



Tugâpvik NUNATSIAVUT

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Inuit leaders meet with Prime Minister

Nunatsiavut President Sarah Leo, along with other national Inuit leaders, held a meeting with Prime Minister Harper on August 22 in Rankin Inlet. This was the first-ever meeting between Inuit leaders and the Government of Canada.

The Prime Minister was joined by Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of the Environment, Minister of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency and Minister for the Arctic Council; Bernard Valcourt, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development; and Joe Oliver, Minister of Natural Resources. Nunavut Senator Dennis Patterson and Yukon MP Ryan Leef also participated as observers.



Prime Minister Harper and President Leo in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut.

“We brought forward the need for inclusion of Nunatsiavut, as well as Nunavik, in Arctic policy making,” notes President Leo. “We are often left out of federal funding programs, specifically designed for the North due to jurisdictional issues – something that has to be changed if we are to meet some of the current challenges we face, not the least of which is the critical need for housing.”

Other areas of discussion included economic development, the need for search and rescue capabilities, funding for skills development and implementation of the National Strategy on Inuit Education, and the need for the federal government to take a more aggressive approach to implementation of Inuit land claims agreements.

The Prime Minister was also invited to Nunatsiavut – the only Inuit region in the country where he has yet to visit.



Second level of Rosetta Stone Inuttitut launched

The Rosetta Stone language learning software for Inuttitut was launched in Hopedale in June.

“The revitalization of our language is one of the key priorities of the Nunatsiavut Government,” says Culture, Recreation and Tourism Minister Johannes Lampe. “Our language helps define us as a people, and we have to do everything we can to ensure Inuttitut is not only practiced, but preserved for future generations.”

The Rosetta Stone software uses images, text, sound, and video to teach words and grammar by spaced repetition, without translation. The first level of the Labrador Inuttitut version was released in the fall of 2007.

“The first level of the program has proven to be a huge success,” notes Minister Lampe. “We are confident the second level will be even more successful. We are hopeful more people will take advantage of it as we strive to keep our language alive.”

Copies of the Rosetta Stone Level II program are available to Beneficiaries of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement at a reduced cost. The software can be obtained from each Nunatsiavut community office, as well as from the Nunatsiavut Government Administration Building in Nain, the Hillcrest office in Happy Valley-Goose Bay and the Canadian Constituency office in St. John’s.

Aboriginal Health and Wellness

It’s Time to Become Who You Already Are! Inuit Communities’ Approach to Healing the Wounds of Intergenerational Trauma

Inuit have a rich history of self-sufficiency and resiliency. Their survival is due in large part to their ability to adapt to extreme conditions. The current challenges to health are the latest of these extreme conditions and the Inuit are making every effort to adapt.

Like many aboriginal communities, Labrador Inuit struggle with the impacts of intergenerational trauma and spiritual imbalances such as addiction and other manifestations of self-harm, including suicide. The Nunatsiavut’s Department of Health and Social Development Trauma and Addictions Team, along with elders and a therapist specializing in aboriginal trauma, have designed a new workshop to address intergenerational trauma and addictions which supports healing.

The workshop helps community members use values of self-care, compassion, respect, and interpersonal support passed down by their ancestors. It provides community members with new information and tools on how to link ancient traditions and practices to reconnect to cultural pride.

The workshop mantra is: “It’s Time to Become...Who You Already Are!”

The workshop uses an approach which links western principles of trauma treatment with Inuit wisdom around balance and healing. This approach is believed to provide valuable inoculation against self-harm, while providing a framework of understanding and compassion to those who still struggle.

The team, along with elders, facilitate learning and healing by sharing a number of theories and tools with community members. Workshop topics include Inuit history; impacts of intergenerational trauma and colonization; the impact of trauma on body, mind, emotions, spirit, and relationships; connecting to the ancient past; mindfulness and grounding; containment of painful affect; self-regulation; coping with loss and grief; the use of music, imagery, and psychodrama; land-based healing; therapeutic art as healing; and, culture as healing.

The workshop is offered in every Inuit community in Labrador on a rotating basis and are open to members of the community who are ready to learn more about the above topics, heal from past losses and create positive changes in their lives.

