

24 December 2024

Dear Applicant:

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the **Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015** [IAR 040 2024:]

On 3 December 2024, the Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation received your request for access to the following records:

All briefing materials for the month of November 2024.

I am pleased to inform you that a decision has been made by the Deputy Minister for the Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation to provide access to some of the requested information.

Access to the remaining records, and/or information contained within the records, has been refused in accordance with the following exception(s) to disclosure, as specified in the **Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015 (the Act)**:

s.29(1)(a) The head of a public body may refuse to disclose to an applicant information that would reveal advice, proposals, recommendations, analyses or policy options developed by or for a public body or minister.

As required by 8(2) of the Act, we have severed information that is unable to be disclosed and have provided you with as much information as possible.

In accordance with your request for a copy of the records, the appropriate copies have been enclosed.

Please be advised that you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review the processing of your access request, as set out in section 42 of the Act (a copy of this section has been enclosed for your reference). A request to the Commissioner must be made in writing within 15 business days of the date of this letter or within a longer period that may be allowed by the Commissioner.



The address and contact information of the Information and Privacy Commissioner is as follows:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner
2 Canada Drive
P. O. Box 13004, Stn. A
St. John's, NL. A1B 3V8

Telephone: (709) 729-6309
Toll-Free: 1-877-729-6309
Email: commissioner@oipc.nl.ca

You may also appeal directly to the Supreme Court within 15 business days after you receive the decision of the public body, pursuant to section 52 of the Act (a copy of this section has been enclosed for your reference).

If you have any further questions, please contact me by telephone at 709-699-2422 or by email at ATIPP-IAR@gov.nl.ca

Sincerely,

Kayla Burry
ATIPP Coordinator / Senior Analyst

Access or correction complaint

42. (1) A person who makes a request under this Act for access to a record or for correction of personal information may file a complaint with the commissioner respecting a decision, act or failure to act of the head of the public body that relates to the request.

(2) A complaint under subsection (1) shall be filed in writing not later than 15 business days

(a) after the applicant is notified of the decision of the head of the public body, or the date of the act or failure to act; or

(b) after the date the head of the public body is considered to have refused the request under subsection 16 (2).

(3) A third party informed under section 19 of a decision of the head of a public body to grant access to a record or part of a record in response to a request may file a complaint with the commissioner respecting that decision.

(4) A complaint under subsection (3) shall be filed in writing not later than 15 business days after the third party is informed of the decision of the head of the public body.

(5) The commissioner may allow a longer time period for the filing of a complaint under this section.

(6) A person or third party who has appealed directly to the Trial Division under subsection 52 (1) or 53 (1) shall not file a complaint with the commissioner.

(7) The commissioner shall refuse to investigate a complaint where an appeal has been commenced in the Trial Division.

(8) A complaint shall not be filed under this section with respect to

(a) a request that is disregarded under section 21 ;

(b) a decision respecting an extension of time under section 23 ;

(c) a variation of a procedure under section 24 ; or

(d) an estimate of costs or a decision not to waive a cost under section 26 .

(9) The commissioner shall provide a copy of the complaint to the head of the public body concerned.

Direct appeal to Trial Division by an applicant

52. (1) Where an applicant has made a request to a public body for access to a record or correction of personal information and has not filed a complaint with the commissioner under section 42, the applicant may appeal the decision, act or failure to act of the head of the public body that relates to the request directly to the Trial Division.

(2) An appeal shall be commenced under subsection (1) not later than 15 business days

(a) after the applicant is notified of the decision of the head of the public body, or the date of the act or failure to act; or

(b) after the date the head of the public body is considered to have refused the request under subsection 16 (2).

(3) Where an applicant has filed a complaint with the commissioner under section 42 and the commissioner has refused to investigate the complaint, the applicant may commence an appeal in the Trial Division of the decision, act or failure to act of the head of the public body that relates to the request for access to a record or for correction of personal information.

(4) An appeal shall be commenced under subsection (3) not later than 15 business days after the applicant is notified of the commissioner's refusal under subsection 45 (2).



**Honourable Dr. Scott Reid
Minister Responsible for
Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation**

**House of Assembly
November – December 2024**

**House of Assembly
Fall Session, November - December 2024**

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House of Assembly
Newfoundland and Labrador
Parliamentary Calendar 2024

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Sitting Days: In accordance with Standing Order 8 (1), unless otherwise ordered the House shall meet on these dates.

**Daily schedule: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 1:30 pm - 5:30 pm
Wednesday 10 am - 12:30 pm and 2 pm - 5 pm**

Constituency Days: In accordance with Standing Order 8(3)(a) and 8(5)

Designated Holidays: In accordance with Standing Order 8(2).

Easter Break – In accordance with Standing Order 8(3)(b).



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Parliamentary Calendar 2025

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Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation HOA

1	Heritage Centre Plans for Central Newfoundland - October
2	e-Learning for Public Service on Indigenous Histories - October
3	(UNDRIP) United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples - October
4	First Voice - 1st Reconciliation Report - October
5	Advancing Reconciliation / List of Accomplishments - October
6	Jordan's Principle
7	Happy Valley-Goose Bay Hub
8	(MMIWG) Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls + Indigenous Violence Prevention Grants Program
9	Update on Truth & Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action
10	Indigenous Women's Reconciliation Council
11	Innu Health
12	Renaming Mount Peyton

Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation Heritage Centre Plans for Central Newfoundland October 2024

Summary

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador announced plans in 2022 to begin planning for a new heritage centre near Beothuk Lake in Central Newfoundland. Budget 2022 included an allocation of \$250,000 for this process. It was proposed that the new centre would commemorate the Beothuk people and complement **the final resting place** of the remains of Nonosabasut and Demasduit.

Anticipated Questions

- What is the status of Government's plan to develop a new heritage centre in Central Newfoundland?

