

Mr. Ben Ponniuk, Minister of Health, Education, Social and Economic Development and Mr. Fred Hall, LIDC Managing Director, are pleased to announce a Ground Transportation service for patients through Natannavak Fisheries Incorporated in Mount Pearl. The service will begin immediately to replace the taxi service previously offered.

Faye Gear will be the Inuk driver of a Chevrolet Venture van used to pick up Nunatsiavut Department of Health and Social Development patients from the airport and drive them to their respective appointments and lodgings. She will then return them back to the airport once the patient finishes his or her appointment.

This contract is in effect for one year, and will offer a no-frills transportation system designed to ensure friendly, efficient service to Inuit patients from Labrador who have been referred by the Nunatsiavut Department of Health and Social Development.

Minister Ponniuk stated “When this service wasn’t in place, our beneficiaries were telling us it was hard for them to come to a big city, and get into a cab with a stranger. This contract will enable beneficiaries from Labrador to be greeted by a friendly Inuk woman with similar cultural values and knowledge who will take them where they need to go. I hope the clients will get used to the driver and develop a relationship so they feel comfortable when they get to St. John’s.”

In addition to the patient transportation, Natannavak will also offer Nunatsiavut Government officials transportation at no charge as a second priority if the van is available.



*LIDC office manager Jim Igloliorte hands over keys to the van being used for ground transportation in St. John's to driver Faye Gear*

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)