

(Hopedale, NL) October 15, 2007 – Nunatsiavut Government Assembly begins fall session in Hopedale with the tabling of a motion on uranium development in Labrador Inuit Lands, the tabling of audited financial statements and reports related to the status of women and the announcement of a new pharmacy.

William Barbour, Nunatsiavut Government's Minister of Lands and Resources, tabled a motion in the House of Assembly in Hopedale on Thursday afternoon. The Minister asked that the policy on uranium mining adopted by the Nunatsiavut Executive Council have the support of the Assembly and be part of the Labrador Inuit Lands Act. The policy on uranium in Labrador Inuit Lands adopted by the Nunatsiavut Executive Council states: "The Nunatsiavut Government will not consent to uranium mine and/or mill development on Labrador Inuit Lands."

The Assembly referred the motion to a special committee to study the issue further. The committee will be made up of all available Assembly Members along with individuals from the Department of Lands and Resources that have been working on this issue. Experts on uranium mining will be recruited to provide information to committee members before they make a final decision on this issue. Available committee members will also travel to each Nunatsiavut community to hear community members' thoughts and opinions on uranium mining in Nunatsiavut. Minister Barbour has asked the Special Committee to report back to the 2007 Fall Sitting of the Nunatsiavut Assembly, which is when the motion will go to second reading.

Diane Gear, Minister of Finance and Human Resources, tabled Nunatsiavut Government's audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2007. The total revenue for the fiscal year was \$51,080,453 and the total expenditure was \$53,087,769.00, thus creating a current year net deficit of \$2,007,316.00. However, deferred revenue from the previous year was carried over in the amount of \$2,269,030.00, thus creating a net surplus for the fiscal year end March 31, 2007 of \$261,714.00.

Minister Gear, who is also the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, tabled two reports relating to women's issues. The first document was a report on the women's conference that took place in Nain in March of this year. The second document is a comprehensive study on the need for shelters in Nunatsiavut. Both of the reports include various recommendations from the women of Nunatsiavut on how the Nunatsiavut Government can assist in addressing the concerns brought to light within the reports.

The Minister said her department has already begun to put some of the recommendations from the report into action. For example, they have hired a full time staff member to act as liaison between the women's groups and the Nunatsiavut Government, and the Minister says they will continue to implement the recommendations from the reports as soon as possible.



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Another highlight of the Assembly was when Greg Flowers, Minister of Health and Social Development, announced the opening of a new pharmacy that will take place on October 22nd in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. The pharmacy (“Labrador Pharmachoice”) is a joint-venture between the Inuit Capital Strategy Trust and Tom Kennedy. It will become Nunatsiavut Government’s preferred pharmacy. Minister Flowers said letters went out to beneficiaries in Upper Lake Melville on Thursday, October 11th letting them know how to switch to the new pharmacy if they choose to do so. The Labrador Pharmachoice will be open to the general public.

The Assembly Members held a caucus meeting for most of the day on Friday and flew home to their constituencies late Friday afternoon.

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