



# Tugâpvik NUNATSIAVUT

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## Inuit remains returned to Rose Island

The remains of 13 Inuit were returned to northern Labrador and laid to rest during an emotional ceremony August 16. Attending the repatriation were Premier Kathy Dunderdale and Nunatsiavut President Jim Lyall. Also present were Patty Pottle, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, and Nunatsiavut's Minister of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Johannes Lampe.

"This repatriation ceremony – a 'homecoming' of Inuit ancestors who are loved and revered – took the collective efforts of both our governments to accomplish," said Premier Dunderdale. "The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Nunatsiavut Government have long enjoyed a warm and friendly relationship. The return of these remains to their rightful place of eternal rest, to Nunatsiavut, 'our beautiful land', has served to strengthen and deepen that shared bond."

Rose Island is located in Saglek Bay within the Torngat Mountains National Park. In the early 1970s, the remains of 113 Inuit – 100 from Rose Island and 13 from Upernavik Island – and associated artifacts were excavated from stone burials as part of a research project

conducted by Memorial University. What was believed to be all of the remains were returned and reburied in 1995. It was recently discovered that some fragmentary remains were accidentally missed. These remains had been part of The Rooms Provincial Museum Human Remains Collection in St. John's.

"I want to commend the premier and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador for ensuring these remains have finally been returned to their rightful resting place," said President Lyall. "This ceremony closes another sad chapter in the history of the Labrador Inuit."

Minister Pottle noted how human curiosity can often compel people to seek information about the past. However, not all scientific practices have been respectful of the traditions and cultures of the Inuit.

"Much has changed in recent years to prevent what happened here decades ago from ever happening again," said Minister Pottle. "Throughout Newfoundland and Labrador, we now have the protection of the Historic Resources Act. It is also clearly stated in the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement that the Nunatsiavut Government is the Archaeological

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Permitting Authority on Labrador Inuit Land.”

The Nunatsiavut Government will be fully engaged, along with Aboriginal groups throughout Newfoundland and Labrador, in the development of a formal provincial policy for Aboriginal human remains.

“Officials from the Nunatsiavut Government and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, as well as The Rooms, have worked co-operatively to ensure the return of these remains was done in a respectful and honourable manner,” said Minister Lampe. “I want to commend all who were involved in making this ceremony a reality. These remains have finally returned home, and they can now rest in peace.”

## Truth and Reconciliation event planned for Halifax

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada will host its third national event in Halifax from October 26-29.

The event is an opportunity for everyone to learn more about residential schools, meet survivors and celebrate aboriginal culture. The Nunatsiavut Government has submitted a funding proposal to Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada to send Beneficiaries of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement who are residential school survivors to the event.

Community events will be held throughout Atlantic Canada, including Labrador, to give residential school survivors the opportunity to share their truth. The Labrador sessions will be held September 20 in Happy Valley-Goose Bay and September 22 in Hopedale. The purpose of the Atlantic hearings is to inform the public about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s work and statement gathering process, and to provide survivors an opportunity to share their experiences, especially those who are unable to attend the event in Halifax. There will be statement gathering staff on site to take private statements. People will also be able to make public statements.

Nunatsiavut Government representatives are involved in the planning process, and will ensure Inuit culture is included in various aspects (musicians, artists, cultural performances, Labrador Inuit Health supports and other areas).

A total of Beneficiaries of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement attended the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s event in Inuvik earlier this summer. People had an opportunity to give private and public statements. There was a talent show (Joan Dicker and Karrie Obed placed second), a fashion show, movies on residential schools, displays and other social events.

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

A series of new initiatives to empower parents, expand early childhood education programs and gather detailed research data was announced on June 6. Together with Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami President Mary Simon, Nunatsiavut’s Minister of Education and Economic Development, Susan Nochasak, introduced a game-changing new strategy to graduate more Inuit students and transform Inuit education in Nunatsiavut and in Canada.