Key Messages

- Leaders of the province's Indigenous Governments and Organizations have indicated that determining and establishing a final resting place for the remains of two Beothuk people, Demasduit and Nonosabasut, is a priority.
- The Provincial Government asked **The Rooms** to convene a group with representation from the five Indigenous Governments and Organizations to review this priority and offer recommendations.
- **The Final Resting Place Circle** is developing recommendations. The Beothuk remains that were repatriated from National Museums Scotland continue to be housed in a respectful manner at The Rooms.
- At the same time, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is exploring the concept for a heritage centre that could commemorate the Beothuk people and possibly complement the final resting place of the remains of Nonosabasut and Demasduit. Government has previously indicated such a centre would be located in Central Newfoundland.

Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation
e-Learning for Public Service on Indigenous Histories
October 2024

Summary

An e-Learning module for public service employees was developed by the Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation in partnership with the Public Service Commission. **Towards Reconciliation: An Overview of Indigenous Histories Across Canada**, co-developed with the five Indigenous Governments and Organizations in the province, was **launched in November 2023**.

Anticipated Questions

- Why is the public service completing an e-Learning module on Indigenous histories across Canada?

Key Messages

- The public service has responded positively to the opportunity to improve their understanding and knowledge of Indigenous histories in Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador.
- Supporting the public service in learning about Indigenous histories is an important step on the journey to advance Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.
- The Indigenous histories e-Learning module is mandatory for the core public service.
- The e-Learning module was developed in partnership with the Public Service Commission and co-developed with the Nunatsiavut Government, Innu Nation, NunatuKavut Community Council, Miawpukek First Nation and Qalipu First Nation.

- The Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation and the Public Service Commission are **continuing to partner with Indigenous Governments and Organizations to co-develop their individual modules.**

Background:

- The e-Learning module was developed in response to **Call to Action 57** from the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.
- The recommendation called on federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments **to provide education to public servants** on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, treaties and aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal-Crown relations.

Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation
United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
October 2024

Summary

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2007. It describes the rights of Indigenous peoples to self-determination and to their language, culture and traditional rights, and outlines the requirement for free, prior and informed consent from Indigenous peoples on developments on their lands.

Anticipated Questions

- Does the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador support UNDRIP and will it be enacted in this province?

Key Messages

- The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is giving due consideration to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).
- We are presently gathering information and assessing the implications associated with adopting a declaration.
- The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is engaged in discussions with the federal government, provinces and territories, and Indigenous Governments and Organizations on how UNDRIP will impact Indigenous Governments and Organizations as well as provinces and territories.
- The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador continues to engage with Indigenous Governments and Organizations on a broad range of subjects and is committed to advancing Indigenous-led priorities. See Accomplishments List for specific examples.

Background:

- UNDRIP, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2007, describes the rights of Indigenous peoples to self-determination and to their language, culture and traditional rights, and outlines the requirement for free, prior and informed consent from Indigenous peoples on developments on their lands.
- The Federal Government endorsed the UN declaration and committed to its implementation.
- Canada's UN Declaration Act received Royal Assent in 2021, creating a framework to advance the implementation of UNDRIP at the federal level.

Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation

First Voice Releasing First Annual Reconciliation Report

October 2024

Summary

First Voice, an urban Indigenous coalition, released its first annual reconciliation report in September 2024. The report is a follow-up to the coalition's 42 calls for change first published in February 2023 and is based on community engagement and recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' Calls for Justice, and the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. First Voice says recognizing the rights of urban Indigenous people features prominently in the report and adds it has identified specific next steps that should be taken in order to continue making progress in the year ahead.

Anticipated Questions

- Does the Provincial Government have plans to implement the 42 calls for change?

Key Messages

- The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador places a high priority on listening and advancing Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.
- The path to Reconciliation is founded on the principles of learning, understanding and mutual respect.
- Government is focused on addressing Indigenous-led priorities and needs.
- The Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation and other departments across Government engage in bilateral discussions with Indigenous Governments and Organizations and we reiterate a commitment to continuing this important dialogue.

- The Provincial Government welcomes all perspectives that will help identify solutions to address issues and concerns.
- As a portion of the calls for change involve several departments of Government, we will take the time that is necessary to review the recommendations and action items.
- The Minister Responsible for Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation has engaged with First Light since the report was released and looks forward to further discussions to understand the recommendations cited in the reconciliation report.

Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation
Advancing Reconciliation
October 2024

Summary

Questions arise from the Opposition, groups and organizations, and individuals about the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the work it is doing to advance Reconciliation with Indigenous Governments and Organizations and Indigenous peoples. The Provincial Government is proceeding on a path to advance Reconciliation through mutual respect and building trust with communities.

Anticipated Questions

- What is the Provincial Government doing to advance Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and communities?

Key Messages:

- The Provincial Government is committed to forging respectful relationships with Indigenous Governments and Organizations.
- We are making progress on this journey through listening, understanding, and mutual respect. The focus of our attention is on matters that are important to Indigenous peoples.
- The Provincial Government is collaborating with Indigenous Governments and Organizations on actions to better advance the priorities of Indigenous peoples in several areas. This includes:
 - The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador **delivered apologies** to former students who attended residential schools in the province. Apology ceremonies took place in Cartwright in September 2023 and Rigolet, Postville, Makkovik, Hopedale, Nain and Happy Valley-Goose Bay in November 2023.

