**First Ministers Statement**

**Nunatsiavut Assembly**

**September 2024**

**Membership and Enrolment**

* Mr. Speaker, Know History continues to make progress with the Inuit Database, the second phase of the database is now underway.
* At the end of September Know History will conduct 2024 Family Line Workshops in Nain, there will also be training for the database.
* Know History will continue to work with the Nain and North of Nain Membership Committee to build historic family lines in a user-friendly, searchable database.
* The goal of this work is to preserve the Membership Committee’s knowledge for future generations. Archival documents and relevant quotes from Knowledge Holders will be included in the database and linked directly to the relevant family lines.
* The final deliverables will be an online database of the family lines and a physical copy of key family lines.
* This second phase work includes reviewed and entering data from hundreds of files scanned. Adding Inuit and Kablunângajuk ancestors, and adding Inuit and Kablunângajuk family lines to the database, this is supported by interview transcripts for authorized knowledge holders.
* The work also includes adding hundreds of additional individuals and pieces of media.
* So far the Inuit Ancestry Database is now populated with 2,734 interconnected individual profiles populated with data, including 2,556 pieces of media.
* Mr. Speaker, Gail Flowers is the new Chair of the Makkovik/Postville Membership Committee. NG would like to thank Gail and all members of the Membership Committee’s and Appeal Board for their work and dedication.
* As of September 19, 2024, there is a total of 6913 beneficiaries on the Register.

**2024 Affordable Warmth & Home Repair Program**

* Mr. Speaker, the 2024 Home Repair Program is proceeding.
* Colliers Project Leaders has conducted visits to Rigolet, Makkovik, Hopedale and Nain to validate the scopes of work for all approved applicants.
* This program will be concluded in 2025, priority will be given to emergency applications from 2023.

**Infrastructure/Public Property**

* Mr. Speaker, this summer has proven to be exceptionally busy for construction activities across Nunatsiavut, as we also work on developing new construction packages for each community.
* The Nunatsiavut Government has undertaken a substantial responsibility in supporting the Inuit Community Governments with the execution of their projects, including water supply systems, sewage treatment facilities, etc.
* Currently, the Nunatsiavut Government’s implementation team is overseeing the construction of 11 new buildings, with tender packages either being issued or under review. We are also managing a series of maintenance projects targeting existing infrastructure to ensure longevity and reliability.

*Active Capital project updates:*

1. Nain Staff housing 6-plex: Ready for Occupation
2. Hopedale 4-Plex: Commissioning underway
3. Nain 4-Plex: Ready for Occupation
4. Nain and Hopedale Seniors units: Concerns regarding safety and quality have temporarily halted this project. The Nunatsiavut Government project team has been working closely with the contractor to address these issues. Once these matters are fully resolved, work on these buildings will recommence without delay.
5. Makkovik 4-Plex: Staff/ Social Hosing: Due to be completed November 11, 2024.
6. Regional Education Office: Foundation the building is nearly completed. All materials are on sight for the contractor to construct this building through the winter 2025.
7. Rigolet DHSD: Significant progression on the building has taken place in summer 2024. Work will continue on the building through winter 2024/2025 and is on schedule to be completed in summer 2025.

*Infrastructure Growth Planning*

* Mr. Speaker, Pingutitsinik Nunatsiavut is a plan to create a Long Term Infrastructure Strategy which focuses on developing a long-term vision for infrastructure.

Projects under way:

1. Nunatsiavut Growth, Land development and Housing Strategy
   1. Fall/winter 2024 the project team plan to present concept plans of the strategy to the communities and ensure we get additional feedback before anything is finalized on the housing and growth strategy.
2. Economic Development Strategy for the Construction Sector:
   1. This strategic initiative delves into various methods and offers recommendations to optimize economic development alongside infrastructure projects throughout our region, ensuring that beneficiaries are at the forefront of economic growth and prosperity.
3. Waste Management Strategy and Operations Plan for all communities:
   1. This project will outline immediate, medium-term, and long-term actions, including the relocation of waste facilities and exploring incineration options. Site visits and community consultations scheduled for October.

*Nain Airport Feasibility Study:*

* Summer 2024 marks a significant advancement in the development of the proposed new Nain airport, with all 12 associated projects either underway or completed.
* The R12 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been initiated, benefiting from robust support from the Nunatsiavut Government's Environmental Division and collaborative efforts with provincial, federal governments.

**Illusuak**

* The reopening of the Illusuak Cultural Centre has been further delayed due to the need for the removal of vinyl flooring that suffered significant discoloration from the incident. Despite multiple attempts by the contractor to strip and refinish the flooring, it could not be restored to its original condition. Given the extended delays, Nunatsiavut Affairs has hired a professional project management and engineering firm to oversee the remaining restoration work. This firm will also apply pressure on the contractor and insurance company to expedite the completion of the building. While painting, electrical work, and most of the cleaning have been completed, there is still a considerable amount of finishing work that must be completed by the insurance company before the building can be reoccupied.