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# Tugâpvik NUNATSIAVUT

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## Bachelor of Social Work program recognized nationally

The Nunatsiavut Government sponsored Bachelor of Social Work program has received a national award.

Ashoka Canada, The Counselling Foundation of Canada, The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative and partners announced March 26 some 30 award-winning ideas and projects that took top honours in the Changemakers Initiative: Inspiring Approaches to First Nations, Métis and Inuit Learning. The Bachelor of Social Work Program, being offered in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, was the only project to receive an award in Newfoundland and Labrador.

“More than 50 global Changemakers

initiatives have been held on many different topics,” noted Elisha Muskat, Ashoka Canada’s executive director. “However, Inspiring Approaches is the first in Canada, and has been especially meaningful. The collaboration of many diverse groups has led to the most important outcome: an outpouring of inspiring ideas and projects whose quality is demonstrated by the winners.”

Through its website, the Changemakers initiative received 266 entries offering innovative ideas and insights into First Nations, Métis and Inuit education and learning. More than \$90,000 will be

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**Students of the Nunatsiavut Government sponsored Bachelor of Social Work program in Happy Valley-Goose Bay.**

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awarded to 30 winning ideas and projects, ranging from integrating Aboriginal stories and storytelling techniques into video-game design, to a program that helps First Nations girls in foster care reconnect with their culture and heritage.

“The Changemakers initiative on First Nations, Metis and Inuit learning demonstrates how much can be achieved when organizations work together with the national Aboriginal leadership,” stated the Right Honourable Paul Martin. “I am very pleased to see the range of submissions. The projects and ideas demonstrate that creativity and partnership can combine to creative innovative solutions.”

The guiding vision of the Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative (MAEI), a registered-charitable organization es-

tablished by the former Prime Minister and his family, is to empower aboriginal students with the knowledge and confidence they need to complete secondary school and go on to post-secondary studies.

“A critical key to employment is closing the education gap,” said social entrepreneur Kelly Lendsay, a judge for the initiative and an internationally recognized innovator in Canada. “To receive 266 entries signals the change, innovation, and impact that is happening in our schools and communities across the country.”

Award winners will be honoured at a summit to be held in Gatineau, Quebec, from April of 16 to 18 – a celebration that connects people, ideas, and funders to generate new opportunities in First Nations, Métis and Inuit education and learning.

## NGC and Air Labrador sign partnership agreement

NGC Nunatsiavut Inc. reached an agreement to become a 51 per cent shareholder in Air Labrador Limited in early February. The announcement was made during the Northern Lights Conference and Trade Exhibition by Clint Davis, Chairperson of the Labrador Inuit Capital Strategy Trust and member of the NGC Board; James Thorbourne, President and CEO of NGC Nunatsiavut Inc.; and Philip Earle, President and CEO of Air Labrador.

Air Labrador provides passenger and cargo transportation services to 25 communities in Nunatsiavut, Labrador, Newfoundland, Quebec and Nunavut. A fully-accredited Canadian airline licensed by Transport Canada and the Canadian Transportation Agency to conduct business in Canada, Air Labrador was born out of the former Labrador Airways Limited, which was established in Newfoundland in 1948, making it one of the oldest established airlines in Canada. Since then it has operated successfully under a solid Labrador brand.

“LICST and NGC have taken a major step forward in gaining a majority ownership position in another critical component of the supply chain to the Nunatsiavut communities,” says Mr. Davis. “It brings air transport home to the people of Nunatsiavut where it belongs.”

“The addition of Air Labrador to our family allows the Nunatsiavut Group of Companies to offer integrated transportation and logistics solutions to those wanting to carry out projects in the region,” adds Mr. Thorbourne. “Air Labrador is the perfect complement to our existing business lines – tugs/barges, construction, remote camp operations and logistics.”

“This is a great day for the airline,” says Mr. Earle. “It marks a new beginning for a new partnership, allowing the company to embrace existing and future economic activities within Nunatsiavut and the other regions served by our airline. This new partnership will allow the company to

contribute back in a meaningful way to the communities and customers who have ensured the airline’s success for the past 60 years.”

NGC Nunatsiavut Inc., operating as the Nunatsiavut Group of Companies (NGC), is the business arm of the Nunatsiavut Government. Reporting to the Labrador Inuit Capital Strategy Trust, NGC’s mission is to create wealth for Beneficiaries of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement by owning profitable, sustainable businesses. NGC’s business lines include marine transportation, commercial real estate, construction, remote camp operations, logistics, heavy civil, and now air transportation. NGC brings capacity and expertise to projects in Labrador and beyond.

