

Address to the Nunatsiavut Assembly

President Johannes Lampe

Hopedale, Nunatsiavut

January 20, 2026



- Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
- Twenty years ago, Labrador Inuit took a bold step forward. We established our own government, rooted in our traditions, our language, and our vision for self-determination. Since then, Nunatsiavut has grown stronger, giving voice to Beneficiaries of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement, and shaping a future that reflects who we are.
- This milestone has been celebrated across all our Constituencies. Each gathering has been a chance to reflect on our journey, honour our Elders, and celebrate our youth. The only community yet to mark the occasion is Nain, which will host a community feast on February 4.
- Our anniversary was also recognized beyond Labrador. In Ottawa, members of the Nunatsiavut Executive Council travelled to represent our government. Under the leadership of First Minister Williams, the NEC carried out a full schedule of meetings and spoke at an anniversary reception on December 3, which was attended by several federal ministers, MP Philip Earle, Senators and other dignitaries. I want to thank the NEC and the First Minister for their dedication and for ensuring that Nunatsiavut's voice was heard at the national level.
- During the same week, Senator Dawn Anderson of the North West Territories rose in the Senate to acknowledge Nunatsiavut's importance, and MP Philip Earle recognized our anniversary in the House of Commons. These gestures remind us that our journey of self-government is respected and valued across Canada.
- I also want to take this moment to thank all Assembly members and staff for their continued hard work and commitment. The progress we celebrate today is built on your dedication and service to Labrador Inuit.

- Mr. Speaker, I also want to extend my congratulations to Melanie Gear on her recent election as AngajukKak of Postville, and to thank Diane Gear, the former AngajukKak, for her years of service and leadership to her community.
- As we look back on 20 years of self-government, Mr. Speaker, we must also look ahead. The work is not finished. We must continue to strengthen our institutions, protect our language and culture, and ensure that Labrador Inuit thrive for generations to come.
- Together, we have shown what is possible when Inuit govern ourselves. Let us carry forward the spirit of this anniversary into the next 20 years, with confidence, with unity, and with hope.
- Nakummek, Mr. Speaker.