Challenges with enrolment

The enrolment of Beneficiaries of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement continues to be a challenge for the Registrar’s Office. A workshop was held in Happy Valley-Goose Bay September 16 - 19, to assist the Membership Committees and Inuit Membership Appeal Board with the ongoing

process and procedures for enrolment of Beneficiaries. The workshop was facilitated by Veryan Haysom and Loretta Michelin and attended by the Membership Committee and Appeal Board members, the Registrar’s staff and the Community Liaison Officers.

Nunatsiavut Government files for judicial reviews over Muskrat Falls

The Nunatsiavut Government has filed for a judicial review of the Government of Canada's decision to issue a Fisheries Act Authorization to Nalcor Energy, as well as over the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's July 10 issuance of a Permit to Alter a Body of Water in relation to the Muskrat Falls hydroelectric project. The Authorization, issued by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans on July 9, essentially allows Nalcor to flood the Muskrat Falls reservoir, while the Permit to Alter a Body of Water, essentially allows Nalcor Energy to begin construction of a dam on the Churchill River and to flood the Muskrat Falls reservoir.

"We have always maintained that the Muskrat Falls project will have adverse environmental effects on the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area, negatively impact Inuit health and infringe on Inuit rights and land use," says Nunatsiavut President Sarah Leo.

The Government of Canada has failed to fully and correctly carry out the consultation requirements of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement when issuing the Fisheries Authorization, notes President Leo.

"The terms of the Permit to Alter a Body of Water fail to address the legitimate concerns we have expressed with respect to the downstream environmental effects of the Muskrat Falls project on our people, our land, and fish and wildlife we depend on. We have participated in good faith in consultations, have taken every opportunity to make our views known and have proposed reasonable mitigation measures to address these concerns, but no attempt has been made to accommodate them."

The independent environmental assessment panel commissioned to review the Muskrat Falls project supported many of the concerns being expressed by the Nunatsiavut Government, and made numerous recommendations on ways to minimize downstream effects on Inuit rights, food security and health, notes President Leo.

"Both the federal and provincial governments have failed to honor the spirit and intent of the Constitutionally-protected Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement," says President Leo. "Our land claim area includes roughly two-thirds of Lake Melville which, we believe, will be impacted by increased mercury levels from the Churchill River. Therefore, it is extremely important we take the necessary, reasonable and responsible steps to protect Inuit health and the environment."



Rigolet AngajukKâk Charlotte Wolfrey takes time to visit the site of the community's new multi-purpose building. The 8,000 square-foot structure, funded by the Tasiujatsoak Trust, is being constructed in the town's newest subdivision, and is expected to be completed next year.



His Excellency, the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada visited Hopedale in June and addressed the Nunatsiavut Assembly, met with students at Amos Comenius Memorial School and toured the community. The Governor General is shown here with members of the Nunatsiavut Assembly as well as with Nunatsiavut President Sarah Leo and AngajukKâk Wayne Piercy.

Problems with marine transportation

The Nunatsiavut Government has raised many concerns with respect to the quality of marine services, specifically the operation of the Northern Ranger. There is ongoing communication with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, as well as CAI Nunatsiavut Marine in an attempt to resolve some of the issues, including delays as a result of mechanical failures, poor service, increase freight costs, etc.

The Nunatsiavut Government is concerned that the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador does not have a contingency plan in place should the Northern Ranger go out of service permanently. The provincial government maintains that it is still committed to a new vessel by 2016. CAI/Nunatsiavut Marine has committed to having a complete refit of the Ranger done this winter. There has never been a complete refit of the vessel in her 33 years of service.

Famous Olympian visits Nunatsiavut



Olympian Clara Hughes with residents of Nain during a visit to the community in August.

One of Canada's most-famous Olympians visited Nunatsiavut in August and shared her stories on mental health and her accomplishments as an athlete. Clara Hughes is the only athlete in history to win multiple medals at both the Summer and Winter Games.

While in Nain, the six-time medalist in cycling and speed skating also joined more than 55 residents in a "Run for Fun with Clara Hughes". She mingled with the crowd and cheered runners, and walkers, across the finish line. She also met with local youth and staff of the Department of Health and Social Development, and participated in a community barbecue which featured entertainment from the Sundogs and Karrie Obed.

Prior to visiting Nain, Clara spent time in the Torngat Mountains National Park.

Hebron trip



About 150 tourists visited Hebron this summer aboard the German cruise ship MS Delphin.

