



Tugâpvik NUNATSIAVUT

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Quarterly Newsletter Launched

The Nunatsiavut Government is proud to announce the release of its new newsletter “Tugâpvik Nunatsiavut”, or “Focus Nunatsiavut”. This newsletter will be available on a quarterly basis on the Nunatsiavut Government website as well as at community and regional offices. This newsletter will attempt to keep Beneficia-

ries of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement up-to-date on some of the developments and activities within the government. It will also contain messages from government ministers. If you have comments or suggestions on how to improve this newsletter, contact Bert Pomeroy, Director of Communications, at bert_pomeroy@nunatsiavut.com.



New Assembly

Members of the Nunatsiavut Assembly following the May 4 general election for Ordinary Members. From left, front: Patricia Ford (Canada), Johannes Lampe (Nain), William Barbour (re-elected - Nain), President Jim Lyall, Darryl Shiwak (re-elected - Rigolet), Danny Pottle (re-elected - Canada), Susan Nochasak (Hopedale), and Keith Russell (re-elected - Upper Lake Melville). Back: Judy Dicker (AngajukKâk - Hoped-

ale), Sarah Leo (AngajukKâk - Nain), Herb Jacque (AngajukKâk - Makkovik), Max Blake (Upper Lake Melville), Ed Tuttau (Sivunivut Inuit Corporation), Keity Decker (AngajukKâk - Postville), Glen Sheppard (Postville), Denise Lane (Makkovik) and Charlotte Wolfrey (AngajukKâk - Rigolet). Ms. Wolfrey was elected previously during a by election.

Chirs Sampson Photo

Dealing with complaints under the Code of Conduct

Part 4.1 of the Nunatsiavut Government's *Code of Conduct* deals specifically with the zero tolerance rules. There is some confusion over what zero tolerance means. It is not an absolute zero tolerance at any time or place, but a prohibition against being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs while discussing or conducting Nunatsiavut Government business.

Part 4.1 of the *Code of Conduct* states: "*An Elected Official shall not consume alcohol or illegal drugs or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs while conducting or discussing Nunatsiavut Government business or the business of an Inuit Community Government or an Inuit Community Corporation.*"

Part 5 then outlines the process to be followed when the Clerk of the Assembly receives a written complaint from an individual alleging that a Member of the Assembly has breached a provision of the *Code of Conduct*.

Part 5.1 states: "*An elector, or Elected Official acting on behalf of an aggrieved person, or Elected Official acting on his or her own behalf, may apply for determination of whether a member has contravened the Code of Conduct.*"

Under **Part 5.5**, an application must be submitted to the Clerk of the Nunatsiavut Assembly and shall be dealt with as follows:

- (a) the Clerk shall bring the application to the attention of the Speaker and shall forward a copy to the member who must respond with 10 days;
- (b) the Speaker shall review the application and any comments received from the member, which comments must be in writing;
- (c) if it appears to the Speaker that the application raises concerns that are trivial, groundless, initiated simply to annoy the member or are not matters for action under this Part, or if the Speaker believes that an investigation is not warranted, the Speaker may summarily dismiss the application;
- (d) if it appears to the Speaker that the complaint may be resolved, and if the applicant and the member consent, the Speaker may attempt to mediate and resolve the complaint;
- (e) an application that is not either summarily dismissed under subsection (c) or resolved under subsection (d) shall be referred by the Speaker for investigation and determination to an ad hoc Discipline Committee of the Nunatsiavut Assembly comprised of the Speaker and two other members of the Assembly appointed by the Speaker;

(f) the Discipline Committee must review the application and all responses received from the member and the applicant, ensure that a copy of the member's response is sent to the Applicant who may present further information and arguments after reading the member's response, and give a further opportunity to the member to respond to anything the applicant may say;

(g) when all the responses have been received, the Discipline Committee must consider both the application and the responses, may make further inquiries and conduct formal hearings, and on the basis of information before it decide if the information disclosed does not support a finding of misconduct, the information disclosed merits counseling as to proper conduct in accordance with the Code of Conduct, or cautioning, or both, or the information disclosed by the investigation supports a finding of misconduct;

(h) if the Discipline Committee finds a member guilty of misconduct, it must impose a reprimand, a suspension from office without pay, or a recommendation for removal from office.

(i) a recommendation for removal from office under subsection is binding and shall be made to and dealt with expeditiously by the government, board or person having the necessary authority to implement the recommendation;

(j) a decision of the Speaker under subsection (c), (d) or (e) is final, binding, and not subject to appeal or review and must be given in writing to the applicant, the member and the Clerk of the Nunatsiavut Assembly; and

(k) a decision of a Discipline Committee under subsection (g) or (h) is final, binding, and not subject to appeal or review and must be given in writing to the applicant, the member and the Clerk of the Nunatsiavut Assembly.

