



**Nunatsiavut kavamanga  
Nunatsiavut Government**

**FIFTH ASSEMBLY**

**OF**

**NUNATSIAVUT**

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**SPRING SESSION 10<sup>th</sup> Session 1<sup>st</sup> - SITTING**

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**kAVAMALIGIJET  
KAUJITITSIUTINGA  
PARLIAMENTARY REPORT**

**In Attendance:**

**Speaker and Ordinary Member for Canada, Honourable Bryan Winters**

**Deputy Clerk of the Nunatsiavut Assembly Darlene Winters**

**Deputy Speaker and Ordinary Member for Canada, Honourable Roland Saunders**

**President of Nunatsiavut, Honourable Johannes Lampe**

**First Minister and Ordinary Member for Rigolet Honourable Melva Williams**

**Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology and Ordinary Member for Makkovik Honourable Thomas Evans**

**Minister of Language Cultural and Tourism, Ordinary Member for Nain David Dicker Jr**

**Minister of Lands and Natural Resources and Ordinary Member for Hopedale, Honourable Terry Vincent**

**Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen**

**Ordinary Member for Postville, Mr. George Gear**

**AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen**

**AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Mrs. Marjorie Flowers**

**AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Mr. Chesley Sheppard**

**AngajukKâk for Nain, Mr. Tony Andersen**

**Chair Person for the NunaKâtiget Inuit Community Corporation, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak**

**Chair Person of the Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation, Mr. Jeffrey Montague**

**Director of Legal Services, Mr. Mark Gillette**

**Absent:**

**Minister of Health and Social Development and Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Honourable Gerald Asivak**

**AngajukKâk for Postville, Ms. Diane Gear**

**Ordinary Member for Nain Roxanne Barbour**

**The Nunatsiavut Assembly proceedings  
were recorded in Inuktitut and English.  
September 23, 2025  
Assembly commenced at 8:55AM, 2025**

**MR. WINTERS:** *Ullâkut.* I would like to call to order the First Sitting of the 2025 Fall Session, of the Nunatsiavut Assembly. Excuse me, Interpreter's booth. You'll have to switch channels again. We're hearing from Sybella. Yeah, *Nakummek.* I'd like to call to order the First Sitting of the 2025 Fall Session of the 5th Nunatsiavut Assembly and ask Wally Andersen to say the opening prayer.

**MR. W. ANDERSON:** [Recites prayer]

**MR. WINTERS:** Member, your mic. *Nakummek.* We're now on to Item Two, "The Opening Address," and I'll ask the President for his opening address.

**PRESIDENT LAMPE:** [Speaks in Inuktitut]

Mr. Speaker, in Nain, we are looking at celebrating our culture with drum dancing, throat singing and traditional foods. It will be an opportunity to gather, to honour our past, and to look ahead with pride to the future. It will also be an opportunity to celebrate Inuit governance, and a nation-to-nation relationship with both Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador. Mr. Speaker, we are continuing to advance our energy initiatives with a strong focus on sustainability, efficiency and community-driven solutions. Several key projects are progressing across renewable energy development, residential retrofits and strategic planning. These efforts reflect a commitment to reducing reliance on

diesel, improving energy security and tailoring programs to meet the unique needs of northern communities. The Nain Wind Microgrid is nearing construction, aiming to offset over 1.2 million Litres of diesel a year, with 60 percent renewable penetration. Tidal energy feasibility is underway near Rigolet, following extensive data collection. The Nunatsiavut Energy Emergency Retrofit program, or NEER, delivers tailored energy audits and upgrades, households and businesses. So far, the program has seen the replacement of nearly 200 woodstoves in our communities this year. A new Nunatsiavut Energy Strategy is in development to guide future energy initiatives, building on past data. This strategy is expected to be completed this winter. Mr. Speaker, to conclude, I would also like to take a moment to acknowledge and celebrate the re-election of Natan Obed as President of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, which took place last week in Cambridge Bay. A beneficiary of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement*, Natan continues to be a strong and principled voice for Inuit throughout Inuit Nunangat. His re-election is a testament to the trust and respect he has earned.

*Nakummek, UKatti.*

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Mr. President. We are now on to Item Three, "Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery." I'd like to thank everyone for tuning in, if anyone is listening online, and just say that it's wonderful to be back in beautiful Hopedale. Some of us had a lot of travel difficulty getting here this time, but luckily, we all made it. I'd also like to mention that Members Diane Gear, Roxanne Barbour and Gerald Asivak have been

rightly excused from this Sitting of the Assembly. The pages for this sitting are Sam Winters and Enrique Lampe. The interpreter, translators are Sybella Tuglavina and Toby Kojak. Harry Dicker is the IT staff assisting this Assembly. As well, we would like to recognize OKâlaKatiget Society staff, Nancy Nochasak and Philip Semigak. If there are any questions around travel and logistics, please see Assistant to the Clerk of the Assembly, Ms. Tabea Onalik. And I recognize Mark Gillette, Director of Legal Services in the gallery. We will move on to Item Four. Item Four is, "Ministers' Statements." Are there any Ministers' Statements? Recognizing First Minister, Melva Williams. When you're ready, First Minister.

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

*Nakummek.* The first statement I will give today will be the First Minister for Nunatsiavut Affairs. Membership and Enrollment. Mr. Speaker, as of September 18th, 2025, there was a total of 6,885 beneficiaries of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement* on the Register of Beneficiaries. The Appeal Board has a new Member appointed as of August 20th, 2025, Art Williams of North West River. Art has also sat on the Appeal Board previous years before and we welcome him back on board. Makkovik and Postville Committee and the Rigolet and Lake Melville Committee will now have one new member each, before or at the end of September, to fill their committees. I'm looking forward to having each Membership Committee back in full swing. I would like to thank Edward Allen, Membership Appeal Board, Kate Mitchell, Makkovik Postville Committee for serving on these very important boards and committees. The

Registrar's Office would again like to stress all beneficiaries to contact the Registrar's Office....

**MR. WINTERS:** Interpreter's booth, we need you to change the channel.

**MS. WILLIAMS:** Okay, so I had asked that if there's any changes in your address or your contact information, to reach out to the Registrar's Office, as again, this can interfere when traveling for medical or any health benefits you may need. Also, to all new parents....

**MR. WINTERS:** Excuse me. The Interpreter's booth is on the wrong channel again. No, we need you to switch headsets, maybe. No, it's not working. One moment, we'll send IT over. Okay. We gotcha now.

**MS. WILLIAMS:** Good to go? Okay. Also, to all new parents who hasn't applied for your child, we recommend that you apply for your child as soon as possible.

**MR. WINTERS:** Sorry, Member. It's gone again. Toby, I wonder if it's coming out of Sybella's headset. When you sit closer to her, we can hear you. No, switch back. Yeah. Okay. Apologies, Members. *Nakummek*. Thank you, Interpreter's booth. When you're ready, First Minister.

**MS. WILLIAMS:** Thank you. I'll start that paragraph over. Also, to all new parents who hasn't applied for your child, we recommend that you apply for your child as soon as possible, to ensure that your child is covered as a beneficiary under the *LILCA*. Please note that your child can be covered under the beneficiary parent up to two years old. After they turn two, then it's the responsibility of the parent or guardian for any health coverage. To all the reapplying 19-year-olds, we would also like to stress that it's

important for you to reapply when you receive your notice from the Registrar's Office, to ensure you are covered for your postsecondary education funding and health coverage. If you have any issues with filling out the application, you can contact the Nain Admin Office and speak or go to see Sheila Angnatok, Registrar of Beneficiaries, Olivia Edmunds, Assistant Registrar, or Pauline Angnatok, Membership Clerk, and they can assist you on completing the application or go to your local NG office and speak to your community liaison officer. Mr. Speaker, Clause 3.11.4 of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Act*, which requires beneficiaries to reapply when they turn the age of majority and meet the criteria for enrollment at that time commonly known as having to reapply when you turn 19-years-old. NG and the NG Membership Office has received numerous concerns over the years regarding the process and the lengthy applications. This is seen as a deterrent to many youth to reapply, and in many cases has led to the loss of benefits because they have not applied. I'm happy to say that Nunatsiavut Affairs has reviewed the legislation and determined that a change can be made to the process to address these concerns. This change will require changes to the current regulations which set out how this process will actually work, because it will be a substantive change in the process for this reapplicants. I will keep the Assembly updated as we work to make this change.

Housing. Mr. Speaker, NG continues to release an expression of interest every year for the purchase of land in all Inuit communities. The priority for use for purchased land is to construct new housing. The type of

housing constructed will depend on the dimensions of the land and restrictions by the local ICG's. Please respond to the expression of interest, if you are interested in selling land that you have title to. The allocation of rental units and housing repairs in Nunatsiavut is the responsibility of the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission, the NHC. If beneficiaries of the LILCA are looking for information on how to apply for housing, or to understand what may be available in your community, please contact the NHC. As well, please contact the NHC on the status of repairs if you are approved for repairs or when applications will be available for new repairs. The NHC has offices in every Inuit community and an office in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. Mr. Speaker, as Minister of Nunatsiavut Affairs, I would like to thank all community members and stakeholders who participated in the Housing Strategy consultation sessions. These sessions were very successful, and your input will help shape how we tackle the housing crisis in Nunatsiavut. Under the Urban Rule and Northern Housing Initiative, NG will receive \$22,999,998 spread over the next five years. These funds will be used to address housing crisis in Nunatsiavut and to address Housing in rural communities. "Build Canada Homes." Canada has launched the "Build Canada Homes," initiative, and is seeking input from the Inuit regions on how this new initiative can be a part of how we build houses in Nunatsiavut. NG will work with the ITK to ensure our input is included in the development of this new initiative, and that this program allows us to overcome the challenges of building homes in our region faster. Transportation. Mr.

Speaker, on August 13, 2025, I met with the Provincial Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure to discuss transportation and infrastructure issues and concerns in Nunatsiavut. Items on the agenda to be discussed were, Housing Infrastructure: This does not include housing construction, but infrastructure needed in the communities to support housing such as land developments, water and waste water management. Nain Airport and Airport Infrastructure, Training and Trades Facilities, Marine Services, Roads to the North Coast, Wharf Infrastructure. Unfortunately, due to a loss of phone and internet, the meeting was cut short, and the majority of our items on our agenda were not discussed. I attempted several times to have another meeting, but schedules and timings did not permit this happening before this sitting. We will schedule another meeting after Provincial election and new Cabinet is in place. Projects of National Interest. Canada has launched a new initiative, looking for projects of national interest. This includes the four Inuit regions. Working with ITK, NG has submitted a list of national interest projects for Nunatsiavut. The list includes the Nain Airport, upgrades for the other four airports, renewable energy, all-season road, marine infrastructure, large ports and safe harbours, and digital connectivity. Infrastructure Public Property. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to provide an update on the progress being made by the Nunatsiavut Government's Infrastructure and Planning Division. Across the region, we are advancing multiple large-scale capital projects, strengthening housing development, and expanding our capacity to support Inuit Community

Governments. New Staff Hires. I am at the end of Infrastructure. I just said new staff hires and I'm moving on to Infrastructure Planning Coordinator, Nain, at the top of the page. Thank you.

Infrastructure Planning Coordinator, Nain. We welcome Chaim Andersen as Infrastructure Planning Coordinator based in Nain. Chaim will support community planning, represent the Division on the infrastructure ICPC working group, and contribute to advancing priority initiatives. Contracts Manager, Makkovik. Ocean Lane has joined as Contracts Manager based in Makkovik. Ocean will oversee contracts to ensure scope, financial obligations and risks are well-managed on behalf of the Nunatsiavut Government, while also supporting procurement for infrastructure projects.

Capital Projects Manager, Nain. We are pleased to welcome David Mercer, a professional civil engineer with extensive experience in capital project delivery. Based in Nain, David will play a key role in supporting the implementation of major projects across our communities.

Maintenance Worker, Nain. To meet growing day-to-day needs, Penny Dicker has been hired as maintenance worker in Nain, supporting ongoing maintenance requirements. Excuse me. Advancing Housing Development. Housing remains a top priority for Nunatsiavut, and the infrastructure and planning team continues to pursue innovative strategies to accelerate development. The Division is also exploring alternative construction technologies and site adaptive designs to utilize land previously considered unsuitable for housing. New Builds.

Infrastructure is preparing to tender three six-plex housing units in Rigolet, Makkovik and Postville. Tender packages for single family homes across Nunatsiavut are being finalized for release, enabling construction during the 2026 season.

Strategic Planning Initiatives. To ensure long-term sustainable development, the Division is advancing two cornerstone frameworks.

Nunatsiavut-wide Infrastructure Growth Strategy, provides sustainable and culturally-sensitive plans for future growth and land-use across all five communities.

Nunatsiavut Housing Strategy. Sets clear targets for housing construction, repair and programming to address beneficiary needs. Final consultations have been completed and draft strategies are now being prepared. These will undergo rigorous review and approval to ensure they capture community input and provide clear direction for implementation. Together, these strategies will help guide both immediate infrastructure priorities and long-term community growth.

Assisted living facilities and supportive care. The Infrastructure Division in partnership with DHSD is completing an options analysis to evaluate approaches for supportive living care in Nunatsiavut communities. This analysis will assess levels of care, staffing requirements, professional needs and financial obligations, while also identifying limitations to delivering certain levels of care locally. As part of this work, the project team is preparing a tender for a new mixed-use facility in Makkovik. This

building will support women fleeing violence and include a supportive care facility with a palliative care room. The Infrastructure Division and DHSD will continue to evaluate and plan similar initiatives in other communities.

Regional Infrastructure Development Highlights. Beyond housing and care facilities, several regional initiatives are advancing.

Community Forest Fire analysis. Initial site visits and stakeholder engagement are complete in all communities except Rigolet, where weather delayed the field work. Once finalized, an information package will be prepared for communities, detailing fire behavior, fuel sources and prevention strategies.

Repository. Development of a centralized facility to support repatriation of artifacts and cultural items.

LiDAR Surveying. High resolution topographic data collection is complete across all communities, supporting engineering, planning and climate resilience initiatives. Regional Waste Management Strategy. A comprehensive plan has been developed and shared with AngajukKât for feedback before moving to final review and approval.

Base Camp Infrastructure Upgrades. Significant upgrades have been completed to support field work, logistics and seasonal operations.

Nain Airport Redevelopment. The Nain Airport Project, a key initiative for improving northern access and mobility has completed all feasibility studies and the final report is currently under internal review.

Concurrently, environment impact assessment and land-use studies are progressing. Planning for the next stages of the project including securing funding for development will proceed if the environmental assessment does not identify any critical issues. This project represents a transformative opportunity for Nain and Nunatsiavut.

**Supporting Inuit Community Governments.** Since the Province stepped back from managing infrastructure projects for ICG's in 2024, the Nunatsiavut Government established a dedicated ICG project delivery team. The team has made significant progress in prioritizing projects and setting five-year infrastructure needs, advancing over \$2.6 million in engineering and design contracts, overseeing \$24 million in construction with additional tenders planned, securing Federal and Provincial funding, reallocating funds from stalled projects to current community priorities, developing legal contracts and procurement processes, expanding consultant capacity to improve performance and service delivery, supporting ICG's, the Joint Management Committee funding process, building digital systems to manage project records and recover legacy files. These efforts restore capacity and accountability to community-led infrastructure, enabling ICG's to plan, deliver and manage projects with greater independence and transparency.

**Critical Capital Projects.** Several major Nunatsiavut Government capital projects are progressing across the region.

**Makkovik Office Building.** Commissioning and final deficiencies are underway. Occupancy is planned for late October 2025.

Postville Office Addition. On track for completion in 2025 with commissioning and deficiencies to be addressed in early 2026.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Toby, we can no longer hear you. Yes, *Nakummek*.

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

Okay, Toby, you finalized the Postville one? Yeah, okay. Nain Administration Building Addition. Construction is progressing well with completion expected in 2026.

Rigolet DHSD building. Scheduled for completion in March 2026 with occupancy shortly thereafter.

Seniors' Housing Units, Nain and Hopedale. These projects remain a top priority providing critical housing for elders. While challenges continue to persist, the Nunatsiavut Government Project Team is actively managing within the contractual limits to keep the progress moving. The Division remains committed to delivering these units to meet the urgent housing needs of seniors. These initiatives reflect the Nunatsiavut Government's ongoing commitment to building sustainable communities and ensuring that infrastructure keeps pace with the needs of beneficiaries now, and for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, from development to of critical infrastructure and housing, membership, implementation of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement*, and Legal Services. This department is incredibly busy. And I'd like to thank the very important staff that carry out these mandates and work tirelessly for the department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a report on the Department of Health and Social Development, but I will

offer it after another Minister has an opportunity to provide their statements. *Nakummek*.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*. Would another Minister like to offer their statement?

Recognizing the Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology, Mr. David Dicker, when you're ready. Yes, when you're ready, Minister.

**MR. DICKER JR.:**

*Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, access of high-speed broadband and cellular services in all communities of Nunatsiavut is a priority for my department, and indeed, for the entire Nunatsiavut Government. My department continues to engage in meetings with Bell Canada and Innovation Science, and Economic Development Canada on the status of the current project, the Labrador North Wireless Broadband Project as well as exploring other options. At this time there are no new developments to report.