- An **e-Learning module** titled 'Toward Reconciliation: An Overview of Indigenous Histories Across Canada', was launched in November 2023 in partnership with the Public Service Commission. The course, mandatory for public service employees, was co-developed with Indigenous Governments and Organizations and provides an overview of Indigenous peoples in Canada and the province.
- An **Indigenous Women's Reconciliation Council** was formed in collaboration with the Provincial Indigenous Women's Steering Committee. The shared goal is to coordinate and lead meaningful action on the implementation of recommendations to address and prevent systemic violence against Indigenous women and girls.
- Discussions are ongoing with the federal government and the Innu to finalize the **Innu land claim**.
- The Premier and Minister, together with Indigenous Governments and Organizations, **unveiled a bronze statue** this month honouring Demasduit, her husband, Nonosabasut, and their infant son, and **artwork** depicting a Beothuk family at Confederation Building.
- We are collaborating with Indigenous Governments and Organizations to plan unveiling ceremonies for Indigenous artwork that represents their communities for placement in the East Block lobby of Confederation Building
- **In collaboration with the Innu Nation, 21 new road and place name signs** with dual names in Innu-aimun and English were installed in Labrador in 2023. The signage recognizes and highlights the significance of Innu culture and history in the province.
- Recognition of **September 30 as a Day for Truth and Reconciliation**.
- The Premier and the Minister of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation meet on a regular basis with Indigenous leaders via conference call to discuss a broad range of topics and matters of mutual interest.

2023-24 Accomplishments
Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation
October 2024

Accomplishment	Name of Initiative	Overview of Accomplishment
Unveiling Ceremonies	Beothuk Statue and Beothuk Artwork	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The culture and historical significance of the Beothuk was honoured this month through the unveiling of a bronze statue and artwork depicting Demasduit, Nonosabasut and their infant son at Confederation Building.
Honouring Indigenous Culture and History	Procuring and Displaying Indigenous Artwork	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In collaboration with the five Indigenous Governments and Organizations, the Provincial Government purchased Indigenous artwork for display in the East Block of Confederation Building.
Delivery of Apologies to Residential School Survivors	Residential School Apologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador delivered apologies to former students who attended residential schools in the province. The apology ceremonies took place in Cartwright, Rigolet, Postville, Makkovik, Hopedale, Nain and Happy Valley-Goose Bay in the fall of 2023.

<p>Launch of Indigenous Training Module for Civil Service</p>	<p>e-Learning Training Module for PublicService</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An e-Learning module titled 'Toward Reconciliation: An Overview of Indigenous Histories Across Canada' was launched in partnership with the Public Service Commission. The course, mandatory for public service employees, provides an overview of Indigenous peoples in Canada and an introduction to Indigenous peoples of the province.
<p>Advancing Reconciliation</p>	<p>Indigenous-led Priorities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through listening, understanding, and mutual respect, the Provincial Government is making progress on advancing Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. Our focus is on matters that are important to Indigenous peoples.

<p>Supporting Indigenous-led care in the healthcare system</p>	<p>Strengthening the Indigenous Patient Navigator program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Indigenous Patient Navigator Program is in place to enhance the provision of culturally appropriate care for Indigenous people in the health care system. Newfoundland and Labrador Health Services (NLHS) funds three positions that are in place in the eastern region. First Light is contracted to provide the service. In place since 2009, the program continues to expand through the addition of Indigenous funded positions in Central, Western and Labrador regions. • A Community of Practice has also been established for navigators to share successes, challenges and opportunities for change.
<p>Violence Prevention Grants</p>	<p>Indigenous led Initiative</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$251,000 annually for the delivery of the Indigenous Violence Prevention Grants which supports the efforts, led by IGOs, to combat violence within their communities.

<p>Collaboration with Indigenous Governments and Organizations on service delivery</p>	<p>Official Meeting forums to discuss and address culturally specific public service delivery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various official meeting forums exist which provide opportunities to collaborate with specific IGOs on common priorities, particularly in the areas of social and health services, capacity development. Some examples are: • Innu Round Table Secretariat: (IRTS)– a well-established, tripartite meeting process led by the Innu Nation. IRTS focuses on identifying and addressing common priorities for the Innu people. CSSD, HCS/NLHS, JPS, IAR regularly participate in meetings and subcommittees. • Labrador Inuit Tripartite Health Committee (LITHC): this forum is focused on working cooperatively to improve health programs and services for Labrador Inuit. HCS/NLHS and IAR regularly participate.
<p>Education MOUs with IGOs</p>	<p>Education MOUs to include Indigenous ways of knowing and being in Indigenous communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IAR has provided input on the MOUs between the Department of Education and various Indigenous Governments and Organizations wherein each MOU allows the sharing of expertise and information to complement the K-12 curriculum and teaching practices.

Education

Student Assistants

October 3, 2024

Summary:

Some parents on the west coast have stated that government is not providing adequate student assistant supports for their child in school.

Anticipated Questions:

- What supports are in place for students with additional needs in the school system?
- What action is government taking to resolve the delay with federal funding through Jordan's Principle?

Key Messages

- We are committing to ensuring that all students who received support through Jordan's Principle last year will receive that same level of support this school year. Jordan's Principle funding is available solely to Indigenous individuals.
- Given the Federal Regional Minister's confirmation that Jordan's Principle funding is forthcoming, our government will cover the federal funding for Jordan's Principle until the end of the calendar year and we will seek to recover all costs associated with implementing resources that should be funded through Jordan's Principle.
- We have heard the concerns from families related to delays receiving supports through Jordan's Principle. We encourage the Federal Government to implement all necessary resources and to expedite the approval process for these important supports.
- Students' education is the top priority for our department, and we will continue to work closely with families, schools, and the Federal Government to ensure there are no gaps in support or service delivery for students.

Secondary Messages

- The hiring process for these human resources will begin in short order.
- This year, separate from Jordan's Principle, we have added 160 full-time equivalent student assistants and 40 IRT positions to support students in school. The hiring process for those positions began this past spring.

Background

- Indigenous students in the public K-12 system may be eligible to receive additional student supports funded through Jordan's Principle, which is operated by the Federal Government.
- Student assistant hours provided by the Department of Education are allocated to schools according to students' needs.
- The department, through a student support team, assesses the needs of a student to determine the appropriate types of resources and support required for a student for the school year. This may include supports from a student assistant, itinerant teacher, instructional resource teacher, or teaching and learning assistant in the classroom.
- Student supports allocated through Jordan's Principle for Indigenous students are funded by and provided at the sole discretion of the Federal Government. Approvals for federal assistance to support student assistant allocation through Jordan's Principle are ongoing.

