



Summer 2021

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

National Indigenous People's Day  
Online Auction ..... 2

\$3.45 Million for Feasibility Studies for  
New Nain Airport..... 2

Blackwood Selected as Jury Panelist for  
Deep Space Food Challenge ..... 3

Inuit Home Childcare Resource Kits..... 3

Inuit Nunangat Food Security Strategy  
Identifies Actions for Building  
Sustainable Food System..... 4

Nunatsiavut Heritage Forum..... 4

Andersen Appointed MUN's First  
Vice-President (Indigenous) ..... 5

Referendum Set for September 13..... 5

Nunatsiavut Nurses Assist with  
COVID-19 Vaccinations in Nunavut..... 6

Celebrating Pride..... 7

FRASER RIVER PROJECT  
Counting Migrating Arctic Char

The Torngat Wildlife, Plants and Fisheries Secretariat has established a facility for Arctic char research on the Fraser River. This year’s project is the beginning of a multi-year plan and a partnership of the Torngat Joint Fisheries Board, the Nunatsiavut Government, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

The purpose of the research is to get annual counts of Arctic char returning to the Fraser River system and contribute to the assessment of the char resource. The Secretariat is using ARIS imaging sonar to detect and count fish as they pass through a controlled 20 metre opening placed seasonally in the river. Sonar video data is collected and stored for later analysis. This first year has been “proof of concept” with approximately 20 days of data collected.

To facilitate data collection, the Secretariat had expertise from DFO Salmonids Section to oversee counting fence installation and assist with ARIS deployment. A Fisheries Technologist from the Marine Institute’s Center for Fisheries Ecosystems Research has been under contract to manage data collection and overall site operations. Construction, fabrication and electrical work for the project have been supplied by Northern Peaks Ltd.

The Secretariat will be reporting on first year results and is already planning operational and human resource requirements for 2022.



---

# National Indigenous Peoples Day Online Auction

Celebrated annually on June 21, National Indigenous Peoples Day is an opportunity to reflect on the history of Inuit and the resilience demonstrated through the years. It is a chance to acknowledge elders and their tremendous contributions, as well as to look forward to the future that our youth are building.

For the second year in a row, the Nunatsiavut Government commemorated National Indigenous Peoples Day with an online Art and Crafts auction. The auction, led by the Department of Language, Culture, and Tourism, began in 2020, as a way to come together to celebrate the day while at home during the COVID-19 pandemic. Last year's event was very well received and brought people together from across the country in a way that otherwise would not have been possible.

This event has now become a tradition, with an even bigger turnout this year. Over 55 artists contributed to the auction and over \$22,234 was raised. The Department of Language, Culture, and Tourism looks forward to keeping this new tradition alive for years to come.



Necklace and earrings submitted by Alanna Edmunds.

---

## \$3.45 Million for Feasibility Studies for New Nain Airport

The Government of Canada announced on August 4 a total of \$3.45 million under National Trade Corridors Fund to offset the cost to conduct feasibility studies for a new airport for Nain.

The airport is critical to the community as air transportation is the only means of resupply outside of the marine season. Once relocated from its sea shore location, where three of its runway edges are exposed to the sea, the new airport will be less susceptible to the impacts of climate change, with safer operating conditions and improved access to essential goods and services for the region.

This investment is expected to have important economic, environmental, and employment benefits for the region. It is also expected to strengthen the reliability and efficiency of the connection between Nain and southern communities.

National Trade Corridors Fund projects in the Arctic and North support northern transportation infrastructure such as ports, airports, all-season roads, and bridges. These projects enhance the safety, security, economic, environmental,

and social development in Canada's three territories, the northern area of Labrador containing the Nunatsiavut region, the Nunavik region in Quebec, and the Town and Port of Churchill, in Manitoba.

"The location of the existing airstrip in Nain has raised major safety concerns for many years," notes Nunatsiavut President Johannes Lampe. "The community of Nain continues to expand and future growth will result in increased air traffic, further compounding the problems that currently exist. This investment from the Government of Canada will assist in completing the necessary feasibility studies for a new modern and safe airport that will have a positive social and economic impact for the entire Nunatsiavut region."

*"The location of the existing airstrip in Nain has raised major safety concerns for many years,"*



# Blackwood Selected as Jury Panelist for Deep Space Food Challenge

Congratulations to Lynn Blackwood on being selected to serve as a jury panelist for the Deep Space Food Challenge, an initiative of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) launched in January of this year in an effort to create food production technologies for long-duration space missions with potential to benefit people on Earth. Lynn will serve on both the Canadian and International jury panels.