An alleged breach of Section 4.1 shall be dealt with in accordance of Part 5, except that subsections 5.5 (c) and 5.5 (d) do not apply, and the alleged breach of Section 4.1 must be referred by the Speaker for investigation and determination to a Discipline Committee. If a Discipline Committee finds an Elected Official guilty of a breach of Section 4.1 it may, in addition to a penalty imposed under clause 5.5 (h) (i) or 5.5(h)(ii), order that the official undertake an alcohol or drug detoxification program or other alcohol or drug rehabilitation program, as appropriate.

If the Committee set up under section 5.5(e) decides to impose the penalty under 5.5(h) which is the recommendation for removal from office, it then has to be dealt with as per Section 4.3.7 of the *Labrador Inuit Constitution* which says that a member can only be removed from office by a resolution of the Assembly that was adopted by 60 per cent of its members.

Message from the President

As a government, we are committed to addressing the needs of our communities and Beneficiaries of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement.

To help us in achieving that goal, the Nunatsiavut Government - shortly after being established in 2005 - felt there was a need to establish a short and long-term Strategic Plan. When I was elected President in the spring of 2008, I made the development of this plan a top priority.

We engaged the services of a consultant early in 2009 to help us put a plan together. Sessions, involving elected officials and senior staff, were held in Nain and Happy Valley-Goose Bay. A draft was developed and presented and was approved during our Assembly sitting in Hopedale this past April. We hope to have a final plan completed and released publicly by the end of this year.

In any event, we hope to implement our short-term plans by 2014, so that by 2019, we'll have improved culture, tourism, language usage, education, government placement, the necessary business and social infrastructures and financial capacity to realize our long-term goals.

Over the next five years, we will focus on administration, communications, culture, economic development, health and social development, housing, justice issues and language.

These are challenging times for Nunatsiavut and, indeed, all of our communities. As we continue to grow as a government we will seek the advice of all Beneficiaries, to ensure the decisions we make are in your best interest. Through this newsletter, our annual report, our website, Community Liaison Officers, as well as other mediums, we will also continue to provide you with regular updates on various government activities and initiatives.

As president I look forward to tackling the issues at hand and to working with members of the Nunatsiavut Assembly as we strive to achieve our goals as a government while, at the same time, improving social and economic conditions for all Beneficiaries of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement.

May you have a safe and enjoyable summer!



Harvesting rights under the Land Claims Agreement

Does the Supreme Court of Canada decision in Sparrow and other aboriginal rights cases apply to Beneficiaries of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement (LILCA)?

Section 35(1) of the Constitution Act, 1982 says that existing aboriginal and treaty rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada are hereby recognized and affirmed. This provision protects two different forms of rights: (1) existing aboriginal rights, and (2) treaty rights. With the ratification of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement, Labrador Inuit have treaty rights, not aboriginal rights.

The existing aboriginal rights referred to in *Section 35(1)* are undefined rights. Therefore, if an aboriginal group without treaty rights asserts that a specific activity, such as fishing, is an undefined aboriginal rights, they will often need to go to court to prove that is the case. That is what the Musqueam Indian Band did in the *Sparrow* case.

The LILCA is a modern treaty that defines all of the rights Labrador Inuit have as an aboriginal people of Canada. Part 2.11 deals with what are referred to as the *certainty provisions*. These certainty provisions say the LILCA constitutes the full and final settlement of the aboriginal rights of the Inuit and exhaustively sets out Labrador Inuit rights that are recognized by *Section 35* of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. It also says that Labrador Inuit cede and release to the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and Canada all the aboriginal rights which Labrador Inuit ever had, now have, or may have in the future claim. In ratifying the Harvesting rights under the Land Claims

Agreement LILCA, Labrador Inuit exchanged the basket of undefined aboriginal rights in the land claims area for the rights in the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area (LISA).

The *Sparrow* decision defined an aboriginal right to fish for food, social and ceremonial purposes for the Musqueam Indians of British Columbia. The rights defined in *Sparrow* can be limited through government regulation. The decision in *Sparrow* no longer applies to Labrador Inuit. All of our fishing rights under section 35(1) of the *Constitution Act* are now defined in *Chapter 13* of the LILCA. The rights set out in *Chapter 13* are similar to the rights recognized in the *Sparrow* decision. It also sets out the system that must be followed in regulating or limiting the basic LILCA right to fish up to the level of need for food, social and ceremonial purposes.

Do Beneficiaries have aboriginal fishing rights in Upper Lake Melville outside of LISA? If not, why not, and what do they have?

Beneficiaries do not have aboriginal fishing rights in Upper Lake Melville outside of LISA. *Chapter 13* clearly states that Beneficiary rights in the Inuit Domestic Fishery are confined to the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area (LISA).

When it comes to fishing outside of LISA, Part 13.13.1 states that Canada and the Nunatsiavut Government shall negotiate an arrangement for a communal food fishing license to be issued in accordance with the *Fisheries Act* for fishing in the Tidal Waters of Lake Melville outside LISA by Beneficiaries resident in Labrador outside LISA. *continued...*

Harvesting rights under the Land Claims Agreement



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This arrangement shall be for a nine year period and may be extended. This arrangement does not constitute a Constitutionally protected right similar to the right Labrador Inuit have in LISA.