Housing

Happy Valley-Goose Bay Hub

October 25, 2024

Summary

On August 12, a protest was held in Happy Valley-Goose Bay regarding a building fire, with residents calling for solutions for what they see as an increase in criminal activity and property crime. Some have attributed crime in the community with individuals experiencing homelessness in the community.

Anticipated Questions

- What is the status of the Integrated Health, Housing and Supportive Services Hub?

Key Messages

- Final design work is progressing on the Hub in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, with over \$30 million committed to complete the project and an anticipated start date in Fall 2025.
- Staff from NL Housing, NL Health Services and other project partners, including representatives from the HVGB Action Team, held the most recent round of public information sessions on the proposed design at the end of May 2024.
- The Hub is a direct response to addressing homelessness in the area. The current Out of the Cold emergency shelter has just nine shelter beds and demand for services has significantly outgrown its capacity.
- The new facility will provide a more appropriate and staffed shelter and supportive housing response for the area. It will address the current gaps and bring housing options, along with health and other wrap-around services under one roof.
- The Hub will include on-site mental health and addictions counselling services, as well as clinic spaces that will host primary care team members on a regular schedule. Its services will complement the recently announced addictions treatment centre in the community.

- The Hub will also offer culturally appropriate Indigenous-led programming and initiatives, life skills and navigational supports, and will incorporate programming from other community partners.

Secondary Messages

- While an RFP for site clearing to begin in the Fall was originally contemplated, due to the relatively short window for such work it was decided to forego this and include this work in the larger project RFP that is being prepared for work to begin next year.
- We continue to work with the municipality, and our Indigenous and community partners to address the needs of those experiencing homelessness in the Happy Valley-Goose Bay area.
- We work closely with our community partners to provide emergency and supportive housing options in the area, as well as funding to operate a transition home for women and children fleeing intimate partner violence.
- We are also committed to continuing to expand our own affordable housing footprint in the community. In 2023 we completed four homes, and another 16 will be completed in November, in partnership with the Federal Government.
- We're investing \$900,000 to expand the Harm Reduction Team that helps support vulnerable individuals. The teams include nurse practitioners, psychiatric registered nurses, peer supports, pharmacists, occupational therapists, addictions counsellors, and outreach staff.
- We're also investing \$1.5 million this year to expand the mobile crisis response teams to include communities and surrounding areas, including Sheshatshiu.

Office of Women and Gender Equality
Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
 October 8, 2024

Summary

Researchers have reported that Indigenous women and girls are 12 times more likely to be murdered or missing than other women in Canada, and experience violence at higher rates than other populations. They are also sexually assaulted three times more often than non-Indigenous women, and most of the women and children trafficked in Canada are Indigenous.

Anticipated Question

- What action is the Provincial Government taken to prevent violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people?

Key Messages

- The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is dedicated to the prevention of violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.
- Our government is committed to working with and uplifting the voices and perspectives of Indigenous Peoples through responding to the Calls for Justice as set out in the National Inquiry's final report, **'Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls'**.
- Our government is committed to working collaboratively with provincial Indigenous Governments and Organizations to respond to the priorities of the National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence, and the Calls for Justice. The Provincial Indigenous Women's Reconciliation Council provides another mechanism for a collaborative ongoing working relationship between Indigenous women and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador in this regard.
- Since 2005, approximately \$4.2 million in project funding has been awarded to more than 180 culturally appropriate, Indigenous-led violence prevention projects throughout the province through the Indigenous Violence Prevention Program.
- The National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence bilateral agreement gave the Office of Women and Gender Equality an ability to provide an additional \$45,583 in 2024 to the \$271,000 allocated for the Indigenous Violence Prevention Grant Program, for a total of \$316,583.

- The Office of Women and Gender Equality continues to work with our federal, provincial, and territorial colleagues to advance the National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence.

Secondary Messages

- The Reconciliation Council has been working to lead meaningful action regarding the 196 recommendations contained in the *Hear Our Voices* Report, as well as the national Calls for Justice.
- The Council's work focuses on relationship building between government and Indigenous women, to address the roots causes of inequity, and to prevent violence and harm against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.
- It is important to support targeted efforts that are led by Indigenous governments and organizations to prevent violence in communities throughout our province.

Background

- The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has participated in two Federal-Provincial-Territorial-Indigenous roundtables regarding missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.
- Throughout September and October 2023, the Honourable Dr. Andrew Furey, Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador, delivered apologies on behalf of government to residential school survivors in Rigolet, Postville, Makkovik, Hopedale, Nain, Happy Valley-Goose Bay and Cartwright.
- Acknowledging the neglect, abuse and discrimination experienced by former students and their family members in residential schools is an ongoing commitment of the GNL to help advance reconciliation.
- In the spirit of continued learning, in November 2023, the government's Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation launched an eLearning module entitled '**Toward Reconciliation: An Overview of Indigenous Histories Across Canada**'. The course, which is mandatory for public service employees, provides an overview of Indigenous peoples in Canada and an introduction to Indigenous peoples in Newfoundland and Labrador. Developed in collaboration with Indigenous Governments and Organizations, this eLearning module is part one of an upcoming educational series highlighting Indigenous history, culture, and identity in the province.

