

Department of Education & Economic Development
Education Division Update
March 2026
Ministerial Statement, Tom Evans

Current Post-Secondary Students

We currently have **approximately 235 students** enrolled in post-secondary studies and being supported by the NG Education Division Funding Program. **168** are receiving full-time support and **68** are receiving part-time support. We are currently supporting **6 ABE** students at our Learning Centers in Nain and Hopedale. We have **1** beneficiary supported under the Self-Employment Benefits program starting this week and one beneficiary just finished receiving supports from this program. We have **1** beneficiary under the Work Experience Program with the Makkovik Inuit Community Government. We also have **2** beneficiaries both currently doing their 4th blocks: one in electrical and one in millwright, and **1** doing a Fishing Master IV Captains ticket.

Grade 11 Career Trip

The participants have been selected and notified, and the trip is scheduled to take place from March 16-20. 12 students and two chaperones will travel to St. John's and visit different post-secondary institutions like the College of the North Atlantic and Memorial University. They will also participate in other activities to orient them to life in the city.

Inuktitut UKâlalautta Event (IUE)

Formerly known as the Inuktitut Speak-Off, the Inuktitut UKâlalautta Event (IUE) took place in Nain from February 16-20. Students from all Nunatsiavut schools presented their speeches to the public, and during the weeklong event celebrated our language and culture with many different activities, such as ulu making, taluk making, storytelling with an Elder, also making school banners. There was a lot of coverage on Facebook and the students all did well with their presentations. It is always good to see so many participants at this event, which shows our students' continued interest and love for Inuktitut!

Big Land Lego

The Big Land Lego competition took place in Nain alongside the IUE. Teams from all five communities sent teams to participate. To showcase their coding and problem-solving skills, students were presented with various tasks to complete. Using these skills, their goal was to complete as many missions as possible during a match. Students built their robots, along with various attachments to accomplish specific missions, and coded their robots for each mission. At the end of the competition, the team from J.C. Erhardt,

Gracie Jararuse and Sasha Mitchell-Rumbolt, came out on top, winning this year's challenge. Congratulations to all participants!

Pan Labrador Choir

The annual Pan Lab Choir gathering took place in Hopedale from February 4-6. Students from all five communities gathered at Amos Comenius Memorial school to share and learn from each other. The event welcomed artistic director Kellie Walsh, and special guest Ben Candow. Students spent their time working with these artists and preparing for the evening public showcase that took place on Feb. 6. Our students performed beautifully and we definitely have a lot of talent in Nunatsiavut.

Labrador Indigenous Teacher Education Program (Labrador ITEP)

The Labrador ITEP is a partnership between the Nunatsiavut Government, the Innu Nation, and Memorial University. Together we applied for a \$1M grant from the Rideau Hall Foundation and were one of the successful recipients. This money will cover the delivery costs of this indigenous-focused teacher education program that will be offered at the Labrador Campus of Memorial University, located in Goose Bay. Staff are working on the recruitment process now and information will soon be available on how to put your name forward.

Early Childhood Education In-community Delivery

In partnership with the Department of Health and Social Development, the Education Division will be covering the delivery costs of the hybrid early childhood education program that will run over the next two years. This will help train beneficiaries to fill the vacant childcare positions in our communities and ensure our daycare centers continue running smoothly.

Inuit Nunangat University

On February 11th, ITK announced that Arviat, Nunavut has been selected as the location of the main campus for the university. Nunavut has announced \$50M in funding, in addition to the \$2M already committed, and just recently the Government of Canada had announced that they too, will be providing \$50M in funding for the creation of the university. The Nunatsiavut Government has approved a \$250,000 contribution to date. The locations of the three satellite campuses that will be located in Nunatsiavut, Nunavik, and the Inuvialuit Settlement Region will be determined through a similar search process as the main campus.

Changes to Student Funding

At the February 11th NEC meeting, the decision was made to increase student living allowance by 30% and to make changes to the commuting support so that more

students are able to access it. The living allowance rates have been the same since 2016 and this increase is meant to address the rising costs of living, especially the cost of food and other essential items. A memo was sent out to all current students that included the new living allowance and commuting rates. This is a welcome change and will positively impact our students. The change was effective immediately and students saw this reflected on their last pay.

Regional Education Division Building

Construction is complete and the maintenance staff have undergone some training on the various systems in the building. There is still a list of deficiencies that has delayed staff from moving in. Once we get substantial completion, we should be able to move staff in and therefore free up space in the main building.