This nine year agreement has not yet been concluded and has not yet come into effect. In the meantime, the Nunatsiavut Government negotiates and receives an annual communal license for Upper Lake Melville.

What is the Inuit Domestic Fishery and how is it managed?

Section 13.4.1 says that Labrador Inuit have the right to harvest in LISA at all times of the year and throughout LISA for any species of fish for which there is no Inuit Domestic Harvest Level (IDHL), up to the level needed for food, social and ceremonial purposes.

This right is qualified by *Section 13.4.6*, which says that it is subject to management by the Nunatsiavut Government, and by *Section 13.2.1*, which says that any decisions made that affect fish in LISA must make conservation a priority consideration.

The fact is that the Nunatsiavut Government does not currently have the capacity to manage and administer its own Inuit Domestic Fishery. In order to do that the government would need the scientific and traditional information required to determine the IDHL, laws and regulations to prevent fishing beyond the limits of the IDHL, the money and people to do the administrative functions of implementing the laws and regulations, enforcement capacity, and the means to prosecute breaches of those laws and regulations.

It will be a number of years until the Nunatsiavut Government has the ability to manage its own domestic fishery.

What is a Total Allowable Catch and an Inuit Domestic Harvest Level, and do we have either right now?

Under the LILCA the federal Minister of Fisheries has the authority to impose a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for a species or stock of fish such as salmon. If DFO decided to do that it would either have to do it for all Atlantic salmon (since the fish are a single migratory species), or on a river by river basis if

they want to manage the various stocks. If DFO imposed a TAC for salmon in LISA, it would also have to establish a corresponding IDHL. Right now neither a TAC nor an IDHL has been established.

Under Section 13.6.14, if a TAC is established for salmon in LISA and it is less than the IDHL, all recreational fishing, commercial fishing, and fishing by persons other than Inuit and other aboriginal people with an aboriginal or a treaty right to fish in LISA, will be closed. The Nunatsiavut Government has a major say in its IDHL. It recommends the IDHL to the federal Minister of Fisheries, who must accept the recommendation unless it cannot be supported by data. Once an IDHL is established, the Nunatsiavut Government would be forced to accept the limit and DFO would have to manage the fishery so as to protect the IDHL and the Inuit Domestic Fishery.

What is the Communal Fishing License for LISA and why is the Nunatsiavut Government agreeing to it?

The salmon fishery in LISA was carried out under an aboriginal food fishing license for a number of years before the LILCA came into effect. The Nunatsiavut Government has agreed to continue using the communal license since it does not yet have the capacity to manage its own Inuit Domestic Fishery in LISA. As well, the Nunatsiavut Government is not convinced that it wants DFO to impose either a TAC or an IDHL. The Nunatsiavut Government shares the management, administration and enforcement of this license with DFO.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Rebecca Willcott, Director of Renewable Resources with the Nunatsiavut Government's Department of Lands and Natural Resources. She can be reached at 7098968582 or by email at rebecca_willcott@nunatsiavut.com.

New administration centre opens

March 29 of this year marked a major milestone for the Nunatsiavut Government with the opening of its new administration centre in Nain. Built at a cost of nearly \$9 million, the facility houses more than 50 offices. Work on the new building was carried out by Colby, with engineering and design work by Natsik Services of Nain. Taking part in the official opening, and the cutting of the from left: Alicia Dicker, Mary Dicker, Mary Andersen and Julius Ikkusek and Nunatsiavut President Jim Lyall.



Students graduate from Integrated Nursing Access Program

May 14, 2010 was a proud day for Nunatsiavut as we witnessed the graduation of the Integrated Nursing Access Program (INAP) students in Corner Brook, NL.

After five and a half years of study, Janice Montaque (not present) of North West River, Christine Chaulk of Mud Lake, Kristen Williams of Happy Valley Goose Bay, Cheryl Tororak of Hopedale and Nicole Allen of North West River were awarded the degree of Bachelor of Nursing. There are two students remaining in the program: Betty Jararuse of Makkovik (whose May graduation was halted by a sports injury), will graduate in October, and Shelley Wolfrey of Rigolet, will graduate in May 2011. Proudly present at the convocation and pinning ceremony was Winnie Montague, representing the College of the North Atlantic, and Gail Turner, Tim McNeill and Lucy Brennan representing the Nunatsiavut Government. Ms. Turner lit the Kudlik at the beginning of the pinning ceremony. Family of the graduates also traveled to be part of the celebration.

A total of 19 Inuit students (one male and 18 female) entered program at the College of the North Atlantic, Happy Valley Goose Bay campus, in January 2005. The graduation portion was in June of 2007, and the first year of the BN program was offered in Happy Valley Goose Bay. Following this, the students went to Corner Brook in September of 2008 to continue the nursing studies.