In June, Mr. Speaker, my department supported Indigenous Services Canada with a clinic in Nain. This clinic brought in service providers from Indigenous Services Canada, Service Canada, Families and Affordability, Motor vehicle registration and the Canada Revenue Agency. There were 73 individuals who received services at this in-person clinic. Discussions are ongoing to have similar clinics offered in each community.

The Nunatsiavut Government employees are amongst the Nunatsiavut Government's greatest assets. They are vital to the success of programs and services, relationships and negotiations with external stakeholders

and the general operations of the Nunatsiavut Government. Mr. Speaker, in recent years, the Nunatsiavut Government has not done enough to recognize their incredible contributions. This was evident in the 2024 Employee Engagement Survey. The Human Resource Division led the launch of a new Long- Service Recognition Award Program on September 15. Employees have been recognized for the past service, and new milestones are captured in this new program. Mr. Speaker, there has been positive feedback from employees. *Nakummek* to Joann Wall for all the outstanding work she did in bringing this program to fruition. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Before hearing the next Ministers' statement, I'd like to note that we need the approval of the Assembly under Standing Order 29(3) to extend beyond the 35-minute timeline. Do we have that approval? We have approval. Would another Minister like to give their statement? Recognizing the Minister, Tom Evans, when you're ready, sir - sorry, of Economic Development and Education.

**MR. EVANS:**

*Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker. I'll do a brief update, statement for Economic Development first. As a reminder of our Annual Plan for the Division focuses on business development, community development, policy, data collection and offering supports.

Business Development. As of mid-September, our Inuit Business Registry has 267 certified businesses. Three new businesses we added since mid-May in the industrial, commercial and medical service sectors. Regarding procurement, four packages were received from Vale with our division

nominating 12 Inuit Business with no qualified business entity nominations. There are a total of 23 business clients, 19 in start-up, 4 in Growth. The Business Development Committee, or BDC has identified business concerns and policy issues related to *Voisey's Bay Impact Benefit Agreement* implementation. We are collaborating with the Innu Nation to address these issues with leadership and Vale.

The Mealy Mountain Entrepreneurship Support Program has surveyed the Inuit Business Registry in August to confirm trading needs. We are researching possible training program options and suppliers for program delivery in late fall, early winter. Community Development.

We have two funding programs, the Community Economic Development Fund, CEDP, and the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*, FFA. These encourage community improvement initiatives, sustainable employment and local economic development projects.

The new Community Capacity Program to improve the sustainability of the ICG community development officer positions has been reviewed by Legal and Finance and we are completing required updates with those. We'll submit back to Legal and Finance for final review on the 24th of September, and we'll present it to the NEC once final review has been approved.

The Federal Northern Isolated Communities Fund, NICI, supports food-related initiatives by strengthening economic activity. We are working with DHSD.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Minister, I'll ask you to hold on while the interpreter's booth catches up.  
*Nakummek.*

**MR. EVANS:**

Okay? Do you want me to start over? Okay, I'll begin again. The Federal Northern Isolated Communities Fund, NICI supports food-related initiatives that strengthen economic activity. We are working with DHSD and Nunatsiavut Affairs to apply to the 1.73 million funding program. The proposed application will focus on Community Freezer upgrades and replacements, the purchase of cod to supply the Community Freezers and upgrades to greenhouse infrastructure. Policy and Data Collection. The Community Economic Profile Project in partnership with the MUN Harris Centre was updated in early September. We will release the profiles to a social media and website campaign in October. Research for possible contractors for the development and operation of the labour database has begun.

Regarding Arctic Security, Sovereignty and Defence, we have met with NGC and the IDCA, the Inuit Development Corporation Association which represents Inuit development corporations across Inuit Nunangat. We met with them on June 24th to enhance cooperation and support between NG and our Crown Corporation lobbying and advocacy efforts.

Under NG's Recruitment and Retention Initiative, Economic Development is completing a Labour Market Assessment. The draft Statement of Work has been provided to all departments. And the request for proposal is expected to be released before the end of October.

Within the NG Climate Change Strategy, the Economic Development Divisional Implementation Plan has been finalized on September 4th. And to date, 90 percent of short-term activities are in-progress.

Self-Employment Benefits Program. This program provides EI-type benefits for six months to new business startups. We currently have one client, in the construction sector accessing the benefits. This program is open for applications.

Business Industry Sessions. Virtual information sessions that were provided since June include: On July 3rd, Newfoundland Hydro and Quebec Hydro provided a virtual session on Subcontracting Opportunities During Technical and Environmental Studies on the Gull Island and Churchill Falls Expansion Projects. We had 27 Inuit registered businesses who attended this session.

On August 6th, Vale Base Metals provided an in-person and virtual session on Procurement in Goose Bay. Twenty-five Inuit businesses attended this session. Additional virtual sessions are planned for 2025-2026. The topics and presenters will be confirmed and promoted on an ongoing basis.

For Business Financial Support, Economic Development has provided \$25,000, similar to last year, for the SmartICE Northern Production Centre in Nain. This invests in local production, youth employment and community ice services. Our new Business Grant Program has been reviewed by Finance and Legal. Program revisions have been completed

and resubmitted for review as of September 3rd. Once this final review is completed, this program requires consultation with the Government of Newfoundland 'cause under our *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement* provision 7.8.7, that's the requirement that we, in our *Land Claim Agreement*, that we, we have to consult with Newfoundland on new programs. Once provincial feedback is received and incorporated, the program will be sent to NEC for approval. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker. I have a brief update on Education. I could do it later or I could do it now. Okay. You okay, Tob?

Current post-secondary students. The fall semester has begun, and we have currently have approximately 260 students enrolled in post-secondary studies being supported by the Nunatsiavut Government Education Division Funding Program. A hundred and ninety-two are receiving full-time support and 68 are receiving part-time support. We are currently supporting three ABE students at our Learning Centers in Nain and Hopedale. We have three more starting soon. And we have one beneficiary supported under the Self-Employment Benefits Program.

Current Secondary Enrollment Numbers. We have seen an increase in our overall K to 12 numbers over the past year. Last year our total enrollment for K to 12 for all five Nunatsiavut communities combined was 516 students. This year, that number has increased to 533 students. I'll just break it down by community. Nain, we have 222 students, 16 entering Kindergarten and 13 finishing Grade 12 in June. In Hopedale we have 136 students, seven entering Kindergarten and seven finishing Grade

12 in June. In Makkovik we have 77 students - one entering Kindergarten and eight finishing Grade 12 in June. In Postville we have 35 students, two entering Kindergarten and no students registered for Grade 12 this year. In Rigolet, we have 62 students, six entering Kindergarten and nine finishing Grade 12 in June.

I just wanted to - the teacher shortage. Compared to last year, the teacher situation in Nunatsiavut is still an issue, but it's not so bad or critical as last year. And according to the latest numbers, we still have six vacancies total, four in Hopedale, one in Nain, and now one in Makkovik. Both Postville and Rigolet have a full staff. We are very aware of the issues surrounding teacher recruitment and retention and my department is working closely with the Newfoundland Schools' staff on this.

Continuing to address the teacher shortage issues, although it's not immediate solution, I am pleased to announce that the Education Division has partnered with the MTI Innu School Board and Memorial University to develop and deliver an Indigenous-specific teacher education program that will be fully delivered in Happy Valley Goose Bay. This five-year program is culturally-grounded teacher education program will train Innu and Inuit educators to serve their communities using dual cultural and community-led approaches. The three partners have applied to the Rideau Hall Foundation and have been awarded \$1 million over four years to help with program costs. The Nunatsiavut Government and the MTI Innu School Board have committed to sharing delivery costs for

the first year of the program. This amounts to about \$150,000 each, in addition or as well as nominal support for some cultural components over the remaining four years. And, like, we also support our Inuit beneficiaries who are accepted into the program and qualify under our Education Division Funding Program for supports. We are looking forward to working together with our Innu colleagues and Memorial University to address the shortage of trained teachers in Labrador by helping to provide the training locally. We hope to have the program commence in Fall 2026.

I'll briefly speak to the Newfoundland Education Accord. The Education Accord was released in late August, and recent reports have identified several citation errors in the report. My Director of Education was on an Advisory Committee and has been communicating with the province to further understand what exactly happened. Despite the citation errors identified, the content of the report came from community and stakeholder engagement sessions, and this information is still valid and valuable. Aside from the report itself, many of the calls to action include engagement with the Indigenous communities of the province to inform foundational changes to the content and teaching methods moving forward. I - or we, have met with the Minister of Education, the Newfoundland Minister of Education and Early Learning, Bernard Davis, and his senior staff, and informed them that if the province continues to recognize NCC as an Indigenous group in this province, then our participation in this education reform is not guaranteed.

I'll just mention the Inuit Nunangat University. A briefing note went to the ITK Board of Directors at their recent meeting last week to give further direction on the selection of the main campus site in Inuit Nunangat. The location of the university will see the main campus in one of the four regions, with smaller, satellite knowledge centres or campus in each of the remaining regions. A company has been hired to start the consultation process of the different layout and design options for the main campus. ITK has also hired two Inuit - we met them - I mean, okay, Natasha MacDonald from Nunavik and Piers Kreps from Inuvialuit, as our first Academic Council members. They are working on drafting academic policies and shaping a five-year work plan toward Inuit Nunangat University's first program offers in 2030. Our Career Fair. The Career Fair will take place in Makkovik again this year but will start rotating to the other communities next year. So far, we have approximately 25 students signed up to attend with approximately 25 presenters or booth holders from various postsecondary institutions, companies and possible future employers confirmed. The Summer Literacy Camps 2025. We had contracted United for Literacy to oversee the delivery of the Summer Literacy Camps in the five Nunatsiavut communities. We had a high number of local counsellors hired again this year, with numbers hovering around 20 local counsellors. The camps ran for four weeks between July and August. It was free of charge for children ages 5 to 12 and those attending into kindergarten this fall. A full report will be available later this fall and I will circulate it when received.

Our Regional Education Division Building - Construction on the new Regional Education Division building is nearing completion. Hydro is in Makkovik completing the labour work and we're hopefully looking forward to being - moving in hopefully in October of 2025. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*, Minister. Are there more Ministers' Statements at this time? Recognizing the Honourable Terry Vincent, Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, when you're ready, sir.

**MR. VINCENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:** Apologies, Minister, have you provided a report to - Interpreter's booth, he says that it is in there. We'll give you a moment to find it. Lands and Natural Resources. *Nakummek*. Whenever you're ready, Minister.

**MR. VINCENT:** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present my quarterly report as Minister of Lands and Natural Resources. This update highlights key developments since my last statement. Renewable Resources: Fisheries. The 2025 cod management plan increased the Nunatsiavut Government quota to 1,266 tonnes. While we welcome the increase, we remain concerned about how additional quotas were allocated to other interests and have shared these concerns with the DFO Minister. We also invested \$1.6 million in the Torngat Co-op processing plant in Makkovik for new cod-processing equipment, enabling some northern cod to be processed locally this year. The snow crab, turbot, and arctic char fisheries are complete, while the northern shrimp inshore fishery will continue until at least November 15.

Wildlife. The 2025 moose season is now open. The Kiapokok harvesting area remains closed, but harvesters can now harvest in areas south of Zoar, and additional licenses were allocated to Rigolet. Parks Canada approved 30 moose licenses for Nunatsiavut, with staff scheduled to hunt in Gros Morne beginning October 19th. Fall classification for the George River Caribou Herd is planned for early October. Our Caribou/Meat Project continues to deliver successfully. All communities received allocations of elk, boar, and bison. Staff are in discussions with KAF to secure caribou for next year.

Lands Division. To date in 2025, 25 land-use applications have been submitted and are at various stages of review. This summer, the Lands and Non-Renewable Resources Divisions inspected fish camps, the Fraser River Char Research Camp, Torngat Mountains Base Camp, and NG's Hebron Ambassador program.

BERA Limited has applied to open a rock quarry outside Postville for road maintenance. We'll strike this from the report. Mr. Speaker, this is no longer.

Impact Benefit Agreements. Mr. Speaker, At Voisey's Bay, Vale conducted a planned, preventative maintenance shutdown of the concentrator in early September. Vale's Aboriginal Affairs Advisor and the IBA Coordinator recently visited all communities, except Postville, to be scheduled soon, to present the IBA Report and Job Readiness Training Program. The Tasiujatsoak Committee will meet October 6th in Voisey's Bay. The Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve Co-Management

Board met August 2nd to 8th at KangidluasuK Base Camp, discussing caribou management and research projects. Their next meeting will be in Kuujuaq in early 2026. The Mealy Mountain National Park Reserve Co-Management Board met September 9th in North West River, followed by a joint meeting with the Innu Nation Board on September 10th, the first time both boards have met. On September 11th, NG, Parks Canada, and EVOKE hosted a community engagement session in Rigolet to present design options for the Beaver Brook Visitor Experience Hub. The session was well attended, and another engagement is scheduled for November.

Non-Renewable Resources. Mr. Speaker, Since the last Assembly, several exploration projects have advanced. Ricky Edmunds has been approved to prospect near Postville, English River Pond. Fermi Exploration/Titjaluk Logistics, approved for surveys and drilling in Moran Lake, Central Mineral Belt. Churchill Resources, approved to explore Florence Lake, in the Central Mineral Belt for prospecting, sampling, geophysics. Aurora Energy, approved for trenching, drilling, and mapping in the Central Mineral Belt. Program will end October 18th. Azincourt Energy began work August 12th in Moran Lake, Central Mineral Belt doing soil sampling and drone surveys. Labrador Gold completed exploration at Hopedale in July. Inspection found only minor concerns. Viridian Metals explored the Wolverine Project, sorry, Property. They're doing RC drilling July 24th to August 10th. Altius Resources completed work near Nain, exploring multiple lake areas. Geological Survey of Canada, GEM GeoNorth Program, with Newfoundland and Labrador, wrapped up August 12th

after mapping, sampling, and community studies based out of Nain. We also welcomed Abigail Amo as NG's new mining analyst, based in Hopedale.

Environment Division. Mr. Speaker, The Environment Division, with support from the NG Climate Change Committee, continues implementing Sungiutisannik Nunatsiavummi, Nunatsiavut Climate Change Strategy. More than half of the 91 actions have begun, with some to be completed this year. The division is reviewing two, sorry, is reviewing two environmental assessments under NG jurisdiction, the Nain Wind Microgrid and the new Nain Airport. Work continues on EIS guidelines for the airport. NG also remains actively engaged in the Strange Lake project review and expects the Land-Use Study to be completed by the end of September. Discussions are ongoing with provincial and federal agencies to formalize a harmonized EA agreement. The summer research season was productive, with projects across Nunatsiavut, Torngat Mountains, and the Labrador Sea. Fall research will focus on the marine environment. Mr. Speaker, this concludes my report.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Minister. We'll now hear from the Acting Minister of the Department of Health and Social Development, Ms. Melva Williams, whenever you're ready.

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

Mr. Speaker, I provided a revised statement to the translators. I wanna make sure they have the correct document.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.*

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

Oops, wrong spot. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to provide a report for the Department of Health and Social Development. Good? Okay. Non-Insured Health Benefits. The specialists scheduled. The following specialists will be visiting the communities: Dr. Toor, the dentist, September 16th to the 19th, Postville - in September 19th to the 24th, Makkovik. September 24th to the 29th, Rigolet. Dr. Power, the dentist, September 26th to October 4th in Hopedale, and October 4th to the 17th in Nain. The dental hygienist, October 13th to the 17th in Nain, October 17th to the 29th in Hopedale. Dr. McIntosh, the optometrist will be in Nain in October and Postville in November.

Patient Diversions. There is growing concern about the number of patients being diverted to St. Anthony and Labrador City due to the Labrador Health Centre being over capacity. We are monitoring the situation and advocating for client supports in the short-term and increased capacity in the longer-term. From December 1, 2024 to present, we have had 16 patients diverted to St. Anthony which is approximately 1.6 patients per month, and 29 patients diverted to Labrador City, which is approximately three patients per month.

Community Programs. The Meal Kit Program is currently being offered in all Nunatsiavut communities with the second meal kit distribution underway. The program will provide one meal per month per beneficiary household. The kits will include all ingredients as well as a recipe for the meal. The Department of Health and Social Development has received

\$984,528 for five years to support school lunch programs in Nunatsiavut communities. We have been piloting a program in Rigolet which has been going well. We hope to hire a school lunch program coordinator soon to assist in planning and implementing school lunch programs in all Nunatsiavut communities. This is a huge undertaking and we need to find storage solutions for supplies, hire staff, develop a plan with the school, the school board for implementation.

