



NUNATSIAVUT
kavamanga Government



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Ilinnikmik amma
kenaujaliugutaugunnatunik Pivalliatiksinikmik
Education and Economic Development

Thank you Honourable Speaker,

Firstly, I want to say it is an honour to be the head of this department. I want to thank the dedicated staff for their hard work, understanding of student needs, compassion and willingness to work together for the benefit of Labrador Inuit.

Secondly, director of education Ms. Jodie Lane will be off on medical leave for the short term. I wish her healthy wishes and recovery. Look after yourself, relax and focus on you.

Today, I will update you in the education department. I have had numerous educational debriefs with Deputy Minister Tim McNeill and Director Jodie Lane over the summer and they are ongoing. This department is in full swing every day.

NL Schools

All schools in Nunatsiavut have a full complement of classroom teachers and have opened as scheduled without any vacancies in any grades. However, there are still some vacancies in positions such as permanent substitutes, teaching assistants and IRT Instructional Resource Teachers. The vacancies in this area are: Hopedale, 2; Makkovik, 1; Rigolet, 0; Nain 3-4; Postville 0. Hiring is still ongoing and these numbers can lessen to fill the vacancies.

Mr. Speaker,

Another concern is housing with hiring new staff. Housing falls under the responsibility of NL Schools, the provincial government department Infrastructure and Transportation. There are two units in Hopedale that are NG owned that need repairs before being livable. Maintenance has given the NL Schools director Ms. Lorina Spurrell sometime in September as a completion timeline for one unit. An apartment has been secured for October and temporary housing has been set up through local business for the short term. We are hopeful that repairs are completed so the new teachers can move in and get settled. Our department will follow up with NL Schools and ensure repairs are addressed sooner in the future.

Post-Secondary Funding

As of September 3, for the 2026 Fall Semester we have 270 new and continuing students prepared to start. The department is still processing some late applications, we cannot stress how important it is to get your applications in on time. The process takes time, many checklists, budgets, reviewing applications and ensuring supporting documents are received, travel logistics and payments when approved.

The department has a blackout period from July 1-August 31 to process on time applications. 24 applicants applied during this time. Late Applicants have been notified that they may have to start school on their own until we review their applications and determine if they are approved for funding or not.

Labrador Indigenous Teacher Education Program (LITEP)

We have partnered with our colleagues at Mamu Tshishkutamashutau Innu Education (MTIE) and Memorial University to develop and deliver an Indigenous-specific teacher education program that will be fully delivered in Happy Valley Goose Bay. This 5-year program, starting September 2026, is culturally grounded teacher education program will train Inuit and Innu educators to serve their communities using dual-culture and community-led approaches.

Together we 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 MTIE Innu School Board have committed to sharing delivery costs for the first year of the program, which will amount to \$150K each, as well as nominal support for some cultural components over the remaining four years. We will also support our Inuit beneficiaries who are accepted into the program and qualify under our Education Division Funding Program.

We have six students accepted for this program of the 11 seats allotted for Nunatsiavut Government. Three students withdrew their applications due to family reasons and inability to secure housing in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. We still have two more students interested in joining the cohort in Year 4, as they already have undergraduate degrees and do not need to be completed the first three years.

With recruitment efforts, we may be able to fill seats over the next year with students who already have some post-secondary credits under their belt and can transfer into the program.

We wish the students great success on their learning journey in this program and all programs. Reminder to students to please reach out if there are challenges or problems early on so that we can support you.

Lastly Mr. Speaker,

Staff Vacancies

The department is actively recruiting for three positions. Education Advisor, full time permanent and Post-Secondary Student Counsellor, full time temporary. The third position is for Resource Manager, this position is in active recruitment with interviews being scheduled for next week. We will also be posting a new position in the near future Assistant Deputy Minister; this is in the final drafting and will be out soon. Please check Nunatsiavut.com for the job postings.