

Address to the Nunatsiavut Assembly

President Johannes Lampe

Hopedale, Nunatsiavut

Sept. 22, 2026



- Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
 - First of all, I would like to acknowledge the recent Inuit community government and Community Corporation Chair elections, and to offer my congratulations to all those who were elected or acclaimed to serve their communities.
 - Whether returning to office or taking on a leadership role for the first time, each of you has accepted an important responsibility, and I wish you every success as you begin their terms.
 - I would also like to recognize those candidates who put their names forward but were not successful.
 - Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer a special acknowledgment to former Hopedale AngajukKak Marjorie Flowers, who dedicated many years to representing her community and contributing to the important work of this Assembly. On behalf of the Nunatsiavut Government, I thank her for her commitment, service, and contributions over the years, and I wish her all the very best in her future endeavours.
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- Mr. Speaker, I would like to provide Members of the Assembly with an update on matters discussed during the recent Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami Board of Directors and Annual General Meeting, which I attended on behalf of Nunatsiavut.
- The meetings brought together Inuit leaders from across Inuit Nunangat to discuss shared priorities and opportunities, as well as the challenges our communities continue to face.
- Mr. Speaker, one of the most significant outcomes was the allocation of more than \$88 million in Inuit-specific federal environment and nature funding. This investment will strengthen Inuit-led conservation and stewardship initiatives across Inuit Nunangat. A major portion of this funding, more than \$51 million, will support the Inuit Guardians Program.

- Inuit Guardians play a vital role in monitoring the health of our lands, waters and ice, protecting important cultural and ecological areas, and ensuring Inuit knowledge is passed from Elders to future generations.
- Additional funding has been directed toward Inuit-led nature initiatives and the continued work of the Inuit-Canada Nature Table. These investments represent important opportunities for Inuit regions, including Nunatsiavut, to advance conservation efforts while ensuring Inuit remain at the centre of decision-making regarding our environment.
- Mr. Speaker, the Board also approved the allocation of \$130 million through the Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy. This funding is in addition to previous housing investments announced earlier this year and provides Inuit Treaty Organizations with flexibility to determine how housing supports can best reach Inuit, regardless of where they live in Canada.
- Housing remains one of the greatest challenges facing Inuit communities, Mr. Speaker. While these investments are welcome, we know that overcoming overcrowding, housing shortages and aging infrastructure will require sustained commitments and long-term solutions. We will continue to advocate for investments that reflect the realities facing our families and our communities.
- The Board also received updates on efforts to establish a permanent replacement for the Inuit Child First Initiative. Inuit leaders continue to call on the federal government to provide ongoing funding to ensure Inuit children can access the health, education and social supports they need. This remains a priority for Inuit regions across the country.
- Mr. Speaker, delegates also marked World Suicide Prevention Day and reflected on the tenth anniversary of the National Inuit Suicide Prevention Strategy. While progress has been made in reducing stigma and expanding Inuit-specific mental health supports, suicide remains one of the most significant public health challenges facing Inuit communities. The discussions reinforced the importance of continued investments in mental wellness, prevention services and community-led approaches that support healing and resilience.
- We also discussed the upcoming launch of the Inuit Nunangat Poverty Reduction Strategy, an Inuit-led roadmap designed to address poverty and close longstanding socio-economic gaps between Inuit and non-Indigenous Canadians. The strategy

recognizes that issues such as housing, food security, education, employment and health are interconnected and require coordinated action.

- Mr. Speaker, this past July I joined other Inuit leaders in Inuvik for a meeting of the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee (ICPC). We were pleased to have Prime Minister Mark Carney join us at the important meeting.'
 - Since the signing of the Inuit Nunangat Declaration in 2017, the Government of Canada and Inuit leaders have continued to meet three times annually and work together through the ICPC to advance shared priorities, strengthen the Inuit-Crown partnership, and create a more prosperous Inuit Nunangat.
 - During our July meeting, we discussed the Building Canada Act and how to implement it effectively and consistently with Inuit modern treaties and in partnership with Inuit.
 - We also discussed infrastructure needs in Inuit Nunangat, Canada's Arctic Foreign Policy, and the need to further protect the security and sovereignty of the Arctic. We underscored opportunities to build together to address these challenges and deliver meaningful economic prosperity.
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- As you know, Mr. Speaker, the Government of Canada has terminate the NunatuKavut Community Council's Recognition of Indigenous Rights and Self-Determination table.
- As a government, and as a people, we have consistently opposed this process since its inception. We have maintained that Inuit identity is not self-declared. It is affirmed by Inuit and grounded in our shared culture, history, and kinship. Canada's decision brings much-needed clarity and represents an important step toward protecting Inuit rights, strengthening Inuit self-determination, and ensuring that programs, resources, and opportunities intended for Inuit are directed to Inuit. We will continue working with Canada and our Inuit partners to safeguard the integrity of Inuit rights and governance in Labrador and across Inuit Nunangat.

- I want to thank all Inuit leaders, as well as ITK, the Innu Nation and others for standing by and supporting the Nunatsiavut Government in bringing this important issue to the forefront.
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- In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all Assembly members for their determination and hard work to advance issues and concerns on behalf of our communities and all Labrador Inuit, no matter where they live. Public life isn't always an easy job. You should all be commended for taking on the challenge.
- Thank you, Mr. Speaker...