The DHSD Early Childhood Program Division is collaborating with the College of the North Atlantic to deliver a virtual early childhood educator certificate program. We have 10 seats for students and hope to start the program this month. We have a new permanent fulltime child and family care worker position for Happy Valley-Goose Bay. The position was advertised, and we had two applicants, but both declined the position, so it is being re-advertised. ITK and the Inuit Early Child Educator Working Group co-developed the 2017 National Inuit Early Learning and Childcare framework. Additionally, in 2022, ITK worked on the options for supporting Inuit early learning and childcare needs outside of Inuit Nunangat Research Project. The specific population of focus is Inuit children living outside of the four Land Claim areas. Key points from this research were that urban Inuit parents are craving programs focused on Inuit content, language, land-based programs, access to elders and traditional food. Parents in focus sessions of Upper Lake Melville identified the ELCC needs of Inuit children and their families living outside of Inuit Nunangat are currently not being met. DHSD received funding

specific to Urban Inuit which was used to create this position. This position will focus on providing a child development program for three to four-year-olds, school readiness program for four to five-year-olds and an after-school program.

The Susan Aglukark tour will be in all Nunatsiavut communities from October 6th to the 11th. We look forward to her music and inspirational talks in our communities.

The Team Leader in Rigolet, Lorraine Allen, will be retiring on the 1st of October after 22 years of service. We are so appreciative of her great work and leadership and wish her all the best in her retirement.

Mental Health and Wellness. We have hired a mental health and a MH and A, service case manager Danika Lyall to help support service navigation for complex mental health and addiction client's cases to ensure they access the best possible services throughout the continuum.

We have created a new position, "Celebrate Life Coordinator," to support communities in positive activities to improve mental health and help prevent suicide. The focus of the position would be life promotion and supporting an inclusive environment across Nunatsiavut by emphasizing programming that focuses on celebrating life, strengthens hope and provides cultural and community connection. This is a role that will shift the focus from solely addressing suicide to actively promoting well-being and a sense of belonging, working towards the reduction of suicidal thoughts and behaviours, and providing support to overall mental

wellness and the development and strengthening of culturally inclusive life promotion programming. The position will be posted soon.

The Mental Health and Wellness Division recently was awarded funding in partnership with the Canadian Mental Health Association, Newfoundland and Labrador for a train-the-trainer program for support groups focused on supporting those who have experienced loss by suicide of loved ones. This training will be trauma-informed, and we plan to recruit a combination of internal staff and community members. We have an Indigenous trainer who has experienced the loss of an adult child to suicide and has been facilitation support groups for many years. She will be traveling to Nain for the training, and every two weeks to facilitate the support group until community facilitators are comfortable leading the group.

The Trauma and Addictions Team completed their first treatment program since revamping the program in Nain. The clients attending the program were supported throughout the program by the Trauma and Addictions Team, which include the trauma and addictions counsellor who is a social worker as well as a beneficiary, peer support workers were beneficiaries with lived experience and training, and a team lead who is a social worker and a beneficiary. Unfortunately, we have two vacancies on that team, and we are actively recruiting.

A total of 10 youth attended the Youth Hebron trip August 23rd to the 30th with youth support and elder and bear guard supports. Youth from Nunatsiavut attended along with one youth from Upper Lake Melville and

the Canadian Constituency, who was originally from Nunatsiavut but had moved away. The trip was focused on youth engaging and connecting with the land, with culture and to a place that has such meaning to us. Shelters. We have received funding from Reaching Homes to fund the operations of the shelters in Nain and Hopedale for an additional four years. In 2024, '25, Hopedale had 1,526 heads in beds, which averages four individuals per night, a total of 29 individuals, 17 males and 12 females, utilized the shelter. Nain had 2,033 heads in beds, average of six individuals per night, a total of 48 individuals, 30 males and 18 females utilized the shelter. The Reaching Home Evaluation Team was in Nain September 8th and 9th, along with representatives from the other Inuit regions, ITK and Pauktuutit to visit the shelters, interview staff and clients as well as management to get a sense of the program, challenges faced and strengths.

Seniors, Elders. The Elder Coordinator, Bev Hunter, and senior Margaret Andersen will be attending the Seniors NL Conference in 2025 in St. John's this week. The theme is "Aging Vibrantly, Empowerment through Prevention and Connection," fostering safe, flexible and supportive spaces for seniors to thrive and age well in the right space. The Seniors, Elders gathering was hosted by the community of Rigolet July 2024 - sorry, July 2025, and was by all accounts, a great event. A total of 34 seniors, elders, six youth, nine staff, three caterers, one translator, nine guest speakers and two staff from the Inotsiavik Program came together for five days of laughter, tears, learning and healing. One of the key

purposes of the gathering was to give opportunity to learn and teach Inuttitut and be immersed in our Inuit culture as much as possible. This purpose, we believe, was achieved. There was much information shared and many great recommendations coming out of the gathering. A big thank you, to Bev Hunter and her team to the elected officials that was at our event and assisted and presented. We appreciate all your efforts to make the event such a success. *Nakummek, UKatti.*

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Are there any further Ministers Statements? Yes, recognizing the Honourable David Dicker, when you're ready. Interpreter's booth, this will be the Language, Culture and Tourism Ministerial Statement. When you're ready, Minister. *Nakummek.*

**MR. DICKER JR.:**

*Nakummek,* Mr. Speaker. I'll be reading the Ministerial Statement for the Department of Language, Culture and Tourism. Mr. Speaker, I would like to highlight key developments in Department of Language, Culture and Tourism.

Division of Tourism. We would like to welcome Gemma Pottle to the Division. Gemma began work with the Division as Tourism Development Officer last month. Now, we have both Tourism Development Officer positions filled. We are working on offering and Inuit Games workshop in Hopedale with Danny Jararuse and possibly Rigolet. Our hope is to also offer hospitality training for frontline staff in the near future, to help community members who offer Inuit game demonstrations to visitors become more comfortable with the experience that they offer.

The Division has been working on a long-term plan for Hebron for a few years. Now that we have extra human resources capacity, we are finalizing the plan to bring to the NEC for approval.

We had a one-year contract with Arctic Kingdom to operate the Torngat Mountains Base Camp and Research Station. This season wasn't a typical operating season, there were major infrastructure updates completed in the Nunatsiavut Government programming such as the Inuit Connections Program, Department of Health and Social Development, Youth Visit, and a few other smaller groups. We are planning a debrief with Arctic Kingdom and Parks Canada for early October. Negotiations for the five-year contract for the base camp operations is on-going.

We are working with the IBA Coordinator, Parks Canada and Innu Nation on a design concept for structures at Beaver Brook within the Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve to help support community programming and tourism development.

Last week we were in Rigolet for the Open House organized by Parks Canada to present three different concept designs for the Beaver Brook to the community.

In August we had seven artists from across Nunatsiavut, Upper Lake Melville and Canadian Constituency, attend a sealskin dyeing workshop in St. John's. During the workshop artists learned how to naturally dye sealskins. The class went extremely well.

We are planning a snowshoe making workshop in Makkovik for September 29 to October 2. There are six spots available. Participants will learn how to fill snowshoes.

The Nunatsiavut Christmas online Auction will be happening November 17 to the 23rd. The online auctions have been extremely successful in the past. There will be instructor parka-making workshops in Hopedale and Postville. The goal is for participants to be able to instruct parka-making workshops in the future. The instructor for the workshops is Winifred Nunguk. Workshop details are as follows: Hopedale, eight participants, four from Nain, four from Hopedale. Postville, eight participants. Two from Postville, three from Makkovik and three from Rigolet. Details on how to apply will be released soon.

Division of Language & Culture. In July 2025, Benjamin Mitsuk was hired as our new Director of Culture. Other staffing updates include, Cherlyn Allen was hired as Language Program Coordinator for Rigolet; Four Aullâsimapvet Administrators were hired, Gabriella Hunter for Nain, Kate Mitchell for Makkovik, Glenda Sheppard for Postville, and Kathy Pottle for Rigolet. We were also joined by a summer student, Samantha Saksagiak from July until the beginning of September. We wish her the best as she returns to her studies for the school year.

Work on the division's five-year language strategy for 2027 to 2032, continues. We held a language summit in May that was attended by over 60 language experts and champions. We have finalized a report based on the summit and it is currently with Translation. Once translated, it will be

distributed to workshop participants and social media posts will be prepared in both English and Inuttitut. Bridge Building Group are the consultants who are assisting with the development of the Language Strategy and we anticipate to have it completed by March 2026.

In August, staff attended the WAVES 2025 Global Indigenous Languages Summit in Ottawa. It was hosted by the Office of the Commissioner of Indigenous Languages and was a four-day conference with presentations from Indigenous language champions based in Canada and from other parts of the world. The Summit was highly informative and inspiring for staff. Shirley Jararuse also delivered a presentation as part of the Summit about the Department's languages work.

Aullâsimapvet Program supports families reconnecting with the land through seasonal camps and environmental monitoring. Twenty-two families have participated in the program to date. Additionally, training programs have been organized for two chainsaw safety courses, four bear guard courses, two CFSC (FAC) courses, two SVOP courses, and three first-aid and wilderness first-aid courses. The families are working with the Aullâsimapvet Coordinator, Brandon Lane, and the four Aullâsimapvet administrators, on their safety plans and routes to ensure a safe and successful program. The Fall Program is scheduled to run until October 30th, with eight families selected to participate.

Inuit Connection Program. The third Inuit Connection Program hosted at the Torngat Mountains Base Camp and Research Station for the 2025 Season was another great success. This is a partnership project between

the Nunatsiavut Government, Parks Canada and Makivvik Corporation. Labrador and Nunavik Inuit had the opportunity to reconnect with their homeland in the Torngat Mountains for one week and provide opportunities to understand how to make the national park a living, vibrant place with Inuit that is meaningful in the present and the future.

In May, we awarded a contract to the Pirurvik Centre to develop a Nunatsiavut Language Development and Training Program. Two language specialists, Katie Winters and Darlene Howell, are attending courses at Pirurvik and shadowing program instructors in order to adapt teaching materials. Upon completion of their training, Katie and Darlene will return to Nunatsiavut to deliver pilot Inuttitut courses in Spring and Summer 2026.

The Master-Apprentice Program has restarted, with masters and apprentices selected from all five communities in Nunatsiavut. This year we are expanding the program given the amount of interest. Orientation will be taking place on September 24th and 25th in Nain. Since 2018, there have been 24 graduates of the Master-Apprentice Program, and we anticipate that there will be seven graduates in Spring 2026. This is the first year that we are piloting the Master – Apprentice program to be offered within Upper Lake Melville area. Future plans of continuing to grow the Master-Apprentice program are under discussion.

The Inuagguait Program has also restarted for 2025-2026. This the Language Nest immersion program for children ages zero to four years

old. The Nain program will welcome three children and their parents, and the Hopedale program will welcome two children and their parents.

Archaeology and Heritage. Nanilavut Initiative has commissioned an Inuit Artist, Jessica Winters to create a Monument to commemorate Inuit who died from tuberculosis, to be placed in Hopedale, with replicas for other communities. The monument will be permanently placed in the Hopedale Assembly Building. There will be an unveiling event planned for November 2025.

The Nunatsiavut Heritage Forum will take place in Nain from October 20th to the 24th of 2025. One archaeology position remains vacant and we hope to find(ph) that role soon. Progress on creating a Nunatsiavut Repository for artifacts, feasibility study underway with community consultation.

The summer season saw some field work in the Nain area re-visiting Inuit sites that are facing impacts of climate change, such as shrub growth within sod houses. There have been only five permits issued for archaeological activity in Nunatsiavut for 2025, four of them being cruise visits. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* We will take a five-minute break for the Interpreter's booth. Harry, we're offline.

[Recess]

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Welcome back. We're on to Item Five, "Members' Statements." And just a reminder, each Member is limited to two

statements per day for no longer than five minutes each. Are there Members' Statements around the Table at this time? Recognizing AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers, when you're ready.

**MS. FLOWERS:**

*Nakummek, UKattik.* I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to our oldest senior in Hopedale, the late Sylvia Flowers who passed away on June 17, 2025. Sylvia was born in Agnatok Bay to James and Harriet Gear, nee Mitchell. Sylvia's most precious thing in her life was her family. She was the oldest of 12 children, and of all the brothers and sisters that I knew, of her siblings, they all said the same thing. "Sylvia always looked out for me when I was young." She attended the Moravian Boarding School in Makkovik with some of her brothers, Johnny and Billy and her sister Dot. There she watched out for them like a mother hen watches her chicks. In 1949, a fire broke out in one of the rooms of the mission complex and sadly the whole mission complex burned to the ground. This ended their boarding school days. Sylvia met Garfield flowers at a young age and cupid's arrow hit her hard. They married and had three beautiful children together, Brian, Shirley and Kimberley. And Sylvia did what she did best, loved those children with unconditional love, cooked the most delicious meals and baked like she attended a culinary arts school. She worked side-by-side with her husband, Garf, in all his business ventures, the most famous being the North Atlantic Take-out. My mouth is watering just remembering all the wonderful items on the menu. Sylvia's life was her family, from looking out after her brothers and sisters to having her own children. She became the matriarch of her

family, strong, quiet, empowering, open-minded, full of wisdom, the best cook around, a gentle quiet woman who enjoyed the simplicity of life. Thank you, Sylvia for your hard work and dedication to this community. Thank you for giving so many community members the fondest memories. I extend my deepest condolences to her daughter Shirley Broomfield who's sadly, the only living immediate family member, along with Sylvia's four surviving siblings, Dorothy Mackerey, Joyce Kelly, Irene Jackman and Tony Gear. So long, my beautiful mother-in-law, until we meet again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, AngajukKâk. Are there any other Members' Statements around the Table at this time? Recognizing the Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen, when you're ready, sir.

**MR. W. ANDERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

One moment, Member. Interpreter's booth? There isn't one.

*Nakummek*. When you're ready.

**MR. W. ANDERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I bring greetings on behalf of the riding of the Upper Lake Melville region and on September 20th - I'm sorry, September 27th, we will be celebrating Happy Valley Day. Mr. Speaker, over 80-plus years ago, three families from the North Coast travelled to the Upper Lake Melville area. They were the Saunders, the Broomfields and the Perraults. They climbed up over the riverbank and set up three tents. And of the three families, there's only two remaining, I guess you could call them survivors. And that's brothers Ron Perrault and Walter

Perrault. Walter Perrault now lives out around Bay Roberts area and the oldest brother, Ron, is now a resident of long-term care in Happy Valley, Goose Bay. Mr. Perrault told many stories of how the three families gathered and how they started to become a community, and having Sunday service in a house with no chairs to accommodate the people that was there, and how they built their church, and how they played a large part in forming and creating the town of Happy Valley, Goose Bay. Mr. Speaker, I want to say thank you, to the Saunders, the Broomfield and the Perrault families. Many of their siblings now are beneficiaries of the Nunatsiavut Government, for the role that they played in forming the town of Happy Valley, and for the contribution that they've made to, to all those who now call Happy Valley, Goose Bay their home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[Applause]

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Ordinary Member. Are there any other Members' Statements around the Table at this time? Recognizing the AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen.

**MR. B. ANDERSEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise this morning to offer my condolences to the families of the late Elsie Evans Green of Makkovik and to Katie Onalik and her family, originally from Makkovik, who lived in Nain for the last number of years, who passed away since our last sitting in June. On another note, on a brighter note, the MICG has only one small construction - or not small, I guess. But construction season has ended, and I think a lot of people in town are very happy to hear that the noisy

truck has left Makkovik from the sewer main repairs. So, we are all set again now. Makkovik had the oldest water and sewer system within Nunatsiavut and we've just completed replacing a lot of the old infrastructure that was in the ground. And hopefully now we'll be operating for another 50 years, and the community will be hopefully structurally safe in that regard for that amount of time. Other than that, thank you, very much and it's good to see all my colleagues here again today.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek, AngajukKâk.* Are there any other First Minister statements around the Table? Recognizing Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Mr. Roland Saunders.

**MR. SAUNDERS:**

*Nakummek, Mr. Speaker.* Good day, Assembly Members, staff, guests, visitors. It's good to be here in Hopedale once again. I have a sore throat from two weeks of coughing, so you have to bear with me. I just completed a trip, visit the NG members in the South Coast Labrador which I've started doing about five years ago and I had visited members especially in Harbourview Manor where they - it's a long-term care facility. It's a private facility, but I want to thank the President and also the Lands and Natural Resources Minister for donating the char for that. And I also got some smoke char along with dinner and Tim Hortons donuts just a treat for the people, and they really appreciated it. Their concerns are still the same. They want to be back in their hometowns. There's a new problem that came up while I was there. And it's because if they become sick in, in that facility they have to be transferred out

where there's medical situations and they only have two places to go because Goose Bay doesn't have enough beds. So, they either have to go to Labrador City or St. Anthony, and it makes it even harder for the family members to go visit them. And they can't keep them there, so there's a shortage of beds in Goose Bay and that has to be changed. The members are basically pleased with what they're getting from Nunatsiavut with regards to care and benefits but other than that, they're having problems. I had a dinner with the members in Cartwright, very, very pleasant evening with very few - many questions and concerns. One question was how come CCC has free woodstoves for the seniors, Blaze Kings, to be exact. And the members asked, "Why can't we get the same thing? The NCC only has to pay for the installation of the wood stove. That's all they'd have to do. And it's mainly the seniors. They had concerns about the upcoming, next election, when will it be called, and does it concern everyone or just the elected members? And they had concerns about the change in the constitution. They wanted to know if they changed the constitution so that it's not a requirement that a candidate must be fluent in Inuttitut to run for President, and must live in Nain as President. That was a concern. They still have concerns about the membership application and the way that members live in the Canadian Constituency, as well as Upper Lake Melville are losing their memberships. And having the memberships challenged after so many years as a member. But that was the main concern from Cartwright. So thank you, very much Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Member. Are there any other first Members Statements around the Table at this time? Yes, Recognizing Ordinary Member for the community of Nain, Mr. David Dicker, when you're ready.