- In November 2023, the GNL announced the creation of the Policing Transformation Working Group that will help shape the future of policing services in the province. This group is mandated to evaluate the current provincial policing model, conduct public engagement, and provide ongoing advice to ensure Newfoundlanders and Labradorians receive the most effective and efficient policing services possible.
- Government will consider best practices in other jurisdictions and the community safety needs of all people and groups who reside in in the province, including urban, rural, Labrador, racialized and Indigenous communities.
- Work is also ongoing for the **'Inquiry into the Treatment, Experiences and Outcomes of Innu in the Child Protection System'**, which commenced in April 2022. The Inquiry will report on the treatment, experiences, and outcomes of Innu in the province's child protection system.

Office of Women and Gender Equality
Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation
October 22, 2024

Funding Awarded for 14 Indigenous Violence Prevention Initiatives

The Honourable Pam Parsons, Minister Responsible for Women and Gender Equality, and the Honourable Scott Reid, Minister Responsible for Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation today announced \$316,583 in funding for 14 projects through the Province's Indigenous Violence Prevention Grants Program.

The Indigenous Violence Prevention Grants Program supports Newfoundland and Labrador's Indigenous Governments and Organizations in their efforts to prevent violence against Indigenous women, children and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals.

Quotes

"The Indigenous Violence Prevention Grants Program is vital to fostering safer, stronger communities by empowering Indigenous Governments and Organizations to address the unique challenges they face. This program also reflects a continued commitment by this government to reconciliation, and ensuring culturally appropriate supports that promote healing, equality, and justice for Indigenous peoples throughout Newfoundland and Labrador."

Honourable Pam Parsons
Minister Responsible for Women and Gender Equality

"Our work with Indigenous women's groups and organizations has shown us there are many culturally appropriate approaches to preventing violence in Indigenous communities. The awarding of Indigenous Violence Prevention Grants supports grassroots projects that will deliver benefits to all persons and Indigenous communities."

Honourable Dr. Scott Reid
Minister Responsible for Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation

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Learn more

[Indigenous Violence Prevention Grants Program](#)
[Office of Women and Gender Equality](#)
[Office of Indigenous Affairs and reconciliation](#)

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BACKGROUNDER

**AnanauKatiget Tumingit Regional Inuit Women’s Association Inc.
Project – Technology-facilitated Gender-based Violence Prevention
Gathering**

A weekend gathering for Inuit teenage girls to educate them on technology-facilitated gender-based violence to prevent the online exploitation of Indigenous women and girls. The gathering will include presentations from violence prevention service providers, and cultural support and guidance from Elders.

Grant Awarded: \$27,263

**Assembly of First Nations – NL Women’s Initiative
Project – Women’s Gathering**

A women’s cultural gathering focused on violence prevention through empowering women’s leadership. The goal of this gathering is to address barriers to advance and empower Indigenous women leaders to effect positive change and progress.

Grant Awarded: \$20,300

Benoit's Cove Indian Band Inc.**Project – Community Support**

This project is focused on engaging Indigenous men and boys in violence prevention through skill development, confidence building, increasing violence prevention awareness, reconnecting with their culture, and becoming changemakers.

Grant Awarded: \$11,260

Empowering Indigenous Women for Stronger Communities**Project – Peer Facilitation Training Enhancement**

This project is designed to empower women and gender-diverse individuals in leadership roles, with culturally informed, trauma-aware training, to help deepen trust in the community.

Grant Awarded: \$20,384

Exploits Native Women's Association**Project – Using Our Knowledge to Prevent Violence**

Funding will be used to enable the development and implementation of three violence prevention workshops to address stigma in youth, engage men and boys, and connect individuals to cultural values.

Grant Awarded: \$23,250

First Light St. John's Friendship Centre**Project – Two-Spirit and Indigiqueer Inclusion Initiative**

This project will see the establishment of Two-Spirit and Indigiqueer specific services to the Urban Indigenous community, focussing on professional development and cultural knowledge building, enabling access to established programs across Turtle Island (Canada), and providing access to formal training and engagement with Two-Spirit and Indigiqueer Elders and Knowledge Keepers.

Grant Awarded: \$24,210

Flat Bay Band**Project – K'taqmkuk Restorative Justice Strategy Capacity Enhancement**

This project aims to address violence prevention, with a specific focus on the Indigenous Mi'kmaw communities in the province. Funding will support gatherings, workshops and training sessions, the distribution of educational materials, implementation of mentoring and capacity-building programs, as well as referrals and support services.

Grant Awarded: \$24,210

Mi'kmaw Cultural Foundation**Project – Four Seasons Four Gatherings**

This initiative is designed to empower Indigenous youth, ages 15 to 30, by deepening their cultural knowledge and strengthening their connections to their heritage at seasonal gatherings with Elders and mentors.

Grant Awarded: \$24,210

Mushuau Innu First Nation**Project – Indigenous Violence Prevention Project**

This project is designed to address violence against women and girls in the Mushuau Innu First Nation of Natuashish through culturally relevant approaches via dialogue, knowledge sharing and awareness building using healing circles, workshops and education sessions focused on trauma-informed care.

Grant Awarded: \$17,500

Newfoundland Indigenous Peoples Alliance Inc.**Project – Culture and Connections on the Land**

This project will consist of holding group sessions to connect youth and adults with communities that have limited opportunities to engage in Indigenous wellness and cultural ways. Activities will include a women's retreat, moccasin-making workshops, feather wrapping, craft sessions, medicine walks, foraging workshops, snowshoeing, and hiking.

Grant Awarded: \$22,936

Newfoundland Native Women's Association

Project – Violence Prevention (Virtual) Resource-Sharing, Information and Engagement

This project will involve the facilitation of virtual violence prevention information sessions for Indigenous Groups and Organizations throughout Newfoundland and Labrador seeking resources for women, girls, Two-Spirit and gender-diverse people.

Grant Awarded: \$22,000

Northern Peninsula (Mekap'sk) Mi'kmaq Band

Project – Indigenous Path Forward

This project is designed to address challenges related to violence against Indigenous populations on the Northern Peninsula. A facilitator will be hired to conduct research through gatherings and workshops, where data will be collected to complete a report for future capacity-building.