The INAP was a unique approach to both preparation for and training in nursing, and was a collaborative effort between the three schools of nursing in Newfoundland and Labrador:

the College of the North Atlantic, Nunatsiavut Government and Labrador Grenfell Health. The program represented three years of design before it began, with very strong support from the Nunatsiavut Government's Post Secondary Student Support Program.

All of the current graduates start work in June 2010 with Labrador Grenfell Health where they will act as advocates for many Beneficiaries of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement who use the services of the Paddon Memorial Home and the Labrador Health Centre.



Cheryl Tororak, Kristin Williams, Nicole Allen and Christine Chaulk. Missing from photo is Janice Montague.

Message from the Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology

I would like to give thanks to the constituents of Canada for their overwhelming support in re-electing me as Ordinary Member of the Nunatsiavut Assembly. I would also like to thank the Nunatsiavut Assembly for their unanimous



support for my appointment as Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology. I look forward to the many challenges that come with the position over the next four years, and I will do my utmost to ensure that the department moves forward in an efficient and effective manner.

As minister, my approach will be one that is hands on; I will not micro-manage the department as that is why we have highly-skilled and qualified public servants, but I will do my best to ensure that the department is macro-managed professionally with accountability, transparency, openness and with respect for not only the public service, but within the general membership as well.

I am still being briefed on all activities within the department, and once those briefing are complete, I will begin working on issues and files that have been transferred to me by the former minister. I look forward to meeting all public servants over the next few months as the department plans to travel to all communities and offices of the Nunatsiavut Government to discuss relevant issues.

The department will also over the next few months be developing a plan to guide our work and to provide direction for the next four years. I look forward to working in consultation with the departments and staff during this my second term in elected office.

If you have any questions and/or concerns, my door is always and will remain open.

Balanced budget ensures future stability

This year's budget, handed down on March 11, will allow the Nunatsiavut Government to meet the challenges of today and provide a solid foundation on which to build for the future.

Of the \$44,802,601 million budgeted for the fiscal year, which began April 1, \$13,827,337 million was set aside for government administration, with \$30,975,264 million for the delivery of programs and services under the Fiscal Financing Agreement with the Government of Canada.

On the revenue side, the Nunatsiavut Government projects to receive about \$2.8 million from personal income tax; \$951,000 from the federal Goods and Services Tax; \$1.2 million from mining royalties, \$1,231,000 from the Self Government Fund of the Fiscal Financing Agreement; \$5 million from interest revenue; and \$1.8 million from programs, which includes \$1 million from the Off-Reserve Aboriginal Housing Trust. There are also surplus funds of \$864,000 from the 2008-09 fiscal year.

Employment and career opportunities

Job ads have been posted for the Department of Health and Social Development as well as other government departments seeking applicants for summer employment. The goal is to maximize student employment and have a student in every department.

The Nunatsiavut Government supports and sees the importance of student employment as a means for post-secondary students – not only make a bit of extra money for the upcoming academic year, but to provide them with some meaningful work experience with hopes of eventually becoming a member of the Nunatsiavut Civil Service.

In keeping on the theme of education, the Nunatsiavut Government continues to seek qualified candidates in the areas of Nursing, Social Work (Mental Health and Addictions) and individuals with degrees in Commerce, Finance or Business Administration.

All employment opportunities with the Nunatsiavut Government are advertised both on our website (www.nunatsiavut.com) and on public bulletin boards in Government offices.

If you are interested in a career with the Nunatsiavut Government, please contact the Human Resources Department.

Back-up strategy for telecommunications failures

The Information Technology Division had a challenging winter trying to deal with major phone and internet service outages to the Inuit communities as a result of the collapse of a main telecommunications tower. The problems deeply affected our ability to function as a decentralized government, and highlighted how much we have come to rely on technology to conduct our daily business.

As a result, the division has asked Aliant to provide details of its back-up strategy should such a telecommunications failure occur again. The division

is also investigating options for our own back-up telecommunications plan to allow our offices to continue to operate in the event of another communications tower collapsing.

As we have entered summer, the division is continuing to replace outdated and non-functioning hardware. We will continue our practice of shipping obsolete equipment out of the Inuit communities to Happy Valley-Goose Bay. Any surplus equipment that is too old to meet our needs, but is still functional, is donated to community volunteer groups.



Vyann Andersen, Candy Jacque and Brandy Jacque, staff of the Department of Health and Social Development Community Office in Postville, assist with the evening presentation by John Halligan entitled, “Bullying, Cyberbullying and Depression”.

Bringing *Ryan’s Story* to Nunatsiavut communities

We may think of “bullying” as of just kids being kids and an expected part of growing up, but the resulting effects of emotional pain are much more than that.

John Halligan’s 13 year old son, Ryan, committed suicide on Oct. 7, 2003, the result of undiagnosed depression after being bullied by classmates at school and online.