LICST provides independent oversight of NGC, as is comprised of five trustees: Clint Davis (Chair), Isabella Pain, Natan Obed, Kristy Sheppard and James Igloliorte, all of whom are Beneficiaries of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement and appointed by the Nunatsiavut Government.



**James Thorbourne, President and CEO, NGC Nunatsiavut Inc.; Philip Earle, President and CEO, Air Labrador Limited; and Clint Davis, Chair, Labrador Inuit Capital Strategy Trust, and Chair, NGC Nunatsiavut Inc.**

## Moratorium officially lifted

The moratorium on the working, production, mining and development of uranium on Labrador Inuit Lands was officially lifted on March 8.

“With the Nunatsiavut Government’s Environmental Protection Act coming into force, an amendment was made to our Labrador Inuit Lands Act to officially lift the moratorium,” says Nunatsiavut’s Lands and Natural Resources Minister Glen Sheppard.

The moratorium was imposed in April 2008 to enable the Nunatsiavut Government to establish and lands administration system, develop environmental protection legislation and to

allow for the completion of a land use plan for the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area.

The amendment to the Labrador Inuit Lands Act that put the moratorium in place required a review of the decision be conducted after March 31, 2011. That reviewed was completed this past December. It was indicated at that moratorium would be lifted, by way of an amendment to the Labrador Inuit Lands Act, once the Nunatsiavut Government’s Environmental Protection Act came into force. The Nunatsiavut Assembly set a deadline of March 9, 2012 to have the Environmental Protection Act in place.

## Government releases Strategic Plan

In fulfilling a commitment he made when he was elected in May of 2008, Nunatsiavut President Jim Lyall announced the release of the Nunatsiavut Government’s first-ever Strategic Plan in early March.

“This plan will help guide us in reaching our vision of ensuring our people and our communities are vibrant and self-sufficient, where our culture and traditions are practiced and protected,” says President Lyall. “The primary function of every government is to build for the future, to ensure the necessary tools are in place to encourage economic growth and social stability.”

The Strategic Plan outlines six main priorities for the Nunatsiavut Govern-

ment over the next three years, including:

1. clarifying the roles between the Nunatsiavut Government, the five Labrador Inuit Community Governments, and the two Inuit Community Corporations in Upper Lake Melville;
2. the transition of government personnel to Nunatsiavut;
3. capacity building;
4. economic and resource development;
5. housing; and
6. revitalization of Inuit culture and language.

“While this plan will not address all of our needs, it does provide a good foundation on which to build for the future,” says President Lyall.

### Award of Excellence in Nursing

Congratulations to Sophie Pamak, home care nurse in Hopedale, on being this year’s recipient of the First Nation Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) Award of Excellence in Nursing. This is a national award comprised of three categories: one for a nurse employed with FNIHB, one for a nurse employed in a First nation community and one award for a nurse working in an Inuit community.

Sophie will be travelling to Ottawa in May to accept her award and \$2,500 scholarship for professional development.

## Welcome



Wilson Jararuse is now a member of the Nunatsiavut Government’s civil service as a full-time translator/interpreter.

Born in Hebron, Wilson and his family were relocated to Makkovik in 1959 and eventually moved to Hopedale before settling in Nain in 1963.

In 1981 Wilson took interpreter/translator training for six months under the instruction of former LIA founding President Sam Andersen. He has worked as a radio producer and program coordinator with OKâlaKatiget Society and later worked for LIA as interpreter/translator during the land claims negotiations.

Wilson has attended a number of workshops on terminology and has been involved as an interpreter/translator for Parks Canada and other key agencies.

He is a member of the Nain Moravian Church committee and a chapel servant, and also serves as chair of the Nain Membership Committee.

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# Nunatsiavut Government hands down 2012-13 budget

The Nunatsiavut Government's 2012-13 budget focuses on building for the future, with a goal of strengthening the cultural, social and economic wellbeing of Labrador Inuit communities and Beneficiaries of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement, says Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology Minister Danny Pottle.