Grant Awarded: \$28,810

NunatuKavut Community Council

Project – Growing our Wellness

The NunatuKavut Community Council will engage with NunatuKavut Inuit of all ages to develop violence prevention and healing groups. This will include education and skill building for youth to help build self-esteem and self-worth and create and maintain healthy connections with their communities and service providers.

Grant Awarded: \$27,500

Sheshatshiu Innu First Nation

Project – Elder / Community Engagement Project

This project will use culturally appropriate approaches to preventing violence in the community of Sheshatshiu and includes a week-long gathering to bring Elders and 10 families together to focus on conflict resolution, communication, storytelling, and traditional healing practices.

Grant Awarded: \$22,750

Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation
Update on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action
 October 25, 2024

Summary:

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) released its final report in 2015. The report contained 94 Calls to Action which urged all levels of government to work together to change policies and programs in a concerted effort to repair the harm caused by residential schools and move forward with Reconciliation.

Anticipated Questions:

- What is the status of the Calls to Action released by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that are specific to Newfoundland and Labrador?

Key Messages:

- The Provincial Government is in the process of implementing Calls to Action issued by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that are within provincial jurisdiction.
- 33 Calls to Action were directed to provinces and territories.
- Provincial actions on implementing and advancing specific Calls to Action are being undertaken in collaboration and together with Indigenous Governments and Organizations.

Update on Implementing Recommendations:

Some of the Calls to Action and progress to date includes:

- **Call #2 – We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with the provinces and territories, to prepare and publish annual reports on the number of Aboriginal children who are in care:**
 - Response – Children, Seniors and Social Development (CSSD) has released 3 Reports on Child Welfare Services to Indigenous Children, Youth and Families.

- The report includes data on the number of Indigenous children in care in comparison to non-Indigenous children, as well as reasons for child protection involvement.
- **Call #17 – We call upon all levels of government to enable residential school survivors and their families to reclaim names changed by the residential school system by waiving administrative costs.**
 - Response – Since 2017, Digital Government and Service NL policy has directed officials to forego collecting fees for name changes and related applications for official identity documents for residential school survivors.
- **Call #22 – We call upon those who can effect change within the Canadian health-care system to recognize the value of Aboriginal healing practices and use them in the treatment of Aboriginal patients in collaboration with Aboriginal healers and Elders where requested by Aboriginal patients.**
 - Response - In 2022-23, each of the six Indigenous Governments and Organizations received \$50,000 from the Provincial Government to support the implementation of culturally informed, land-based wellness programming under **Our Path of Resilience: An Action Plan to Promote Life and Prevent Suicide in Newfoundland and Labrador.**
 - The Indigenous Patient Navigator Program is in place to enhance the provision of culturally appropriate care for Indigenous people. It is a partnership between HCS, Newfoundland and Labrador Health Services and First Light. The program employs three Indigenous Patient Navigators who work with Indigenous patients and clients to ensure their cultural needs are met. [REDACTED]
- 29(1)(a) [REDACTED]
- **Call #57 – We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to provide education to public servants on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential school.**
 - An eLearning module titled ‘Toward Reconciliation: An Overview of Indigenous Histories Across Canada’ was launched in partnership with the Public Service Commission. The course, mandatory for

- public service employees, provides an overview of Indigenous peoples in Canada and an introduction to Indigenous peoples of the province.
- This course was co-developed with Indigenous governments and organizations.
- **Call #62 – We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments, in consultation and collaboration with survivors, Aboriginal peoples, and educators, to: Make age-appropriate curriculum on residential schools, Aboriginal peoples’ historical and contemporary contributions, etc... a mandatory education requirement for K-12 students.**
 - Response – The Indigenous Education Advisory Committee (IEAC) is working to evaluate and make recommendations regarding Indigenous content within the provincial school curriculum. The IEAC acts within a cooperative and collaborative environment to provide advice, and includes representatives from the Provincial Government as well as Indigenous Governments and Organizations throughout the province.
 - **Call #88 – We call upon all levels of government to take action to ensure long-term Aboriginal athlete development and growth, and continued support for the North American Indigenous Games, including funding to host the games and for provincial and territorial team preparation and travel.**
 - GNL provides funding annually to the ASRC for Indigenous sport development, athlete development and recreation activities.
 - One of the key goals of the ASRC is to increase the capacity of Indigenous athletes, coaches and officials.
 - The ASRC offers sport and athlete development camps and coaching and officials’ development through the delivery of certification clinics in the various Indigenous communities in Newfoundland and Labrador.
 - The North American Indigenous Games are also supported financially by GNL in partnership with Sport Canada through FPT priorities. This funding provides capacity for travel to the NAIG and for athlete and team preparation.

Office of Women and Gender Equality
Provincial Indigenous Women's Reconciliation Council

October 8, 2024

Summary

In November 2022, the Provincial Government announced the establishment of the Provincial Indigenous Women's Reconciliation Council to support efforts related to missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. The creation of such a Council was proposed to government in July 2022 by the Provincial Indigenous Women's Steering Committee as a foundational component of their report, 'Hear Our Voices: MMIWG Policy Recommendations of the First Women of Newfoundland and Labrador'.

Anticipated Question

- What is the purpose of the Indigenous Women's Reconciliation Council?

Key Messages

- The establishment of the Council is a commitment from the Provincial Government, signaling that we value the partnership and collaboration required to prevent violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, through addressing existing challenges and obstacles in the areas of culture, health and wellness, justice, and human security.
- Violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people will not be tolerated in this province.
- By working in partnership with Indigenous women, their governments and organizations, and listening to their concerns, we will make positive strides together, to prevent violence in our communities.
- The establishment of the Indigenous Women's Reconciliation Council plays a pivotal role in acknowledging the historical injustices experienced by Indigenous communities in Newfoundland and Labrador and in Canada.
- The Council brings together leaders, decision makers, and people with lived expertise from Indigenous Governments and Organizations, and the Provincial Government (i.e., WGE, JPS, HCS, IAR, and CSSD).

