



# Tugâpvik NUNATSIAVUT

Vol. 1, No. 3, Winter 2011

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## Funding announced for new mental health initiative and health-care equipment

More than \$258,000 in provincial funding was announced on February 25 for a new mental health initiative and new health-care equipment for northern Labrador.

Approximately \$144,500 in one-time funding was allocated for a new Suicide Prevention and Intervention Program, which consists of several initiatives to be implemented in Nain and Hopedale, including the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) Program, Survivor Support Groups, and a Youth Peer Support Program. A two-day Culture as Healing Symposium will be held in Nunatsiavut's five Inuit communities. A Mental Health Intervener Train the Trainer Program will also be implemented, along with a suicide prevention promotional campaign and the creation of a virtual warehouse for suicide prevention and intervention resources.

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has also provided \$114,000 to support the installation and operation of a portable X-ray machine at the Nain Community Clinic. This also included funding for the purchase of a new computed radiography reader system. The X-ray machine is aiding in the testing of tuberculosis and has been operational since November.

"These initiatives will provide much-needed support in helping to address some of the pressing issues facing residents of Nunat-

siavut," said Nunatsiavut's Acting Minister of Health and Social Development, Danny Pottle. "It is my hope and, indeed, the hope of the Nunatsiavut Government, that this is only the beginning. There is still much that needs to be done as we continue down the path to building healthier, sustainable communities within Nunatsiavut."

Since 2003, the provincial government has invested approximately \$155,000 for the purchase and operation of capital equipment at the Nain Community Clinic, and almost \$1.1 million in construction and repairs, including the replacement of siding and windows; the development of a modular office building; and, the building of mini-homes for social workers and staff. Recent investments also include funding for the replacement of a snowmobile and snowblower at the Nain Community Clinic.



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# **Paitsinik Sugusittinik- Caring for Our Children**

## **Hopedale hosts Foster Parent Symposium**

On October 15, 2010, Foster Families within Nunatsiavut, along with representatives from diverse agencies involved in the care of children, met in Hopedale for a Symposium entitled, Paitsinik Sugusittinik- Caring for Our Children. The two-day symposium began with the ceremonial lighting of the Kudlik, a traditional Inuit lamp used to provide heat and light in the home. Marjorie Flowers, team leader for the Nunatsiavut Department of Health and Social Development's community office, opened the gathering in prayer, followed by a performance by the Hopedale Community Choir in both English and Inuktitut. As the children sang, "We are children, children of the light, we are shining in the darkness of the night," the tone was set for a weekend of fellowship, encouragement, guidance, and above all hope.

The gathering, organized by the project manager for the Aboriginal Health Transition Fund, Charles Feltham, was the first of its kind in Nunatsiavut and also marked the first time the proclamation opening Foster Families Week was signed outside of St. John's. In a land as geographically isolated- yet culturally vibrant- as Nunatsiavut, this event was significant, particularly as both Patty Pottle, provincial Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, and Barb Coffey, social worker with Eastern Health were on hand for this event. (Both are from Hopedale.)

Minister Pottle spoke of the vital contribution made by foster families within Nunatsiavut, as well as the provincial government's commitment to supporting and celebrating those who give care to those most vulnerable within our communities. She expressed great optimism that a new Labrador delivery model for Child and Youth Family Services (CYFS) acknowledges the need for something new in Labrador that will more effectively engage aboriginal stakeholders and that the days of a "one size fits all system" are gone.

Genevieve Corbin, regional director of CYFS with Labrador Grenfell Health also offered words of encouragement for a brighter future, noting that a new manager with CYFS would be stationed in Hopedale and that a Mental Health Mobile Unit would be traveling within Nunatsiavut to better meet the needs of families.

The first day of the symposium culminated with a consultation with foster parents, hosted by Anna Ekins and Kelly Stone with the Child Welfare League of Canada, as well as Diane Molloy of the Newfoundland and Labrador Foster Families Association. This consultation process was part of a three-year project, Every Child Matters: Strengthening Foster Families in Canada, dedicated to improving foster parent recruitment, retention, and training practices by collecting and disseminating information, tools, and best practices from around the country. Here foster parents were

given the floor, and encouraged to share the challenges and strengths specific to their experiences within Nunatsiavut. At this time agency representatives and staff with CYFS took part in a PRIDE information session with Charles Feltham and Mabel Anderson, provincial program consultant with CYFS.

