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Tugâpvik NUNATSIAVUT

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First graduates of Indigenized Early Childhood Education program in Nain



Participants in College of the North Atlantic’s first Indigenized early childhood education certificate program include (from left) Joyce Merkuratsuk, Elizabeth Tuglavina, Althaya Solomon, Michelle Ittulak, Melissa Mercer (instructor), Elizabeth Dicker, Lillian Angnatok and Jane Angnatok.

On Friday, Dec. 11, six students were the first to graduate from the College of the North Atlantic’s (CNA) Indigenized Early Childhood Education (ECE) certificate program. The ground-breaking initiative was funded by the federal government, under a post-secondary partnership with Indigenous Services Canada,

and was supported by the long-standing partnership between CNA and the Nunatsiavut Government.

The program is a separate and more specialized offering via CNA’s Customized and Continuous Learning Division. The partnership enabled the

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college to provide this unique opportunity for students, while boosting the region's early learning and childcare needs.

Brenda Tobin, Dean of Academics, Applied Arts and Tourism at CNA noted the "amazing, extensive, and innovative" groundwork that shaped this program. The community, specifically elders, were able to contribute to the program's development through meetings and focus groups. There was also extensive research conducted to learn about Inuit culture and develop the curriculum. This ground-breaking approach incorporated Inuit culture into ECE curriculum, creating a more culturally relevant

experience for both students of the program and the children in their care."

With the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic in March, students enrolled in the program were forced to transition to remote learning. The program was designed to take place in the classroom, however, instructors and students rallied together to make it work. College programs can be challenging under normal circumstances, but the effort made by students and staff in these unprecedented times is truly admirable.

The Nunatsiavut Government would like to congratulate the graduates on their accomplishment and to all of those who came together to make this program a success.

Measures, programs put in place to help Beneficiaries deal with COVID-19 pandemic

With the arrival of COVID-19 in Newfoundland and Labrador last March, and increased cases and potential risk thereafter, the Nunatsiavut Government acted quickly to protect the health and wellbeing of Labrador Inuit and to help them deal with the impacts of the pandemic.

Social distancing has been encouraged from the start, and non-essential travel to, from and between the five Labrador Inuit communities was discouraged. All Nunatsiavut Government offices were closed to the public, with many staff working from home to ensure effective delivery of programs and services continued.

On April 8, a number of initiatives were announced to help Beneficiaries of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement during these trying and difficult times. The initiatives, for the most part, were geared towards helping those deemed most at risk, seniors (60 years and older) on fixed incomes, persons with disabilities, single parents, low income families, and individuals and families who had their employment hours cut or were been laid off because of the pandemic.

These programs were suspended on Sept. 30, and a review was carried out with the goal of making improvements. Revised programs were implemented on Dec. 2.

The COVID-19 **Nunatsiavut Food Supplement Program** provides eligible applicants with nutritious food. The Nunatsiavut Government provides purchase orders on a bi-weekly basis. These purchase orders are issued directly to stores chosen by eligible program recipients within each Labrador Inuit community. Eligible purchases include all food, with the exception of pop, energy drinks, chips, bars, candy, etc. Dishes, cutlery, food storage

(containers) and laundry detergent are also permitted to be purchased. Ineligible purchases include lottery tickets, tobacco products and alcohol. All purchase orders expire two weeks after the date they are issued.

The Nunatsiavut COVID-19 **Emergency Heat Subsidy Program** assists eligible applicants with costs of home heating. Assistance is being provided in acquiring wood, or to cover some of the costs of electric heat or furnace/stove oil. As well, assistance is being provided to those who have no means in which to heat their homes, either because of non-existent or broken furnaces, wood stoves and chimneys that are in states of disrepair, or fuel tanks that are not certified.

The goal of the Nunatsiavut COVID-19 **Harvesters Support Program** is to ensure community freezers are adequately stocked with country food for distribution to those most vulnerable and those who have been affected by the economic impact of the ongoing pandemic. The program contains provisions for community freezers to supply harvesters with resources (gasoline, motor oil and ammunition) to assist in acquiring country food.

These programs are by application only, and are only available to Beneficiaries of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement. There is one application form for all programs offered within the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area.