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

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

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



**A total of 18 residents of Rigolet participated in a Nordic Walking Challenge. For 17 weeks, participants had to complete five 30-minute walks to qualify for prizes. The results were outstanding whereby 125 hours were logged by the walkers – that’s 7,500 minutes! Congratulations to the winners, but more so, congratulations to all who participated!**

# IBSW Program

## Cultural Content and Process

The 19 Inuit students enrolled in the Nunatsiavut Government sponsored Bachelor of Social Work Program not only receive instruction in the accredited, standardized social work program of study, traditional Inuit knowledge and cultural norms are interwoven into each Memorial University of Newfoundland course. When completed, the graduating social workers will have the knowledge and skills that enable them to bridge standardized social work practices with approaches that better reflect those they hope to assist - the Inuit of Labrador. The program's ethos focuses on the need and necessity to combine western knowledge with Inuit teachings, thus creating a specialized knowledge that will eventually enable the Inuit of Labrador to develop its own culturally relevant path to healing and health.

Central to this is the program's cultural component. Students must be grounded in Inuit culture in order to be most effective as social workers in Labrador Inuit communities. The historical reality of social workers coming to Labrador carrying the western-world perspectives and approaches has not worked for the Inuit. The path to healing and health must see Inuit, with strong academic backgrounds, working respectfully with other Inuit.

In order to see this goal realized, program organizers facilitate cultural orientations for MUN personnel and, as regular components of the student learning experience, work closely with instructors to ensure the Labrador Inuit culture is reflected in course content as well

as the processes used to implement culturally-relevant practices/traditions, e.g. Learning and Healing Circles, On the Land experiences, organizing classes away from the College in more natural settings, bringing Inuit guests into the classroom, ensuring the meaningful involvement of Elders. Traditional Inuit knowledge and experience is integrated into university course content and delivery, an approach vital to the success of this program.

## Non-Credit Language Seminar

This spring and summer, students were offered a rigorous, non-credit language seminar designed to prepare them for the written culture of social work practice. The curriculum has been specially developed to improve technical writing skills, to familiarize students with report-writing and record-keeping practices and, above all, to help them become comfortable with written English as a medium of learning and of social work.

This initiative was undertaken simultaneously with the students' language learning in hopes of enabling a broader, richer linguistic understanding. So far the results have been strong. Students have been challenged in both languages, in an environment that encourages personal growth and transformation. Better still, they are rising to these challenges and meeting them squarely.

Language and identity are intimately linked, and as the students master their languages, they also learn to master themselves, achieving whole new levels of clarity, confidence, and sophistication in writing and in speech.

# New Horizons

## Call for proposals

The federally-funded New Horizons for Seniors Program is aimed at enabling seniors across Canada to share their knowledge, skills and experiences with others, while helping communities to increase their capacity to address local issues. Under this program, community-based projects are eligible for grants up to a maximum of \$25,000. The call for proposals closes on September 16, 2011.

Requirements of the grant include that projects must be community-based and address one or more of the program's five objectives:

- promoting volunteerism among seniors and other generations;
  - engaging seniors in the community through the mentoring of others;
  - expanding awareness of elder abuse, including financial abuse;
  - supporting the social participation and inclusion of seniors; and
  - providing capital assistance for new and existing community projects and/or programs for seniors.
- Recent changes to the program allow for a broader array of organizations to apply which include:
- not-for-profit organizations, community-based coalitions, networks and ad hoc committees;
  - for-profit organizations, provided that the nature and intent of the activity are non-commercial, do not generate profit, and meet the program objectives;
  - municipal governments, band/tribal councils and other aboriginal organizations, as well as public health and social services institution; and
  - research and educational institutions, including school boards, school districts, universities, colleges and CÉGEPs.

For full details on the Program please visit: [http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/community\\_partnerships/seniors/index.shtml](http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/community_partnerships/seniors/index.shtml).

Also, a step-by-step guide to applying for this Grant is available online at: [http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/community\\_partnerships/seniors/nhsp/cbpf/cfp/step1.shtml](http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/community_partnerships/seniors/nhsp/cbpf/cfp/step1.shtml)

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# Students visit Voisey's Bay

The Bachelor of Social Work Program – a partnership between Nunatsiavut Government and Memorial University – is progressing well. It is the first university degree program to be offered wholly in Labrador. The 19 Beneficiaries of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement enrolled in the program will be going into their first work placements during the fall semester.

While completing an elective course this summer, a wonderful opportunity presented itself. The course, Geography 1050, taught by Dr. John Thistle, explored resource issues and resource development (and how they impacted communities). Mining was a key focus.