A beautiful sun dawned on day two of the symposium, during which a new foster family logo for Nunatsiavut was officially launched. The Open Your Heart, Open Your Home logo is meant to reflect and celebrate Inuit culture, depicting a traditionally dressed child and adult within the shelter of an igloo.

Following the launch, Donna Flowers introduced a powerful video entitled, The Courage to Remember, filmed largely at a storytelling gathering in Hopedale and organized by the Legacy of Hope Foundation. In this touching video, those who had been sent to the residential school in North West River shared their stories, many of them quite painful, as a part of their journey of healing. The morning closed with Healing Ourselves, Families, and Communities, a Plenary Session by Barb Coffey, in which she bravely shared her healing path in overcoming a childhood touched by neglect and pain to become a social worker actively involved in helping those whose young lives have also been marked by crisis.

Participants then spent the afternoon in two workshops: Helping Children Affected by Trauma, led by Mary Sheppard, regional learning facilitator with Labrador Grenfell Health and FASD: Challenges and Strategies, led by Gillian Saunders, FASD coordinator with the Nunatsiavut Department of Health and Social Development. In the first workshop, foster parents were given an opportunity to identify positive and negative reactions to trauma as Ms. Sheppard guided a discussion of factors contributing to resiliency, emphasizing the importance of safe, secure and nurturing environments. In the second workshop, participants gained an understanding of common learning challenges and behavioural characteristics of FASD as well as strategies and interventions to address them.

The Paitsinik Sugusittinik- Caring for our Children Foster Parent Symposium was indeed a weekend to remember for some time. As the Kudlik, lit for the conference, traditionally provided light and heat to the home, the weekend was infused with warmth and illumination. Participants not only learned important tools to help them in their day-to-day lives in caring for children, but gained an awareness of the support network available to help them as they care for others and themselves. All involved undoubtedly left the conference renewed and reinvigorated to shine as beacon lights of healing and hope for those around them within the communities of Nunatsiavut.

# Environmental protection legislation passes second reading

The Nunatsiavut Government has unanimously approved environmental protection legislation.

Bill 2010-07, to Provide Protection of the Environment in Labrador Inuit Lands and the Inuit Communities, and to Provide for the Environmental Assessment of Initiatives on Labrador Inuit Lands, was given assent during a sitting of the Nunatsiavut Assembly on February 2.

“This new legislation is a significant step forward in protecting our environment” said First Minister

and Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Darryl Shiwak. “It sets out the process to be followed for environmental assessments, and provides for Inuit participation in environmental decision making by the Nunatsiavut Government.”

The new legislation will come into effect by order of the Nunatsiavut President when required regulations have been prepared and the necessary capacity is filled within the Nunatsiavut Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

## President sends condolences on the passing of former ITK president

Nunatsiavut President Jim Lyall says the passing of former Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami President Amaujaq Kusugak on January 18 from cancer is a huge loss to all Inuit.

“Jose Amaujaq Kusugak was instrumental in shaping the ITK into what it is today,” says President Lyall.

During this tenure as President, from 2000 to 2006, Kusugak changed the name of the national organization from the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada to Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, which means “Inuit are united in Canada”. As well, he worked to develop a new logo that reflects the

place of Inuit in the country.

“Jose Amaujaq Kusugak was a visionary who worked tirelessly to ensure Inuit issues and concerns were brought to the forefront, both nationally and internationally,” says President Lyall. “His wholesome character made him a very likable person by those who knew him and those who have had the good fortune of meeting him.

“On behalf of all Beneficiaries of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement, our deepest sympathies to the family of Jose Amaujaq Kusugak. He will be sadly missed, but not forgotten.”

## *New food subsidy program for Nunatsiavut*

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) and Health Canada (HC) jointly announced a new program called Nutrition North Canada (NNC). The program will replace the current food mail program.

NNC is a food retail subsidy program aimed at making healthy food more accessible to isolated northern communities. It will be implemented in the five Inuit communities of Nain, Hopedale, Makkovik, Postville and Rigolet.

The program has two components, namely:

1. Food Retail Subsidy, which will be the responsibility of INAC, will be implemented in April 2011. The cost of shipping healthy foods will be subsidized and the savings will be passed on to the consumers in the communities.
2. The Nutrition Education component will be delivered by the DHSD community offices and is funded through Health Canada. The activities will focus on developing knowledge and skills for selecting, preparing and eating healthy store bought and traditional or country food. This awareness and education will serve to complement the retail subsidy component of the program.