- I thank the members of the Council for being a part of this important and necessary work.

Background

- The Reconciliation Council is composed of 11 members, including five Provincial Government representatives and six Indigenous women representatives. There are three Co-Chairs: one appointed to represent government, and two Elders appointed by the Provincial Indigenous Women's Steering Committee.
- The first meeting was held in June 2023. Four meetings have been held, with the most recent in May 2024.
- In 2023-24, with help from the Government of Canada through the Gender Based Violence National Action Plan, the Office of Women and Gender Equality doubled its support for initiatives for Indigenous women, groups and organizations by **allocating over \$1,000,000** in funding. This includes:
 - \$25,000 to support the coordination of the 18th annual Provincial Indigenous Women's Gathering;
 - \$125,000 in core operational funding for the Newfoundland Aboriginal Women's Network (NAWN);
 - \$303,407 for the 2023-2024 Indigenous Violence Prevention Grants Program;
 - \$101,317.83 to each Indigenous Government (for a total amount of \$607,609.98) to support grassroots opportunities to respond to and prevent Gender-Based Violence;
 - \$100,000 to hire a Reconciliation Council (RC) Technical Lead; and,
 - \$45,000 to First Light to address GBV root causes in urban Indigenous context and implement priority MMIWG Calls for Justice.

Health and Community Services
Innu Health
November 5, 2024

Summary An Innu Round Table Secretariat says Labrador Innu have historically faced a lack of medical services, and their experiences in the health care system are “often fraught with racism and systemic discrimination.”

Anticipated Questions

- Why are Labrador Innu being neglected?

Key Messages

- The Truth and Reconciliation Report clearly indicates that there are gaps in health outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, and that the impacts of trauma and systemic racism have contributed to these outcomes.
- We look forward to seeing the results of the research study and working with Innu on how we can learn and improve. We agree that more is needed and here are some advancements we are trying to make with indigenous governments.
- Through the Health Services Integration Fund, NLHS and Indigenous governments working together to develop an Memorandum of Understanding to support a shared commitment to meaningful collaboration between Indigenous Governments in Newfoundland and Labrador and Newfoundland and Labrador Health Services.
- The purpose of the MOU is to identify common priorities and mutually beneficial opportunities for collaboration, to facilitate a distinctions base approach for effective communication and collaboration and support ways for Indigenous Government to meaningfully contribute to the design of health programming.

Secondary

Approved by:

Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation Calls for Renaming of Mount Peyton

November 29, 2024

Summary:

On November 26, 2024 CBC ran a story with Qalipu Nation member, Keith Cormier, calling for the renaming of Mount Peyton.

Place name changes are the responsibility of the NLGNB, which administers the Geographical Names Board Act. This involves consultation with the public, government departments, and agencies on the selection of place names; the renaming of place names and features; and recommending the names of places and geographical features to the Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture for approval.

Applications with Indigenous connotation are referred to the Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation (IAR) to determine appropriate consultation with Indigenous Governments and Organizations.

A submission to change the name of Mount Peyton to Blue Hill was received through an independent survey that was submitted to the Newfoundland and Labrador Geographical Names Board (NLGNB) in May of 2023.

Anticipated Questions:

- Is the Provincial Government planning to rename Mount Peyton?
- What steps need to be taken?
- Has the Minister heard from Indigenous groups on this matter?
- Why is this renaming process taking so long?

Key Messages:

- As a Government, we are committed to engaging with Indigenous Governments and Organizations to advance their priorities on a path to Reconciliation.
- Through the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture, the Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation supports the Newfoundland and Labrador Geographical Names Board, their role in renaming of place names and features, and the steps the Board takes in consultation with the public, government departments and agencies on the selection of place names.
- Given the significance of place names, the Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation recognizes the importance of working with Indigenous partners and other stakeholders with respect to renaming of places.

- IAR is actively working with FFA and the NLGNB to review this request and determine appropriate next steps. These things take time, given the sensitivity of the subject and the sometimes varying perspectives of stakeholders involved.

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29(1)(a)

Secondary Messages:

- The Provincial Government is collaborating with Indigenous Governments and Organizations on actions to better advance the priorities of Indigenous peoples in several areas. This includes:
- The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador delivered apologies to former students who attended residential schools in the province. Apology ceremonies took place in Cartwright in September 2023 and Rigolet, Postville, Makkovik, Hopedale, Nain and Happy Valley-Goose Bay in November 2023.
- An e-Learning module titled 'Toward Reconciliation: An Overview of Indigenous Histories Across Canada', was launched in November 2023 in partnership with the Public Service Commission. The course, mandatory for public service employees, was co-developed with Indigenous Governments and Organizations and provides an overview of Indigenous peoples in Canada and the province.
- An Indigenous Women's Reconciliation Council was formed in collaboration with the Provincial Indigenous Women's Steering Committee. The shared goal is to coordinate and lead meaningful action on the implementation of recommendations to address and prevent systemic violence against Indigenous women and girls.
- The Premier and Minister, together with Indigenous Governments and Organizations, unveiled a bronze statue this month honouring Demasduit, her husband, Nonosabasut, and their infant son, and artwork depicting a Beothuk family at Confederation Building.
- We are collaborating with Indigenous Governments and Organizations to plan unveiling ceremonies for Indigenous artwork that represents their communities for placement in the East Block lobby of Confederation Building
- In collaboration with the Innu Nation, 21 new road and place name signs with dual names in Innu-aimun and English were installed in Labrador in 2023. The signage recognizes and highlights the significance of Innu culture and history in the province.
- Recognition of September 30 as a Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Other Departments HOA

1	FFA - Crown lands initiatives announcement (Oct. 17)
2	FFA - KM Atlantic Wildfire Centre (Oct. 17)
3	CSSD - Food Security (Oct. 22)
4	DGSNL - Fuel Pricing (Oct. 25)
5	IET – Labrador Broadband Projects Update (Oct. 28)
6	CSSD – Indigenous Foster Care (November 13)
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Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture

October 2024

Summary: The department is announcing new measures to remove barriers when applying for, or securing property title to, Crown lands.