Program staff approached Vale, asking if a representative would be interested in speaking to the students. Vale's Aboriginal Affairs Supervisor, Sophie Ford, not only agreed to speak to the class, but offered a tour of the Voisey's Bay development. Vale, as part of the Impact Benefits Agreement, generously flew the students and program staff and instructors - a total of 24- to Voisey's Bay. The group arrived at camp on July 26 and received a comprehensive site orientation by Clayton Lyall,

the first (and so far only) aboriginal trainer in Voisey's Bay. Tours of the mill, lab, mine and port followed. The experience proved informative; staff spent a great deal of time explaining how everything worked and answered many questions.

Some of the group left at the end of the day, but the major-

ity of students, along with a program staff member, stayed overnight. While some attended a movie organized for the students, others visited family and friends and asked questions about what it was like to live and work at the site. The trip back the next day provided the group with another chance to view the beautiful Nunatsiavut landscape. Students and staff wish to thank all those at Vale who made the trip possible, particularly Sophie Ford, Gwen Russell



and Marjorie Flowers. The trip brought alive the issues the students were covering in their geography course and greatly enriched the learning process. Most came away with more questions and points to ponder around resource development. Everyone enjoyed their time and voiced their appreciation for this wonderful opportunity.



**Members of the Nunatsiavut Assembly and staff members took part in a three-day workshop on Uranium Mining Risks and Benefits in early August. The workshop explored all aspects of uranium mining and development, from exploration and power generation, social and economic benefits, to tailings disposal and impacts on the environment. From left, First Minister Darryl Shiwak, President Jim Lyall and AngajukKâk Herb Jacque of the Makkovik Inuit Community Government.**

## Suicide Prevention Walk

A Suicide Prevention Walk will be held in Happy Valley-Goose Bay on September 10, beginning at 11 a.m at the Nunatsiavut Department of Health and Social Development Community Office, 14 Corte Real Road. Prizes and refreshments provided. For more information, please contact Community Health Workers Kelly Jacobs or Carla Blake at 709-896-3396.

# Nunatsiavut Government pleased with panel recommendations on proposed Lower Churchill project

The report of the independent panel that conducted the environmental assessment of the proposed Lower Churchill hydro development provides a solid and unbiased starting point that recognizes potential significant adverse effects on Labrador Inuit, says Nunatsiavut’s Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Glen Sheppard.

“As a result of this report, we are looking forward to no longer being excluded from the table and being an integral part of the Lower Churchill discussions with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and Nalcor,” says Minister Sheppard.

The Nunatsiavut Government spent considerable time participating in the environmental assessment process in order to assert its views that the project would have potential negative impacts on Labrador Inuit and their environment, culture and way of life –

especially Inuit living in the Upper Lake Melville area and Rigolet, Minister Sheppard noted.

“We made some 30 separate submissions to the panel, many of which involved collaboration with scientific and Inuit experts. The proponent, Nalcor, did not consider that Inuit would be affected by its project. We are pleased to see that the panel found many of our concerns to be valid and agreed with many of our recommendations.”

For example, the panel concluded that Nalcor did not carry

out a full assessment of the fate of mercury in the downstream environment, including potential pathways that could lead to mercury bioaccumulation in seal and fish and the potential for cumulative effects of the project along with effects of other sources of mercury.

“This statement from the panel differs significantly from Nalcor’s assertions throughout the environmental assessment process that they were certain that there would be no measurable downstream effects from the project,” the Minister said.

The panel also recognized the dietary and cultural importance of fishing and seal hunting in Goose Bay and Lake Melville, including the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area, concluding that there would be significant adverse effects on the pursuit of traditional

activities by Labrador Inuit, including the harvesting of country foods, should consumption advisories be required.

The Nunatsiavut Government is also pleased to see several other recommendations, including those surrounding low-income housing, aquatic monitoring, George River caribou, land and resource use, training, infrastructure, communication, environmental management and human health, the Minister said.

“It is quite clear that this proposed project poses significant risks on Labrador Inuit, on traditional harvesting and fishing,” said the Minister. “Unless these deficiencies can be addressed, the project should not go ahead.”



Elaine Obed and Kayla Greenleaves of Happy Valley-Goose Bay were selected to attend this year’s Tim Hortons Children’s Camp. From left, Chris Evoy, Tim Hortons; Elaine; Camp Counsellor Natalie “Grafitti” Bird; and Kayla.