**Further information can be found at the INAC website at: [www.ainc-inac.gc.ca](http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca)**

## Notice to Beneficiaries on tax exemptions

GST/HST legislation **does not** provide tax exemptions for any individuals, and any card claiming such an exemption is a fraud. However, individuals with Indian status under the Indian Act may not be required to pay GST/HST on the purchase of goods and services under certain conditions.

There are no tax exemptions for any Beneficiary of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement under any circumstance. For more information, please visit <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/nwsrm/myths/menu-eng.html#m6>

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# Inuit Pathways and the new strategy

Nunatsiavut Government - Inuit Pathways is now operating under the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS). Coming into effect on October 1, 2010, this is a successor program to the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy.

ASETS provides funding to aboriginal organizations to support the costs of programs, services and other activities which are designed to increase the participation of their clientele in the Canadian labour market. The program is designed to help aboriginal people prepare for, find, and keep high-demand jobs now and in the long term. Under ASETS, the programs and services undertaken by Inuit Pathways are required to be implemented within the framework of a five-year strategic plan that aligns the programming and services with the needs of the labour market. It must also be responsive to the skills demands of employers and promotes strategic partnerships with the private sector and other governments.

ASETS focuses on three priorities:

- supporting demand-driven skills development;
- fostering partnerships with the private sector and the provinces; and
- placing emphasis on accountability and results.

Each ASETS agreement holder must meet accountability requirements and demonstrate strong performance results. This means that funds spent on training has to be used to support clients entering into fields where employers have shown there is a high demand for

that training.

This funding is open to all Beneficiaries of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement who are Canadian citizens.

Funding can be provided for the following types of programming:

## 1. Labour Market Programs

- Skills Development
- Targeted Wage Subsidy (TWS)
- Self Employment Benefits (SEB)
- Job Creation Partnerships (JCP)

## 2. Youth

- Skills Link
- Career Focus
- Summer Work experience

## Labour Market Programs

### *Skills Development*

Clients are funded to train and gain employability skills through pre-employment programs that include:

- any trades related programs such as Heavy Equipment Operator, Electrical, Carpentry and etc.;
- apprenticeship programs, short-term programs (approximately three months or less), and
- academic upgrading and certification programs.

Clients are assisted with payment for tuition/books, travel, living allowance and tutoring.

### *Targeted Wage Subsidy (TWS)*

Inuit Pathways is able to provide funds to employers to hire unemployed individuals under a TWS. Funds are provided to subsidize the salary of the individual to allow them to gain valuable work experience, on the understanding that at the end of the TWS, there is a reasonable expectation that the client will be offered full-time employment.

### *Self Employment Benefits (SEB)*

New entrepreneurs can apply to Inuit Pathways for a pre-determined benefit to provide a salary during the critical period of the first year of a business start-up. This allows an individual to develop and manage a business venture during the first crucial year, without having to avail of an income from the business during the period of the SEB. This funding has to be applied for before start up of the business venture.

### *Job Creation Partnerships (JCP)*

This program allows for funding of projects that have a community enhancement component, and provide work experience for participating clients.

**The deadline for submission of a Skills Development funding application is March 1, 2011.**

The Nunatsiavut Government's allocation under the First Nations Inuit Child Care Initiative (FNICCI) continues to flow through this agreement, as it did under the AHRDS. These funds support the Nunatsiavut Government's Department of Health and Social Development's child-care programming.

**For more information contact:**

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# Just another day behind the wheel for Makkovik's Heather Edmunds

The path to employment for Heather Edmunds of Makkovik is a prime example of programs and services provided by Inuit Pathways.

Through Skills Development funds, Heather was able to attend Heavy Equipment Operator training at the Operating Engineers College in Holyrood, NL in 2009. Upon completion of her training, she participated in a Targeted Wage Subsidy (TWS) program through Inuit Pathways with the Makkovik Inuit Community Government.

Inuit Pathways is able to provide funds to employers to hire unemployed individuals. These funds subsidize the salary paid to the individual to allow them to gain valuable work experience. Heather is currently employed with the Iron Ore Company of Canada in Labrador City.