**MR. DICKER JR.:**

*Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker. During this quarter, Mr. Speaker, I have assisted 86 Nunatsiavut beneficiaries of the Constituency of Nain to complete the following: Helping beneficiaries in completing their 2024 and prior income tax returns with the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program who are unable to do their taxes on their own and receive their notice of assessments; assisted beneficiaries in applying for income support and required documents to submit to income support for beneficiaries, setting them up for direct deposit, updating their information on their files, setting up adjusted equal payment plans between income support for hydro and modern sewer bills with the Nain Inuit Community Government. In partnership with the Department of Health and Social Development, the Nunatsiavut Government and Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro, I have helped several constituents resolve outstanding balances or disconnection notices on their hydro bills. Eligible individuals received a one-time payment from the Department of Health and Social Development setting up beneficiaries for an equal payment plan with Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro, setting up a payment plan with income support and automatic payments from their income support; aided beneficiaries in attaining their deeds to their home and land who are interested in selling to the Nunatsiavut Government; helped beneficiaries on renewing and attaining new MCP

cards from the Newfoundland and Labrador Health Services in partnership with the Department of Health and Social Development, Labrador Grenfell Health and the Nunatsiavut Government; helping beneficiaries with long-term care solutions of options for beneficiaries; aided beneficiaries in completing the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission general housing assistant applications, required documents following up on their applications and maintaining communication with beneficiaries and following up with the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission. Mr. Speaker, we held our summer Nain Constituency meeting on September 10th, 2025 at the Nain Administration building boardroom. We had 12 beneficiaries from the community in attendance. The meeting went well. Mr. Speaker, Ian Dicker, a bright 18-year-old from Nain, Nunatsiavut attended the Canada Summer Games in St. John's Newfoundland, from August 8th to 24th of 2025. Ian participated in men's indoor volleyball with Team Newfoundland and Labrador and I am pleased to say that he is a role model to our youth in our communities with pride, and I'd like to take the time to congratulate him for the representation from Nunatsiavut. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I just want to say I truly enjoy representing my constituents for the betterment of their livelihood, and I'm always here to help in any way I can. *Nakummek, UKattik.*

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Ordinary Member. Are there further first statements around the Table at this time? Seeing none, would any of the Members who have already given a Members' Statement like to give another?

Recognizing the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen.

**MR. W. ANDERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week, myself and the Honourable Gerald Asivak and Deputy Minister Tim McNeil along with Patricia Kemuksigak from the Community Corporation and her staff, we finalized the allotment of elk, bison and boar that we have. We have enough for 60 plus. But Mr. Speaker, going through the list, we realize that in the last year we've lost over 40 of our beloved seniors in the Upper Lake Melville area. And that's a large number, a lot of knowledge, a lot of history that we've, we'll now have to deal with. And while we lost 40, we still have a large number, the 59-year-olds that has now become 60. So really, we still have the same amount. But Mr. Speaker, almost every sitting that I attended, I spoke on our seniors and how we have people, many who were relocated from their homes up north had to move to Happy Valley, Goose Bay because of medical reasons. And now many of them require to be in a level-one and level-two care unit. And unfortunately, because of the beds, they once again have to be relocated again for the second time in their lives. A level-one and level-two home similar to what they have on the South Coast of Labrador, it requires the staff to have first-aid and they give them their - make sure they take their medication. For any of the medical purposes, they take them to the clinic. And Mr. Speaker, we put up a lot of buildings and maybe rightly so, but the need for a level-one and a level-two homecare unit on the North Coast of Labrador is something that's badly needed. And who is it for? It's for our elders

who paved the way in our communities and now they're taken from their homes and they have to go a place like Mary's Harbour. And in the last three months I've had to help beneficiaries in the Upper Lake Melville area, two from the North Coast, to try and find them a place to stay on the island of Newfoundland because we don't have that kind of facility in our riding. And Mr. Speaker, I think for us that every one of us should just think for one minute, people were relocated from their homes. They had no choice. And now they're being relocated again. Many of them will go and they will never get the opportunity to come back and to see their loved ones. So, Mr. Speaker, I think that we as a Government should very seriously think of putting a level-one and level-two homecare facility on the North Coast of Labrador for the people who rightly deserve it, for the people who founded our communities in the latter stages of their years. Let's give them a bit of peace and comfort and bring them back to our communities where they rightfully belong. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Ordinary Member. Are there any other second Members' Statements around the Table at this time? Seeing none, that concludes Item Five. We're now on to Item Six, "Returns to Oral Questions." And there are no returns to oral questions today. We'll move on to Item Seven, "Oral Questions." Are there any oral questions at this time? Recognizing the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen, when you're ready, sir.

**MR. W. ANDERSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the First Minister and I've raised it quite often, and that's concerning the annual spring goose in the Upper Lake Melville area. We've been asking for this now for quite some time. Minister, can you give us an update on any news you had since the last time I proposed the same question to you?

**MR. WINTERS:** Minister, whenever you're ready.

**MS. WILLIAMS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Ordinary Member for the question. I do not have an update. The answer remains the same. The Nunatsiavut Government's comments have been provided to the Implementation Committee who are reviewing it. They have not replied to our comments as of yet. Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*, First Minister. Does the Ordinary Member have a supplemental question?

**MR. W. ANDERSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Minister, I think you can fully understand the frustration of the members in the Upper Lake Melville area. Can you provide us with a written document outlining the last four years when you and your officials have met, who you met with and the dates of the meetings you had with the people that you would have to go through to get this rule and regulation changed?

**MR. WINTERS:** Ordinary Member, oral questions is an opportunity for you to ask a question and receive an answer. If you have such a request, you can put it in writing to the First Minister. Are there any other questions around the - sorry, do you have a second supplemental question? Are there any

other oral questions around the Table at this time? Recognizing the AngajukKâk of Nain, Mr. Tony Andersen.

**MR. T. ANDERSEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources. In his statement this morning the Member - the Minister stated that NG had made financial contribution to the Torngat Producer's Cooperative to allow them to purchase, I guess, cod processing equipment. I believe now, Mr. Speaker, that the plant is closed in Makkovik and there was not one codfish processed in that plant, and I wonder if the Minister can explain why there was no processing cod this fall?

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, AngajukKâk. Minister Vincent, whenever you're ready.

**MR. VINCENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, AngajukKâk for your question. As of right now I'm still waiting for updates from my staff, so I'll have to take this under advisement.

**MR. WINTERS:**

The Minister has taken his question under notice. Does the AngajukKâk have a supplemental question at this time?

**MR. T. ANDERSEN:**

Yes, I do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if the Torngat Fish Producers are not prepared to establish a codfish processing, or make the commitment to process codfish in Makkovik, would the Minister consider persuading them to process perhaps cod in Nain where there was only a few weeks of work this summer? And as I believe as you do, as the Minister is aware, reaching capacity is there. The workforce is there, and the facility is there to process cod.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk. Would the Minister like to respond at this time or include it as part of his, "Under notice?"

**MR. VINCENT:** I can answer that now. This is something that we will definitely discuss as a department. And once we have enough information gathered to figure out if there will be enough workforce in Makkovik or if we have to bring it somewhere else, 'cause hopefully we will have more information for you in the coming months.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*. Does the AngajukKâk have a second supplemental question? Shaking his head, no. Recognizing the Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Mr. Roland Saunders.

**MR. SAUNDERS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the First Minister. In your statement you said that there were 6,885 members. Can you give me a breakdown for each community and constituency as to what those numbers are?

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*, Ordinary Member. First Minister?

**MS. WILLIAMS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Ordinary Member for the question. I do not have those details to hand. I would have to take it under advisement and provide them to you offline.

**MR. WINTERS:** The First Minister will take the question under notice and report back. Ordinary Member, do you have a supplemental question at this time?

**MR. SAUNDERS:** Yes, I do, Mr. Speaker. With the same line of questioning, when you get that number, can you also break down so that we will know which

constituency or town is losing the most members, having their memberships rejected?

**MR. WINTERS:** First Minister.

**MS. WILLIAMS:** So, the - I will take that under notice as well. Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** Does the Ordinary Member have a second supplemental question? Shaking his head, no. Are there any other oral questions around the Table at this time? Yes, recognizing the Ordinary Member for the community of Postville, Mr. George Gear.

**MR. GEAR:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is for the Honourable First Minister. You might be getting tired of me asking it for the last almost four years now, but do you have any information on the policing situation in Postville? Are we getting any or is going to be the same for years to come, or? Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*, Ordinary Member. First Minister?

**MS. WILLIAMS:** Thank you, Speaker and thank you, Ordinary Member for your question. I want to reassure the Community of Postville, the Member that at every table that I sit at, I raise this issue and I promote the concerns of the community of Postville. Recently we had a meeting in Nain with the RCMP, the Commander and we raised that issue again. From my understanding, they should be doing regular patrols, and if there are not regular patrols happening in your community, I'd advise you to reach out to me to let me know and I will follow up with the RCMP. Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*, First Minister. Does the Ordinary Member have a supplemental question?

**MR. GEAR:** Thank you for your explanation and your good work on this behalf, and thank you. *Nakummek*.

**MR. WINTERS:** So, the answer is, "No." Are there any other oral questions around the Table at this time? Yes, recognizing the Chairperson of the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak.

**MS. KEMUKSIGAK:** *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, the Honourable Terry Vincent. With the proposed Gull Island Project, will Nunatsiavut Government be involved in any environmental issues such as increase of methylmercury, et cetera and how it will impact Lake Melville? Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*, Chairperson. Minister Vincent, when you're ready.

**MR. VINCENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, Chairperson for your question. Right now, there's - it doesn't - we do not have any environmental assessment or any proposed environmental assessments, but I'm not sure how to word it, but if we are involved, there will need to be an assessment done by the Nunatsiavut Government.

**MR. WINTERS:** Does the chairperson have a supplemental question at this time?

**MS. KEMUKSIGAK:** No, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*. Are there any other first questions around the Table at this time? Recognizing the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

**MS. FLOWERS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the First Minister, Honourable Melva Williams. I think it's - this is the third year now that there have been four pre-fabbed homes that were brought in I think earmarked for seniors and it doesn't seem to be any development on the homes itself. My question is can you tell me when these homes will be moved and ready for the seniors? Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, AngajukKâk. First Minister, whenever you're ready.

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, AngajukKâk for your question. Currently, there is one unit that is complete here in Hopedale. It was actually just finalized quite recently. And it's been approved from NEC to assign it to NHC for allocation. The other 11 units are in various states of construction. The current schedule that we have is for those constructions to be complete in early 2026 and when they are finished, they will also be allocated to NEC for allocation to seniors. Thank you, for your question and thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, First Minister. Does the AngajukKâk have a supplemental question at this time?

**MS. FLOWERS:**

Yes, my question is the homes have been there for three years now without any heat. Do you think that they will be good enough for an actual home? Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:**

First Minister, when you're ready.

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

Thank you, again, for your question. These homes are taking longer than we had expected for them to be completed. I want to ensure

communities of Nain and Hopedale that we are committed to getting those homes completed. It'll be a safe, secure, comfortable home for our seniors. We do have project management that's onsite and ensuring that the work is completed to specs, to standards, and at this time as stated, I feel that the schedule will see those units completed in 2026. And our goal at the Nunatsiavut Government remains committed to ensuring that all our units and construction is to quality standard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, AngajukKâk.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, First Minister. Does the AngajukKâk have a second supplemental question?

**MS. KEMUKSIGAK:**

No, I don't. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, Honourable Williams for your answer.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Are there any other first questions around the Table at this time? Seeing none, AngajukKâk Andersen of Nain, you're ready for your second.

**MR. T. ANDERSEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my question is for the First Minister. It may seem like a supplementary to my colleague, the AngajukKâk from Hopedale was asking. In her statement this morning First Minister said that the Nunatsiavut Government commitment for senior housing remains a priority. Very similar to what has happened in Hopedale in Nain, and in a earlier statement this year, the Minister said those units would be completed in 2025. There is no work being carried out onsite in Nain for the last three weeks and winter is approaching, and can the

Minister confirm that work will be ongoing and that this contract is still alive and well and these units will be completed?

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk. First Minister.

**MS. WILLIAMS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, AngajukKâk Andersen for your question. As stated in the previous answer, the contract is ongoing, and the Nunatsiavut Government is committed to ensuring that the work proceeds on the contract to have those units completed in 2026. Thank you, for your question, and thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*, First Minister. Does the AngajukKâk have a supplemental question? Sorry. Shaking his head, no. Are there any other second questions around the Table at this time? Recognizing the Honourable Wally Andersen. Did you put your hand up for someone else? Okay.

**MR. W. ANDERSON:** She had her (inaudible). 2:41:42

**MR. WINTERS:** And I didn't see it. Ordinary Member from the Upper Lake Melville, you may ask your next question.

**MR. W. ANDERSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure what the Chair of the Community Corporation in Happy Valley was going to say but my question is to the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources. At the annual general meeting of the Community Corporation, a little over a week ago, one of the things that was discussed was the amount of salmon. They get 200 salmon for the Community Freezer and with the large number of people we have, you know, 200 salmon doesn't go very far. We have a lot of people who have beneficiaries who have no means of going out there and getting

their salmon. And for those who can, they're entitled to seven. So Minister, the question was put at the Assembly to ask the question, is there any way that the allotment of salmon for the community corporation in Happy Valley, Goose Bay could be expanded?

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*, Ordinary Member. Minister Vincent, when you're ready.

**MR. VINCENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, Ordinary Member. This is something I will have to discuss with the Department also, so I will take it under advisement.

**MR. WINTERS:** The Minister will take the question under notice. Does the Ordinary Member have a supplemental question? Shaking his head, no. Are there other second questions around the Table at this time? Recognizing the Chairperson for the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak.

**MS. KEMUKSIGAK:** Thank you, and Ordinary Member Andersen, I was going to ask that question. So, thank you. I wonder - this is directed to the Acting Minister of the Department of Health and Social Development. I've been hearing a lot of people say that they have to go to St. John's to get needles in their eyes quite a lot, every three weeks some people. Has there been, or will you consider advocating with the Newfoundland and Labrador Health for a doctor to come to Labrador to do the injections in the eye, so people don't have to go to St. John's? Because it's very costly and besides, they have to have an escort, so it adds up. Is that something that DHSD would look into advocating for? Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*, Chairperson. First Minister?

**MS. WILLIAMS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Chairperson for your question. That's something that I can look into is to see if that is something that can be supported. Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*. Does the chairperson have a supplemental question?

**MS. KEMUKSIGAK:** No, Mr. Speaker, and thank you (audio cuts out).

**MR. WINTERS:** Are there other questions around the Table at this time? Seeing none, we will break for lunch and head to the courtroom at your leisure.

*Nakummek*.

[Recess]

**02:45:25 (11:58:38 a.m.)** Track 'September 23, 2025 AM' ends.

**00:00:00 (2:05:15 p.m.)** Track 'September 23, 2025 PM' starts.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*. We're now on to Item Eight, "Written Questions." Are there any written questions at this time? Recognizing Chairperson of the Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation, Mr. Jeff Montague. Please hand it to the clerk. The question is for the Department of Lands and Natural Resources. It is found to be in order and will be answered as such. Are there any further written questions at this time? Interpreter's booth, we can't hear you. I think you might be wearing the wrong headset. We'll move on to Item Nine. Item Nine is, "Returns to Written Questions." Interpreters' booth, we cannot hear you. *Nakummek*. There are six returns to written questions from the June sitting. They can be found in your binder. As they are written questions, the responses are often quite

long. You may provide them to your constituents. We're on to Item 10, "Petitions." Are there any petitions today? Seeing none, Item 11 is, "Responses to petitions." There are no responses to petitions today. Item 12 is, "Reports of Standing in Special Committees," and there are no such reports today. Item 13 is the, "Tabling of Documents." I would now like to recognize the Minister of Education and Economic Development, the Honourable Tom Evans. Minister, whenever you're ready.

**MR. EVANS:**

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I rise to table the document 2024 *Labrador Inuit Capital Strategy Trust* Consolidated Financial Statement.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Minister Evans. The Tabled Document will be numbered as 13-5(10). I would like to once again recognize the Minister of Education and Economic Development, Minister Evans.

**MR. EVANS:**

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I rise to table the document Nunatsiavut Group of Companies Annual Report, 2024.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Minister Evans. This tabled document will be numbered as 14-5(10), which brings us to Item 14, "Notices of Motion." I would like to recognize the Minister of Education and Economic Development, The Honourable Tom Evans.

