

**(Hopedale, NL) July 25 2006 –The Nunatsiavut Transitional Assembly passes a resolution for the creation of a Community Corporation in North West River and appoints a new Minister of Finance and Speaker for the House.**

The Nunatsiavut Government held its third meeting of the Nunatsiavut Transitional Assembly this year in Hopedale on Tuesday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

A Resolution was passed approving the establishment of an Inuit Community Corporation for beneficiaries residing in North West River and Sheshatshiu and approving revisions to the constitution of the Inuit community corporation for beneficiaries residing in Happy valley-Goose Bay and Mud Lake. The bylaws of the North West River Community Corporation were also excepted by the Assembly. This will allow for the election of a community chair person in North West River to be held in September.

A Resolution was passed to amend the Upper Lake Melville corporation act in order to change the name of the corporation from Upper Lake Melville to “NunaKatiget” Inuit Community Corporation Inc. The name of the corporation was developed at a public meeting held in Happy Valley- Goose Bay on July 19<sup>th</sup>.

Throughout the entire Assembly meeting President William Andersen III spoke only in Inuktitut, his first language. President Andersen said “I spoke in Inuktitut to demonstrate my commitment to the language. We talk so much about preserving and promoting our language, I’m just doing my part by putting this into action and practicing what I preach. I will be using Inuktitut from now on in all Assembly proceedings in hopes of encouraging others to take up the language.”

Gary Baikie stepped down from his position as Finance Minister on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2006. President Andersen nominated Ruth Flowers of Hopedale, the Speaker of the House, to replace Baikie. Flowers accepted the nomination and was sworn in as the new Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology.

The Deputy Speaker from North West River, Mina Campbell-Hibbs, was then sworn in to replace Flowers as Speaker of the House.

It was decided that the location of Nunatsiavut Government Executive meetings will alternate between communities, allowing for more community involvement and interaction with Ministers and Deputy Ministers. The next meeting will be held in Makkovik.

Preparations are continuing for Nunatsiavut Government elections in the fall. Jack Shiwak of Rigolet was sworn in as the Chief Electoral Officer for Nunatsiavut elections. The voters list has been finalized and beneficiaries are expected to ensure their names are accurately included on the lists to be circulated in each community.

Nunatsiavut Government came into effect on December 1, 2005, assuming authority from the former Labrador Inuit Association. It represents approximately 5,300 Inuit and Kablunângajuit of Labrador, and is responsible for advancing the aboriginal, constitutional, democratic, social and human rights of Labrador Inuit. **Contact:** Karen Prentice, Director of Communications, Tel: 709-922-2942 or [kprentice@nunatsiavut.com](mailto:kprentice@nunatsiavut.com)