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For Immediate Release

President-elect Lampe looks forward to continuing to serve Labrador Inuit

Following yesterday's election victory, President-Elect Johannes Lampe issued the following statement:

"I am deeply humbled that Beneficiaries of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement have placed their trust in me to represent them for the next four years. These are trying times, and the challenges that await are huge as we continue to strive to improve the lives of all Beneficiaries.

"During the last four years, I have worked hard to place the needs of Labrador Inuit first and foremost, both regionally and nationally, and I will continue to do so. We have made tremendous progress on many fronts: from securing federal housing dollars, to improving infrastructure in our communities; from raising concerns over food security and Inuit health, to ensuring our rights and titles are protected and honored. I will continue to push these priorities, and others, wherever and whenever possible.

"I want to thank those who supported me during this election. I also want to thank my opponent, Andrea Webb/Tuglavina, for putting her name forward and giving Beneficiaries a choice in who will lead the Nunatsiavut Government for the next four years. I am deeply concerned, however, that less than 30 per cent of eligible voters actually went to the polls. While there may be many reasons for the low turnout, it is obvious that more needs to be done to encourage Beneficiaries to play a more active role in determining our future.

"On a personal level, I have had some health issues in recent months and, in fact, underwent major surgery during the campaign. As a result, I was unable to be as engaging as I would have liked and, therefore, take some responsibility for the low voter turnout. I want to thank my wife, Rutie, family and friends for standing by my side during these difficult times.

"I am optimistic about the future and the promises it holds for all of us. It will take careful planning and hard work to create the future we, as Labrador Inuit, need, want and deserve.

"I look forward to the challenge."

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