Applicants who meet the income cut-off criteria, applied to other COVID-19 response programs, will receive appropriate assistance, regardless of the type of heating required for their homes.

Applicants can only qualify for one type of heating supplement. Seniors, 65 or older, are eligible to apply, but are not required to provide proof of income.

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Communities participate in HOPE Walk

The annual HOPE walk took place this past fall, with many Labrador Inuit communities participating. Led by the Department of Health and Social Development, people in Postville and Hopedale walked as far as 10 kilometres in solidarity with those dealing with grief, particularly from loss due to suicide.

Having started in 2016, the HOPE walk was originally a walk from Hopedale to Natuashish, in honour of James Poker, an 18-year-old Innu man who tragically froze to death on his way between the communities. The HOPE walk has since been a way for people to connect with the land as a form of healing.



We are proud of the elders that joined the HOPE Walk, many of whom completed the 10km hike.

HOPE is an acronym that stands for ‘hold on pain ends’, an important message for those dealing with grief. The walk was enjoyed by those of all ages and served as a reminder that our communities are stronger when we all come together.

On Postville’s HOPE Walk, participants took a break at the halfway point where there was a fire with chili and hot chocolate being served. A great time was had by all who attended this year’s walks and the Department of Health and Social Development looks forward to continuing this tradition going forward.

Nain has not yet held their annual HOPE walk, but it is planned to take place soon and those in the community are advised to keep an eye out for the upcoming event.



Participants in Postville hiked around the pond.

Lampe elected to serve second term as President

Johannes Lampe of Nain was re-elected to serve a second term as President of Nunatsiavut after Beneficiaries went to the polls on Oct. 6. Andrea Webb/Tuglavina of Happy Valley-Goose Bay was the only other candidate to run against him.

The election, which was initially set to take place last May was rescheduled to October due to the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. This decision was made to ensure the process was properly conducted in accordance with the spirit, intent and requirements of the Labrador Inuit Constitution and the Nunatsiavut Elections Act.

Only 30 per cent eligible voters casted ballots. President Lampe acknowledged that the poor voter turnout could possibly be accredited to his lack of engagement leading up to the election due to health issues, but added that he believes more needs to be done to encourage Beneficiaries to participate in the election process.

“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,” says President Lampe.

Inuttitut evening classes in Nain

In January of last year, the Department of Language, Culture, and Tourism started a pilot project offering Inuttitut classes in Nain for basic to intermediate level speakers. Joan Dicker, a retired Inuttitut schoolteacher, instructed the course. Class sessions were held at the Illusuak Cultural Centre until the end of March.



Joan Dicker instructing the class.

A total of 19 students, the majority of which were Beneficiaries of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement, originally signed up for the classes

Dawn Michelin, a student in the program, said she “really enjoyed the class. I feel that I learned so much from when I started and didn’t know much about the language. I have a much better understanding now of why it is so hard to communicate with those who have Inuttitut as a first language. I am so grateful for the opportunity. Joan is a wonderful instructor. Nakummek!”

Edna Asivak, another student, added: “It’s a wonderful opportunity, and if this course becomes available again, one should jump at the chance. There’s a lot to learn, but going to Inuttitut classes sure puts you in the right direction. It’s good to see the revitalization of Inuttitut becoming more alive everyday. Everyone should keep learning and never give up!”

“The Inut-titut evening classes for adults that were offered for the first time as a pilot project were very successful,” said Ms. Dicker. “As the instructor for this program, I feel it has benefited our community for those who want to learn to speak Inuttitut. Those who took part in the program were very eager to learn and were very committed in attending classes unless they were out of town. Along with the class, we had a lot of fun!”

Classes were not able to continue after the pilot due to COVID-19, but may resume once the pandemic ends.



The Inuttitut class in Nain eager to learn.

First online arts and crafts Christmas auction big success

A Nunatsiavut Arts and Crafts Christmas Auction was held from November 16 – 20 on Facebook. Beneficiaries of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement could put their homemade arts and crafts items up for auction on the Facebook group. The online auction made Inuit arts and crafts accessible to an audience that never would have been reached otherwise.