By Jillian Larkham

The end of July I had the opportunity to travel to Hebron aboard the German cruise ship MS Delphin. It was my first time on a cruise ship and my first trip to Hebron. It was also the first time in many years that the ship had been to Canada.

After some concerns over ice, and the possibility the boat might have to go directly to Greenland, we finally set sail from St. Anthony.

While onboard, I gave a lecture about the history of Hebron, which was translated into German. When we arrived, a handful of people were there to meet us, including Hebron ambassadors Jenny and Buddy Merkuratsuk, along with their two boys, Julius and Simonie. Gus Semigak and Levi Nochasak, who are working on the church, were also there. It was also the first time that Torngat Arts and Crafts sent up merchandise to sell. Dana Pamak, a student worker with the Nunatsiavut Government came as well to help greet the passengers.

About 150 people landed in Hebron in two groups. Buddy and I took care of one group, while Jenny and Gus guided the other. Each group also had two translators from the cruise ship, and two bear monitors. The tours were short, but the majority of people enjoyed it.

We left for Nain the same afternoon, just as the cruise ship set course for Greenland. I am thankful to have had the opportunity to take part in the tour.

Language

LITP a Reality

The Labrador Inuttitut Training Program (LITP) is in its final year of developing an adult Inuttitut curriculum. The expected completion date for the curriculum is March 31, 2014.

In May 2013, Linguistic Consultant Elizabeth Gaton, a professor at Concordia University in Montreal, noted that on a scale of 1-8, Inuttitut is at a level 7, placing it in the endangered languages category. But the good news is she also said that it is reversible at this stage. We can reverse it and make our language stronger and more alive again.

The plan is to offer a two-year accredited course with some form of Post-Secondary Student Support Program support available. The goal of LITP is to implement a program producing fluent speakers who can read and write in Labrador Inuttitut.

Plans are already being made for the implementation of LITP in Nunatsiavut communities by a working group that has been set up to finalize the implementation plan for the project.

Asiujittailugit UKausivut Strategy

The Asiujittailugit UKausivut Strategy Committee includes partners from Nunatsiavut Government, Beneficiaries of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement, Memorial University, and the Labrador School Board, working together to advance and promote the use of Inuttitut in Nunatsiavut.

It is the hope that the language revitalization strategy will bring Inuttitut back to life in full force and prevent it from being lost. The strategy is focusing on increasing the visibility within the Nunatsiavut Government and within Labrador Inuit communities.

Translated to English “Asiujittailugit UKausivut” means “Preserve our Language.” The committee believes that revitalizing Inuttitut is the key to our identity and retention of our Inuit culture.

Youth Survey on Inuttitut

At the 2013 Youth Symposium held in Makkovik this past spring, LITP Project Manager Elsie Wolfrey conducted a survey on Inuttitut.

Out of the youth surveyed, 21 per cent were in the 12-14 years age range, 62 per cent were in the 15-19 age range, 15 per cent in the 20-24 range, and two per cent in the 25-30 range. More than 80 per cent of the youth said they can already speak some Inuttitut, 15

per cent said they cannot speak any Inuttitut and two per cent said they are fluent in Inuttitut. Nearly 90 per cent said they understand some Inuttitut while 11 per cent said they didn't understand any. A total of 45 per cent said that one or both of their parents can speak Inuttitut and 51 per cent said their parents cannot speak Inuttitut. Four per cent said they did not know. A total of 64 per cent said that one or more of their grandparents can speak Inuttitut, while 34 per cent said their grandparents cannot speak Inuttitut.

However, 94 per cent said they would like to learn Inuttitut, while six per cent said they are not interested in learning the language. Along the same lines, 90 per cent said that Inuttitut is important to their lives. Only one 10 per cent said Inuttitut is not important. As well, 87 per cent said they would be interested in doing LITP courses in the future.

Statistics Canada Household Survey

According to a 2011 household survey released by Statistics Canada in May, 63.3 per cent of Inuit can converse in Inuttitut. This is down from 68.8 per cent five years earlier. The survey showed that only 24.9 percent of Inuit in Nunatsiavut are able to converse in Inuttitut. In comparison, Inuttitut is strongest in Nunavik with 99.1 per cent speaking the language.

AIT Task Group

The purpose of the the Atausiq Inuktitut Titirauisq (AIT) Task Group is to research and identify the speech components of Inuttitut and current orthographies in use.