Mr. Halligan has devoted his life to preventing similar tragedies by talking to youth and adults – telling his son’s story, the lessons learned and what can be done to address bullying behaviour.

Through a partnership between the RCMP, the Community Youth Network, Labrador School Board and the Nunatsiavut Government’s Department of Health and Social Development, Mr. Halligan, who’s from of Vermont, USA, presented to audiences in each Nunatsiavut community this past May.

School presentations focused on addressing students in Grades 6 to

Level III with the story of Ryan’s life and the events that led to his suicide, encouragement to help empower youth to take a stand and address bullying behaviour, and reach out for support if dealing with depression. Evening sessions were targeted towards an adult audience of parents, caregivers and service providers.

Presentations were well received and generated a great deal of discussion and feedback from both youth and adults.

Following the sessions, discussions were held on how the Department of Health and Social Development can partner with other agencies to play a more active role in addressing the issue of bullying in our communities with the hopes of creating greater emotional safety for our children and youth.

For more information on Ryan’s Story and resources to address bullying and related issues, please visit www.ryanpatrickhalligan.org.

NUTAQAVUT SIVUNIKSAVUT - OUR CHILDREN, OUR FUTURE

National Inuit Early Childhood Education Gathering huge success

More than 100 early childhood educators from the four Inuit regions (Inuvialuit, Nunavik, Nunavut and Nunatsiavut), as well as delegates from the two urban Inuit projects in Ottawa and Montreal, gathered in Happy Valley Goose Bay this past March for the “Nutaqavut Sivuniksavut Our Children, Our Future” National Inuit Early Childhood Education (ECE) Gathering.

The purpose of this gathering was to share successes and knowledge, showcase Inuit specific materials, attend workshops, and celebrate Inuit Early Childhood Education.

Nunatsiavut Government Department of Health and Social Development played host to this ground-breaking meeting – the first ever national conference held purposely for ‘Inuit early years teachers’.

The main source of funding was accessed by the Nunatsiavut Government’s Department of Health and Social Development through a proposal to the Aboriginal Head Start Strategic Project Fund. Additional funding came from the Quebec Region, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada and First Air.

During the gathering Carol Rowan, of Tagataga Inc., facilitated a session in which participants were asked to think about five things that the Prime Minister of Canada should know about Inuit Early Childhood Education. The following are the five key points developed by the group and sent to Prime Minister Harper:

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Nutaquvut Sivuniksavut – National Inuit Early Childhood Education
Gathering organizers and participants, March 2010.

National Inuit Early Childhood Education gathering successful

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1. Demonstrate the value of Inuit Early Childhood Education through investment. This includes investment in buildings and people (teachers, administrators, cooks, janitors, bus drivers) and Inuit specific materials and resources.

2. Invest in infrastructure. Some of the childcare facilities in Inuit communities do not meet minimum building codes, which is why some are closed. In other places because of a lack of buildings, no childcare services can be offered. Funding is required for new buildings for new spaces and renovation of existing spaces to enhance and bring to code.

3. Recognize and support Inuit languages. This message addresses the need to build curriculum, create teaching and educational resources and materials that are linguistically and culturally appropriate and that are grounded in Inuit knowledge, world view and ways.

4. Recognize early years teachers and administrators. Support training and professional development; pay and benefits on par with teachers; and, create permanent positions

with long term contracts. Also, take steps to attract more men to a career in early childhood education.

5. Programs in partnership with stakeholders. This involves accessing and involving voices of the community, including elders, parents, and children with special needs.

Many of the delegates brought along with them Inuit specific classroom and cultural materials which they use to teach their preschoolers. The Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development attended the conference and had a display set upon the Encyclopedia on Early Childhood Development. Throughout the event cultural foods were available such as berries, arctic char and caribou meat.

The gathering provided a unique opportunity for educators to see themselves as part of a network of Inuit early years teachers who share a common reason in working to meet the needs of Inuit children in culturally, linguistically, developmentally and demographically appropriate ways. Participants expressed great satisfaction in being part of this first ever conference of its kind.

Aboriginal Health Transition Fund

A project entitled, Adaptation of CYFS Foster Parent Training (PRIDE) to Reflect Aboriginal Culture and Promote Recruitment and Retention of Aboriginal Foster Parents has been approved through the Aboriginal Health Transition Fund.

This project has identified three specific goals, namely: the development and implementation of a promotional campaign that focuses specifically on aboriginal foster parents; the adaptation of the current foster parent training program PRIDE (Parent Resources for Information, Development and Education) to reflect aboriginal families and culture; and the planning of a symposium for all foster parents in the region to be held within the next year.

These goals will be supported by the development of a Foster Care Support Program, through Nunatsiavut Government's Department of Health and Social Development.

The program will be guided by principles that are congruent with the mission and vision of the department and the Child, Youth and Family Services Act.