The first ever Nunatsiavut online arts and crafts auction took place in June, as a celebration of National Indigenous People's Day. The Department of Language, Culture, and Tourism held the event to bring people together to celebrate Inuit culture amidst the social distancing measures in place at the time because of COVID-19.

With the June auction being such a success, Christmas time felt like the perfect opportunity to host another auction, said Chantelle Evans, the Arts Program Coordinator with the Department of Language, Culture, and Tourism, as it would give people the opportunity to shop for Inuit arts and crafts to be used as gifts.

The auction was divided into categories, such as jewelry, mitts and gloves, household items, Christmas ornaments, and much more, with all of the items handmade by Labrador Inuit. A total of 77 artists and craftspeople submitted their work to the auction, which had almost 3,000 people placing bids.

Nunatsiavut usually participates in the Newfoundland and Labrador Craft Council's Art and Crafts auction in St. John's every Christmas, but travelling with a large group would have been more complicated this year. Evans notes that under normal circumstances, people in Nunatsiavut could visit Happy Valley-Goose Bay to attend the Christmas craft fair there, but because of COVID-19 travel is not accessible to everyone. Holding the auction online was a way for everyone to enjoy Inuit arts and crafts, regardless of physical location, which opened it up for many more people to enjoy.



Earrings and necklace donated by Alana Edmunds of Postville.

Chantelle Evans, the Arts Program Coordinator with the department of Language, Culture, and Tourism, is thrilled with the avid engagement in Nunatsiavut's Christmas auction. "Although the auction took place online in part to accommodate social distancing recommendations due to COVID-19, we hope to continue this auction in years to come as a way to bring together those who otherwise would not be able to enjoy traditional arts and crafts at Christmas time".

Nunatsiavut Place Names

The Nunatsiavut Archaeology/Heritage division began Place Names work in 2014 by transcribing and translating historical Moravian maps, and referencing them in Google Earth. While this provided rich historical data, we also recognized the need to interview Nunatsiavum-miut on traditional place names as they are used today. Community interviews began in 2019 in Upper Lake Melville and Rigolet and continued through Winter/Spring 2020 in Hopedale Postville, Makkovik and Nain. This work will culminate in a report with recommendations in the winter of 2020-21, which will reflect what was heard from interviews and what place names were used in the past. For more information or to participate in Nunatsiavut Place Names, please contact Kyle Crotty via email at kyle.crotty@nunatsiavut.com, or by calling (709) 922-2942 ext. 265.



Kyle Crotty, right, with Boas Freida of Hopedale.

Nunatsiavut virtually celebrates International Inuit Day

International Inuit Day was founded in 2006 by the Inuit Circumpolar Council general assembly in Barrow, Alaska. This was the first year that Nunatsiavut has officially celebrated the day. November 7 was chosen as International Inuit Day to commemorate the birthday of the ICC's late founding president, Eben Hopson.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, Nunatsiavut celebrated virtually, which allowed Beneficiaries across the country to participate. The celebrations consisted of a variety of events and activities. There were two scavenger hunts involving finding the singers of Inuit songs, and getting photos of cultural items. There was also a call for Beneficiaries to dress up traditionally and submit a photo. The video contest involved submitting a video singing an Inuit song. Participants were also encouraged to change their Facebook profile pictures to include the hashtag #Inovunga, and to make a post sharing something about Inuit, such as a story, a photo, a fact, a celebration or something that makes you proud to be Inuk.

Prizes were awarded to participants, such as Inuttitut puzzles, water bottles, note pads with pens, and Inuttitut dictionaries. The winners of the song artist Scavenger hunt

were Blake Martin of Nain and Natalie Lane of Hopedale. The winners of the photo scavenger hunt were Ethel Hunter of Hopedale and Megan Andersen of Makkovik.

"The virtual celebrations were an amazing way for Beneficiaries across the country to celebrate International Inuit Day" says Shirley Jararuse, Language Program Coordinator with the Department of Language, Culture, and Tourism, "We look forward to continuing to celebrate in new ways in the years to come".



Ethel Hunter submission for the photo scavenger hunt



Megan Andersen's submission for the photo scavenger hunt



Some of the prizes awarded to participants

Another successful moose harvest in Gros Morne National Park

During October 25 – November 3, 2020, the Nunatsiavut Government harvested 30 Moose within the boundary of the Gros Morne National Park. 2020 marks the 8th year for the Nunatsiavut Government to participate in a moose harvest in Gros Morne.

