



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Minister to put forward plan to review uranium moratorium legislation during fall sitting..... 2

Agreement reached to provide new homes for Hopedale..... 3

Enrolment Act amended to remove names of Beneficiaries who fail to reapply once they reach the age of majority, notify or give notice of change of address..... 3

Investing in our people and our land..... 4

Information Technology Specialists ..... 4

Visionary report sets out first-ever national goals for Inuit education ..... 5

Nunatsiavut joint venture company awarded contracts for Labrador marine service..... 5

Labrador Inuit Capital Strategy Trust launches new business arm and strategic direction ..... 6



# Repatriation ceremony at Zoar closes sad chapter in the history of Labrador Inuit

The remains of 22 Inuit taken from marked graves more than 80 years ago were repatriated June 22 during a ceremony at the former Moravian mission site at Zoar, south of Nain.

The remains were removed from their original graves by anthropologist William Duncan Strong of Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History during the Rawson-MacMillan Sub-Arctic Expedition of 1927-1928.

While the museum was aware that it held these remains, it had only a limited understanding of how they came into its collections. During the past couple of years, researchers discovered the origin

of the remains following an analysis of historical documents. Since then, officials with the Nunatsiavut Government and its cultural division, the Torngâsok Cultural

Centre, worked closely with the Field Museum to bring the remains back to Zoar.

In May of this year, Nunatsiavut's Minister of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Johannes Lampe, travelled to Chicago and formally took receipt of the remains. Minister Lampe blessed the remains and assisted with wrapping and preparing them for their journey back home.

"This has been a very moving experience," says Minister Lampe.

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“With the return and reburial of these remains we can now close this sad chapter in our history.”

The museum’s President and CEO, John W. McCarter Jr. said the June 22 ceremony was the culmination of a repatriation process marked from the beginning by mutual respect and cooperation. “Museum staff have worked closely with the Torngâsok Cultural Centre to see that the wishes of the Labrador Inuit community are met in the return of their ancestors. The museum has formally apologized to the Labrador Inuit for the actions taken in 1927 on its behalf.”

Nunatsiavut President Jim Lyall commended the Field Museum for accepting full responsibility. “Through all of this we have developed a good relationship and we want to continue to work with the Field Museum to explore other ways to strengthen that relationship. On behalf of Labrador Inuit, we accept the apology and offer our forgiveness.”



## Minister to put forward plan to review uranium moratorium legislation during fall sitting

Lands and Natural Resources Minister Glen Sheppard will present a motion during the fall sitting of the Nunatsiavut Assembly to move forward with a plan to review the current legislation regarding the moratorium on the working, production, mining and development of uranium on Labrador Inuit Lands.

“While the Assembly will decide when and how the review will be conducted, we have to ensure all members are ready to deal with the issue,” says Minister Sheppard. “To that end I have instructed my department to gather as much information as possible so that Assembly members are well informed on this issue in advance of a review.”

The Minister noted that departmental officials are working on a plan to hold a workshop on uranium mining and development in advance of the fall sitting, scheduled for the week of September 12.

“We hope to invite mining experts, industry officials and other key stakeholders to participate in this workshop so that all sides of the uranium debate are presented,” says the Minister.

Department officials also hope to seek input from Beneficiaries of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement to get a better understanding of the current public environment surrounding the moratorium and uranium mining and development, the Minister added.

“The legislation requires the Nunatsiavut Assembly to review the moratorium after March 31, 2011,” notes the Minister. “While a land use plan for the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area is still not completed and the Nunatsiavut Government’s Environmental Protection Act will not come into effect until required regulations have been developed, I think it is important we be prepared for the review process.”

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# Agreement reached to provide new homes for Hopedale

An agreement has been reached between the Nunatsiavut Government and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to construct three new houses in the community of Hopedale. The houses will replace ones that are built on an old US military dumpsite and have serious structural deficiencies.

Funding for the new houses, which will be built on lots supplied by the Hopedale Inuit Community Government, is being provided by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

“Through the combined efforts of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Nunatsiavut Government and the Inuit Community Government of Hopedale, we are very pleased to provide new homes to these families,” said Patty Pottle, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. “This was a unique problem; one that required creativity and cooperation from all involved. I express thanks to the Inuit Community Government of Hopedale for supplying the building lots for these new homes and being part of a real solution for these families. All three levels of government will continue to work together, along with the affected families and the community, to ensure a smooth transition to these new homes.”