In addition to supporting efforts for recruitment and training of foster parents, the program will provide ongoing support, referral and advocacy services to foster parents and the children in their care.

The PRIDE training program has been adapted, and a detailed review with recommended changes has been submitted. Final approval of this adaptation is required from the Department of Child, Youth and Family Services. Once approved, training for foster parents will be held in Hopedale. Further training will be provided as the need arises.

The weekend of October 22, 2010 has been selected for a symposium to be held in Hopedale. This event will provide an opportunity for all foster parents from Nunatsiavut to come together. Further information and a program for the event will be circulated in late August.

Many have supported the PRIDE Adaptation Project. This support will aid in improving services to the children in care. Sincere thanks to everyone who has helped. We look forward to meeting all foster parents in the months ahead.

Briefly from the Tourism Division

Hebron Ambassador Program 2010

Building on the success of the 2009 program, the Tourism Division is continuing the Hebron Ambassador Program for the 2010 summer season. In partnership with the Torngâsok Cultural Centre, the Nunatsiavut Government will administer this year's program as a means to provide an authentic Inuit experience for visitors, gather tourism research, and monitor the Moravian Mission complex.

Data collection and promotion

The division has developed industry statistics and product listings to aid in the promotion, development, and community engagement in Nunatsiavut's tourism sector. As a tool to encourage community visitation, the below listings highlight local talents and services for incoming tourists and operators. To ensure your business or services are listed, contact the division at (709) 947-3568 or tourism@nunatsiavut.com.

Mealy Mountain National Park Reserve

The February 2010 announcement of the Mealy Mountain National Park Reserve positions Nunatsiavut as a unique destination. The proximity of the proposed park to Nunatsiavut presents specific tourism opportunities that include community benefits, economic development, cultural promotion, and gateway services. To maximize the opportunities associated with a park development, the Nunatsiavut Government has engaged Parks Canada to ensure Inuit inclusion in the Mealy Mountain negotiations.



Some of those involved in the launch of Rosie. From left, front: Michelle Kinney, Deputy Minister, Nunatsiavut Department of Health and Social Development; provincial Aboriginal Affairs Minister Patty Pottle; Hulda Merkuratsuk of Nain; and Regional Nurse Pat Crotty. Back: Jim Cincotta, senior policy advisor with ITK; Sarah Leo, Angajuk-Kak of Nain; Dr. Ivar Mendez; and Debra Keays-White, Health Canada.

Robotic doctor on call at Nain clinic

People living in Nain now have access to faster, more comprehensive health care. A Remote Presence Robotic System has been installed at the Nain Community Clinic, enabling residents to receive medical care without having to travel elsewhere. The initiative was officially launched on July 8.

The remote-controlled robot, affectionately referred to as "Rosie", stands 65 inches tall and has a computer-screen head which serves as a physician's eyes and ears. Its two-way audio and video capabilities enable individuals to be physically located in one location and virtually present in another at the same time.

"It's the first of its kind in the Canadian North," said Dr. Ivar Mendez, chairman of Halifax's Brain Repair Centre. He's also professor and head of Dalhousie Medical School's and Capital Health's Division of Neurosurgery. Dr. Mendez, in partnership with Health Canada, initiated the setup of the robot in the Nain clinic. "Though currently a feasibility project in Nain, this robotic technology has the potential to open the door to accessible, equitable patient care on a national level."

"This robotic technology offers the peo-

ple of Nain the comfort of an extra layer of medical care and support on a 24/7 basis," said Dr. Michael Jong, vice-president of medical services, Labrador-Grenfell Health in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. "It's especially valuable when there's an emergency and when ice, snow and other treacherous weather conditions do not allow for safe passage to Happy Valley-Goose Bay, a one and-a-half hour flight away."

"The Government of Canada is proud to work with First Nations and Inuit communities, provinces and health-care partners to explore innovative ways of delivering health services to remote and isolated communities," said Federal Minister of Health Leona Aglukkaq. "This pilot project could make health care more accessible in areas where doctors are not readily available."

Through a secure internet connection, the robot allows medical assessments and diagnoses to take place in real-time. Patient-specific medical data, such as ultrasound images, can be transmitted through the robot. Medical personnel can lead resuscitation, discuss treatment plans and interact with patients and the local health team – all from afar.

The Membership Division is the key/core function of the Department of Nunatsiavut Affairs.

During the transition period from the Labrador Inuit Association to the Nunatsiavut Government, there needed to be a more formal procedure for enrolling Beneficiaries of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement. An Appointments Committee was set up to form Inuit Enrolment Committees in the communities of Nain, Hopedale, Postville, Makkovik, and Rigolet, with consideration given to the Upper Lake Melville to ensure representation for membership in that region. At the same time, a Regional Inuit Appeals Board was appointed to deal with any appeals from applicants who were denied enrollment.

