



NUNATSIAVUT
kavamanga Government

Nunaligninikmik amma Nunamiutani
Ujaganik Imaniklu
Lands and Natural Resources

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES
NUNATSIAVUT ASSEMBLY – QUARTERLY REPORT / MINISTER’S STATEMENT
March 2026

Mister Speaker,

I am pleased to present my first (and hopefully not my last) quarterly report as Minister of Lands and Natural Resources. This update highlights key developments since my last statement.

Renewable Resources – Fisheries

The NG cod fishery is ongoing, with two designates remaining. We anticipate landing 100% of our inshore cod quota and will allow the designates until March 31 to complete their landings.

The DFO stock assessment and advisories are ongoing, and the Department is actively participating in those discussions.

Applications for the 2026 commercial fishery are available until February 28, in accordance with policy guidelines.

Wildlife

Mister Speaker, the polar bear hunting season is open until June 30, or until all licenses are filled—whichever comes first. To date, four licenses have been filled: three in Nain

and one in Hopedale. We have twelve licenses available within the Nunatsiavut communities and one in ULM.

The Province of Newfoundland and Labrador conducted collaring of the George River Caribou Herd in early February, with our staff assisting in the fieldwork.

The moose hunting season is ongoing, and to date, five licenses have been filled—four in Nain and one in Rigolet. The season will remain open until March 20.

Mister Speaker, I am pleased to announce that not only will we have elk, boar, and bison again this year, but we have also been able to source caribou and muskox once again from the KAF. This was unexpected but greatly appreciated. My staff are now working on logistics. We anticipate shipments of elk, boar, and bison into communities soon, with caribou and muskox arriving later in the spring.

Lands Division

Mister Speaker, three land-use applications have been submitted to date and are at various stages of processing.

The Department is pleased to welcome back James Williamson as the GIS Specialist, who resumed the position in early December following a departure in June 2024.

The GIS Specialist has completed the backlog of land-use documents and processed two new applications. They have also undertaken two mapping projects: one supporting Hebron's land-use applications, and one involving the development of a community map for Nain. The Hebron project is under review, and the Nain community map has progressed to its second draft.

The Lands Division, along with other departmental staff, participated in meetings last month in Nain regarding updates to the regional Land Use Plan for the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area.

Impact Benefit Agreements

Mister Speaker, Vale has hired eleven Nunatsiavut Beneficiaries as Job Readiness Trainees. Ten of these trainees have already begun work in the mill, mine, and warehouse.

The IBA Coordinator, along with Vale, attended winter shipping information sessions in Hopedale and Nain on February 4 and 5. These sessions provided information on Vale's winter shipping operations.

Vale will be hosting high school visits for Grade 12 students from each school in Nunatsiavut. Each group will participate in an overnight trip to site during the weeks of March 16–20 and 23–27. This will allow students to experience potential career opportunities at Voisey's Bay.

Mister Speaker, the Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve Co-Management Board held a virtual meeting on February 11 after weather prevented an in-person session. Discussions included updates from Parks Canada and the CMB, ongoing research, and management of the Torngat Mountains Caribou Herd.

The Mealy Mountain National Park Reserve Co-Management Board has not met since the last Assembly sitting, but a virtual meeting is planned. Parks Canada has hired Holly Lightfoot as Program Manager – Caribou Ecologist. Recruitment continues for a Park/Site Manager and a Resource Conservation Manager.

Non-Renewable Resources

Mister Speaker, the Non-Renewable Resources Division has been working on several mineral exploration files within the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area.

Vale has been approved to conduct exploration adjacent to the Voisey's Bay Mine, including prospecting, geochemical sampling, ground geophysics, and seismic survey activities. All work complies with provincial legislation and Nunatsiavut Government standards.

Azincourt Energy has applied to conduct mineral exploration in the Central Mineral Belt. Their proposed summer and fall program includes prospecting, ground geophysics (IP and magnetics), and UAV surveys. The work plan is under review.

Finally, Mister Speaker, staff from Non-Renewable Resources and Lands will attend the PDAC Conference from March 1–4 in Toronto. The Nunatsiavut Government will maintain a booth promoting mineral exploration opportunities.

Environment Division

Mister Speaker, the Environment Division continues implementing Adapt Nunatsiavut, the Nunatsiavut climate change strategy.

The strategy is being updated to reflect progress since 2025 and to expand its scope. The updated version will be released in late spring 2026 pending Executive Council approval.

The Division is also completing a winter research tour throughout Nunatsiavut.

Community meetings have been held, along with discussions with Inuit Community

Governments. Weather prevented visits to Hopedale and Postville, but these will be rescheduled.