In 2009, testing conducted by Aivek-Stantec for the provincial Department of Environment and Conservation showed that a number of residences were built on an area of

buried debris, which could pose potential structural issues. In 2010, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador retained AMEC P&P to conduct a geotechnical and structural assessment of the properties. The assessment concluded the debris underneath the structures is deteriorating and compressing, causing the soil to subside significantly. The report concluded that the problem will persist and continue to worsen over time, and that the issue required attention to correct.

“We are pleased to be able to work in partnership with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Inuit Community Government of Hopedale to see these new houses built,” said Nunatsiavut’s First Minister Darryl Shiwak. “It is through co-operation such as this that we are able to not only address an urgent need in the community, but also effectively improve the lives of these families.”

“Community problems often require community solutions, and I’d like to take the opportunity to point out the important role of the community of Hopedale in what we have achieved,” added Minister Pottle. “The men and women of Hopedale collectively and continually expressed their wish that the needs of these affected families be made a very high priority. That spirit of generosity and genuine concern from within Hopedale was a significant driving force in finding the best solution for these families.”

## Enrolment Act amended to remove names of Beneficiaries who fail to reapply once they reach the age of majority, notify or give notice of change of address

The Nunatsiavut Government has amended its Beneficiaries Enrolment Act to set out procedures to be followed with respect to individuals who fail to reapply once they reach the age of majority, as well those who fail to give notice of change of address.

“The Nunatsiavut Government is concerned that, despite written notices from the Registrar, many of the minors enrolled on the Register who have reached and passed the age of majority (19 years) have not reapplied for enrolment, as is required under section 3.11.4 of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement,” says Nunatsiavut’s First Minister Darryl Shiwak. “If these individuals do not reapply, then the Registrar has the authority to remove their names from the Registry of Beneficiaries 60 days after they have received second notice.”

As well, individuals who have reached the age of majority who have already received three written notices within the last 18 months may have their names removed

from the Register of Beneficiaries by the Registrar with the written consent of the First Minister.

“All Beneficiaries of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement are required to ensure the Registrar is informed of any change of address,” adds the First Minister. “If the Registrar, through various means – including notices in local and national newspapers – is unable to communicate with a Beneficiary who has changed his or her address, then that person’s name may be removed from the Register.”

The amendment to the Beneficiaries Enrolment Act was passed unanimously by the Nunatsiavut Assembly. The Nunatsiavut Government encourages all individuals who may be affected by this amendment to contact the Registrar’s office without delay. The Registrar, Mr. Don Dicker, can be reached by calling (709) 922-2942, by emailing [don\\_dicker@nunatsiavut.com](mailto:don_dicker@nunatsiavut.com), or by writing to PO Box 70, Nain, NL, A0P 1L0.

# Investing in our people and our land

The Nunatsiavut Government's 2011-12 budget is a blueprint for future social and economic growth for Beneficiaries of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement, says Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology Minister Daniel Pottle.

"I am confident that this budget strikes a balance between fiscal realities and meeting the needs of our people while, at the same time, protecting our land and our environment," says the Minister. "If we are to effectively continue to invest in our land and our people, we have to build on our strengths, be more resourceful, prudent and accountable."

"Expectations are high, and they will continue to remain high as we strive towards our goal of self-governance," adds Minister Pottle. "We are committed to meeting those expectations, but it will take time, hard work, commitment and understanding."

Of the \$47,328,634 budgeted for the 2011-12 fiscal year, which began April 1, a total of \$15,362,272 will be used for government administration. This expenditure will be offset from own-source revenues of the same amount, which includes a surplus of nearly \$2 million from the previous fiscal year.

A total of \$31,966,362 is aside to deliver programs and services under the Fiscal Financing Agreement, as outlined in the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement. The Fiscal Financing Agreement is negotiated between the Nunatsiavut Government and the governments of Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador every five years, or at other intervals agreed to by the parties. It ensures funding is provided to the Nunatsiavut Government for the provision of programs and services to Inuit and other persons living in Inuit communities, at levels reasonably comparable to those generally prevailing in communities of similar size and circumstances in Labrador.