Parks Canada approved 30 non-profit moose licences to the Ulapitsaiijet (people helping people) committee in 2020. The project is an ongoing initiative of the Nunatsiavut Government to provide an alternate source of country food for Labrador Inuit communities since the provincial hunting ban was enacted on George River caribou in 2013.

The Nunatsiavut Government sent four employees to Rocky Harbour to partner with 4 local hunters. Logistical details for the hunt are arranged in co-operation with Parks Canada staff in Rocky Harbour and areas are identified within the park where moose should be taken.

Newfoundland helicopters was chartered to fly the hunters into the remote areas of the park, where access for local residents is more difficult. This ensures the harvest has a minimal impact on local residents.

During October 25- November 3, 30 moose licenses were filled. The meat from the hunt is professionally cut and vacuum sealed before transport to Happy Valley-Goose Bay. Once the meat arrives in Happy Valley-Goose Bay it is held in cold storage for shipment to the coastal communities. The distribution is decided upon by population and is provided to the Inuit communities of Nain, Hopedale, Postville, Makkovik, and Rigolet in addition to the Inuit community corporations in Happy Valley and North West River.

Thanks all who supported this project in 2020.



Moose being processed and prepared for distribution.

Nunatsiavut and Labrador-Grenfell Health launch TB manual

Tuberculosis (TB) has been around for thousands of years. It is present throughout recorded history and evidence of TB infections has even been found in ancient Egyptian mummies. It is believed that 1/3 of the world's population is infected with TB and that a new infection is diagnosed every second.

In Nunatsiavut, TB continues to be of great concern and it must not be forgotten or pushed aside due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. The Department of Health and Social Development (DHSD) works diligently with Labrador-Grenfell Health (LGH) to ensure that any active cases receive appropriate treatment and follow-up.

In order to be confident that TB is tackled in a systematic way that follows current best practices DHSD, in collabora-

tion with LGH, has developed a brand new Tuberculosis Manual. The purpose of the manual is to provide background information and clear protocols on the prevention and management of TB in Labrador. The manual is specific to Labrador and focuses on how to eliminate TB from Inuit communities.

In September the TB Manual officially 'went live' and is now being used in all Public Health offices across the region. This collaborative manual is an excellent example of what can be accomplished when there is passion and devotion to improve the health and wellbeing of the people of Labrador. It demonstrates a huge commitment from everyone involved and it will continue to guide TB care in the region as we strive for TB elimination.

MasterCard Foundation funds school supplies for online learning

The MasterCard Foundation has donated to the four Inuit regions in Canada to help educational efforts during COVID-19. The Nunatsiavut Government received \$119,000, which it used to purchase school supplies and learning materials for children to have at home.

The “at home education kits” were given to all students within the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area. The kits are intended for use in the event schools are forced to shut down again because of COVID-19. The kits were assembled in Makkovik and the end of October and have since been distributed.

The supplies in the kits vary based on grade level, and were selected in collaboration with teachers in Nunatsiavut. Younger students were given creative items such as notebooks, coloured leads, and educational games, while older students were given technological resources such as TI calculators.

“We hope that in the event schools close again, these at-home education kits will help ease the transition for students to at-home learning,” says Nunatsiavut’s Director of Education, Jodie Lane. “We are thrilled to be taking on this initiative and are thankful for the generous contribution from the MasterCard Foundation.”

The Mastercard Foundation works with visionary organizations to enable young people in Africa and in Indigenous

communities in Canada to access dignified and fulfilling work. It is one of the largest, private foundations in the world with a mission to advance learning and promote financial inclusion to create an inclusive and equitable world. The Foundation was created by Mastercard in 2006 as an independent organization.



Each student received these “at home education kits” with supplies geared towards their grade level. These kits are intended for online learning but supplies can be brought to school if needed.

ICPC continues progress on shared priorities

On March 6, 2020 Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) President Natan Obed, federal cabinet ministers, and the elected Inuit leadership of Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Makivik Corporation, and Nunatsiavut Government gathered for a meeting of the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee to review progress and to advance work on shared priorities for its fourth year.

