



September 16, 2021
For Immediate Release

Statement from President Lampe regarding the Nunatsiavut Government's response to NunatuKavut Community Council land claim

To our beneficiaries,

The Nunatsiavut Executive Council has been closely watching the conversations that have taken place in communities and over social media about Labrador Inuit and the NunatuKavut Community Council (NCC). We have heard from many of you that it is important for the Nunatsiavut Executive Council to look into this conversation, to listen to your thoughts, and to make a statement.

Today, we are doing just that. We believe it is time for us to move forward through this dialogue in a way that reflects what you, our beneficiaries, are telling us, expresses the truth of our oral history and kinship systems, and protects our claims to the land and to Inuit culture. As Inuit, we always return to our oral history, kinship systems and our knowledge of our people. This knowledge tells us who we are and what we are.

We have taken time to review and research NCC's claims and have come to an informed position. Based on our research, our consultations and the history of our people, the Executive Council does not recognize the proposed NCC land claim. We recognize that some members of the NCC may themselves have some Indigenous ancestry and backgrounds, but the NCC is not entitled to Inuit rights and it has no viable claim to land in Labrador. The beneficiaries of Nunatsiavut are the Inuit of Labrador.

The Nunatsiavut Government has also applied for intervenor status in the Innu Nation litigation against the Government of Canada in relation to considering the NCC claim. We feel this is a critical step to protecting our rights, land, culture and identity.

We will make sure to keep you informed as we continue to move forward. We will continue to inform and strengthen what we know, work to protect our land claim on behalf of our beneficiaries, and continue to advocate for Nunatsiavut.