

Mr. Speaker,

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

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 have concluded. Engagements were held:
 - November 28th in Hopedale;
 - December 10th in Happy Valley-Goose Bay;
 - January 19th in Rigolet;
 - January 20th in Postville;
 - January 22nd in Makkovik;
 - January 28th in Nain; and
 - February 25th for the Canadian Constituency.
- An online survey launched on February 25th and is open to beneficiaries who wish to provide feedback who were unable to attend the community engagement sessions. A social media campaign to promote the survey and the Language Strategy is underway.
- **Civil Service Inuttit Classes** are being offered again this Winter. They began on February 2nd and will end on April 27th, with a break during the Easter holidays. This is the second pilot course that builds on the first pilot course held in Fall 2024. It follows 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 there were more applicants than seats available. An order of priority was established to select 20 applicants to attend the course.
- 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 spring, LCT staff will be participating in an **exchange with staff from the Piqqusilirivvik Centre**. Piqqusilirivvik is an Inuit cultural learning facility located in Clyde River, Nunavut. Staff from Piqqusilirivvik will visit Nain later this year 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 will be posted. LCT staff will visit the Piqqusilirivvik Centre at the end of April to learn from their staff.

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

Tourism

- We would like to welcome Bill McElree. Bill began work with us earlier this month in the Tourism Development Officer position. He is based here in Hopedale.
- The Division of Tourism captured footage of Traditional Inuit Games in Hopedale this weekend with Danny Jararuse. A short video of instruction will be developed to help with tourism experience offerings.
- We are finalizing the Nunatsiavut Visitor Guide. The Guide will be available online, in communities and at all Visitor Information Centers across the Province. Our team is also finalizing a Guidebook for the White Elephant Museum in Makkovik. The Guidebook will help Museum members by offering tours to visitors.
- We are finalizing a Request for Proposals to develop a Refreshed Nunatsiavut Tourism Strategy. A steering committee will be developed comprised of community tourism partners as well as support organizations. An Expression of Interest for the steering committee will be released soon.
- We will be launching a new funding program with the Division of Economic Development. This program was created specifically to provide funding to Inuit Community Governments for Economic Development/Tourism positions. The new program will allow Inuit Community Governments to apply for multi-year funding for these positions, instead of annual funding. This will allow for consistency and growth in our communities.
- We are working with the Provincial Government to identify opportunities for trail development/improvements for Nain and hope to work with other Inuit Community Governments soon.
- Staff will be travelling to Postville and Rigolet in March with a joint project with the Division of Human Resources and JAC Photography to capture photographs and videos of our Nunatsiavut communities.
- We are continuing to work on experience development projects for the Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve. We have hired Samantha Newman

on contract to conduct interviews of the Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve to help gather stories of the surrounding area.

- Staff attended the International Indigenous Tourism Conference and the Hospitality Newfoundland and Labrador Conference last month. Our Tourism Division presented along with Rigolet Inuit Community Government's Tourism Manager at the Hospitality Newfoundland and Labrador conference in St. John's last week, highlighting festivals in Nunatsiavut.
- Staff are continuing 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.
- We are working on a five-year contract with Arctic Kingdom to operate the Torngat Mountains Base Camp and Research Station (Base Camp) and hope to have it finalized soon.

In the area of arts:

- Instructor parka making workshops took place last month. In Hopedale we had 8 participants and in Postville we had 9. We hope that the participants will instruct parka making workshops in their respective communities.
- Artwork has been selected to be displayed on the HMCS Margaret Brooke Navy Ship, the contract should be finalized soon.
- Registration and logistics have been confirmed to attend the Arctic Winter Games. We will have 5 special guests, 2 youth cultural performers and a chaperone. This will be the first time that we have cultural performers at the Arctic Winter Games.
- We are planning to attend the Arctic Arts Summit in Sweden in June. EOI for artists will be released this month.

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

Archaeology/Heritage

- 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.
- Our team is also participating in a four-part virtual training opportunity with the Museums Association of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Nakummek Mr. Speaker.