The Committee added two new areas of focus – economic development and procurement, and legislative priorities – to its existing priority areas. It also added a focus on developing and implementing a national action plan to address the Calls to Justice of the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls to the existing priority area of reconciliation, and merged the housing and infrastructure priority areas.

The Committee discussed ongoing work in several areas, including: improving implementation of land claims agreements through the co-development of policy and

review mechanisms; informing the implementation of the Indigenous Languages Act, and providing support for the reclamation, revitalization, maintenance, and strengthening of Inuktitut in Inuit Nunangat; implementation of the Arctic and Northern Policy Framework, and work to modernize the co-development approach to programs, policies, and legislation; and closing the infrastructure gap between Inuit Nunangat and the rest of Canada by addressing short, medium, and long-term housing and community infrastructure needs.

“(This) meeting of the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee builds upon the strong momentum of the past three years. In this first meeting of our fourth year, we renewed our shared ambition in the areas of land claims implementation, language, infrastructure, and implementing an Inuit Nunangat policy within government. In the coming year, we will work together in 10 priority areas to bring about transformative change for Inuit, which in turn benefits all Canadians,” said ITK President Obed.

Master-Apprentice Inuttitut Program

The Department of Language, Culture and Tourism has been running the Master-Apprentice Inuttitut Program in Nunatsia-vut annually since 2016. With one master and one apprentice from each community, the program starts September and runs until March for 10-20 hours per week.

This program enables the masters to immerse apprentices in an all-Inuttitut setting through doing daily activities such as picking berries, cooking or baking, and going for walks. The following is what some of the apprentices had to say about the program and their masters:

Gillian Edmunds, from Postville, is really enjoying the program with her master, Gus Semigak.

“The Master-Apprentice Program provides beneficiaries the connection to Cultural practices and the opportunity to build a stronger Inuit identity,” she said. “Not only are we learning Inuttitut, the language of our ancestors, but we are connecting with Inuit seniors and elders by sharing traditional knowledge. I enjoy the connection with my master and listening to stories of his life in Hebron and Hopedale. I have so much respect for him and feel that this is the most honorable experience I have encountered in my life, culturally and spiritually. I encourage all Beneficiaries to participate in the program; we all have the responsibility to speak Inuttitut. This program has been life changing. I only knew a handful of common terms starting out and now near the end of the program I can read, write and speak our language. The program has been a link to share the traditional knowledge, and has allowed me to offer Inuttitut classes in my home community. I feel lighter and an intense amount of happiness conversing in Inuttitut. I never thought this could be something that I would learn in adulthood. I hope to hear more people speaking our language and I have a dream that people will choose to speak Inuttitut as their first language. It is very empowering to reclaim our language and we need to feel proud of ourselves for speaking it. Nakummesuak to my master for your patience and kindness.”

Doris Boase is also instructed by Gus Semigak.

“The Master-Apprentice program has further motivated me to learn my Mother tongue. Even though the times with my master have been sporadic due to our busy schedules, each session brought me closer to who I am as an Inuk and has given me so much more pride in who I am. I am so privileged to be learning from a master and natural knowledge holder as Gus Semigak. He sees the potential I never saw in myself and tries his best to bring it out in every session. I was and still am honoured to have been selected as an apprentice in this program.”

Megan Dicker, from Nain, said her experience with the master-apprentice program has been enlightening and eye-opening.

I am grateful for Nancy’s guidance and support as she teaches me Inuktitut. She has taught me more than I anticipated in this short period of time. There are times when I think or respond in Inuktitut in instances where I would normally process things in English. Those realizations made me feel incredibly happy and a bit shocked. It is my lifelong goal to speak Inuktitut well and this program is supporting me in this endeavour. Since I have been part of the program I also had a few conversations with my Nan in Inuktitut. I always dreamed of I plan to share what I learned with other people who are also eager to learn. Although it can be challenging at times it is undoubtedly worth the time and energy. Nakummek Nancy and the cultural department!”