On Dec. 1, 2005, the Nunatsiavut Government unanimously passed the Beneficiaries Enrolments Act - an Inuit Law to provide for procedures related to the enrolment of Beneficiaries. The Act has allowed the department to properly process membership applications as they are received, and in turn sets out the procedures for the Membership Committees and the Inuit Appeals Board to follow in applying the criteria as set out in the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement.

ROLE AND MANDATE

The role the Membership Division, particularly through the Membership Committees and the Inuit Appeals Board, is mainly to identify who are Inuit, and then maintaining that list in the Register of Beneficiaries - the foundation on which the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement is built - and the rights and benefits that come with being enrolled as a Beneficiary.

PROCESS AND CRITERIA

If an individual feels he/she meets the eligibility criteria as set out in the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement, they first have to fill out an application for enrolment, which is available in all of our Inuit community offices as well as online at www.@nunatsiavut.com.

Membership Division update

Once the application is received at the head office in Nain: it is stamped and dated; photocopied and logged in the log book, and given a serial number; checked to see which Inuit Membership Committee the applicant has checked for the review of their application; completed, and checked to see if all relevant sections have been filled out; put into different sections of incoming applications with the appropriate Membership Committee that will be doing the reviews; notification is sent to the applicant and the chairpersons of each Membership Committee that applications have been received using the templates as set out in the Nunatsiavut Government Beneficiaries Enrolment Procedures Manual; and filed as pending, and sent to the appropriate Membership Committee for review.

The Membership Committees are required to review applications on a monthly basis, where applicants are either accepted as having met the eligibility criteria, or a preliminary decision to deny the application, until further information or proof is required.

The administration office in Nain receives minutes of every meeting and decisions, along with copies of letters that are sent to each applicant by chairpersons of Membership Committees.

For all applicants that are approved, the membership clerk does up a letter of approval on behalf of the Registrar of Beneficiaries, along with a Nunatsiavut Government Beneficiary card, and any relevant information that relates to benefits and rights under the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement.

Those who do not provide further information as requested by the Membership Committees after a specified time, are sent a letter of final denial informing them that they do not meet the eligibility criteria and that they have the right to appeal the decision to the Inuit

Appeals Board. In all cases, individuals who have received notices of denial have written letters of appeal to have their applications reviewed.

Only the Membership Committees and the Inuit Appeals Board decide who is eligible to be on the Register. No one else has any right, power or authority to make those decisions. Elected officials and civil servants of the Nunatsiavut Government have no role in deciding who is entitled to be registered as a Beneficiary.

TRAINING

Following concerns from the Membership Committee members and the Inuit Appeals Board about applying the criteria properly, a total of four training workshops were held (over the last three years). The workshops, attended by members of the Membership Committees, the Inuit Appeals Board, Community Liaison Officers, and the Membership Division office staff, were held to familiarize themselves with Chapter 3 of the LILCA, the Beneficiaries Enrolment Act, and the introduction of a Beneficiaries Enrolment Procedures Manual.

The first draft of the Procedures Manual came about in April of 2008 to compliment the Beneficiaries Enrolment Act, and to help the members of the Inuit Membership Committees in making their decisions about the eligibility of applicants in an organized, informed, fair, and timely manner to carry out the various duties that are part of a fair decision-making process.

As of Sept. 2009, a new revised Beneficiaries Enrolment Procedures Manual has been developed for use by both the Inuit Membership Committees, the Inuit Appeals Board, and the office of the Registrar of Beneficiaries. There are some 7,100 enrolled as Beneficiaries. New applications received and processed at the Registrar's office, and reviewed by the Inuit Membership Committees exceeds 2,500. The Inuit Appeals Board has reviewed more than 60 applications since being established.

Funding provided for traditional knowledge project

Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation has been successful in receiving \$118,070 from Health Canada's Climate Change and Health Adaptation in Northern First Nations and Inuit Communities Program.

The proposal, Traditional Knowledge: A Blueprint for Change, is partnership between Sivunivut and the Labrador Institute of Memorial University. It was developed as a one-year project with the flexibility for a second year of study, dependent on the research findings and sub-

ject to funding. It will include significant local Inuit youth training with respect to the collection and documentation of traditional knowledge. The Labrador Institute will help provide training to community members on methods for collecting and analyzing traditional knowledge, including the use of GIS, video, audio, and interviewing techniques.

Once training is complete, residents of North West River will collect traditional knowledge on the location, importance and threats to fresh water, sea ice, sensi-

tive habitats and species. The study area is centered on North West River and will focus on current and historic Inuit land and resource use of the region. Once these locations are specified, data will be entered and a map of these sensitive/hazardous areas will be developed for public viewing and use. The traditional knowledge gathered on these areas will be documented and kept as a record for future use.

It is anticipated this project will begin in late summer or early fall.

Amendment to LILCA

The federal, provincial and Nunatsiavut governments have ratified and legislated Chapter 24 of Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement (Nunavik Inuit /Labrador Inuit Overlap Agreement) as required under a Memorandum of Understanding (Amendments to LILCA) dated Dec. 1, 2005.