One of the major highlights in this year's budget is an increase in salaries

and salary scales for all Nunatsiavut Government employees. Effective April 1, members of the employee division received a 10 per cent increase in salary for the fiscal year 2011-12, and an additional five per cent for each of the next three years, while management division employees will see the implementation of a four-tier salary scale.

"Our employees significantly lag behind their provincial and federal counterparts, as well as those in the private sector, with respect to salary and other benefits," says Minister Pottle. "As a result, we have had tremendous challenges in recruiting and retaining qualified and experienced individuals to our civil service."

This is the first increase in salaries since the Nunatsiavut Government was formed in December 2005, notes Minister Pottle.

"In completing employment competitions we continue to hear the same message – we simply just can't compete," says the minister. "Provincial government employees, for example, currently receive a base salary that is 20 per cent higher than our employees. We have lost some key employees because of our inability to compete, and we have had huge challenges in recruiting."

## Other highlights include:

- an increase in the overall budget for the Membership Enrolment Committee and the Inuit Appeals Board;
- the creation of two positions within the Information Technology Division, as well as funding to upgrade software;
- two positions for the Department of Lands and Natural Resources to assist with the implementation of environmental protection legislation, funding for additional research;
- the hiring of a fisheries manager;
- funding for a mining policy workshop related specifically to uranium;
- the establishment of a toll-free support line for the Status of Women Division;

- the creation of a translator/interpreter coordinator, as well as a new translator position; and
- the hiring of a tourism product development specialist.

## Information Technology Specialists

Andrew Graham Hamel and Kevin Boyden are the the Information Technology Support Specialists for the Nunatsiavut Government.

Born in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Andrew attended the College of the North Atlantic in Corner Brook where he graduated with a "Computer Support Specialist" diploma. He completed two summer student work terms, as well as his on-the-job training, with the Nunatsiavut Government before assuming his current position this past January.

Andrew lives in Nain with his fiancé April Sharon Andersen. The couple has two sons: Ryan and Alex.

Kevin has worked in the information technology support and consultancy fields since the late 1980s, and has attained certification in Microsoft, Cisco, Lotus, Novell, EMC, Citrix and with the ITIL Foundation. He moved from the United Kingdom last December to take on his current position with the Nunatsiavut Government.

Kevin and his wife, Caroline (who works as a nursing supervisor with Labrador-Grenfell Health in Happy Valley-Goose Bay), have two children – Holly, 17, and George, 9.

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# Visionary report sets out first-ever national goals for Inuit education

The Nunatsiavut Government welcomes the announcement of a series of new initiatives to empower parents, expand early childhood education programs and gather detailed research data. Together with Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami President Mary Simon, Nunatsiavut's Minister of Education and Economic Development, Susan Nochasak, introduced a game-changing new strategy to graduate more Inuit students and transform Inuit education in Nunatsiavut and in Canada.

A total of 10 core investments are set out in *First Canadians, Canadians First: The National Strategy on Inuit Education*, representing the first-ever national goals for the education of Inuit in early childhood, K-12 and post-secondary programs throughout the four Inuit regions of Canada, Nunavut, Nunavik (Northern Quebec), Nunatsiavut and the Inuvialuit Settlement Region of the Northwest Territories.

"We are extremely pleased with the involvement of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Labrador School Board in the development of this strategy," says

Minister Nochasak. "We look forward to working with all parties to see this strategy fully implemented."

The Strategy is the culmination of two years of intense work by the National Committee on Inuit Education (NCIE), which is made up of representatives from federal, provincial, territorial and regional governments, as well as school boards and regional and national Inuit organizations. Immediate action items include securing funding to establish a National Inuit Education Secretariat at ITK to implement the recommendations, under the direction of the NCIE.

"This document is a blueprint for the education system we want," said Simon, Chairperson of the NCIE. "Our objective is nothing less than to graduate children confident in the Inuit language and culture, and capable of contributing with pride to the emerging opportunities in Canada's Arctic. This is an opportunity for us to turn the words of the Prime Minister's apology for the legacy of residential schools into real action."

