



NUNATSIAVUT
kavamanga Government

Nunaliginikmik amma Nunamiutanic
Ujaganik Imaniklu
Lands and Natural Resources

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

NUNATSIAVUT ASSEMBLY – QUARTERLY REPORT / MINISTER'S STATEMENT

September 2026

Mister Speaker,

I am pleased to present my first quarterly report as Minister of Lands and Natural Resources. This update highlights key developments within my Department.

Renewable Resources

Fisheries

Mister Speaker,

The commercial fisheries for both northern shrimp and cod are ongoing, while the snow crab and turbot fisheries have now closed for the season.

Unfortunately, due to labour shortages at the plant in Makkovik, a portion of our crab allocation had to be processed at the Labrador Shrimp Company plant in Cartwright. In addition, cod will once again not be processed at a commercial scale in Makkovik this year. My Department is actively working with the Torngat Cooperative to identify solutions to these challenges.

Mister Speaker, on a much more positive note, the English River counting fence is experiencing record-high salmon returns this year, with 2,380 salmon counted as of September 7. This is well above the river's conservation target. Additionally, 2,171 Arctic char have been counted. The fence will continue operating until early October.

Wildlife

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Mister Speaker,

The 2026-2027 moose hunting season within the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area (LISA) opened on September 15 and will close on March 20, 2027.

As Members are aware, conservation measures have been in place within the Kiapokok harvest area for several years. I am pleased to report that survey results and local knowledge indicate an increase in the moose population. As a result, the area has once again been opened to limited harvesting. A total of 16 licences are available to beneficiaries through this year's draw.

Mister Speaker, on October 11, Department staff will travel to Gros Morne National Park to harvest non-profit moose licences made available by Parks Canada. We have approximately 30 licences available again this year. We thank Parks Canada for its continued support of this initiative.

Mister Speaker, the Department anticipates receiving the results of the George River Caribou census from the Province in the near future. Early indications suggest there may be a modest increase in the size of the herd.

Lands Division

Mister Speaker,

A total of 31 land use applications have been submitted in 2026. These include 14 cabin applications, 7 cruise ship visits, 3 quarry applications for communities, 2 mineral exploration applications, 2 applications relating to the fish counting facility on the Fraser River, and 3 other applications.

Since the last Assembly, the GIS Specialist has processed applications, permits, and land use certificates, while also developing updated maps of Nunatsiavut communities. However, most of their efforts have focused on preparing mapping products in support of the Labrador Inuit Land Use Plan.

Mister Speaker, the Lands Division partnered with the Non-Renewable Resources Division to conduct inspections of fish camps operating within Labrador Inuit Lands, the Fraser River fish counting facility, the Nunatsiavut Government Ambassador Program in Hebron, and the Torngat Mountains Base Camp located at Kangidluasuk.

Mister Speaker, I am pleased to report that the Lands Division has made significant progress updating the Land Use Plan to reflect changes and emerging land-use activities since the previous version was developed. Once this work has been completed and reviewed internally, the Nunatsiavut Government hopes to commence negotiations with the Province regarding the Plan in the near future.

Impact Benefit Agreements

Mister Speaker,

The Voisey's Bay Mine and Mill operations continue to progress well.

In August and early September, Vale provided 18 Nunatsiavut beneficiaries with the opportunity to participate in the Career Exposure Program. Participants travelled to Voisey's Bay for a four-night stay, where they gained firsthand experience through job shadowing in the Mine, Mill, Mine Maintenance, and Warehouse departments. The Career Exposure Program is a prerequisite for participation in the Job Readiness Training Program (JRTP). Vale plans to offer 12 candidates the opportunity to participate in the one-year JRTP beginning in January 2027.

In July, Vale experienced issues with SAG mill liners that required urgent repairs. As the mill was already offline, some of the work originally planned for the September shutdown was completed earlier than scheduled. The remaining shutdown is planned for September 21-25 and will include replacement of the remaining liners, conveyor belt replacements, and corrective work in the flotation area.