**MR. EVANS:**

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, September 24, 2025, I will move, seconded by the Ordinary Member for Rigolet, Minister Williams that the Assembly convene as Committee of the Whole to receive the Nunatsiavut Group of Companies Annual Report 2024 with Garry Best, Sarah Leo, and Isabella Pain as witnesses. And Mr.

Speaker, I'm seeking the unanimous consent of the Assembly to waive Standing Order 37(1) to deal with this matter today.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* The Member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with his motion today. All those in favour? Any opposed? There are none. Minister Evans, you have consent to bring your motion today at the appropriate time. Item 15 is, "Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills." There are no notices for first reading of bills today. Item 16 is, "Motions." I will call again upon the Minister of Education and Economic Development, the Honourable Tom Evans.

**MR. EVANS:**

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I move as follows, whereas the Nunatsiavut Group of Companies has tabled its 2024 Annual Report for the review of the Assembly, and whereas the Nunatsiavut Assembly is required to receive reports from the Nunatsiavut Group of Companies and whereas the Assembly should consider the tabled document in the Committee of the Whole with witnesses, now, therefore, I move, seconded by the Ordinary Member for Rigolet, Ms. Melva Williams that Tabled Document 14-5(10), the Nunatsiavut Group of Companies Annual Report 2024 be referred to Committee of the Whole for consideration with Mr. Garry Best, Ms. Sarah Leo, Ms. Isabella Pain as witnesses.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Minister Vincent? In terms of the tabled documents in the *Orders of the Day* or in the binder? One moment. So that is a correction that will be made to that specific motion. The rest of the tabling ordering is correct. *Nakummek.* Thank you, for pointing that out. Minister, do you wish to speak to the motion?

**MR. EVANS:** No, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:** Does any other Member wish to speak to the motion? Seeing none, does the Minister wish to make final remarks and close debate?

**MR. EVANS:** No, I wish to close debate.

**MR. WINTERS:** At this time, the motion is to move us into the Committee of the Whole to receive the presentation of the *Trust*. All those in favour? Any, "Nays?" Seeing none, the motion is passed. I invite Mr. Garry Best and Ms. Sarah Leo and Isabella Pain to join us. We are now in the Committee of the Whole. Witnesses, you may begin as you choose.

**MR. BEST:** *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker, *Ullâkut*, everybody and once again I'm honoured and proud as President/CEO of the Nunatsiavut Group of Companies to provide a summary of our 2024 Annual Report, the *Labrador Inuit Capital Strategy Trust* Annual Report. We have provided a summary and the actual final report will be shared very shortly in the coming two, three weeks. I'm here as well with Ms. Sarah Leo who is the Chief Operating Officer, and certainly between the two of us we'll endeavour to answer all of the operational questions as to the 2024 presentation, and certainly also joined by one of our Trustees from the *Labrador Inuit Capital Strategy Trust* as well, Isabella Pain. So again, happy to be able to present. We have sent - before I proceed, maybe two things. I have done this in the past as a Board Member, many of you would know, with Chris Webb. And we heard on many occasions after the actual presentation by the auditors that maybe we ought to adjust

the approach. Eyes were glazing over, and I can remember famously Charlotte Wolfrey's conversation with me afterwards saying, "We're not all accountants. Can you just give us the important information?" So, we've adjusted our approach this time around and we've certainly tabled the financials a while ago, so you have those. And what you have in front of you is some of the highlights. And we've added some additional pieces as well, especially based on conversations, in fact, with many of you over the last year. So again, I'm happy to present - and we have a, apparently, we're catching a flight at 3:30, so we have a hard stop at 3:15, Mr. Speaker. So, diving into it, if I can turn to the At-a-Glance over 2024, over \$2 million NGC has paid in wages to beneficiaries. Our numbers remaining more or less steady with respect to the beneficiary employment, 67. We continue to offer significant training courses, especially at the front end of the construction and shipping season. So, we do - we've offered 10 of those, and well over 800 hours of training. We take safety and security very seriously to everybody, and we make sure that all of those qualifications, especially first-aid and all the rest are maintained. Perhaps a quick highlight, a summary of NMI, NCITSI, Nunatsiavut Marine, as most of you know are a subcontractor to Labrador Marine. But we run the ticket offices over 6,000 passenger reservations handled, 1,179 passenger vehicles loaded, 15,000 tonnes of freight. And again, we worked hand-in-glove in each of the communities and I'm especially grateful for the leadership from the AngajukKâks to our members in each of the communities, as they can't do their work without

yours and your community support. And furthermore, please use them as ambassadors as well. If there are issues and concerns around NMI, speak to them directly and the manager of NMI actually works for Sarah and we take all your questions and concerns seriously, and we would like to act upon them as expeditiously as possible. NCI, a quick overview of NCI, 34 homes repaired. We're doing a significant amount of snow clearing and ice control operations in the Goose Bay area. Quickly to TSI, and for those who don't know, this is TSI's 30th anniversary this year and they'll have an event at the end of October. So AngajukKâk for Nain will have some more, and Mr. Wyman Jacque, I'm sure will be in contact with you on that. But TSI, again, continues to be a significant employer, 55,000 hours of heavy-equipment training in the last seven years - correction, six years, 'cause this reports to 2024, 8,450 hours of overall training in 2024 and 4,600 hours training on equipment in 2024. And I'm also happy to report that Wyman Jacque and his team have a great relationship with Vale. And then no doubt they'll be bidding on the future work when it comes out from Vale in the coming weeks.

I do wanna touch on corporate social responsibility. Some of our donations - this is becoming more popular, it seems, as the years go by, over \$75,000 donated. We're especially proud of our contributions to the community freezers and just something that we've discovered, we may have some access to shrimp. And when we do, we'll be distributing a bit of shrimp to each of the communities as well, for distribution. So hopefully we can get that in before the last vessel.

The snow crab allocation, we actually did evaluation of that, and had conversations with Minister Vincent's team. And on the fishery side it's a value in excess of \$2 million. We're not selling it off, but it's certainly - that allocation is being used by community members, and we're happy to see it continue. But, you know, do, you know, we could be making a couple hundred thousand dollars in profit each year from that based on current prices. But after discussions with the Board we're gonna keep the status quo and continue to allow those members to effectively harvest that quota for free. That's another way of giving back if you will.

And finally on the NGC and partner scholarship program, we continue to mine each of our partners and ask for their generosity, especially in supporting youth and education. So, we're happy to, you know, once again, this year, offer up scholarships. And we've continued to publish in our quarterly newsletters. We found that's something that communities have asked about, who the recipients are, where they're coming from and again the benefits of a scholarship are available to Land Claim beneficiaries, regardless of whether she or he lives out west or in Nunatsiavut. So that's something we've been asked about before. Is it limited to a geographic area? And the answer is no. So, we have - we wanna see as wide a distribution as possible and I always encourage people to forward their applications for consideration.

A snapshot of our 2024 financial overview. Revenues. We continue to generate around \$40 million of revenue. It's down. Primarily, we've lost some work and - in the mining sector particular, as Voisey's Bay mine

expansion went underground and that impacts as well, TSI because they - and their profitability is around the numbers of employees that they have. So, we've seen drops in income from them as well as again, our partnerships with the Innu and those in the Voisey's Bay mining business. Further, you know, the fish allocations have reduced a bit. The quotas and so that's why we're in continuous discussion around groundfish, and we well seeking additional quotas, both in Greenland halibut and shrimp. It's an extremely competitive market right now, but this is not the best year with American tariffs in play, with Chinese tariffs in play, and a bit of a reduction as well. So, the numbers you're seeing for 2024 will likely get reflected in this year too. One of the things we're trying to do as a company is reduce expenses and that's obviously of concern to all of us within NGC and that's, for example, whether or not we need to maintain expensive equipment, whether it's construction of what have you. And to really justify from an equity point of view, whether or not, you know, we can keep a piece of kit idle over several months on speculation that work may occur. So that's something quite seriously that we've noticed over 2024 into 2025. We're going to have to take a serious look at to see whether we're maximizing the profitability and the use of that equipment, 'cause that adds to the expense column and impacts our surplus. So surplus for last year, 2024, 8.7 million. As you see it's about \$2 million less from the previous share for those reasons I just cited.

In terms of the last 10 years of performance, we were effectively on a post-COVID roll if you will, with increasing profits year over year. But

again, as industry has changed in this particular case, mining. Mining companies were doing quite well during the expansion period. We had dividends coming in. We also had a greater employment at TSI. That's, for all intents and purposes, the mining of companies have not done a lot of business much in 2024, and even less in 2025. So, you know, that's impacted us. And it's actually caused us to expand, look and diversify and find areas where we can exploit profitable opportunities because we can't simply sit and try and do the things we've done over the last 10 years, especially given changes in the market conditions. So hence, we'll be chasing fish opportunities, construction opportunities, defence and security opportunities as you just heard.

It was asked of me some time ago, and this came up in a couple of meetings I've had with some of you, "So what's NGC done for our communities? What has it done for Nunatsiavut?" And so, what you have there is in fact - and it's not a hundred percent current, 'cause it's up to '22, but it gives you a snapshot and some realization that there is an impact in each of your communities and collectively across Nunatsiavut, whether it's total expenditures, whether it's GDP, what salaries they're impacting in your respective communities, and of course, the greater the employment, the greater the impact on salaries, and employment. And at the end, you know, community members who are employed by us whether it's seasonal or year-round, they're paying taxes. So that's a snapshot and, you know, we intent to update that on a regular basis. But, you know, when I talk to beneficiaries and I say, you know what? Our

job is to - within NGC, it's to operate profitable and sustainable companies because at the end of the day, our mission is to build wealth in trust. Well, that's really indicative of, you know, keeping people close to our hearts when we make decisions around the businesses, making sure that we have employment opportunities, career opportunities. And that's where we really have sort of an impact on the ground. So again, in summary, that's a bit of a snapshot for each of your respective communities.

And, if you will, on the next slide it's an aggregate of all of these impacts locally, again, 2.4 million of expenditures back say seven years ago. We're not up to six-and-a-half in 2022. And that will have risen since then. And equally on GDP, that's a significant number. Not quite sure the next - obviously, there's many employers and smaller and larger businesses, but we're quite proud that we have that impact in communities and across Nunatsiavut. Our labour income is significant, and also there's a significant benefits program to each of our employees that we're quite proud to showcase, in fact, to other entities, because employees come first in our organization.

And finally, the year-over-year payments and taxes to the Government has increased. And that's a good thing 'cause that's what we're about, hopefully making those impacts in community, financially, as well as socially because in some cases our employees are assisting in leadership roles in your respective communities. And they have also those skills and trades and knowledges and training that can be passed onto other

community members. Again, significant value-added. So, as we look forward this year, moving forward, as I said, there was a downturn. And it's a recognition that mines don't last, or they shift. And we had to adjust to that, of course. And, you know, VBME was quite good for us over the years, but it's gone so, you know, we can't go in a corner and cry. We have to look at and seize these other opportunities, possibly in defence and security, but not necessarily a large piece. We just don't know what that looks like because various announcements, especially in our area have not been made by those decision makers. But we are exploring on, you know, in terms of the fisheries side, whether or not we can access more quota, especially for groundfish. That seems to be where a lot of fishing entities are looking at right now. The tariffs are going to be around for a while, so we know we have to compensate for those losses in our income. The other thing is talking to other partners, whether it's in construction, whether it's in elements of construction like a roofing company, for example. We get asked all the time, "Could we partner with you in Labrador?" And we don't just take anybody. We have to be mindful that, yes, they can be profitable and sustainable, but culturally and traditionally, do they respect who we are and what we want to achieve? And there's some nefarious people out there that we wish to avoid and will continue to avoid. So, in our exploration moving forward, we'll strengthen our core industries whether it's our fishing division, whether it's our real estate division, construction, consolidating construction, looking at doing it more effectively. And as well, where we

have opportunities to exploit, whether it's maybe a sealing industry. And we're commissioning a study to look at that. But we will continue to innovate and try and be creative such that we can maintain profitability, sustainability, moving forward. Voisey's Bay is around for a while yet and we will again with TSI also with our other companies, make best efforts to increase our revenue stream there. There have been some procurement issues, especially with let's say changes to leadership at the operational level in Vale. We were working in concert with our NG colleagues as well as our Innu colleagues, and bringing those messages to senior officials within Vale, 'cause the last thing we want is one of our mining partners to walk off the job because they're not being respected or, you know, employment opportunities and tendering opportunities are not being offered. And maybe in some cases, Vale going directly to a supplier as opposed to respecting the IBA process. So that's, you know, in our Voisey's Bay partnerships it's been good. But there also have been some challenges there and I think it goes without saying around defence and security, we'll certainly occupy that space. And as a beneficiary I feel lucky to have a front-row seat. It gives me an in, to some of these interesting conversations across the country. We can learn from best practices. But at the end of the day, you know, nothing will occur unless there's conversations and agreements with the decision makers here in this room.

In summary, and before I hand it over to Sarah and maybe Isabella for final thoughts, the successive NGC as in previous years and going

forward, relies heavily on your support. Your support is key in ensuring that when times get tough, we can then sort of approach those challenges together in a good way. At the end of the day, we all work for beneficiaries. We serve the beneficiaries, unlike some of the other defence industries my shareholders are the 6,800 beneficiaries in the *Land Claim Agreement*. They're not some individual with millionaire-deep pockets. So, I care deeply about what we're trying to achieve, where we're doing things, whether we should continue to do things, whether we should adjust. We're going to make best efforts. We'll make mistakes and we'll apologize for those mistakes. We will endeavour to get better each and every year. Our objective is to keep the employment level as high as possible in communities. Our objective is to seek management and leadership roles for Inuit within our organizations, to continue to attract across Nunatsiavut and beyond, to find beneficiaries. We believe, strongly believe that this is an outstanding group of companies. We have solid leadership from the *Trust* and again I - it's exceptionally gratifying for me to sit in a national setting and talk about our beautiful land, our people, and what we can do. So, *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker, for that opportunity and maybe I'll just ask Sarah or Isabella if they have any final words.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Please, stick to Chair while in the Committee of the Whole, rather than Speaker. Beyond that, yes, either, either witness is welcome to speak. And any of you could've asked any questions at any point, as we are in

the Committee of the Whole. So I have to just assume everyone's tuned in. When you're ready.

**MS. PAIN:**

*Nakummek.* Just a couple of words. So, I'm here as a Trustee of the *Labrador Inuit Capital Strategy Trust*. You'll probably have noticed in the *Orders of the Day* tomorrow, we are going to be looking for another trustee. We have been without a full compliment of trustees for over a year, since Garry took over as - started in his new role. So that'll be coming and that should get us back to having a full complement of trustees which is really important. Operating with just four of us is more difficult without somebody else's voice but also in terms of quorum to ensure that, you know, we are managing the *Trust* in compliance with the Trust Deed. So that'll be coming. We do still, continue to have a quorum of trustees. You'll remember that there's two who are NG employees, myself and Kristy Sheppard. And then there's supposed to be three arms-length trustees. The other two trustees just for information, Natan Obed and Catharyn Andersen. And so we will have that discussion tomorrow when we get to that I think in the afternoon, to try and find another trustee. *Nakummek.*

**MR. WINTERS:**

Yes, recognizing Ms. Williams.

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

Thank you, Chair. I've got a couple of questions. I'm just wondering, with the climate on the go in the world now and seeing what's happening in Labrador and in our own region, as an example, have you explored options around mineral exploration and companies that you could potentially partner with in that? 'Cause we — the feeling that I have as

an individual in the regions that Canada's going to move forward regardless. It seems to be. So, if there is an option or an opportunity, is that something that NGC has explored at any stage?

**MR. WINTERS:**

Witnesses?

**MR. BEST:**

Thank you, for your question, and it's a good one. We have been in conversation with Torngat Metals for the last two years. One of the things I've always shared with them is that we as NGC do not want to get ahead of NG in terms of what the communities are supporting, what the Government is supporting. I'm not going to jump in and be an advocate for any entity and oppose, if you will, the wishes of the community and the Government. They're quite aware of that. I do know that, and I have had very recent conversations with individuals involved with Torngat Metals, one of the things that I've always sought is what's the maximum benefit that we can derive from such partnership, knowing that for the present case, at least, that the majority of the production will be on the Quebec side of the border and there is a requirement to get those, you know, the minerals, rare earth, from the Quebec side of the border to tide water. What does that mean? Construction of a road, transportation of the materials over a hundred-kilometre-plus road, storage, likely, and maybe a small dock or a port. Don't know yet. They will be, I was told, continuing to, and wanting to speak to the leadership in each of the communities. We're open for conversations, both Sarah and I. But they're not advancing to call it the development stage yet or the sciences. They're waiting on, you know, the environmental pieces

that NG needs to do. So that's one company, for sure. Others are mining-related businesses. We have six, seven, that we're dealing with right now, very good partners. But we've not been asked to participate in the exploration. I think there was something - Sarah, correct me if I'm wrong - for something north of Nain as well. But again, I'm not sure. Beyond that we've not had too many other direct or indirect conversations with those companies.

