

Mr. Speaker,

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

Division of Culture

- **Civil Service Inuttitut Classes** are being offered from September 22 to December 10, 2026. This is the third pilot course for civil service staff. Classes will be offered twice a week for 12 weeks. Inotsiavik is instructing the course through a combination of their learning materials and LCT developed resources, such as Tusâlanga.
- Feedback from participants is being used to improve and strengthen the course. Staff also worked with Inotsiavik to align the course material with the Bilingual Bonus Tests. This will prepare staff who graduate from the course to attempt the Level 1 test.
- The **Aullâsimapvet Program** is paused pending NEC approval of the Program Policy and funding mechanism. To date, the program has supported more than 30 families (159 individuals) in reconnecting with the land through seasonal camps and environmental monitoring.
- Preparations to reopen the **Illusuak Cultural Centre** are in their final stages. In late May, Brenda Jararuse was hired as the Illusuak Manager; in August, Juanita Fox was hired as the Illusuak Coordinator. Illusuak and Culture staff have returned to the building, however the building remains closed to the public while final work is completed. An RFP will soon be

released for the Café & Gift Shop operations.

- In August, the inaugural **Inuttitut Immersion Camp** was held at the Torngat Mountains Base Camp. Six participants spent a week at Base Camp, improving their Inuttitut skills with classroom and on-the-land lessons from Inuttitut Instructor Christine Nochasak. Participants were encouraged to speak Inuttitut for the duration of the program. Buddy and Jenny Merkuratsuk, Danny Jararuse, Robyn Martin, Shirley Jararuse, and Cherlyn Allen also assisted with the program, offering language lesson support and teaching cultural skills. Language staff are exploring ways to host the program in every community.
- The **Inuit Connections Program** was held at Base Camp from August 8-14. 10 participants were selected to spend a week at Base Camp, learning about the land, our culture, and their ancestry. There was also a **Throat Singing Workshop** held in Nain from August 31 – September 4. Several participants attended from Nain and from communities along the coast. The **Kimutsik Pilot Project** is also underway. Staff are reviewing applications to the Kimutsik Grant Program and will communicate funding decisions by the end of September. For further information on Culture Programs, Labrador Inuit beneficiaries can reach out to Crystal Allen-Webb, Culture Program Manager.
- The Nunatsiavut Government is invited to bring a team of athletes & cultural performers to the Avannaa Arctic Games in Illussiat, Greenland in early Feb. 2027 and will bring teams from Alaska, Nunavik, Nunavut, Nunatsiavut and

Kalaallit Nunaat together. This event is specific to showcasing and competing in Arctic Sports (traditional Inuit games) and Dene Games in both junior and senior categories. There will be try outs for athletes in each of the Nunatsiavut communities in the coming months and will be advertised throughout our website and on social media.

Mr. Speaker, I would now like to update on – the Division of Tourism

- The Division of Tourism is working with Tansi Solutions to develop the Renewed 5-year Nunatsiavut Tourism Strategy. Staff travelled with consultants from Tansi Solutions this summer to all five communities, follow up meetings are happening virtually. The strategy will be presented to NEC before the end of this year.
- Staff travelled to Beaver Brook in the Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve. This was the first overnight trip by NG staff and Division of Tourism will be planning similar trips in the future to bring community members to take part in cultural programming to help shape the visitor experience at Beaver Brook.
- This is the busiest year Nunatsiavut has had for cruise ships. A total of 18 stops are scheduled in Hebron, Nain, Hopedale and Rigolet during the months of September and October. Tourism Development Officers have been working with communities to prepare for the cruise stops and Arts staff have been working to support the display of crafts to be sold. We will provide an update on the cruise season in November.
- We have completed year 1 of the 5-year operating contract with Arctic Kingdom for the Torngat Mountains Base Camp and Research Station and Hebron. A seasonal debrief is scheduled for next month with all the internal staff and stakeholders involved.
- Staff will be attending the Sustainable Tourism Conference in Heart's Content as well as the Impact Atlantic Canada Conference in St. John's this Fall to support professional development, knowledge sharing and partnerships.

In the area of Arts:

- The RFP for the development of a Refreshed five-year Nunatsiavut Arts Strategy recently closed and we are hoping to begin work on the strategy within the next month.
- The Nunatsiavut Pattern Library is now available in all of our communities. Phase 2 of library will include the release in Upper Lake Melville, which we hope to do this year. There are still discussions on making it available to Beneficiaries outside of Nunatsiavut and Upper Lake Melville.
- Support will be provided for artists to attend the Craft Council of Newfoundland and Labrador Christmas Craft Fair in Torbay as well as CRAFTED at the Winnipeg Art Gallery.
- The annual online Nunatsiavut Christmas Auction will be taking place again this year, dates will be announced soon.

Mr. Speaker, here are some recent projects that have been ongoing within Archaeology & Heritage

- The Nanilavut Initiative is hosting their Monument Unveiling event on Sept. 24, 2026 at the Hopedale Assembly building. This Monument was commissioned by award winning Inuk Artist – Jessica Winters to commemorate the loved one who were diagnosed with Tuberculosis, sent away from their home and never returned. The Monument will be open to the public for viewing on Sept. 25th, and we welcome the community of Hopedale to visit.
- Additionally, there will be 4 smaller replicas of this monument in each of the other Nunatsiavut communities, with their own commemoration event. Details of these events will be shared soon.
- The Archaeology team would like to welcome Fraser Williston, who has accepted the position of Archaeologist 1, and will start this new role in the coming weeks.
- The Archaeology team has had a successful summer field season continuing with the climate change adaptation work in partnership with Memorial

University. The Archaeology team was able to visit vulnerable Archaeological sites near Hopedale and Nain to do assessments and remove the increase growth of shrub around sod house sites.