

Department of Education & Economic Development
Ministerial Statement, Tom Evans
September 2025
Education Update

Current Post-Secondary Students

The Fall semester has begun, and we currently have **approximately 260 students** enrolled in post-secondary studies and being supported by the NG Education Division Funding Program. **192** are receiving full-time support and **68** are receiving part-time support. We are currently supporting **3** ABE students at our Learning Centers in Nain and Hopedale, with **3** more soon starting. We have one beneficiary supported under the Self-Employment Benefits program.

Current Secondary Enrollment numbers

We have seen an increase in our overall K-12 numbers over the past year. Last year our total enrollment for K-12 for all five Nunatsiavut communities combined was 516. This year, that number has increased to 533!

Nain – 222 students. 16 entering Kindergarten and 13 finishing grade 12 in June

Hopedale – 136 students. 7 entering Kindergarten and 7 finishing grade 12 in June.

Makkovik – 77 students. 1 entering Kindergarten and 8 finishing grade 12 in June.

Postville – 35 students. 2 entering Kindergarten and no students registered there in grade 12 this year.

Rigolet – 62 students. 6 entering Kindergarten and 9 finishing grade 12 in June.

Teacher Shortage

Compared to last year, the teacher shortage situation in Nunatsiavut remains an issue, but this this year the issue is much more positive. According to the latest numbers, there are 6 vacancies total: 4 in Hopedale, one in Nain, and one in Makkovik. Both Postville and Rigolet have a full staff. We are very aware of the issues surrounding teacher recruitment and retention and are working closely with the NL Schools staff on this.

***Information from previous report that you may not have read at the Assembly:**

Continuing to address the teacher shortage issues, although not immediate, I am pleased to announce that the Education Division has partnered with the MTIE Innu School Board and Memorial University to develop and deliver an Indigenous-specific teacher education program that will be fully delivered in Happy Valley Goose Bay. This 5-year program is culturally grounded teacher education program will train Inuit and Innu educators to serve their communities using dual-culture and community-led approaches. The three partners have applied to the Rideau Hall Foundation and have been awarded **\$1 M over four years** to help with program costs. The Nunatsiavut Government and the MTIE Innu School Board have committed to sharing delivery costs for the first year of the program, which will amount to \$150K each, as well as nominal support for some cultural components over the remaining four years. We will also support our Inuit beneficiaries who are accepted into the program and qualify under our Education Division Funding Program.

We are looking forward to working together with our Innu colleagues and Memorial University to address the shortage of trained teachers in Labrador by helping to provide the training locally. We hope to have the program commence in Fall 2026.

The Education Accord NL

The Education Accord was released in late August, and recent reports have identified several citation errors in the report. Our Director of Education was an Advisory Committee member and has been communicating with the province to further understand what happened. Despite the citation errors identified, the content of the report came from community and stakeholder engagement sessions, and this information is still valid and valuable.

Aside from the report itself, many of the calls to action include engagement with the Indigenous communities of the province to inform foundational changes to the content and teaching methods moving forward. We have met with the Minister of Education & Early Learning, Bernard Davis, and his senior staff and informed them that if the province continues to recognize NCC as an Indigenous group in this province, that our participation in this education reform is not guaranteed.

Inuit Nunangat University

A briefing note went to the ITK BoD at their meeting last week to give further direction on the selection of the main campus site. The location of the university will see a **main campus** in one of the four Inuit regions, with a smaller, satellite

campus in each of the remaining regions. A company has been hired to start the consultation process of the different layout and design options for the main campus.

ITK has also hired two Inuit, Natasha MacDonald from Nunavik and Piers Kreps from Inuvait, as our first Academic Council members. They are working on drafting academic policies and shaping a 5-year work plan toward INU's first program offerings in 2030.

Career Fair

The Career Fair will take place in Makkovik again this year but will start rotating to the other communities next year. So far, we have approximately 25 students signed up to attend with around 25 presenters/booth holders from various post-secondary institutions, companies and possible future employers confirmed.

Summer Literacy Camps 2025

We have once again contracted United For Literacy to oversee the delivery of the Summer Literacy Camps in the five Nunatsiavut communities. We have a high number of local counsellors hired again this year, with numbers hovering around 20 local counsellors!

The camps ran for 4 weeks between July and August, free of charge for children ages 5-12 (and those heading into kindergarten this fall). A full report will be available later this fall and I will circulate it when received.

Regional Education Division Building

Construction on the new regional Education Division building is nearing completion. Hydro is in Makkovik completing their work and we are looking forward to hopefully being able to move in later this fall.