**MS. LEO:**

Certainly, exploration companies generally don't come looking for us. They work at a much smaller scale, so for them looking to partner in their exploration, they're trying to keep as many people out as possible. But certainly, if any opportunity came across, one of the things you know, we can consider is certainly where TSI, one of our partner companies works in site services on camp, if there was an opportunity for exploration camps, it's something we would certainly discuss with our partner, TSI.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* You said you had a couple of questions. Go ahead, Ms. Williams.

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

Thank you. I appreciate the information that you both provided. As Ordinary Member for Rigolet, I know that recently there was some kind of discovery or a potential discovery that there may be some kind of thorium deposit around the community, a massive thorium deposit from what I can understand, in relation to the people that came into the community to report on it. So I think that this - and it's on a mineral-exempt lands or whatnot, yet, but I mean that there may be opportunities for conversation for, you know, potential developments in

our region, potentially. So that was where I was coming from with that question. I wasn't specific to Strange Lake or anything like that. Another questions I have, from what I can gather; from what I see in the news and seeing on Facebook and lots of information coming out about other Inuit regions and seeing how they're advancing economically and how aggressive it feels to me that they are becoming, I'm wondering if that's something that we're going to be thinking about moving towards from an economic perspective, is to try to see what opportunities - I know that you're doing that with the conversation we had during lunchtime, but I'm wondering if there's other major projects or anything that we're considering working towards?

**MR. WINTERS:**

Witness, when you're ready?

**MR. BEST:**

Thank you, for that lead in, and good question. And the answer is, "Yes." One area, in fact there are three or four areas. You may recall I talked about commissioning a study on seal harvesting and processing. Andy Moorhouse, the VP Ec. Dev for Makivik Government is quite interested. They offer - they have a tanning factory over in Kuujjuaq right now, but they don't have processing for seals. So that is of interest and that's one area of cooperation. The other, still sticking with Makivik is the exploration of ownership of a fishing vessel. If you have a fishing vessel, a large one and you can process with local crews, you're likely going to see a higher rate of return, given your quotas. Furthermore, Government is more likely to give you an increase in quota if you're fishing those - and I've had good conversations with the Deputy Minister as well, about all of

this. So as matters currently stand, we have had between Makivik and ourselves, a good discussion around an exploring whether or not there's a case to be made to have an ownership stake in a fishing vessel. And, you know, I think this is something worthy of a pursuit and we're going to look at that. That's one thing, fishing. The other is around energy. Energy, I know, Deputy Minister for Economic Development and I have talked about this. Small and nuclear is happening and it's been discussed in each of the regions as well, whether it's got a military purpose or whether it's got a commercial purpose for community use. We have spoken to many vendors over the last year and it's exciting, and we're already having conversations around energy and we're talking to - I can't recall Jamie's position.

**MS. PAIN:** Energy - Manager of Energy.

**MR. BEST:** Manager of Energy. So that's another possible area because we have some experts up in Iqaluit and elsewhere who are chasing hydro, small hydro. But we're happy to, you know, bring anything to the table. But whatever we do, we wanna make sure that the senior officials within NG are aware and they can offer something to it. If there's a business case we'll chase it. And the other one, finally, is around - funny enough, housing construction. So, housing construction, there've been some significant challenges with NCC, and...

**MS. PAIN:** NCC being (inaudible) 49:24.

**MR. BEST:**

And NCC is the infrastructure arm, the building arm in Baffin, within Qikiqtani and, in fact, across Nunavut. And they have struggled to effectively spend all that money that they were given and build, you know, upwards of 2,000 homes. So they are looking - there's a modular factory in the Kivalliq Region right now and they could sell modular homes across the Arctic. The challenge with that is price for transportation. But that's the - these are some of the cooperation and endeavours we've looked at. And then finally a colleague of mine from up in Flaherty and Qikiqtani. He's suggesting that maybe we ought to work with the colleagues in Alaska and Greenland to see, you know, whether it's air transportation beyond Air Borealis or whether it's in, you know, remote location airport construction and runway construction and these kinds of things because Inuk in particular has now got a world-class airport. And many Scandinavian infrastructure experts are sort of going to that area to see how they did it. And so, there are others across the North who's saying, "Why don't we pool our experts and maybe do some collective research and development? So, when I visited CHARS, last week in Cambridge Bay, and spoke to the scientists there, they said they're under-utilized and they should be used more and more by governments and industry such as ourselves. So again, that's the fourth or fifth area that they can do a lot of arctic research and perhaps there's a brand-new facility, frankly, and I'd be happy to explore that as well with this Government. *Nakummek.*

**MR. WINTERS:**

Yes...

**MS. LEO:**

Thank you, for the question. I think on top of that, Garry talked more specifically about different opportunities. But I think as a company and who we are as the Dev. Cor. for Nunatsiavut, it's encouraging to hear that question, because I think it's time for us to have that dialogue, to have the Government as a partner with us. I think that's one of the benefits the other Inuit Ec. Devs have, is they have the government. They have their governance. They have their associations partnering with the Ec. Dev. to find these opportunities, to work through these opportunities. So again, I'm really encouraged that this question came up because now I think it's a good time to start building that relationship between the NGC and the Government to be like the other regions and start taking advantage of those opportunities.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Ms. Williams.

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

Thank you. I apologize for hogging the floor. I have one last question, and this is a bit more of a contentious one, totally different than what I've been asking all along. So, I see that you have an annual surplus of \$8.7 million for 2024. I'm wondering, has the - has there been consideration or a plan - I know that you pay to the Community Freezers and the scholarships and those types of things - is there any plans or any thoughts given towards paying dividends to Nunatsiavut beneficiaries?

**MR. WINTERS:**

Yes, Ms. Pain?

**MS. PAIN:**

To date, the *Trust* hasn't done that, similar for all of the other trustees that the direction of the trust deeds themselves hasn't really been a focus

on individual payments. At this point, from a LICST perspective, the - any profits get rolled back into businesses, as we're trying to expand and increase our business lines and increase the business opportunities we have. So no, that hasn't really been a conversation at this point.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Barry Andersen.

**MR. B. ANDERSEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chair. My question is, I guess, to the NGC or NCI, specifically. We're seeing in our community that the NCI is losing capacity, employees in our communities. So, I was wondering for the ICG's, we'd love to be able to partner with organizations, but we are held back - not held back, but we have to follow the *Procurement Act*, and the *ICG Financial Administration Act*. We just can't hire on one company over the other. And just an example, we sent out an invite for three quotes for some minor repairs that our maintenance crew are just too busy, our own employees for the ICG to take on at this time. And we had no reply from any of the contractors or NCI that we sent the quotes out for. I'm just wondering, is that due to the capacity, or capacity issues that we might have within NCI?

**MR. WINTERS:**

Ms. Leo?

**MS. LEO:**

NCI, we certainly appreciate any direct for quotes. We've been a little gun-shy with quotes lately because we've been providing quotes to different organizations and they've been taking our quotes and going and securing it elsewhere. So, we're a little gun-shy when it comes to quotes. Just call us a little protective over our resources. We do have some

resource challenges. Our - we have - our NCI management crew is very small. So, when they have other projects they try and get around and with regards to the RFP specifically that we spoke about the other day, our NCI manager is looking at that to provide something back. We appreciate the ICG's reaching out to us because we - if you look at our numbers for our employment, we have a lot of beneficiaries. All of our - I shouldn't say all - we may have one or two employees in our workforce, in our communities that maybe fly-in. Everybody else is local. We will hire as many local as we can. That being said, we can't put those employees to work unless we have projects to work on. We have to have contracts. We have to have projects. And that's how we keep them employed. So, with regards to Makkovik, we had a small crew doing some work on one of our buildings recently. That's the only work we've secured in Makkovik up to now. And then we'll be doing the guardrail in Makkovik. But in the other communities, same thing Rigolet and Postville specifically, our guys haven't been at work there because we don't have any contracts to put them to work. That's the short end of it really. We have to have those contracts to be able to employ our people in the communities. I hope that answers your question, Mr. Andersen.

**MR. B. ANDERSEN:**

Yeah, I think so. That's what suspected. I know that AngajukKâk Flowers from Hopedale was asking the question of the Minister this morning about the, some senior housing that I've been here the last eight years now, I guess, almost. For the last three years we've seen those senior houses down there by the dump still wrapped up. And I was wondering

the same thing, like, are those houses any good now? Are they gonna have to be dumped and - before they can be put up?

**MS. LEO:**

Mr. Chair, I'm just looking at the clock, but I wanna address, if I could, the senior housing, and we're gonna have to go. So, I really apologize. But with regards to the senior housing, there have been some challenges in getting that contract finished. But NCI has maintained its commitment to get those units up and safe and secure for the seniors in Nain and Hopedale. I know they're - they've been doing the groundwork here. There were some challenges with some water line and getting the right location for those units. That's been worked out. I know our NCI team has been working and doing a lot of communication with the NG infrastructure department to try and work through getting those units up and available for seniors in our communities.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Ms. Kemuksigak, you had a question?

**MS. KEMUKSIGAK:**

I was just wondering, looking over the report, you - it said you hired 67 beneficiaries? How many overall employees do you have?

**MR. WINTERS:**

Go ahead, Ms. Leo.

**MS. LEO:**

Sorry, if I had my phone, I could tell you, because then I could pull up my HR report. But we can certainly get that number back to you. And it is certainly much higher than 67.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Are there any further questions at this time? Yes, Mr. Evans. Okay, it's a question, though, so do you have a question or do you have a comment, Mr. Evans?

**MR. EVANS:** Yes, so like the - it's really challenging in this day and time to be profitable in terms of business. Like we see a lot of businesses, all across Canada, like, struggling or whatever. So, I'm assuming it's the same with any for-profit business, but - and I see your revenue and whatever. Like so the challenges there, like I mean the revenue expense is almost the same. Thank goodness for the equity, there to show the profit or whatever. But the, like, the Labrador Marine and Air Borealis, like, those seem to be going as well as can be expected, or whatever. But I think you might be challenging your construction industry.

**MR. WINTERS:** Mr. Evans, do you have a question?

**MR. EVANS:** Yeah, so, like - so, what I was gonna ask, like, with the Labrador Marine, Air Borealis going quite well, or like struggles with the construction, do you do, like, reviews to - in terms of management, or?

**MR. WINTERS:** Go ahead, witnesses. You have to turn off your mic, Minister Evans.

**MR. EVANS:** Sorry, apologies.

**MR. BEST:** Thank you, for that question. And you're absolutely bang-on. There have been post-COVID, a number of similar-sized businesses across the North who have folded. Through our diversity, we get our strength. If we were focused on one or two areas we would have certainly failed long ago. We have had to live with the Universals and the other serious challenges in our recent history. But by being diversified, by sort of looking for and exploring and exploiting new opportunities, we're gonna be profitable. You'd stated Air Borealis, that's a steady state if you will. Nunatsiavut

Marine, we have that contract. Obviously, it'll be re-negotiated in the fullness of time. So that's two. TSI is sort of steady stated, but that revenue has gone down a fair bit. Fishing - there's always going to be fish. And in fact, most of the fisheries officials we spoke with said that stock is increasing now. So that's where we're looking to perhaps be innovative and to be bold. And with your help, we're gonna continue to press the case forward for a greater share for our region. There's a lot for the inshore. There's a lot for the offshore. So that's one area. Real estate, we've got the Goose Bay Properties that we're going to be selling. And we have some good news to share, likely, into the new year on that. So, we will exploit everything we can in terms of construction, absolutely, we have management meetings on a regular basis, strategic discussions where things don't make sense from a business point of view, and within my parameters as the President and CEO, we make decisions and we take action. If there are other more strategic moves that need to be taken, then my obligation is to develop a case and perhaps some considerations for the Board and the Board with their strategic objective around governance, we'll then think about what is in the best interest of the *Trust* and the Nunatsiavut Group of Companies, and will direct me accordingly. So absolutely, we're looking at our companies internally, and we're also exploiting things externally, and forging new relationships.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Given the time, I would like to ask the Assembly to excuse Mr. Best and Ms. Leo. Ms. Pain is still here if you have further questions. Do we still have further questions? Tom Evans, is it a question?

**MR. EVANS:**

If I may - it's not a question, but I think, like, Sarah's comment is absolutely correct. There's - like the Government has to support, if they can, but also like the corporation has to do their part as well, you know? So, I fully agree with that, like, we need to do more bridge-building or whatever. Anyway, thank you, for your time.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Without further questions, I will excuse the witnesses from the Chambers. *Nakummek.* We can still hear you, by the way, Interpreter's booth. Can you hear me, Interpreter's booth? Can you speak to see if I can hear you? Yeah. We are now back in the Assembly. This brings us on to Item 17, "First Reading of Bills." There are no bills for first reading today. Interpreters' booth, we lost you again. Perfect, *Nakummek.* Item 18 is, "Second Reading of Bills." And there are no bills for second reading today. Item 19 is, "Assent to Bills." There are no bills for assent today. Item 20 is, "Adjournment." The Assembly is now adjourned until 9:00 a.m., tomorrow morning, Wednesday, September 24th, 2025. *Nakummek.*

[Adjourned]

## **Day 2 September 24, 2025**

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Ullâkut,* everyone. Welcome to Day Two of our September Sitting. In the gallery I see Director of Legal Services, Mark Gillette and Isabella Pain from the Secretariat. Item Two is, "Ministers' Statements." Are there any Ministers' Statements this morning? Recognizing David Dicker, Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technologies. When you're ready, sir.

**MR. DICKER JR.:**

*Nakummek, UKatti.* Mr. Speaker, the Finance Division undertook a detailed analysis of meal allowances. New rates were approved effective mid-July as well as a special meal allowances for international travel. These rates are outlined on Atukatigevik for employees and elected officials. There are a number of key projects ongoing within the Finance Division. There is a significant upgrade being completed in the Financial Management System, one that will allow electronic time keeping and purchasing functions. The plan is electronic purchasing by mid-November and time sheets in January of 2026. This upgrade is being completed with professional services assistance from Vision 33 and Criterion. Finance continues to make progress on the audits of financial statements, financial reporting to Indigenous Services Canada, compliance audits with external funders, project management, all while completing their daily financial tasks. Mr. Speaker, Woodward's Oil has informed the Nunatsiavut Government that as of January 1st, they will no longer accept purchase orders and invoice for payment. Credit or debit cards, fleet cards or cash will be the only methods of payments accepted. Employees within the Finance Division are under reviewing the business process to ensure that the impact of this change is minimal to program and service delivery while ensuring financial controls are in place.

*Nakummek, UKatti.*

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Are there any other Ministers' Statements this morning? Seeing none, that brings us to Item Three, "Members' Statements." Are there any Members' Statements this morning? Recognizing the

Chairperson of the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak, when you're ready.

**MS. KEMUKSIGAK:**

*Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker. The first thing I'd like to report on is that we received money from the *Tasiujatsoak Trust* in March to hold a family literacy camp in Happy Valley, Goose Bay and it was a wonderful success. There was 11 children and three beneficiaries hired, one from Makkovik and two from Goose Bay. And all the children and parents found it a wonderful program and I wanna thank the *Tasiujatsoak Trust* for the funding. NunaKatiget held its annual general meeting on September 16th. It was a good turnout and the meeting went very well. The Assembly - not the Assembly, sorry. The AGM approved the 2024 Audit and approved the 2026 NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation Budget as well as had an overview of what we did in 2024. We received 103,498 in funds from outside sources in 2024 for various programming such as Community Freezer, elder's socials, community gatherings, et cetera. This year we were helping again with Truth and Reconciliation Event with DHSD on September 30th. Max Winters Memorial Community Freezer Report for 2024. There was 1,979 families who came to the freezer in 2024. The Community Freezer is very well-used and well-received. Just to highlight a few items we purchased, 839 partridges, 240 pounds of seal, 4,765 of fresh vegetables, 63 gallons of blueberries and 40 gallons of red berries. I would like to thank our Board of Directors and our Community Freezer Coordinator Debbie Hynes for all her hard work. I wanted to mention with the meat that was being given

out by Nunatsiavut, we're just going to start doing it shortly, but it wasn't quite enough meat for people 60 and over. So, our - my co-worker's husband cut quite a lot in two so that everybody 60 and over had one piece of meat. And I wanted to send condolences to the family of the late Jean Crane. As we all know, she did a lot for Labrador and Labrador Inuit and women, and she was a strong advocate. Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Chairperson. I believe the AngajukKâk from Hopedale also has a Members' Statement, when you're ready. Chairperson?