Sarah Karpik, of Makkovik said being in the program “has helped me learn more Inuktitut than I ever imagined. It also made me realize how valuable our fluent Inuktitut speakers are. I will be forever grateful for all the people that taught me or spoke to me in Inuktitut throughout my life - at school, at home, at friends houses, and growing up in Nain and now, learning from Hulda Fox in Makkovik. After this program, I will continue to learn our language and hopefully encourage others. I believe if we take the time to practice and learn from our people, especially our fluent speakers, we can strengthen our language. Nakummek Nunatsiavut Government for giving me this opportunity and Nakummek Hulda for your patience, kindness and your knowledge!

We are thankful for the masters for doing a wonderful job in helping to keep our language alive and for the apprentices for their willingness to learn and take pride in it! Nakummesuak!

Current Masters and Apprentices:

Nain:

Master Nancy Ikkusek & Apprentice Megan Dicker

Hopedale:

Master Gus Semigak & Apprentice Doris Boase

Makkovik:

Master Hulda Fox & Apprentice Sarah Karpik

Postville:

Master Gus Semigak & Apprentice Gillian Edmunds

Rigolet:

Master Paul Jararuse & Apprentice Charlotte Wolfrey

Nunatsiavut mourns loss of former President

Former Labrador Inuit Association (LIA) President and Ordinary Member for Nain, William Barbour, passed away at his home on November 18.

“William was very passionate about protecting Inuit rights, including those to lands and resources, and in promoting and preserving our language, customs and traditions. He always put the rights of Labrador Inuit ahead of all things.” said President Lampe. “During the course of his career, as an elected official and as public servant, William’s intelligence, integrity, sense of humour and humility earned him much respect in the Inuit circumpolar world as well as with his own people.”

Born in Nain in 1959, Mr. Barbour grew up as a hunter and fisherman with his father and other elders. He was sent away from Nain to go to residential school in North West River when he was 14 years old before attending Grenfell College in Corner Brook, NL to continue his studies. He spent many years working with LIA, including serving as Special Assistant to the President. He also worked as a Wildlife Technician, where he was instrumental in developing a project that used Western science to collar polar bears in northern Labrador to prove the existence of denning bears in the region – something that Inuit already knew. Using science to confirm Inuit Knowledge resulted in the

Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to lifting the prohibition on the hunting of polar bears by Inuit. He had a measured and insightful way of solving problems.

Mr. Barbour was elected as President of the LIA in 1994. During his nine-year tenure, he was integral in the completion and signing of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement-in-Principle, which led to a final Agreement. He was instrumental during the negotiation of the Impacts and Benefits Agreement (IBA) between the LIA and the Voisey’s Bay Nickel Company. This IBA is now being used as a model for Indigenous partnerships across North America and other parts of the world.

Following his term as LIA President, Mr. Barbour continued to work for Inuit and was elected to the first Nunatsiavut Assembly as an Ordinary Member for Nain. He was subsequently appointed as the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, a position he held until the spring of 2009. He was re-elected in May 2010 for another four-year term. In 2014 he was hired to work as an interpreter/translator for the Nunatsiavut Government.

“William has left a mark, not only on the history of Labrador Inuit but on those whose were fortunate enough to have known him and to have worked with him. He will be fondly remembered,” says President Lampe.

Qanuippitaa? National Inuit Health Survey (QNIHS) update

The Department of Health and Social Development is continuing to make progress on the planning for Qanuippitaa? National Inuit Health Survey (QNIHS). This survey is the first of its kind, designed by Inuit for Inuit. The survey will include Inuit of all ages from every community in Inuit Nunangat.

“Qanuippitaa?” meaning “how are we?” in the Nunavik Inuktitut dialect, reflects the program’s core purpose: to better understand the well-being of all Inuit.

Qanuippitaa? seeks to gather information unlike any Inuit health survey has done before. The up-to-date information the survey will collect will better encompass key components of Inuit health and lifestyle than previous Southern academic-led surveys.

The QNIHS is the first health survey completely developed and controlled by Inuit. Inuit ownership of the data collected in this survey will allow it to inform program and policy makers at the local, regional and national levels.

Qanuippitaa? is a permanent health research program which will gather information every five years. DHSD recently held a three-day online meeting of its Regional Steering Committee and Content Working Group for the

Nunatsiavut QNIHS with over 30 regional participants.