## Nunatsiavut joint venture company awarded contracts for Labrador marine service

A Nunatsiavut joint venture company has been awarded three of four contracts to deliver the Labrador marine service. CAI Marine is 50 per cent owned by the Labrador Inuit Capital Strategy Trust and 50 per cent by the CAI Group, headquartered in Moncton, NB. CAI Group is an Inuit company owned by a Dave Chauk, a Beneficiary of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement.

The three marine contracts are for the crewing and operation of the Northern Ranger, crewing and operation of the Sir Robert Bond, and the management of shore-based activities.

LICST started the planning for the marine tenders in collaboration with CAI Group in the fall of 2010. This hard work and planning resulted in the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador formally awarding the contracts on April 1.



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# Labrador Inuit Capital Strategy Trust launches new business arm and strategic direction

The Labrador Inuit Capital Strategy Trust (LICST) is pleased to announce the launch of its new business arm, Nunatsiavut Group of Companies (NGC).

“This is the beginning of a new era for Nunatsiavut owned businesses,” says LICST chair Clint Davis. “We are getting our financial house in order and are positioning ourselves to participate in the numerous economic opportunities in the region. Our corporate vision is to be an Inuit led business leader in the North.”

In 2008 the Nunatsiavut Government instructed the LICST to address ongoing financial issues with the Labrador Inuit Development Corporation (LIDC) and to set the business arm of Nunatsiavut on a sustainable and profitable path forward. The

LICST started its work in earnest in 2009 and, over the past two years made difficult, but necessary, decisions to close several unprofitable businesses - including a pharmacy in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, the Hopedale stone plant and suspension of operations at the quarry in Ten Mile Bay. In a move to clearly demonstrate that LICST means business and to provide a separation from the old LIDC, the NGC was formed to move forward in a profitable and sustainable manner.

The wholly-owned subsidiaries of NGC are Nunak Land Corporation, Postmill Lumber, and NGC Marine. NGC Joint venture companies include CAI Nunatsiavut Marine, Torngait Services Inc., Nillik Construction, Pikalujak Fisheries, Dominion Trading Limited, and Pan Arctic Inuit Logistics.

## BUSINESS UPDATES

In the fall of 2010 the NGC created a Joint Venture with CAI Logistics (a business owned by a Beneficiary of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement – Dave Chaulk) with the intention of bidding on four contracts to deliver the Labrador freight, passenger and vehicle marine service. The new company, CAI Nunatsiavut Marine, was awarded three of the contracts: the operation of the MV Sir Robert Bond, operation of the MV Northern Ranger, and the administration of the shore-based operations for the service. Recently, CAI Nunatsiavut Marine has been assigned the fourth contract by Great Lake Feeder Lines: operation of the MV Dutch Runner for freight service. CAI Nunatsiavut

Marine officially commenced all of this work on June 1. For more information please visit [www.labradorferry.ca](http://www.labradorferry.ca)

NGC will be operating the Torngat Mountains National Park base camp again this summer. The Nunatsiavut Government continued to make improvements to the base

camp facility over the last year, including the addition of a research facility. NGC is planning on hosting several hundred people, including tourists, researchers, and business meetings at the camp this summer.

NGC is also planning an exploratory drilling program at the Ten Mile Bay quarry this summer to determine how much stone (anorthosite) is accessible and to determine whether quarry could be economically sustainable in

the future.

Postmill Lumber has refocused to be a competitive construction/aggregate operation. Strategic investments in a crusher and other equipment have broadened Postmill’s service offerings to Labrador Inuit communities. The low price of paper and the reduction in uranium exploration has idled Postmill’s traditional markets. However, the requirement for core boxes is still a focus. (These business lines will be re-evaluated as economic circumstances change.)

LICST’s businesses generated a modest profit in the year ending March 31, 2011 with revenues and profits projected to grow in the coming year.

In addition to Mr. Davis, the trustees of the LICST, which are appointed by the Nunatsiavut Government, are Isabella Pain and Natan Obed. The LICST and NGC offices are in Happy Valley Goose Bay at 6 Royal Street and in Nain at 2 Morhardt Road.

