



NUNATSIAVUT
kavamanga Government

Speaking Notes for
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*Minister of Finance, Human Resources
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Budget 2026-2027

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Please Check Against Delivery

Introduction

- Mr. Speaker, it is my honour, as Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology, to present the 2026–2027 budget of the Nunatsiavut Government.
- The Nunatsiavut Government prides itself on being transparent and accountable to Labrador Inuit and indeed to all of our stakeholders. We have listened to feedback from Labrador Inuit and built solutions to everyday issues into the strategies and plans of the Nunatsiavut Government.
- This Financial Plan focusses on strengthening our Inuit communities through strategic infrastructure and housing investments; increasing resiliency and well-being of Labrador Inuit through language, culture, community and mental wellness projects, programs and services; all with the goal of building a strong and resilient Nunatsiavut.

Strategic Infrastructure and Housing Investments

- Mr. Speaker, the Nunatsiavut Government will receive 33 million dollars from the Government of Canada in 2026-2027 to address housing in Nunatsiavut. These funds, as well as funds not expended in prior years, will assist housing initiatives in the 2026-2027 fiscal year.
- It will fund the current year's commitment to the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission's operations and programs of 9.2 million dollars, with an additional 13 million dollars to deliver the Nunatsiavut Government's Emergency Repair and Affordable Warmth Home Repair programs.
- The Nunatsiavut Government heard, through community engagement sessions, that smaller homes are seen as more affordable and ideal for youth and those facing hidden homelessness
- With this feedback, the Nunatsiavut Government has committed 23 million dollars to begin the Illukuluk project in Nain and Hopedale, with plans to develop 20 units.
- The Nunatsiavut Growth, Land Development and Housing Strategy will be finalized in the upcoming year. Mr. Speaker, its objectives will guide the

future allocation of financial resources to address the housing crisis in Nunatsiavut and improve the lives of Labrador Inuit.

- There are many infrastructure needs in our communities, driven by aging assets, growing populations, and the expanding responsibilities of the Nunatsiavut Government.
- Mr. Speaker, the Nunatsiavut Government cannot address all these needs alone. The Inuit Community Governments are allocated 8.6 million dollars for community capital projects for the 2026-27 fiscal year. Of these funds, there is 2.3 million dollars dedicated specifically to water and wastewater projects.
- Under the Indigenous Community Infrastructure Fund, the Nunatsiavut Government received 61 million dollars from the Government of Canada to address gaps in infrastructure.
- Mr. Speaker, in the 2026-2027 fiscal year, funds are committed to the wildfire resiliency plan, improvements in broadband, new facilities for the Inuagualuit Language Nest programs in Nain and Hopedale as well as waste management, and other capital projects.

Stronger Communities

- The Inuit Community Governments play a vital role in the success of each community. This Financial Plan appropriates 9.13 million dollars for their operations and services. In addition – beginning in the 2025–2026 fiscal year – the Nunatsiavut Government has committed an extra 100,000 dollars per community to help address their ongoing needs.
- Mr. Speaker, there are commitments to continue to support the Nunatsiavut Energy Security Plan, with funding for positions and to action items, including being able to leverage other funds to address energy insecurity in Nunatsiavut.
- As a government, we need to be able to respond to emergencies in Nunatsiavut with a clear plan. The Nunatsiavut Secretariat has engaged a consultant to assist with developing an emergency response plan, with the

goal for completion in the upcoming fiscal year and begin its implementation.

- To foster economic growth in Nunatsiavut, there are funds appropriated to support community economic development/tourism officers, employed by the Inuit Community Governments.
- In addition, Mr. Speaker, the Nunatsiavut Government will support initiatives to foster economic growth, with 275,000 dollars for community projects; programs for artists and craftspeople and funds for tourism.
- The Fishery Fund has grown to 12.7 million dollars – all funds have been budgeted to allow the Nunatsiavut Government to avail of fishing opportunities as they arise.

Resiliency and Well-Being of Labrador Inuit

- Labrador Inuit are stronger when we are connected to our way of life, our language and our culture, Mr. Speaker. This year's financial plan recognizes it and commits funds to practicing our unique culture and traditions.
- The Department of Language, Culture and Tourism currently has one division with the responsibility of language and culture. The department plans to create a stand-alone division dedicated to the preservation, use and development of Inuttut, and the other focusing on culture and heritage. This reorganization requires the addition of two new positions – a director and a program manager.
- There are funds allocated for the Inuagualuit Language Nest programs, the terminology workshop, Inuttut classes for the Nunatsiavut Civil Service as well as to develop an Inuttut immersion program.
- Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education and Economic Development will receive 12.5 million dollars for education initiatives. 3.8 million dollars has been committed to NL Schools to support Inuttut teachers and teacher aides, curriculum development, enhance numeracy and literacy initiatives and events such as sports meets, choir, drama and other student leadership activities.

- There is 43.7 million dollars under the Fiscal Financing Agreement for programs and services under the Department of Health and Social Development. These funds, Mr. Speaker, are used to support Labrador Inuit in accessing primary health care, to address substance abuse and addictions, suicide prevention, mental wellness and TB elimination, to name a few programs - all critical to the well-being of Labrador Inuit.

Supporting Nunatsiavut Government

- Mr. Speaker, our government continues to grow in both its scope and responsibilities. Each department is advancing important work that strengthens programs, modernizes operations, and supports the well-being of Labrador Inuit and our communities.
- There are ongoing efforts to:
 - protect land and treaty rights;
 - advance the Inuit ancestry database;
 - modernize the financial, human resource management and information technology and data systems; and
 - support the Nunatsiavut Civil Service with professional development, recognition of their service to the Nunatsiavut and, most importantly, a three per cent salary increase for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.
- The Nunatsiavut Government is in a strong fiscal position, supported by funding received from the Government of Canada through the Fiscal Financing Agreement; 5.775 million dollars in personal income tax revenue; 2.1 million dollars in Goods and Services taxes; and 12.8 million dollars received from the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Implementation Trust.

Conclusion

- Mr. Speaker, this Financial Plan is more than a budget – it is a statement of our belief in the strength and potential of all the Beneficiaries of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement, the value in strengthening our communities and preserving our Inuit way of life.
- With a total budget of 440 million dollars, we continue the important work of building a strong, vibrant, sustainable and prosperous Nunatsiavut.

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker.