

Mr. Speaker,

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

Within the **Division of Language & Culture**:

- Work on the division’s five year **Language Strategy**, for 2027-2032, continues. A report based on the May 2025 Language Summit, which will inform the development of the Strategy, has been translated and is now available in both English and Inuttut.
- Community engagement sessions and an online survey will provide additional opportunities for community members to provide input on the development of the Language Strategy.
- Community engagement sessions have already been held in Hopedale (on November 28), Happy Valley-Goose Bay (on December 10), and Rigolet (on January 19). Upcoming engagement dates are as follows:
 - January 20th for Postville
 - January 22nd for Makkovik
 - January 28th for Nain
- A social media campaign to promote the Language Strategy and community engagement sessions is underway.
- **Civil Service Inuttit Classes** will be offered again this Winter, starting on February 2nd and ending April 27th, with a break during the Easter holidays. This will be the second pilot course that builds on the first pilot course held

in Fall 2024. It will follow a similar format – 12 weeks of classes, with one class per week, for one hour per week. Inotsiavik will be returning to offer the course through a combination of their learning materials and LCT developed resources, such as Tusâlanga.

- Applications to attend the course closed on December 22nd and 27 applications were received. Given there are only 20 seats available in the class, an order of priority was established. Selected applicants will be notified this week and next week.
- After the second pilot is complete, feedback will be incorporated to strengthen the course. LCT continues to work with Finance and Human Resources on permanently offering Inuttitut classes to the entire NG civil service.
- I am proud to announce that the recipients of the annual **Language and Culture Recognition Awards** have been selected. Andrew Andersen, Kelly McLean, and family of Nain are the recipients of the Culture Recognition Award. Matthew Jararuse, a youth located in Goose Bay and originally from Hopedale, is the recipient of the Language Recognition Award. Congratulations to all recipients and my deepest thanks for their continued work to strengthen our language and culture in their communities.
- This winter, LCT staff will be participating in an **exchange with staff from the Piquusilirivvik Centre**. Piquusilirivvik is an Inuit cultural learning facility located in Clyde River, Nunavut. Staff from Piquusilirivvik will visit

Nain at the end of January to learn from language and culture staff about the programs offered by LCT. They will also participate in on-the-land and community activities and workshops. Expressions of Interest seeking translators, drivers, and workshop facilitators have been posted. LCT staff will visit the Piqqusilirivvik Centre at the end of March to learn from their staff.

- In May, LCT awarded a contract to the Pirurvik Centre to develop a **Nunatsiavut Language Development and Training Program**. Two language specialists, Katie Winters and Darlene Howell, were selected to observe courses at Pirurvik and shadow program instructors in order to adapt teaching materials. Upon completion of their training, Katie and Darlene will return to Nunatsiavut to deliver pilot Inuttut courses in mid-late 2026.
- The **Aullâsimapvet Program** continues to support families reconnecting with the land through seasonal camps and environmental monitoring. Applications for the Winter 2026 program closed on January 5, 2026. Ten families have been selected to participate and will spend time on the land between the end of January and the end of March. Funding for the program sunsets on March 31, 2026, and LCT is exploring opportunities to continue the program through the Hunters Support Program.
- **Cultural Programming** continues to be offered in all communities. In October, Crystal Allen, Cultural Program Manager, assisted with 20th anniversary celebrations in Nain: 4 sealskins were cleaned with community

members at the Nain Community Shed. A five-day tupik making workshop was held in Hopedale from November 3rd to 7th and a Grass Work workshop was held in Rigolet from November 17-21. Mitt making programs have also been held in Makkovik, Hopedale, and Nain, as well as tree decorating in Rigolet. This winter, Winifred Designs will facilitate parka-making workshops in Postville and Hopedale.

Mr. Speaker, I will now highlight ongoing projects within the Division of Tourism:

Tourism

- The Division of Tourism is planning to continue our Traditional Inuit Games workshop with Danny Jararuse in Hopedale soon. We are finalizing a contract to have the Games documented.
- Our Tourism Development Officer will offer a cultural experience workshop in one of our communities. The goal is to support community members offering experiences to visitors. Staff gathered feedback from community members during the Nunatsiavut Heritage Forum and Rigolet community visit to determine what workshops communities would like to see.
- We are finalizing the Nunatsiavut Visitor Guide. The Guide will be available online, in communities and at all Visitor Information Centers across the the Province.
- We are continuing to work on experience development projects for the Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve and hope to have a Research Assistant hired soon to help us gather stories of the Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve and surrounding areas.

- We are finalizing a Guidebook for the White Elephant Museum in Makkovik. The Guidebook will help Museum members by offering tours to visitors.
- Staff will be attending the International Indigenous Tourism Conference and the Hospitality Newfoundland and Labrador Conference next month.
- Staff will be taking part in online training with Parks Canada offered by the Tourism Cafe based in British Columbia. The training will provide a foundation of understanding Nunatsiavut's ideal guest.

In the area of arts:

- The Arts team is helping with the 20th NG exhibition at the Government House
- We will be supporting two Cultural Performers attending the Arctic Winter Games. This is the first time that Nunatsiavut will have Performers at the Games.
- We are planning the launch of the Nunatsiavut Pattern Library for each community in Nunatsiavut. Phase 2 of the library will include Upper Lake Melville.
- We are beginning to plan for a Nunatsiavut Artist Summit in 2027. Currently we are working to secure external funding for this.
- We are leading the Winifred Designs Parka making workshop in partnership with the Division of Culture. The first workshop will be held in February.
- We are organizing a Duffle Vamp Workshop in April/May.

Mr. Speaker, I will have a quick update on the work with the Archaeology and Heritage:

Archaeology/Heritage

- One archaeology position remains vacant but has been advertised. We are hopeful to fill that role soon.
- We have consulted with the Moravian Church NL regarding a grave marker that was sent to Nain after it was found in the Hudson Bay Company building in Davis Inlet in 2024. In summer 2025 it was sent to Nain. We are currently researching the Moravian Archives to find out as much information about the burial of the child and plan to visit Zoar in 2026 to return the grave marker. It is a grave marker for a child of the Missionary Friedrich Wilhelm Rinderknecht who died in Zoar in 1882. It is not known how this grave marker ended up in Davis Inlet.

Nakummek Mr. Speaker.