DHSD is also thrilled to welcome its newest member of the Nunatsiavut QNIHS team - Pauletta Tremblett, who started in the position of Inuit Health Survey Coordinator in late September. The QNIHS team is looking forward to visiting all Labrador Inuit communities to hear from community members what their top health priorities and needs are. Stay tuned!

For more information about the QNIHS, please reach out to kristeen.mctavish@nunatsiavut.com, pauletta.tremblett@nunatsiavut.com or visit <https://www.itk.ca/qanuippitaa/>

The survey is being carried out in partnership with the four Inuit regional governments in Canada, namely: Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Makivik Corporation and the Nunatsiavut Government, as well as the Inuit Circumpolar Council Canada, Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada, and the National Inuit Youth Council. Other partners include the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Government of Nunavut, the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services and Labrador-Grenfell Health.

Hospitality Newfoundland and Labrador Conference

Director of Tourism Jill Larkham, Tourism Development Officer, the late Anita Rich, Tourism Development Officer Ruth Jacque, and Business Development Officer with Economic Development, Heather Edmunds, attended the annual Hospitality Newfoundland and Labrador Conference in Corner Brook Feb. 25 – 27 2020. Guest delegate Stephanie McIntosh, manager of Atsanik Inn in Nain, also attended.

The Tourism Division took in an evening of social media training offered by College of the North Atlantic on February 24.

Keynote speakers at the conference reminded that tourism represents 10 per cent of the GNP of Canada, and Keith Henry of the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada (ITAC) emphasized that one out of three national and international visitors is looking for an authentic Indigenous experience, including interaction with local people and nature. We were challenged to form partnerships in tourism, especially by packaging experiences with accommodations, and to make necessary changes to include the ever-growing market of physically and mentally challenged travelers.

Delegates were notified that a political decision created the seventh economic table in Ottawa, devoted to Tourism, which will positively impact the tourism industry in all Canadian provinces and territories.

By far, the highlight of the conference was the official launch of the Newfoundland and Labrador Indigenous Tourism Association, NLITA. The Nunatsiavut Government sponsored the session. Ms. Larkham, dressed in full Inuit attire, explained how the Indigenous groups within the province have joined together to form a tourism association whose vision is “to preserve and promote Indigenous culture, knowledge and places in Newfoundland & Labrador through leadership”. She was followed by a representative of the Qalipu Nation who showed slides of the newly-completed NLITA five-year strategy, and by a member of Nunatukavut Community Council who emphasized the importance of collaboration among the member nations. The strategy was well-received and many in the audience were affected by a moving video clip of a visit to the Torngat National Park.

In addition to the Torngat Mountains National Park base camp, the Tourism Division is leading the way at Hebron and the Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve.



From left: Ruth Jacque, Heather Edmunds, Jill Larkham and the late Anita Rich.

Anita Rich tragically passed away on March 29, 2020 in a snowmobile accident. She was 29-years old and a single mother to her son Cameron, and a foster mom to her nephew Cameron (14). Based in Rigolet, Anita worked as a Tourism Development Officer with Nunatsiavut since 2018 and worked closely on projects such as the Hebron Ambassador and Restoration Program and community map projects.

Anita was very passionate about increasing tourism to Nunatsiavut and preserving traditional culture and heritage. Anita was a quiet but strong force and brought skill and determination to everything she did.



From left: Anita Rich, Ruth Jacque and Jill Larkham.

Nunatsiavut Stories Gathering at Illusuak

On February 25, 2020, Lena Onalik, archaeologist with the Department of Language, Culture and Tourism hosted a Nunatsiavut Stories event at Illusuak with two elders, Ernestina and Lucas Ittulak, and two classes from Jens Haven Memorial School. Using the exhibit to inspire interaction and connection between the elders and the youth, they sat in the igloo story nest during a two-hour session to ask questions, and listen to stories that were recorded on video. If you are interested in being part of an event like this, please feel free to reach out to Lena at lena.onalik@nunatsiavut.com, or call 709-922-2942 ext. 240.



The storytelling event was enjoyed by all who participated.



Storytelling took place inside the igloo in the exhibit.



Sharing stories and knowledge with elders and youth.



Megan and Nancy