The group brings together Inuit language experts, who are highly proficient in spoken and written Inuttitut, from each of the main dialect groups in Canada. It also brings together government language administrators to provide advice on the introduction of a standard Inuttitut orthography. AIT will recommend an Inuttitut orthography, considering today's technology and trends that is most effective and has the best chance of advancing Inuttitut far into the future. It will also recommend a process and timeline for introducing a standard Inuttitut orthography.

The group is expected to hold its National Inuit Language Summit in the Fall of 2014. The goal of the summit will be to sign an Inuit Language Accord which will include a recommendation of a standard Inuttitut writing system to be adopted by all Inuit of Canada.

Non-Insured Health Benefits

Standard Claim Form

A standard claim form has been developed for use in the processing of personal claims for reimbursement in all of the program areas of NIHB (pharmacy, dental, vision, medical supplies and equipment, medical transportation and short-term or crisis intervention counseling). Copies of the form may be requested from the Regional Office of the Department of Health and Social Development in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. The form is available in both Inuktitut and English and come in a standard PDF format. Copies may be emailed out to Beneficiaries of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement as well. Please note that some of these expenses require prior approval. Please contact the NIHB staff if you have any questions.

Medical Transportation – Accommodations

NIHB will fund “hostel” or “friendship centre” type or private accommodations when booking clients traveling to access health services. Hotel accommodation is NOT a benefit of the NIHB program, but will be used only in cases where capacity is an issue (i.e. when there is no room or availability at the hostel or friendship centre and when the client does not have the option of staying in private accommodations).

Dental Services Outside of Nunatsiavut

A reminder that if you access any dental services outside of Nunatsiavut, the NIHB dental policy framework applies. Coverage is 90 per cent of the 2009 NL Dental Fee Guide, the same coverage offered by Health Canada. It is, or never has been, 100 per cent coverage, so you will always have an “out-of-pocket” expense.

The locum dentists that travel to the Nunatsiavut communities will do whatever procedures that they can, according to their skill-set. Anyone referred outside of Nunatsiavut must be either referred by the locum dentist (as it is a “specialist” service or beyond their skill-set) or by the clinic

nursing staff on an emergency basis. The standard approval process for NIHB’s medical transportation division will apply. Clients who seek “routine” dental services on their own will not receive medical transportation funding through NIHB, as the services are available in their home community. If you are in Happy Valley-Goose Bay for other health services, you may “piggy-back” with your appointment while you are there should you wish to seek either dental or vision services. Please contact the staff in Medical Transportation if you are unsure how to proceed or have any questions.

Reminder – Photo Identification Required for Air Travel Outside of Nunatsiavut and Happy Valley-Goose Bay

Please ensure you have government (provincial or federal) issued photo identification for you as well as any child older than 18 years of age. This is a mandatory requirement for air travel outside of Happy Valley-Goose Bay. Please note that airlines are required by federal government regulations to check identification at the departure gate for all passengers who **appear to be 18 years of age or older**. Photo identification can be arranged in your own community with the airport operator or at the Motor Registration Office in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. There is a slight administrative fee to have your photo identification completed. This fee is the responsibility of the individual or the parent/guardian.

Contact Information for Beneficiaries

Please ensure that your address and contact telephone number(s) are current and up-to-date with the Membership Office in Nain. If you move, even temporarily, please update your address. Your NIHB benefits, in some cases, depend on your place of residency (especially medical transportation benefits). You may reach the Membership Office toll-free at 1-866-922-2942.



For the first time in over five years, Inuit women gathered in Nain to attend an Inuit women’s conference. “Advancing Inuit Women: Empowering Choices Energize, Inspire, Support” was held from this past winter. A total of 32 Inuit women from across Nunatsiavut, Upper Lake Melville and St. John’s participated. Andrea Flowers, affectionately known as Aunt Joy, of Hopedale was selected to receive the first-ever Inuit Woman of the Year award by conference delegates.

Post-Secondary Student Support Program update

Another academic year has started and the PSSSP office has been kept busy in preparation for continuing and new students. As of now, we have 205 students on the 2013-2014 list, both full-time and part-time funded. We look forward to working with these students as they continue towards their future goals.

The PSSSP staff is continually working to improve services, which this year includes a bigger effort in “going green”. Instead of mailing out paper copies of the PSSSP Student Handbook, we will be mailing out the handbook, PSSSP forms and important notices to students on a USB flash drive. This has cut down tremendously on paper and mail-out costs. In addition to the flash drives, all PSSSP documents are available on the website at www.nunatsiavut.com.