## What is SharePoint?

A SharePoint site is a website that provides a central storage and collaboration space for documents, information, and ideas. It is a tool for collaboration, just like a telephone is a tool for communication, or a meeting is a tool for decision making. A SharePoint site helps groups of people (whether work teams or social groups) share information and work together. It can help:

- coordinate projects, calendars, and schedules;
- discuss ideas and review

documents or proposals; and

- share information

SharePoint will provide Nunatsiavut Government employees with access to a central repository, and the ability to share information across the entire organization. It will be available to the following by the end of September: Health and Social Development; Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology; and the Office of the Clerk.

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# Provincial and Nunatsiavut Governments commit over \$20 Million for recreation facilities for Hopedale and Makkovik

The Honourable Kevin O'Brien, Minister of Municipal Affairs, was joined in Hopedale August 31st by Nunatsiavut President Jim Lyall to announce \$20.7 million to construct recreation facilities in Makkovik and Hopedale. The provincial government will contribute \$12.7 million and the Nunatsiavut Government will contribute \$8 million to these projects.

Minister O'Brien and President Lyall were joined at the announcement by the Honourable Patty Pottle, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and MHA for Torngat Mountains; AngajukKâk Herb Jacque of the Makkovik Inuit Community Government; and AngajukKâk Wayne Piercy of the Hopedale Inuit Community Government.

"The north coast of Labrador is a growing region and our government is pleased to partner with the Nunatsiavut Government to bring these important facilities to residents," said Minister O'Brien. "These new recreation facilities will have immeasurable impacts upon these communities, particularly the many young people who live there, with the most important benefit being the ability to partake in recreational activity and the shared experiences of sport."

The Makkovik arena will be 2,520 square metres and include an ice surface, change rooms with washrooms and showers, officials' room, ice-resurfacers room, a first-aid room and public washrooms. It will also include facility support spaces such as an office and storage rooms along with a canteen.

The Hopedale multi-purpose centre will be approximately 1,200 square metres and include recreation space, a community kitchen and a storage and freezer room to support community gatherings. A radio room, library resource room, a meeting room and space for elders will also be included. The centre will have a locker area, washrooms and facility office space.

"Shortly after being elected as President in May 2008 I approached the Tasiujatsoak Trust and was able to secure a total of \$20 million for recreational facilities for the five Labrador Inuit communities," noted President Lyall. "Today's announcement is just the beginning as we strive to build healthier communities within Nunatsiavut. These new facilities will become focal points in their respective communities and improve the quality of life for all residents. I want to thank the Tasiujatsoak Trust, as well as the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador – particularly Minister Pottle – for ensuring today's announcement is possible."

The Tasiujatsoak Trust was established in 2003 as part of the Voisey's Bay Impact and Benefits Agreement.

"I am so pleased to see the continued investment in our north coast communities and I look forward to these facilities being opened and enjoyed by all residents of the region, in particular our youth," said Minister Pottle. "Both Hopedale and Makkovik are thriving communities with many families and

children and these recreation facilities will bring many benefits to their lives."

Budget 2011 Standing Strong: For Prosperity. For Our Future. For Newfoundland and Labrador includes \$140.8 million for new and ongoing municipal infrastructure projects.

Following the principles of the Provincial Government's Energy Plan, the facilities will be designed to achieve LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) silver rating for energy usage and conservation. The Inuit Community Governments of Makkovik and Hopedale will oversee construction and will be responsible for maintenance and operation of the facilities once open.

Along with these investments on the north coast, the provincial government has allocated significant resources to encourage residents to participate in active and healthy lifestyles and recognizes the importance of recreational infrastructure. In addition to funding for municipal infrastructure projects, Budget 2011 included \$11.5 million to support recreation and sport throughout the province. Since the launch of the provincial government's recreation and sport strategy, Active, Healthy Newfoundland and Labrador (2007), more than \$70 million has been committed to recreational and sport infrastructure, programming, and athlete development throughout the province.



**Taking part in the funding announcement, from left (front): Susan Nochasak, Nunatsiavut's Minister of Education and Economic Development and Ordinary Member for Hopedale; and Patty Pottle, provincial Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. (Back) Wayne Piercy, AngajukKâk of the Hopedale Inuit Community Government; provincial Municipal Affairs Minister Kevin O'Brien; Herb Jacque, AngajukKâk of the Makkovik Inuit Community Government; and Nunatsiavut President Jim Lyall.**