The technical amendments (written land descriptions) required under that MOU are mapping errors identified in the Map Atlas after the Land Claims Agreement was approved, but prior to Dec. 1, 2005. These technical amendments are now negotiated and the text has undergone final legal review. There are still a couple issues that need to be resolved before the document can be presented to the three governments in both languages, as required by Canada. It is expected these technical amendments will be tabled during the fall sitting of the Nunatsiavut Assembly.



Driver Desmond Chaulk and Health and Social Development Minister Keith Russell

alongside the new ground transportation vehicle. – photo courtesy of *The Labradorian*

New ground transportation vehicle purchased

The Nunatsiavut Government's Department of Health and Social Development recently purchased a new ground transportation bus.

With a price tag of \$92,000, the vehicle can carry 16 passengers and accommodate two wheelchairs. It will be used to medically transport Beneficiaries of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement from Nunatsiavut who have to fly to Happy Valley-Goose Bay for medical treatment. It will also be available for Beneficiaries in Upper Lake Melville who

have medical appointments.

"It's a great piece of equipment," says Health and Social Development Minister Keith Russell. "I couldn't think of a better thing to spend money on. We've provided ground transport up to this point but not on this level of this accessibility, so this is definitely an upgrade in our services for Beneficiaries." With an aging membership, Mr. Russell said wheelchair accessibility was a key factor in looking for a new vehicle.

Message from the Minister of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

I am very pleased to be appointed the new minister of this very important department. Our culture is the very basis of our Land Claims Agreement and our traditional and current use of our land is the backdrop to our government.



Our three divisions, Torngâsok Cultural Centre; Youth, Elder and Recreation; and Tourism are very busy and currently staffed by a dedicated team of more than a dozen people.

The department is mandated to ensure the preservation of Inuit language, culture, traditions; to promote recreation and sport; to advance youth and elder issues; and to position Nunatsiavut as an international tourism destination.

The department promotes a vibrant Inuit culture that is protected by the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement.

As minister, I intend to ensure the department is responsive and people-oriented, focusing on sound program delivery.

The core of the department is language vitality and safeguarding, responsible cultural resource management, cultural transfer via sustainable tourism, elder and youth leadership empowerment and activities and promotion of recreational pursuits.

There will be emphasis on traditional ways, while evolving with innovative ideas to achieve our goals. I look forward to working with all beneficiaries in the months and years to come.

Plans under way to return human remains to Zoar

The Torngâsok Cultural Centre (TCC) and the Field Museum of Natural History (Chicago, IL, U.S.A.) is working on plans for the repatriation of the remains of 22 individuals to the former northern Labrador Inuit community of Zoar.

The remains had been removed from an abandoned Moravian church mission during the Rawson-MacMillan Sub-Arctic Expedition of 1927-1928. Field Museum anthropologist William Duncan Strong (1899-1962) was a member of that expedition. His job was to collect natural history specimens and archaeological material that could shed light on the antiquity of people in Labrador.

While the museum was aware that it held these human remains, it had only a limited understanding of how the remains came into its collections. Recently, however, researchers working for Labrador and the museum completed an analysis of historical documents that reveal much more about the origin of these remains. According to these documents, including Duncan Strong's own journal, these remains were removed from marked Inuit graves despite opposition by residents of Nain and Hopedale; and Strong otherwise misled the community about his activities. Thereafter, he took the remains to the Field Museum where they have been ever since.

"We are deeply saddened by this incident. While Field Museum employees of today did not commit this wrong, we recognize that these actions did not comply with ethical archaeological practices, either past or current. We also recognize the emotional impact of this situation, and we are committed to working with the

Labrador Inuit community to bring their relatives home in full accordance with the community's wishes," stated John McCarter, Field Museum president, in a news release issued July 19.

The Museum has agreed to cover all costs associated with returning the remains to Labrador.

The TCC and the Field Museum have made significant efforts to develop a respectful plan for the return. Since 2008, the TCC, with the support of the Nunatsiavut Government, and the Field Museum

have been engaged in active consultation regarding the repatriation. Earlier this year, officials with the Nunatsiavut Government traveled to Chicago where they met with Field Museum anthropologists and reviewed all of the materials related to the removal of these human remains.

"The removal of these remains was immoral, disrespectful and disgraceful," said Johannes Lampe, Nunatsiavut's Minister of Culture, Recreation and Tourism. "While we can't change the past, we can do the right thing now and ensure these individuals are returned to their rightful resting place."

The TCC has had limited success in trying to identify the remains.

"Those who have an historical attachment to Zoar are encouraged to come forward and to offer any information they think may be useful as plans proceed with repatriation," said Minister Lampe.

"I want to thank the Field Museum for its cooperation and commitment in working with us through this process," Minister Lampe said. "While there is still plenty of work that needs to be done, we are confident the remains will be repatriated sometime next summer."

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- Minister Lampe