*Nakummek.*

**MS. FLOWERS:**

*Nakummek, UKatti.* I extend a warm welcome back to Assembly Members for our Fall Sitting. I hope everyone enjoyed the summer and had a bit of time to relax with your family and your friends. Time has a way of speeding away and here we are attending our last fall sitting before elections begin in 2026. Let us continue to work together despite challenges that may come our way for the betterment of our people. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that HICG finally has a town manager hired. Chloe Dicker joined our team as Town Manager after doing a work term in our office to complete her business degree program. Although Chloe is young, she's just what we need to continue consistent employment for years to come. Welcome to our HICG team, Chloe. I know you will do awesome. Five summer students were hired to work in various departments with our town, and I wanted to congratulate Stephanie Bennett, Anne Dyson, Elizabeth Nochasak and Alex Jararuse on a successful summer. All students worked exceptionally well with our

team and they were a huge help to us. School has begun and I welcome three new teachers and say a warm welcome to all returning teachers and students. I look forward to working with our school again in any capacity they may need me. One of the highlights of the school year is the annual sports meet. This year, Hopedale will be the hosting community. We will welcome the many students, coaches and chaperones this coming Friday. Already there is much excitement in the air. Good luck to all athletes, especially to our home team Nanuit. Try your best, play hard, but don't forget to have fun. It is not always about the winning, but the comradery and the friends you make along the way. Thank you to everyone who make the sports meet a success, from coaches who work tirelessly to train their team, to chaperones and everyone who take in billets, and to the spectators who cheer the teams on. It takes a community to raise a child. Not everyone who tried out, made the team. So to those who tried their best, hats off to you. You are all winners, for just trying your best. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek, AngajukKâk.* Are there other Members' Statements around the Table? Recognizing Barry Andersen, the AngajukKâk for Makkovik, when you're ready, sir.

**MR. B. ANDERSEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise this morning to follow on what Minister Dicker had mentioned in his Ordinary Member speech yesterday was the Canada Games taking place this summer in St. John's Newfoundland. And along with Ian Dicker we had Jacob Dyson of Makkovik who participated in the indoor volleyball team. And they all did - the team did

well, and our beneficiaries from Nunatsiavut, Nain and Makkovik, did really, really well. But the struggles they had to do to get there and back, there were some issues with travel and funding and all that stuff. But they managed to get through and did us proud, I think for not just Makkovik and Nain, but Nunatsiavut as a whole. So, I would like to recognize Jacob and Ian for their leadership and role model for our community members. They're our young people and my AngajukKâk friend there, Marjorie Flowers mentioned there that the sports meet is coming up this week and in August, middle of August we would see our young people running on the roads, working out, getting ready for the sports meet because this is a big event in our communities here on the North Coast. And like Marjorie said, it's the comradery, the friendships built along the way will last forever. I know I met people when I was in sports meets. I'm not much of an athlete. I'm not an athlete by any means right now, but back in the day I met a lot of people that I still stay in touch with today up and down the coast and even in Cartwright, we used to be down that way in the past. And I'd like to also say, very good to see everybody here again this fall. I know we have three people away for medical and bereavement. So, I'd just like to wish those people that are not with us today, those Members, all the best. Thank you, very much, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, AngajukKâk. We will now hear from the AngajukKâk of Rigolet, Mr. Chesley Sheppard, when you're ready.

**MR. SHEPPARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I'd like to send our condolences to the family of the late Harris Wolfrey. He will be truly missed in our community. He'll be greatly missed. I'm sending condolences. We had our Salmon Fest there the last month which was a success. We'll be getting some work done now in our community. Finally, a little late starting. We started last month. We got a new lift station and main force upgrades which was really needed. And the culverts and ditches are being redone. We have just started our fire break, re-cutting which is overgrown a lot and there's a lot of concerns over the last couple of summers due to the heat and wildfires. So, we're glad to start re-cutting our fire breaks. We had two cruise ships come in this summer. One just finished there Sunday which is a success. And I'd to take the hats off to our Tourism Coordinator, Holly Flowers for pulling it all together and making the tourists very welcome. And they loved our community. And we'd also like to thank Natural Resources for their meat. The town really appreciated it. Saying that, our Community Freezer walk-in freezer is down for the last half a year, a year, which makes it difficult to store food to keep on hand for our weekly Community Freezer, but we are able to try to keep a steady goal. I also would like to congratulate our athlete Brooklyn Wolfrey when she went to Peru for the Para Games and - for badminton, she had silver in doubles, and bronze in mixed doubles. The town is very proud of all your success in sports. And we wish her the best when she goes to Brazil for badminton at the Pan Am Games. I also would like to - sorry - congratulate all the athletes for the sports meet. I

wish them the best of luck. It's an emotional one for me where three of my kids are in it. My oldest is his last and my little girl is her first and I'm a proud dad, 'cause I love sports meet too. Like everyone said it's a big thing for our students along the coast and the prep rally is tomorrow afternoon, so hopefully I'll make it and see my little girl but, yeah. Thanks, and congratulations to all the athletes and wish you luck.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, AngajukKâk. I'll ask that the interpreter's booth make sure that all cell phones are turned off. And I've asked the IT room to turn down the volume in the room as it's booming right now. The next Members' Statement will be from the Ordinary Member for Rigolet, Ms. Melva Williams when you're ready.

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll stand back 'cause I can usually project my voice and if it's already loud then maybe I don't want to be too close to the mic. And I think that the AngajukKâk for Rigolet has just taken away all, almost all I was attempting to say. I did want to say good luck to all the students and staff at Northern Lights Academy as they start this year. There's 62 students as Minister Evans advised yesterday. So, wishing everyone a good year this year. And as well, congratulations to Brooklyn. She's - as the AngajukKâk said, that she did very well at the Pan Am games and then in Peru and she's going as well to Brazil and I'm hoping that this is her road to the Special Olympics. And we'll be able to celebrate all her efforts, I'm sure. I also wanted to pass along condolences to Ann Wolfrey and her family on the loss of Harris, a very big presence in, well, in our community when he came to our community

to visit again. He always came and had step dances he loved, and he really enjoyed the Salmon Fest this year and the musicians and I think he's well-known in the Happy Valley, Goose Bay area and will be missed for sure. I wanted to pass along birthday greetings to our oldest resident in Rigolet right now, Greta Michelin. She was 85 last week. So happy birthday, Greta. In addition to those celebrations, we'd also like to pass along our appreciation and good wishes to a couple people that will be retiring from the Department of Health and Social Development in our community, Lorraine Allen was team leader for 22 years, and she's also my sister, is retiring now next week. So, congratulations Lorraine and I hope she does lots of stuff, that she takes time to do the stuff she loves. We both love hunting, and I'm sure she will be out getting more geese than me because she'll have more time to do it. As well, Ethel Campbell was a long-time home support worker in our community. She's also retiring quite soon. So best wishes to Ethel as well. I was also had on my list to thank Lands and Natural Resources. Am I going too fast?

**MALE:**

Good. (21:13)

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

Good? Okay. For the wildlife I think it's been well received. People were a bit hesitant on the different items that was being provided this year, but I think they're going over quite well. And as well for the salmon, we've had a good - the salmon, there were a lot of salmon in our area this year, and people enjoyed getting the seven salmon. And I'm sure they'd be only too happy if Lands and Natural Resources could negotiate an increase in those levels to have more salmon available to our residents.

And I always like to end my statement commending some group or organization in our community. So, I'd like to commend the RICG on a successful Salmon Festival and the recent cruise visits. In addition, I'd like to recognize one of the staff members, and I think I may have done it quite recently, but I think it can't be said enough, is there is one lone heavy equipment operator in Rigolet. His name is Stanley Wolfrey and he's actually the AngajukKâk's father. And he does everything in our community and keeps it going every year for a number of years by himself - hard-working, tireless worker for our community. So thank you, Stanley for all your hard work. *Nakummek, UKatti.*

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* The next update will be coming from the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen.

**MR. W. ANDERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I mentioned that over the last year we've lost 40 of our elders in the Upper Lake Melville area. And while every one of them is special to us and they will all be missed, I would like to just highlight two today. One is Elder Jean Crane, a lady of a lot of knowledge, served on boards of Memorial University. Her father Gilbert Blake was the guide on the Hubbard Expedition. And the knowledge that she passed on to us will be sadly missed, but greatly remembered. The second person I want to mention, Mr. Speaker is Harris Wolfrey who was a member of the Special Olympics. But yet at different occasions since I've been the elected Member for the Upper Lake Melville Area, at some events Harris was asked to come and to pass along a part of our culture and our heritage. And that was through his step dancing. And yet while

he served as a proud member of the Special Olympics, he gave our culture and our heritage something that in many ways we're losing. And Harris passed along to us the art of step dancing. Mr. Speaker, I also want to pay, say a special shout out to a member of the Upper Lake Melville area. I can't think on his name but the son of Sandy Goudie who made the provincial basketball team for the Summer Games. And Mr. Speaker, all coaches say that when it comes to a provincial team, that the basketball team is the hardest to crack and to make. And his proud grandparents are Harold and Shirley Jacque *[sic]* of Postville. So he did all of us proud, all Nunatsiavut beneficiaries, and I'm sure the - of our other athletes who made the volleyball team and our Innu athletes as well, that they served us and our communities well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

It seems like every time I clear my throat, somebody in the interpreter's booth does too. *Nakummek*, Ordinary Member. We will next hear from the Chairperson of the Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation, Mr. Jeff Montague.

**MR. MONTAGUE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, I would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to all those involved in providing food such as elk, bison and boar to our communities. These were certainly well-received. And I'd like to especially thank Mr. Tim McNeil and Ordinary Member Andersen in their efforts to get these foods to our membership. This summer, Mr. Harvey Blake was awarded this year's contract to harvest salmon for our Community Freezer. I would like to thank Mr. Blake and our members are also very thankful for his good service. This summer, Sivunivut

completed its yearly audit with Deloitte, and we are now waiting the financial statement any day now, which will be presented to our membership and board during the annual general meeting scheduled for October 18. Our weekly Tuesday afternoon activity for seniors will be resuming again as of this week with alternating weeks of arts and crafts and bingo. These activities are made possible with funding from the Labrador Regional Wellness Coalition. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, condolences to the family and friends of Ms. Virginia Budgell who passed away just a couple of weeks ago. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Chairperson. We will now receive an update from the Ordinary Member for the community of Postville, Mr. George Gear, when you're ready.

**MR. GEAR:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'd like to recognize our local business, Sheppard's Variety in Postville for the work that they've done over, I think between 40 and 50 years now. It's a small store in the community. Not many times we recognize them. We do a lot of complaining about the high prices of everything but it's like that everywhere now. But I think with the low cost that they try to keep on stuff, equal to, I say, co-op in Goose Bay where I buy quite a bit of food there too. But it's - some of the stuff is on par with the prices there. And a little while ago we had a person that's homeless, a family of four living in a pop-up tent - a camper, all summer because no place to rent or buy. So, what they did, they got one of the fathers, employee of Sheppard's store, so they got a building coming from New Brunswick to set up and to house their family until they

can find something. Hopefully the Housing Commission will get through and start building some nice houses everywhere as the time goes on.

Also, I'd like to congratulate all the - and wish them best of luck for all the athletes that's coming to the sports meet later on. So, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Ordinary Member. Are there any other Members' statements around the Table at this time? Recognizing the Ordinary Member for Nain, Mr. David Dicker.

**MR. DICKER JR.:**

*Nakummek, UKattik.* I'd like to first start off by acknowledging the Department of Lands and Natural Resources for the distribution of elk, wild boar and bison. It was really well-received from the community of Nain. A lot of people in our community made Nikkuq and there was burgers, roasts, grinded meat. So, it was well-received. *Nakummek.* I'd like to also send my condolences to Ernestina Ittulak and her family, the Tuglavina family, and also condolences to the Harris and Merkuratsuk family in my community of Nain, and I'd like to also acknowledge the Jens Haven Memorial Sports Meet Team that will be coming to Hopedale this week to participate in the fall sports meet and wish them well, and all the other communities as well. Like AngajukKâk Andersen had mentioned, you know, in early August we could see that they were training really hard in our communities. So I wish them all the best, as well as the new teachers that have come into the community of Nain, and the old ones as well starting off with a brand-new year of learning and growing together. *Nakummek, UKattik.*

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Are there any other first Members' Statements around the Table? Seeing none, I'd like to again recognize the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

**MS. FLOWERS:**

I rise this morning to acknowledge and congratulate our work supervisor, Mr. Richard Ikkiatsiak on his upcoming retirement on October 31st. Mr. Ikkiatsiak has been employed as HICG's work supervisor for 38 years. He has seen many changes to our town, especially with the water and sewer system. Richard was instrumental in keeping this very complicated water system running. Before the town had funds to buy heavy equipment Richard was the man down in the ditch with a pick and a shovel maintaining our system. He was the heavy equipment operator who kept our roads maintained and clear of snow and ice. He has left many family functions only to go out in the wind, the rain and the snow to thaw the water line. Sometimes annual leave had to be denied due to busy seasons and very little staff to fill positions. Richard has taken all this in stride in his calm, cool and collected way, he has worked tireless and given his all to this town. Richard, we will miss your awesome work ethic and your wit and your humour. Thank you for your 38 years of service to Hopedale Inuit Community Government. Enjoy your retirement to the fullest. You sure have earned it and you will be missed immensely. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek,* AngajukKâk. Are there any other second statements around the Table? Recognizing the AngajukKâk from Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen.

**MR. B. ANDERSEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to rise here to let the Assembly know that the Makkovik ICG, we're still working with a full staff. We're very grateful and very thankful for the employees that we have that work with us every day and dealing with the public, whether it be with our Water and Sewer, Recreation Committee and at the ICG Administration Office. It's not an easy task a lot of times, but I'd like to thank our employees for the work they do day-in, day-out as Marjorie mentioned, I'm sorry, the AngajukKâk from Hopedale mentioned regarding Richard. So also, I'd just like to just say a little - we talked about the sports meet and how that has affected a lot of people throughout our communities. And three years ago, after the last election I heard the names of what was elected to the Assembly and Chesley Sheppard from Rigolet was one of them. But it didn't ring a bell until I got on the plane in Makkovik and I got here, and I said, "Holy smokes, that's the same guy that stayed with me during the sports meet." So, I don't date myself, but I'll just let you know that Tony didn't stay with me for the sports meets, AngajukKâk Andersen, there. So, I don't wanna date myself too bad. Thank you.

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

*Nakummek*, AngajukKâk. Are there any other second statements? Recognizing the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen.

**MR. W. ANDERSON:**

Thank you. Mr. Speaker. In my previous statement I mentioned the proud grandparents, and I do believe - I did, I said, Harold and Shirley Jacque. It should be Harold and Shirley Goudie. I've never written a speech in my life. Maybe sometimes I, I may get names mixed up. Mr.

Speaker, I want to say thank you to Lands and Resources for the elk, bison and boar that we received. We were late getting it out, but the reason why is that we had to wait until we received our full shipment. And we did have to cut some meat up for us to give those 60 years and over a meal. We're going to personally deliver it to elders 75 and over and through the cooperation of Patricia Kemuksigak and the Community Freezer, the rest will be distributed through her. But again, Minister, it goes a long way and well, we're grateful to get a meal for 60 and over, the residents in the Upper Lake Melville in particular seniors are very thankful for what they're getting again. Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Are there any further second statements around the Table? Recognizing the AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Mr. Chesley Sheppard.

**MR. SHEPPARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I forgot to mention in my first statement that we are still short-staffed ever since - pretty much since I've been in office we had no CAO. And it's - sometimes it's very difficult to get things done and to organize and get everything situated. I just wanted to congratulate my Town Clerk, Paula Flowers for all the work she's done, 'cause I wouldn't know where we would be if I didn't have her to help me in office, 'cause it's hard. It's only me, her and the town office assistant. So, it's been a rough few years, but we are doing pretty good, I figure, for our short-staffed. And I also would like to thank all our employees for all the hard work and dedication through the short staff and supervision that we could provide. Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* Recognizing the Ordinary Member for Postville, Mr. George Gear.

**MR. GEAR:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd also like to thank the Natural Resources for their donation of the elk and wild boar and bison meat. Everybody that I've been talking to seemed to enjoy it. It was a different name and all - hardly anybody ever tried it before, especially the elk and wild boar. But it seemed like everybody liked it and enjoyed it. Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* Are there further second statements around the Table at this time? Seeing none, we will take a 15-minute break and the snack has arrived. *Nakummek.*

[RECESS]

**MR. WINTERS:** Welcome back. We're now on to Item Four, "Returns to Oral Questions." We have no returns to oral questions today. We will move on to Item Five, "Oral Questions." Are there any oral questions around the Table at this time? Recognizing the Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Mr. Roland Saunders.

**MR. SAUNDERS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the First Minister. Minister, yesterday we talked about changes to - I asked you about change that is going to be happening with regards to the application for the process for children 19 and under. Can you tell me what kind of change do you expect that will be in that process?

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek,* Ordinary Member. Whenever you're ready, First Minister.

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you, Ordinary Member for the question. I do not have a definitive time. I know that there is a process that needs to follow this piece of work. And it rests with the Registrar's Office and the Legal Department to figure out what regulations need to be visited and adjusted. So that work will continue as quickly as possible. Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek* First Minister. Does the Ordinary Member have a supplemental question?

**MR. SAUNDERS:**

Actually, no, she answered the two questions that I had in one answer. Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*. Very efficient First Minister. Are there any other questions around the Table at this time? Recognizing the Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen.

**MR. W. ANDERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Lands and Resources. Minister, in your statement yesterday you said that your staff will be trying to get caribou again next year. Last year, Minister, we thank you, that you provided enough caribou to give every household in the Upper Lake Melville one meal. Should you be successful in getting caribou again next year, we would request, Minister that, if at all possible, if the amounts are there can we get one meal per household in the Upper Lake Melville area?

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Ordinary Member. Minister Vincent, when you're ready.