A Beneficiary of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement, Lynn was born and raised in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. She completed her Bachelor's of Science in Human Nutrition at St. Francis Xavier University and her Dietetic Internship with the Health Care Corporation of St

John's (now Eastern Health). She is currently employed as a policy analyst (focusing on food security) with the Nunatsiavut Government.

Lynn has worked over 20 years as a registered dietitian in communities in the North West Territories, British Columbia and Newfoundland and Labrador. She is a director of the Dietitians of Canada board, as well a director with the Canadian Foundation of Dietetic Research board.

Jury members are selected based on their expertise and unique perspective. The outcomes of the challenge has potential to improve food security in Northern communities.



Lynn Blackwood of Happy Valley – Goose Bay will serve on the panel for the Deep Space Food Challenge.

## Inuit Home Childcare Resource Kits

The Nunatsiavut Department of Health and Social Development has created and distributed Inuit Home Childcare Resource Kits for children ages two to five years.

Childcare programs in Nunatsiavut have struggled over the past year due to closures and limitations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Inuit Early Childcare Working Group created these at home resource kits as a way for children to stay connected to their culture while social distancing. The kits were inspired by a need for childcare resources that are Inuit specific for families at home during the pandemic.

The kit contains a variety of homemade items from the Sananguativut Nunatsiavut Visual Design, as well as some purchased items. The kits have a strong emphasis on age-appropriate Inuktitut language education and include a variety of stories, songs, toys and games.

Kits were distributed to families in all Labrador Inuit communities.



The Inuit Home Childcare Resource Kits provide a creative way for children to engage with their culture and language.



The kits are designed according to age group with age-appropriate resources in each it.

---

# Inuit Nunangat Food Security Strategy Identifies Actions for Building Sustainable Food System

The Inuit Nunangat Food Security Strategy (INFSS), introduced on July 12 by Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, sets the foundation for ending hunger in Inuit Nunangat, the Inuit homeland in Canada. It advances Inuit-driven solutions for improving food security and creating sustainable food systems in Inuit Nunangat.

The high prevalence of food insecurity among Inuit is among the longest-lasting public health crises in Canada. It is impacted by several interrelated drivers, including poverty, high cost of living, climate change, inadequate infrastructure and systemic racism.

The INFSS lays the groundwork for transformational change in the food supply dynamics that directly contribute to food insecurity. The vast majority of foods Inuit consume are shipped thousands of kilometres by air and sea, while a tremendous volume of food leaves the region through commercial export.

The Strategy calls for coordinated actions and investments to address these imbalances, by supporting harvesting activities and Inuit wildlife management decision-making, subsidizing and regulating food transportation, improving food processing infrastructure locally, and supporting regional food production through the development of local food markets.

It identifies measurable objectives within five priority areas: research and advocacy; food system and wellbeing; legislation and policy; programs and services; and knowledge and skills. Implementation will take place through the collaborative structure of the Inuit Crown Partnership Committee, for which food security has been a shared priority area since the ICPC was created in 2017.

This strategy was developed by ITK, together with the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Makivik Corporation and the Nunatsiavut Government, as well as the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services, Inuit Circumpolar Council Canada, Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada, and the National Inuit Youth Council.

“Food insecurity among Inuit in Canada is a public health crisis,” notes Nunatsiavut President Johannes Lampe. “While this is a multi-faceted issue, the Inuit Nunangat Food Security Strategy is a good foundation for finding solutions to this problem. I look forward to the development of this strategy and the positive impact it will have on the lives of Inuit in Nunatsiavut and Inuit Nunangat.”

---

## Nunatsiavut Heritage Forum

Led by the Department of Language, Culture, and Tourism, Nunatsiavut hosted its first-ever heritage forum from June 14-17 at the Illusuak Cultural Centre in Nain.

The forum kicked off on the evening of June 14 with an open house at Illusuak. The following day had the theme ‘Community Sharing’ and allowed members of heritage committee in each Labrador Inuit community the opportunity to give an update on their progress. The keynote speaker, Noah Nochasak, spoke about the Kajak Revival Project. The theme the next day was ‘Living Traditions’, with Patty Way speaking about family trees and family names in Nain. Other sessions that day included ‘Traditional Placenames, local legends and stories in Nain’, ‘Traditional celebrations in Nain’, and a climate change panel. The theme for June 17 was ‘Supports and Future Planning’, which featured an elders

and youth storytelling session led by Binky Andersen.