Heather with her 830E Haul Truck in Labrador City

## *Mapping the Way: The adventure begins*

A new multidisciplinary clinical mental wellness team came together this past September in its newly renovated office located on 6 Hillcrest Street in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. The team will be working towards strengthening and improving the mental wellness and social health of Labrador Inuit and Innu through culturally appropriate mental wellness and healing programs and services. Team members are required to travel regularly to aboriginal communities on the north coast. The team will start with the communities of Sheshatshiu and Hopedale and then eventually go to Natuashish and Nain to collaborate with core community wellness teams.

### **The team will focus on:**

- Clinical services, assessment and counselling interventions.
- Capacity – building training, mentoring and integration with community individuals and organizations.
- Prevention

### **History – How it all got started**

A group of senior health representatives from five organizations have been working collaboratively on new programs aimed at improving health and social development in aboriginal communities. As partners on the Labrador Aboriginal Health Integration Committee (LAHIC), they sponsored the formation of a new Mobile Multidisciplinary Mental Wellness Clinical Team called Mapping the Way. The committee includes the Labrador-Grenfell Regional Health Authority; Nunatsiavut Government, Department of Health and Social Development; Mushuau Innu Health Commission; Sheshatshiu Innu First Nation Social and Health Department; and the Labrador Health Secretariat of Health Canada.

LAHIC identified a priority for mental health and addictions professional services to be delivered directly in remote aboriginal communities experiencing a considerable degree of

social distress. Community residents are challenged by such complex issues as alcohol and substance abuse, violence, suicide, intergenerational trauma, personal and family breakdowns, and FASD.

While efforts are made to provide counselling and supports by health specialists in several agencies, limited services are delivered directly in aboriginal communities. In addition, health specialists working alone in separate agencies often feel isolated and overwhelmed by their workload, and would benefit from collaborating with other specialists on a team and exchanging ideas, approaches and information. Similarly community health workers need support and value mentoring from clinical specialists, and could assist them with valuable insights on family, community and cultural contexts. The idea of combining skills and resources offered a critical opportunity for improving social conditions in Labrador Aboriginal communities.

## Provincial funding for TMNP and TCC announced

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador announced February 23 a total of \$115,248 to explore business opportunities focused on maximizing the economic potential of the Torngat Mountains National Park and the Torngâsok Cultural Centre in Nain.

Under the funding, the base camp for the park will be expanded - allowing for increased tourism potential, as well as the identification of possible private enterprise opportunities. Upgrades will additionally serve as an important economic stimulus largely through using qualified Inuit businesses for a range of activities such as construction and transportation.

Of the total \$115,248 investment, \$15,249 is being directed towards geotechnical investigative work on establishing the Torngâsok Cultural Centre in Nain. As part of the initiative, a feasibility study and five-year business plan for the centre will be completed.

“We are extremely pleased to share in this announcement today,” said Nunatsiavut’s Minister of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Johannes Lampe. “This funding will ensure the base camp at kANGID-LUASUK is able to compete on an international scale by providing top quality amenities to tourists from all over the world while, at the same time, affording the opportunity for visitors to fully appreciate what our beautiful homeland has to offer. It will also help carry out a feasibility study and business plan for the Torngâsok Cultural Centre, which will help the Nunatsiavut Government showcase the unique Labrador Inuit culture and heritage.”

# Nain chest x-ray clinic successful

A total of 96 per cent of Nain residents who required x-rays for tuberculosis follow up were able to do so this past fall without having to leave the community and travel to Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

The chest x-ray clinic followed nine months of planning and a lot of collaborative work by many people. The challenge came in using a digital system that required a lot of infrastructure development. The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador provided

some additional funding to cover costs, as well as the mobile x-ray unit and all of the required hardware.

We have all learned a great deal about how to make such an initiative happen, and the success of this clinic is largely due to the people working in Nain. Staff of Nain Community Clinic, Nunatsiavut Department of Health and Social Development community office, public health and home care, interpreters and drivers contributed immensely to the success of this initiative.



Some of the staff of Nain community clinic, radiology and Public health that helped with the clinic.



Nain resident getting their chest x-ray.

## Need a haircut?

Inuit Pathways Job Creation Partnership (JCP) program was instrumental in creating employment for Amanda Humby of Happy Valley-Goose Bay. The training Amanda received under the guidance of Bert May of Bert’s Barber Shop allowed her to gain skills and experience on her road to employment.