**MR. VINCENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, Ordinary Member for the question. For this, this is a formula. It would have to be changed. So it would have to go to NEC for authorization first. I hope this answers your question.

**MR. WINTERS:** Does the Ordinary Member have a supplemental question?

**MR. W. ANDERSON:** Yes, I do. Thank you, Minister. And if that is the process, would you, on behalf of the residents in the Upper Lake Melville put that before the NEC?

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*, Ordinary Member. Minister Vincent, when you're ready.

**MR. VINCENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, Ordinary Member. Yes, we could do it.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*. Does the Ordinary Member have a second supplemental question? Shaking his head, no. Are there other oral questions around the Table at this time? Recognizing the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

**MS. FLOWERS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the First Minister, Honourable Melva Williams. It's regarding the business that was hired to work on the family trees. And I'm wondering how this project is going and if there's any updates on it? Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk. First Minister, when you're ready.

**MS. WILLIAMS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, AngajukKâk for your question. The company's name is Know History. The last update I had was they were finalizing the work in Nain to finish the Nain and North of Nain

family lines, and then they will proceed to the Rigolet and Lake Melville Area after that. I don't have the actual dates of when that will proceed, but I know that the company is moving along quite well with the work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Ordinary Member - sorry, AngajukKâk Andersen.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* Does the AngajukKâk have a follow-up question?

**MS. FLOWERS:** No, I don't. Thank you, for your answer, Honourable Williams.

**MR. WINTERS:** We will now recognize the Chairperson for the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, when you're ready, Ms. Kemuksigak.

**MS. KEMUKSIGAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure who to direct this question to, either David Dicker, Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology, or First Minister Melva Williams. I was wanting to know what percentage of the funds for the Housing Commission or for Housing, is used for administration?

**MR. WINTERS:** That would be a question for the First Minister, I believe. Whenever you're ready.

**MS. WILLIAMS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Chairperson for your question. I do not have the breakdown of the amounts for administration for the budgets for Housing as we are utilizing a number of budgets that we have received over a number of years. So at this time I would have to take the question under notice and return the answer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, Chairperson for the question.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* Does the Chairperson have a supplemental question?

**MS. KEMUKSIGAK:** No, Mr. Speaker, and thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* Are there further oral questions around the Table at this time? Yes, recognizing the AngajukKâk for Nain, Mr. Tony Andersen.

**MR. T. ANDERSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources. Mr. Speaker, given that the Federal Government has recently recognized the Strange Lake deposit on the Quebec side of the border as a nation-building project, my question to the Minister is, given that once the land-use plan is in place, it is likely it will see a lot more....

**MR. WINTERS:** AngajukKâk, would it be possible to turn on a different mic near you, maybe AngajukKâk Flowers? (Background noise.) We'll see if that works.

**MR. T. ANDERSEN:** Yes, boy, and I'm 70 years old and I may have lost my train of thought, but it'll come back in a second. Given that the completion of the land-use plan, Mr. Speaker, would open up exploration on what is now recognized as mineral exempt lands, my question to the Minister, is the Minister able to give us an update on progress of the negotiations with the province on completion of the land-use plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek,* AngajukKâk. Minister Vincent, when you're ready.

**MR. VINCENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, AngajukKâk. At this moment, I do not have an update, but I know our department is working very tirelessly on this issue and I will try to find out what I can for you. So, I'll have to take it under notice.

**MR. WINTERS:** The Minister has taken this question under notice. Does the AngajukKâk have a supplemental question? He's shaking his head no. Are there

further oral questions around the Table at this time? Recognizing again the Chairperson of the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak.

**MS. KEMUKSIGAK:**

*Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker. This question is to the Honourable Terry Vincent, Minister of Lands and Natural Resources. We have 465 elders 60 and over in Happy Valley and Mud Lake. We received 200 salmon from that Lands and Natural Resources, which we're very thankful for. However, we have many widows and people who are unable to hunt or fish due to illnesses. Would you consider increasing our allocation to better meet the needs?

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*, Chairperson. Minister Vincent, when you're ready.

**MR. VINCENT:**

I didn't catch the question. Could you say it again, please?

**MR. WINTERS:**

Please repeat and maybe...

**MS. KEMUKSIGAK:**

The question?

**MR. WINTERS:**

...rephrase your question...

**MS. KEMUKSIGAK:**

Okay.

**MR. WINTERS:**

...Chairperson.

**MS. KEMUKSIGAK:**

I was wondering if you would consider increasing our allocation for salmon as the numbers are so high?

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*. Minister Vincent, when you're ready.

**MR. VINCENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Chairperson. I think this is a similar question as to what I had yesterday concerning the salmon.

**MR. WINTERS:** You can go ahead and answer it anyway.

**MR. VINCENT:** We do know our stocks for salmon are very healthy, probably the healthiest in the province. But this is something we will have to discuss with DFO in order to increase our quota.

**MR. WINTERS:** Does the Chairperson have a supplemental question?

**MS. KEMUKSIGAK:** No, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* We'll now hear a second question from the AngajukKâk for Nain, Mr. Tony Andersen.

**MR. T. ANDERSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, but I've since changed my mind and I'll ask my question to the Minister outside the Chamber.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* Those hallway conversations are very illuminating. Are there any other questions around the Table at this time? Seeing none, we'll move on to Item Six, "Written Questions." Are there any written questions today? Recognizing the Chairperson of the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, *Nakummek.* The question is for Minister David Dicker of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology and it is in order. We will send a copy of it to you at the end of day. Are there any further written questions at this time? Seeing none, I will vacate my seat for the deputy.

**MR. SAUNDERS:** Thank you. Are there any further written questions?

**MR. WINTERS:** Yes, you have it.

**MR. SAUNDERS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, go ahead with the question. Thank you. This question was for First Minister Williams. Back in 2023.

**MR. WINTERS:** Excuse me. It doesn't need to be read.

**MR. SAUNDERS:** Okay, yes, this question is in order. Thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek. Nakummek*, Deputy Speaker. Are there any other written questions at this time? Seeing none, we'll move on to Item Seven, "Returns to Written Questions." There are no returns to written questions today. This brings us to Item Eight, "Petitions." Are there any petitions today? Seeing none, we'll move on to Item Nine, "Responses to Petitions." There are no responses to petitions, so we'll move on to Item 10, "Reports of Standing in Special Committees." There are no reports of standing in special committees. We will move on to Item 11, "The Tabling of Documents." I would like to recognize the Minister of Education and Economic Development, the Honourable Tom Evans, when you're ready.

**MR. EVANS:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I rise to table the document, "*The Labrador Inuit Capital Strategy Trust* Trustee Nominees."

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek*, Minister Evans. The tabled document will be numbered as 15-5(10). We'll move on to Item 12, "Notices of Motion." I would like to again recognize the Minister of Education and Economic Development, the Honourable Tom Evans, when you're ready, Minister. Yes, sorry, First Minister?

**MS. WILLIAMS:** Sorry, Mr. Speaker. I - did I mishear? I thought you had said Item 11 it was 15-5(10)? But in our *Orders of the Day*, it's indicating at 14-5(10). Maybe I misheard.

**MR. WINTERS:** It's possible. We did have a misnumbering yesterday. And sometimes these things cascade. Please, give us one moment. Apologies for the confusion. The *Orders* are incorrect and will be corrected. But the numbering of the Tabled Document at hand is correct. Minister Evans, whenever you're ready.

**MR. EVANS:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, September 25th, 2025, I will move, seconded by the Ordinary Member for Rigolet, Ms. Melva Williams, that the Assembly convene as Committee of the Whole to receive the *Labrador Inuit Capital Strategy Trust* Trustee nominees with Ms. Isabella Pain as a witness. And Mr. Speaker, I am seeking unanimous consent of the Assembly to waive Standing Order 37(1) to deal with this matter today.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* Yes, Minister Vincent?

**MR. VINCENT:** (Inaudible.)

**MR. WINTERS:** No. I want to first point out - and this is on our side, that you referred to Melva Williams as the Ordinary Member when it should be First Minister as it is an NEC motion. And for clarification, Minister Vincent he's seeking unanimous consent to deal with it today. It had to be presented as notice for tomorrow. With that clarification, he is seeking unanimous consent to waive Standing Order 37(1). Do we have consent to deal with

this issue today? Are there any, "Nays?" We will deal with this today.

Honourable Tom Evans, you have consent to bring your motion today at the appropriate time, which moves us on to Item 13, "Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills." There are no notices of motions for first reading of bills, so that brings us to Item 14, "Motions." I will again call upon the Minister of Education and Economic Development, Tom Evans.

**MR. EVANS:**

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I move as follows: "Whereas the *Labrador Inuit Capital Strategy Trust*," is tabled as LICST Trust Nominees," for the review of the Assembly, whereas the trustees are required to send a list of nominations to the Assembly for consideration and appointment, and whereas the Assembly should considered the tabled document in the Committee of the Whole with witnesses, now therefore, I move, seconded by the First Minister for Rigolet - I mean, sorry, apologies - First Minister Melva Williams, that Tabled Document 15-5(10), the *Labrador Inuit Capital Strategy Trust* Trustee Nominees," be referred to the Committee of the Whole for consideration and appointments with Isabella Pain as witness.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Thank you, Minister. Do you wish to speak to the motion?

**MR. EVANS:**

I do not.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek*. Do any other Members wish to speak to the motion? If no other Member wishes to speak, does the Minister wish to make final remarks and close debate?

**MR. EVANS:**

I wish to close debate.

**MR. WINTERS:**

At this time, the motion is to move us into the Committee of the Whole to receive the *Labrador Inuit Capital Strategy Trust* Trustee nominees. All those in favour? The motion is carried. We will take a moment while Isabella Pain joins us in the chambers. Interpreters' booth, I can hear you. We're sending over a paper for you, Interpreters' booth. *Nakummek*. We are now in the Committee of the Whole and I invite Ms. Pain to begin, when you're ready.

**MS. PAIN:**

*Nakummek*. I'm just gonna through the memo that has been sent to you from August 22nd, 2025. As you know, Garry Best, who was here yesterday speaking to the Assembly took on the role of CEO of NGC and *Labrador Inuit Capital Strategy Trust* over 15 months ago, and his term has been vacant since. The *Labrador Inuit Capital Strategy Trust Deed* sets out the process to be followed when we're looking to fill a vacant position on the Trust. The Trust Deed requires that the trustees must send a list of nominations to the Assembly for their consideration and for appointment. The current trustees have spent a lot of time considering the skill sets necessary to be trustee, including knowledge of business operations and financial management. But most importantly, we have considered Section 5.2 of the Trust Indenture which states that, "A person who is considered to be of sound mind, responsible and possesses good judgement." We have also considered and are recommending only Nunatsiavut beneficiaries. We have been proudly making note of the fact that we are an all-Inuit Trust. And we think it is important to retain that description. The Labrador Inuit Capital Strategy Trustees are requesting

that the Assembly appoint one of the three following nominees: First, Tyler Edmunds. Tyler is a former Minister and Ordinary Member in the Nunatsiavut Assembly. Tyler's CV is attached, and we can go through it in detail if you like. The second nominee is James Igloliorte. Jim is a former judge in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. He is a former Labrador Inuit Capital Strategy Trustee, and his CV is also attached. And the third and final nominee is Belinda Webb. Belinda Webb is a former Deputy Minister of the Nunatsiavut Government and is currently the Visitor Experience Manager for Parks Canada Torngat Mountains National Park. Belinda lives and works in Nain and her resume is attached. I'm not sure if the Assembly Members would like me to walk through each of the resumes or CV's or if you've all had time to review them and have questions or comments. I'm happy to go through each of them if that's your wish.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Yes, recognizing Mr. George Gear.

**MR. GEAR:**

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think I'm in conflict of interest to one of the nominees here, so I don't know if you want me to step out or just stay here and not say nothing, just listen, or?

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek,* and we appreciate your declaration of conflict. When ballots are handed out, we will not provide you one and I will ask that you not make statements throughout this session of Committee of the Whole.

**MR. GEAR:**

Thank you, sir.

**MR. WINTERS:** Are there any questions about these three potential trustees that Ms. Pain can answer for you? Has everyone had an opportunity to go over the CV's? Seeing a lot of nods. Yes, Mr. Terry Vincent?

**MR. VINCENT:** You said that Judge, or Jim Igloliorte was a former trustee. Do you have any knowledge of why he left, or?

**MR. WINTERS:** Ms. Pain?

**MS. PAIN:** *Nakummek* for the question. At the time Jim resigned as a trustee, he was acting in a number of other roles. He was on the dog slaughter inquiry and there was another inquiry he was doing at the same time, so he was very busy and didn't have the time he felt to also do this work. To be a trustee, it takes work throughout the year but there are three - and we try to have four quarterly face-to-face meetings, so that it is quite a lot of work and with meetings in between by teleconference. So he didn't feel he had the time at that point to be able to commit the time necessary. He has since advised that he has completed some of this other work that he was doing and has more time that he would be able to offer to the Trust.

**MR. WINTERS:** *Nakummek.* Are there other questions around the Table at this time? Seeing that there are no questions or comments - yes, recognizing Tony Andersen.

**MR. T. ANDERSON:** Yeah, at first you asked for only questions, but I do have comments. I think that the trustees, the three nominees are certainly all very capable people, very capable people and any of them could probably fulfill the

duties of a trustee. But I would like to speak and that is that I support the nomination of Tyler Edmunds. Tyler was, as you know, a Speaker and then Minister of Finance, Economic Development and IT, and then First Minister, and for a time, Acting President of the Nunatsiavut Government. And as a colleague of Tyler, and many of you as well were, recognize Tyler as very capable in every role that he was asked to or elected to. Tyler is young. He's dedicated to advancing the goals of the Nunatsiavut Government, I'm sure. And I certainly do recognize the skill set of the other two nominees and they are great people. But I stand, Chair, in support of the nomination of Tyler Edmunds.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* Are there other comments or questions around the Table at this time? Seeing none, I will ask the pages to distribute the secret ballot with the assistance of the Deputy Clerk.

**MR. SAUNDERS:**

Mr. Speaker, we'll be...

**MR. WINTERS:**

Sorry, other questions? Ms. Williams?

**MS. WILLIAMS:**

Thank you, Chair. I was just wondering, do we just write the name of the individual we would - thank you.

**MR. WINTERS:**

Correct. Are there any other questions about this process? Yes, Mr. Saunders.

**MR. SAUNDERS:**

Yes. Do you want us to fold it or leave it flat?

**MR. WINTERS:**

Entirely up to you.

**MR. SAUNDERS:**

Okay.

**MR. WINTERS:**

For clarification, Mr. George Gear has declared a conflict and is not casting a ballot. As Speaker I'm also not casting a ballot unless there is a tie. I will ask the Deputy Clerk to step outside with the Director of Legal Services to count the ballots and bring them back in when they're complete. At this time I will ask the witness if she would also like to leave the Chambers.

(Background voices.)

**MR. WINTERS:**

The vote has been conducted. For the posterity of the Hansard, the number of Members present is 15. The number of ballots cast was 13. And I would like to congratulate Tyler Edmunds on his election.

[Applause]

**MR. WINTERS:**

Minister Evans, when you're ready.

**MR. EVANS:**

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to make a motion for the destroying of the ballots.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* The Ordinary Member has made a motion to destroy the ballots. Looking for approval of the Assembly. *Nakummek.* You may continue, Ordinary Member.

**MR. EVANS:**

*Nakummek,* Mr. Chair. May it therefore be it resolved whereas Garry Best took on the role of CEO of Nunatsiavut Group of Companies, and his term on the *Labrador Inuit Capital Strategy Trust* has been vacant since, whereas pursuant to Section 5.3 of the *Labrador Inuit Capital Strategy Trust* Indenture, Tyler Edmunds has been elected by the Nunatsiavut Assembly as a Trustee of the *Labrador Inuit Capital Strategy Trust*,

effective upon the latter of the date hereof. And the date of such Trustee executing and delivering to the *Labrador Inuit Capital Strategy Trust*, and acceptance substantially as set forward in Section 5.3 of the *Labrador Inuit Capital Strategy Trust* Indenture. And in the form authorized by resolution of this Assembly as set forward in Section 5.3 of the *Labrador Inuit Capital Strategy Trust*, now, therefore, I move, seconded by First Minister Melva Williams, that Tyler Edmunds be appointed as a *Labrador Inuit Capital Strategy Trust*, Trustee.

**MR. WINTERS:**

*Nakummek.* All those in favour of the motion? Any opposed? Seeing none, the motion is carried. Congratulations to Tyler Edmunds on his appointment and I want to thank again, Isabella Pain, for joining us. We are now back in the Assembly. We will move on to Item 15, "The First Reading of Bills." There are no first reading of bills today. So we'll move on to Item 16, "Second Reading of Bills." There are no second readings of bills today. Item 17 is the, "Assent to Bills." There are no assent to bills. So that brings us to Item 18, "Adjournment." This concludes the September 2025 sitting of the Assembly, and I would like to thank all of you for your attendance, participation and conversation. And safe travels home to everyone travelling. *Nakummek.*

[Adjourned]