"In keeping with our commitment to implement our Strategic Plan, this year's budget strikes a balance between fiscal realities and building for the future," says the Minister. "I am confident that this budget will help position the Nunatsiavut Government to better meet the needs of our people while, at the same time, planting the seeds for future social and economic growth a prosperity for all of Nunatsiavut."

Of the \$59,872,205 budgeted for the 2011-12 fiscal year, which begins April 1, a total of \$19,962,101 will be used for government administration. This expenditure will be offset from own-source revenues of the same amount, which includes a surplus of more than \$5.6 million from the previous fiscal year.

A total of \$39,910,104 is aside to deliver programs and services under the Fiscal Financing Agreement, which 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. The FFA 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.

The budget was presented during a sitting of the Nunatsiavut Assembly in Nain this week. It sets aside funding for a number of initiatives within each government department.

The Nunatsiavut Secretariat will receive funding to:

- conduct a workshop to clarify the roles, responsibilities and mandates between the Nunatsiavut Government, the five Inuit Community Governments and the two Inuit Community Corporations in Upper Lake Melville;
- maintain an electronic registry of Inuit laws; and
- establish a photo library.

The Department of Nunatsiavut Affairs will:

- hire additional legal counsel;
- increase funding to the Membership Committee; and
- hire a membership co-ordinator.

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources will:

- establish a permanent fisheries specialist position;
- purchase fishing opportunities (licences, quotas, etc.);
- fund research for a salmon counting fence for the Lake Melville/Rigolet area;
- construct two storage facilities for equipment used by conservation officers;
- establish a position to assist with implementation of the Nunatsiavut Government's Environmental Protection Act and Regulations;
- increase research budget to

study impacts of the proposed Lower Churchill development; and

- hire a permanent lands manager.

The Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism will:

- provide funding to the Torngat Recreation Commission;
- hire a permanent archaeological assistant and two part-time language liaison positions;
- conduct an interpreter/translator conference;
- provide funding for the Inuagualuit Nest, family Inuttitit classes and an Inuttitit training program;
- assist with the restoration efforts at Hebron;
- co-ordinate a ceremony at Nutak to mark the relocation of former residents;
- maintain the product development's position with the Tourism Division and to develop new marketing programs; and
- enhance the Nunatsiavut Government's Hebron Ambassador's Program.

The Department of Education and Economic Development will:

- provide funding for the kangidluasuk Student Program, Students on Ice; and
- build on its Community Economic Development Fund.

This year's budget also sets aside funding for two major infrastructure projects, namely a new office complex, daycare and dental clinic for Makkovik, and \$1.6 million (over two years) towards the proposed Torngâsok Cultural Centre for Nain.

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# Harnessing the wind in Nain

A new pilot program, funded by the Department of Health and Social Development and supported by Tourism Nunatsiavut took to the ice in Nain in March. The program, known as Arctic Snow Sailing, worked with a core group of five young adults to teach them how to snow sail. Hopefully, they will eventually become instructors for the community.

Snow sailing is a very new sport popping-up throughout different Arctic regions, such as Nunavut and Nunavik. Also known as ‘paraskiing’, participants harness the wind with

a pair of skis and a sail and travel on the sea ice. Whether going out for the day for a fun ride, or traveling a week on a hunting trip, snow sailing offers an unforgettable and innovative experience to anyone interested in trying.

“Youth become more healthy, they are proud, and they can train to become instructors to teach, inspire, and eventually guide with this new method of transportation,”

says snow sailing instructor and founder of the sport in Labrador, Benoit Havard, adding that snow sailing programs are about more than having fun.

“Communities such as Pangnirtung (Nunavut) have seen a marked reduction in crime,” says Mr. Havard. “Snow sailing breaks boundaries and enables youth to realize skills and abilities, develop discipline, and work towards a common goal.”

With the first trip to Nain complete, Mr. Havard and the organizing team at Nunatsiavut Tourism are preparing for his

second trip to the community from April 4-11. This second trip will be a chance to introduce the sport to anyone that is interested in trying, with a particular emphasis on youth. Based on the success of the Arctic Snow Sailing pilot program, consideration is being given on how to expand the sport into different communities in Nunatsiavut. -A new wind is blowing!



## Film tells story of unique musical tradition of Labrador Inuit

A new documentary film *Till We Meet Again; Moravian Music in Labrador* received its official world premiere March 7 in Nain. Produced and directed by award-winning film maker Nigel Markham, the film tells the story of the unique musical tradition of the Labrador Inuit.

