Inuit Connection Program:** the third Inuit Connection Program hosted at the Torngat Mountains Base Camp and Research Station for the 2025 Season was another great success. This is a partnership project between the Nunatsiavut Government, Parks Canada and Makivvik Corporation. Labrador and Nunavik Inuit had the opportunity to reconnect with their homeland in the Torngat Mountains for 1 week and provide opportunities to understand how to make the national park a living, vibrant place with Inuit that is meaningful in the present and the future.
- In May, we awarded a contract to the Pirurvik Centre to develop a **Nunatsiavut Language Development and Training Program**. Two language specialists, Katie Winters and Darlene Howell, are attending courses at Pirurvik and shadowing program instructors in order to adapt teaching materials. Upon completion of their training, Katie and Darlene will return to Nunatsiavut to deliver pilot Inuttitut courses in Spring/Summer 2026.
- The **Master-Apprentice Program** has restarted, with Masters and Apprentices selected from all five communities in Nunatsiavut. This year we are expanding the program given the amount of interest. Orientation will be taking place on September 24th and 25th in Nain. Since 2018, there have been

24 graduates of the Master-Apprentice program, and we anticipate that there will be seven graduates in Spring 2026. This is the first year that we piloting the Master – Apprentice program to be offered within Upper Lake Melville area. Future plans of continuing to grow the Master – Apprentice program are under discussion.

- The **Inuaggualuit Program** has also restarted for 2025-2026. This the language nest immersion program for children ages 0 – 4 years old. The Nain program will welcome three children and their parents, and the Hopedale program will welcome two children and their parents.

Archaeology/Heritage

- Nanilavut Initiative has commissioned an Inuit Artist – Jessica Winters to create a Monument to commemorate Inuit who died from tuberculosis, to be placed in Hopedale, with replicas for other communities. The monument will be permanently placed in the Hopedale Assembly Building. There will be an Unveiling event planned for November 2025.
- The Nunatsiavut Heritage Forum will take place in Nain from October 20-24, 2025.
- One archaeology position remains vacant and we hope to fill that role soon.
- Progress on creating a Nunatsiavut Repository for artifacts; feasibility study underway with community consultation.

- The summer season saw some field work in the Nain area re-visiting Inuit sites that are facing impacts of climate change, such as shrub growth within sod houses. There have been only five permits issued for archaeological activity in Nunatsiavut for 2025. Four of them being cruise visits.