IBSW Graduation

A graduation ceremony for the 17 graduates from the Inuit Bachelor of Social Work Program, funded by the Post-Secondary Student Support Program and delivered by Memorial University, was held on June 14. This is the first time a full degree program has been offered in Labrador.

Nunatsiavut President Sarah Leo and Memorial University President Dr. Gary Kachanowski offered congratulations to all of the graduates and the partners involved in the program and thanked everyone who participated in or supported the program and the students. Guest speakers included Mary Sillett, Jean Crane and Dr. Donna Hardy Cox.

The graduates were Celeste Andersen, Danielle Baikie, Tracy Blake, Erin Broomfield, Tracy Denniston, Julia Ford, Darlene Jacque, Cavelle MacNeil, Krista Mogridge, Nancy Lushman, Lorraine O’Leary, Michelle Parsons, Laurie Russell, Tracy Saunders, Linda Saunders McLean, Rita-Anne Sheppard and Desiree Wolfrey. Special note of congratulations were offered to the four students who made the Dean’s List, namely Cavelle MacNeil, Nancy Lushman, Krista Mogridge and Erin Broomfield. Special performance awards were presented to Cavelle MacNeil and Nancy Lushman while Desiree Wolfrey was presented

with the Specified Program Award.

2013 Graduates

The following students also graduated from their respective programs: Mikayla Cartwright, Bachelor Arts/Creative Writing/Canadian Irish Studies; Anita Fell, Bachelor Arts/Archaeology/Folklore; Tama Stephanie Fost, Bachelor Arts/English/Aboriginal Studies; Alyson Hardwick, Diploma Photography; Melissa Jacobs, Bachelor Science/Pharmacy; Jillian Malone, Bachelor Social Work; Ashley Martin, Diploma Digital Animation; Kaitlin Mugford, Bachelor Education/Primary and Junior; Todd Rowe, Bachelor Science(Honours)Psychology; Jennifer Shiwak, Bachelor Arts/Psychology/Sociology/Criminology; Lesley D. Tucker, Bachelor Nursing/Post RN Nurse Practitioner; Shannon Webb, Bachelor Education/Primary/Elementary/Science; and Vanessa Webb, Bachelor Nursing.

Indigenous Graduate Student Orientation Program

A total of 15 Canadian indigenous students have been chosen to attend the Indigenous Graduate Student Orientation Program at the University of Victoria. This program is funded by the Royal Bank of Canada and gives students the opportunity to explore graduate studies while attending a series of workshops, seminars and other activities.

This year, more than half of the students chosen come from Memorial University and two of those students are Labrador Inuit. Andrea Andersen from Makkovik and Lorraine O’Leary from Happy Valley-Goose Bay are both interested in pursuing graduate studies.



Students of the Inuit Bachelor of Social Work Program, funded by the Post-Secondary Student Support Program and made possible through a partnership between the Nunatsiavut Government and Memorial University, pose during their graduation ceremony in June. In all, 17 students graduated from the program. It was the first time such a program has been offered in Labrador.

National Inuit Youth Summit

Over 100 Inuit youth from across Canada's Arctic took part in this year's National Inuit Youth Summit, held August 16-21 in Kujjuuaq, Nunavik.

The Summit provided an opportunity for Inuit youth to discuss issues of mutual importance, learn leadership skills, build cultural connections and determine the priorities of the National Inuit Youth Council. Throughout the event, participants learned and shared traditional Inuit skills, knowledge, and customs; developed a variety of leadership and employability skills, and explored and discovered areas of personal interest, skill, and capacity

that they might not have valued or known about.

Nunatsiavut was represented by 10 youth and one elder. The youth delegates were: Belinda Denniston, Ocean Wyatt, Kayla Wyatt, Chelsea Barbour, Kimberly Michelin, Chaim Andersen, Caroline Nochasak, Amber Vincent, Silpa Suarak and Brenda Jararuse. The elder representative was Alice Harris.

Fun activities included a talent show (of which included the talents of Nunatsiavut's Caroline Nochasak and Chaim Andersen), a day on the land and attending Kujjuuaq's re-opening of its youth centre.



Nunatsiavut delegates coming up with priorities for our region.