In the 18th Century, Moravian missionaries from Eastern Europe settled among Inuit on the Labrador coast. They came to preach Christianity and one of their tools was music. So began the remarkable tradition of church music in the northern Labrador communities. Within a few short years, the music of Haydn and Bach was being performed by Inuit choirs accompanied by small string orchestras. Community brass bands also formed.

*Till We Meet Again; Moravian Music in Labrador* follows the tour of the Innismara Vocal Ensemble and a group of instrumentalists from St. John's as they travel

the Labrador coast, to perform with local choirs, and celebrate a musical legacy that remains fixed in the hearts of the people. Archival photos and interviews with musician Elders are woven throughout the footage of the tour, resulting in a rich tapestry of this extraordinary music's past, present and future.

Filmmaker Nigel Markham is known for his previous film portraits of the Labrador Inuit, among them, *The Last Days of Okak* (1985) and *Eye of the Storm* (1997). *Till We Meet Again* emerged from a collaboration between Memorial University researchers Tom Gordon and Tim Borlase, the Nunatsiavut Government and the Moravian Church of Newfoundland and Labrador. Funding for this project was provided, in part, by a substantial grant from the Social Sciences and Research Council of Canada.

# Northern Lights Conference 2012

Held every two years, the Northern Lights Business and Cultural Showcase, is aimed at promoting Canada's North, specifically the regions of Nunavut, Nunavik, and Labrador/Nunatsiavut.

It offers a unique opportunity for businesses of all sizes, from all sectors and all levels of government to explore the vast opportunities developing in Canada's central and eastern Arctic and Northern regions.

Over 140 exhibitors, nearly 1,300 participants and thousands of visitors took part in this year's event, held at the Ottawa Convention Centre from February 1-4. The event featured conference sessions, a trade show, workshops and an arts and crafts pavilion.



The Nunatsiavut Government has had a presence at the Northern Lights since its inception in 2008. Representatives from every government department, as well as the majority of elected officials, participated in the 2008 event.

In planning for the 2012 event, a committee was established to determine the level of Nunatsiavut Government involvement. The committee was comprised of the Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information, the Director of Communications, and the Director of Education and Economic Development.

The Nunatsiavut Government consulted, collaborated and partnered with the Nunatsiavut Group of Companies to ensure the greatest amount of exposure for Nunatsiavut.

## Director of Health Services retires

Best wishes to Gail Turner on her recent retirement as the Director of Health Services for the Nunatsiavut Government.

"Gail's passion and love of nursing will be dearly missed by all of us working in the nursing programs," says Tina Buckle, Community Health Nursing Coordinator for the Nunatsiavut Government's Department of Health and Social Development. "She has given so much of herself and her time to address the health disparities of Labrador Inuit at the regional, provincial and national level. We'll miss her knowledge, passion and leadership, but she has left a lasting impression on each of us that were fortunate enough to work closely with her."

## Lyll not seeking re-election

Nunatsiavut President Jim Lyll announced March 7 that he will not be seeking re-election this spring.

"My decision not to run for a second term was a difficult one to make," he says. "I feel that I have accomplished a lot during my tenure, and I am confident that in some small way I have helped to build a solid foundation for the future of Nunatsiavut and Beneficiaries of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement.

"When I was elected as President nearly four years ago, one of my key priorities was to establish a Strategic Plan that will guide our government into the future," adds President Lyll. "This plan will help us in reaching our vision of ensuring our people and our communities are vibrant and self-sufficient, where our culture and traditions are practiced and protected.

"As a government we have made tremendous progress over the past couple of years," adds President Lyll. "I want to thank all Beneficiaries of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement, and members of the Nunatsiavut Assembly for the support they have given me."

President Lyll will remain in office until a successor is sworn in. The general election for President will be held on May 1.

## Minister of Education and Economic Development resigns

Nunatsiavut President Jim Lyll announced March 7 the resignation of Susan Nochasak as Minister of Education and Economic Development.

"Ms. Nochasak has informed me that she no longer wishes to serve as Minister because of personal reasons, and I have accepted her decision," says President Lyll.

Ms. Nochasak has served as a member of the Nunatsiavut Executive Council since being elected to the legislative assembly two years ago. She will continue to sit in the legislature as the Ordinary Member for Hopedale.

First Minister Darryl Shiwak will assume the added responsibilities of Minister of Education and Economic Development until a successor is appointed.