At the beginning of each day a bit of time was taken for some Inuktitut instruction. Other activities throughout the forum included an antique/traditional item show-and-tell, a craft with sealskin mini-workshop, and a Northlanders family trees and history open house.

The week concluded with a lunch and a performance from the Nain Brass Band and Choir.

Led by the Department of Language, Culture, and Tourism, Nunatsiavut hosted its first-ever heritage forum from June 14-17 at the Illusuak Cultural Centre in Nain.

---

## Andersen Appointed MUN's First Vice-President (Indigenous)

A Beneficiary of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement has been appointed as Memorial University's first Vice-President (Indigenous).

Catharyn Andersen previously served as special advisor to Memorial's president on Indigenous affairs, and led the creation of the first Strategic Framework for Indigenization. She also served as director and Inuktitut Language Program coordinator with the former Torngâsok Cultural Centre in Nain, and helped develop and deliver various language, cultural and heritage initiatives.

I am confident Ms. Andersen will play an integral role in building on the already strong relationship

between the Nunatsiavut Government and Memorial University," says Nunatsiavut President Johannes Lampe. "Throughout her career, she has demonstrated her commitment to advancing Indigenous issues, and in helping to preserve and protect our unique Labrador Inuit language, history and culture. I am certain she will continue to do so in her new role."

Ms. Andersen is now just one of two to hold the position of vice-president (Indigenous) at a Canadian university. The vice-president (Indigenous) is a five-year appointment, eligible for an additional five-year term. The position focuses building relationships with Indigenous Peoples and advancing Indigenization.

---

## Referendum Set for September 13

Beneficiaries of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement will decide on September 13 whether or not to amend the Labrador Inuit Constitution to allow dates of elections for President, Ordinary Members and Inuit Community Governments to be changed in case of emergencies.

A Bill, setting out the amendments, entitled Nunatsiavut Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2021, received second reading in the Nunatsiavut Assembly on June 9 by unanimous vote. However, in order for it to receive assent, as per part 1.2.1 of the Labrador Inuit Constitution, a referendum of Inuit 16 years of age or older must be held, and the Bill must be approved by more than 50 per cent of those who vote.

Beneficiaries in the Constituency of Canada will be able to vote by mail. Advanced polls will be held in all other constituencies on September 3.



# Nunatsiavut Nurses Assist with COVID-19 Vaccinations in Nunavut

Four nurses from the Nunatsiavut Department of Health and Social Development helped to inoculate residents of Iqaluit during a trip to Nunavut in June.

Following a request for assistance from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the nurses travelled to Iqaluit via chartered aircraft on June 16 and returned to Labrador in the early morning hours of June 20. All played a key role in vaccinating youth between the ages of 12 and 17 years at four walk-in clinics. They made presentations at schools to promote the importance of being inoculated,

conducted media interviews on the successful campaign carried out in Nunatsiavut, and utilized a bus to administer vaccines in several parts of the community.

“We were very proud to be able to assist health officials in Iqaluit at mass immunization clinics, to share our experiences in Nunatsiavut, and to promote the importance of getting the vaccine,” says President Lampe. “Our nurses deserve to be acknowledged for the important role they played during these mass clinics.”



We are proud that Nunatsiavut nurses could assist other communities when needed.



The nurses' trip was a great exchange between communities in Nunatsiavut and Nunavut.

*“We were very proud to be able to assist health officials in Iqaluit...”*

---

# Celebrating Pride



Pride themed rock painting in Postville was an opportunity to learn about the meaning of Pride.



Nain's first ever Pride walk was a great success that will continue in years to come.

With Pride month celebrated globally in June, many Labrador Inuit communities took the opportunity to participate and host their own events. Pride is a celebration of the LGBTQIA2S+ community and advocates for love, equality, and acceptance for all, specifically surrounding gender and sexuality.

Hopedale, Rigolet, Postville, and Makkovik, have all been celebrating Pride week for the past few years, but this was the first year that Nain held events. Each of the communities held a week of virtual activities, including window decorating, dressing with the Pride theme, making rainbow food, and making Pride flags. Participants were able to show their participation by posting about it on Facebook.

At the end of the week, each community hosted a Pride walk. Community members dressed in Pride colours and prizes were drawn for those who participated throughout the week. This being Nain's first Pride walk, it was a monumental celebration for the community, drawing a large crowd.



# Continuing to Wear Your Mask is *OK!*

*\*Remember to  
wash your hands!*



Wear a mask to protect yourself and others  
from Covid-19 and other respiratory viruses