Mister Speaker, the Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve Co-Management Board held in-person meetings at Kangidluasuk Base Camp from August 1 to 8. The meetings included updates from Parks Canada and the Board, as well as discussions on the Torngat Mountains caribou herd and various research initiatives.

The Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve Co-Management Board held an in-person meeting with the Innu Co-Management Board in Beaver Brook on September 15. The meeting provided an opportunity for both Boards to discuss ongoing work and share updates related to the Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve.

Mister Speaker, I would also like to congratulate Catheryn Andersen on her appointment as Chair of the Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve Co-Management Board. Catheryn has served for several years as a Parks Canada appointee and brings valuable experience and knowledge to the role. I am confident she will provide strong leadership moving forward.

Congratulations as well to Georgina Allen on her appointment as a Parks Canada appointee to the Board. Finally, I extend my sincere thanks to Loretta Michelin for her dedication, leadership, and contributions during her tenure as Chair.

Non-Renewable Resources

Since the last Assembly meeting, the Non-Renewable Resources Division has been engaged in several mineral exploration and quarry-related files.

Mister Speaker, earlier this spring, prospectors Clyde McLean and Jeff Neville received approval from the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to conduct small-scale prospecting activities on mineral claims near Shapio Lake in the Hopedale area. The work program was limited in scope and conducted over several days. These claims are located within the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area.

Aurora Energy Ltd. received approval from both the Nunatsiavut Government and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to conduct prospecting, geological mapping, trenching, drilling, and drone surveys. Operations are based out of Michelin Camp. The claims are located within Labrador Inuit Lands and the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area in the Central Mineral Belt near Postville. The majority of personnel hired for the project are Nunatsiavut beneficiaries from our Inuit communities. A surprise project inspection was completed on September 15th.

ATHA Energy Corp. received approval from both governments to conduct prospecting, geological mapping, soil sampling, and airborne geophysical surveys. These mineral claims are located within Labrador Inuit Lands and the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area in the Central Mineral Belt near Postville. Prior to ATHA Energy's involvement, the claims were held by Labrador Uranium Corp., later renamed Latitude Uranium Inc. In 2024, Latitude Uranium Inc. was acquired by ATHA Energy Corp., resulting in the transfer of these mineral interests.

Titjaluk Logistics received approval from the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to conduct prospecting, sampling, and backpack drilling on mineral claims held by 1563192 B.C. Ltd. near the Kanariktok River, approximately 12 kilometres north of Moran Lake in the Postville area. Personnel will be based out of the Churchill Resources camp at Florence Lake during the program. These claims are located within the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area.

Environment Division

Mister Speaker, The Environment Division continues to advance the implementation of Adapt Nunatsiavut, the Nunatsiavut Government's climate change strategy. Through the NG Climate Change Committee, the Division has launched a new climate change section on the NG website and released the 2026 Climate Workshop Report. Additionally, a climate change survey was conducted over the summer, receiving responses from all Nunatsiavut communities, Upper Lake Melville, and the Canadian Constituency to better understand how climate change is affecting Labrador Inuit. An implementation report on Adapt Nunatsiavut has been provided to the Nunatsiavut Executive Council.

The Environment Division continues to implement a variety of research programs throughout the summer and fall. These projects focus on improving understanding of the marine environment, collecting baseline information to assess future development impacts, and advancing collaborative research with external partners to address issues and concerns identified by Labrador Inuit. These initiatives continue to be carried out in partnership with the Nunatsiavut Research Centre and other Nunatsiavut Government staff.

Environmental Assessment staff continue to work with Nunatsiavut Government energy staff on the Nain Wind Microgrid Project, including supporting community consultation activities in Nain. Staff are also working with Nunatsiavut Government Infrastructure and AECOM to initiate critical baseline and ecosystem studies associated with the proposed New Nain Airport Project. The Nunatsiavut Research Centre and Environmental Assessment staff continue to support this work.

Finally, Environmental Assessment staff continue to participate in the environmental assessment process for the Strange Lake Project, ensuring that Labrador Inuit concerns, community perspectives, and Inuit Knowledge are reflected in the Environmental Impact Statement and related provincial and federal review processes.