Anticipated Questions

- What are the changes and how will they help title seekers?
- Will the new portal make it easier to apply for Crown land?

Key Messages

- The Provincial Government manages and allocates Crown lands in a responsible manner for the social and economic benefit of present and future generations – a responsibility we take very seriously. The substantial measures announced today will ease the emotional and financial burdens that can come with real estate transactions, estate management, and other legal concerns.
- These transformative changes will remove barriers when applying for, or securing property title to, Crown lands. We are also amending the Lands Act to better support title seekers trying to acquire legal ownership of Crown lands based on adverse possession – commonly referred to as “squatter’s rights.”
- Securing Crown land title or proving long-term land possession can be challenging, especially during times when difficult decisions and major life changes are at hand. We appreciate the thoughtful and valuable insights we received from the public and stakeholders as we worked to address these challenges.
- With these legislative and policy changes and a new Online Application Portal to make it easier to apply for Crown land to be launched soon, we believe we have struck a balance between our duty to manage and protect Crown lands, and our duty to serve Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.

Re: Adverse Possession

- Changes proposed for the Lands Act include:
 - Changing the land possessory period required to claim adverse possession from the current 20 continuous years immediately prior to January 1, 1977, to a period of **10 continuous years** immediately prior to January 1, 1977.
 - Enabling the Provincial Government to issue a certificate declaring it claims no interest in a parcel of land.

- Allowing the Minister the option to approve additional structures under Section 7 of the Lands Act related to shoreline reservations.
- Providing more flexibility for applicants by allowing the removal of timeframes currently required under the Act.

Re: New long-term possession policy (Quit Claim Deeds)

- The Provincial Government has developed a new policy to issue quitclaim deeds for eligible cases of long-term residential land possession. A quitclaim states that the Provincial Government no longer has interest in a property in question.
- This will provide clarity for title seekers who can prove long-term possession of their primary residence but may not meet the requirements to establish adverse possession under the **Lands Act**.
- The ability to issue quitclaim deeds where applicable is expected to allow more real estate transactions to proceed and be processed much quicker than an adverse possession or grant application.
- These changes will make it easier for title seekers to provide complete and clear applications and ensure Crown Lands Division can offer more definitive support for claims based on adverse possession.

Re: Online Crown Land Application Portal

- We are launching a new online solution to improve the Crown Lands application process for the thousands of people who submit applications every year.
- Title seekers applying for quitclaim deeds under the new long-term possession policy can submit applications through the new Online Crown Land Application Portal.
- The portal will also accept new personal, commercial and government Crown land use applications, and enable applicants to submit supporting documents, maps and applicable fees online.
- This process will help eliminate application errors, simplify fee payments, and reduce the number of incomplete applications submitted to the department.
- It will also eliminate the need for our very busy Crown lands staff to transcribe paper applications and will reduce the number of incomplete applications we receive.
- This system is easy to navigate and user friendly – you can even apply for Crown lands on your phone. For residents who may not have online access, we are working on options to assist applicants.

Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture

October 2024

Summary: The province is taking the lead to establish a world-class Atlantic Wildfire Centre in Central Newfoundland. Premier, Ministers and a federal representative will be in Gander October 7 to discuss the Atlantic Wildfire Centre/infrastructure investments.

Key Messages

- The Atlantic Wildfire Centre will help Canadians face the challenges of wildfire management by delivering effective wildfire management and emergency responses to protect the region’s forests, communities, and people.
- Current work to establish the Atlantic Wildfire Centre includes:
 - Issuing a Request for Proposals for the design concept for the Atlantic Wildlife Centre and related infrastructure at Gander International Airport.
 - Repairing the damaged CL- 415 aircraft in the current fleet of five water bombers.
 - Issuing a Request for Proposals to increase the province’s air services complement with two new “bird dog” (spotter) aircraft.
 - Procuring firefighting equipment including fire trucks, command trailers, sprinklers, weather stations, and Nomex suits.
 - Providing extensive training for department wildfire-fighting staff.
- Along with new provincial investment, the Atlantic Wildfire Centre and related initiatives will be supported with \$32 million from the Fighting and Managing Wildfires in a Changing Climate Program Equipment Fund – a federal-provincial cost-shared, four-year investment in partnership with Natural Resources Canada.
- Strategic investment will increase wildland firefighting capacity, enhance training, purchase vital equipment, and improve our understanding of fire science. The Atlantic Wildfire Centre will position Newfoundland and Labrador to manage and support fellow Canadians in a changing 21st century climate.
- Today, we are announcing the Atlantic Wildfire Centre and related investments to support forest fire fighting and prevention. Rest assured, there is no impact on employees. Establishment of the centre will result in increased capabilities and training opportunities for personnel.
- The province maintains the most substantial aerial wildfire suppression resources in Atlantic Canada, with Central Newfoundland serving as an ideal location for the Atlantic Wildfire Centre.
- Satellite infrastructure is planned for Labrador – in particular, investments in facilities for Air Crews, Incident Command Operations, and equipment storage. Labrador facilities will be integrated with Atlantic Wildfire Centre command and logistics networks.

Children, Seniors and Social Development

Food Security

October 2024

Summary

There have been ongoing concerns around the increased cost of living in Newfoundland and Labrador, specifically the rising cost of foods.

Anticipated Questions

- What is government doing to address food security in the province?

Key Messages

- As part of our Poverty Reduction Plan, Government has expanded and increased benefits, such as the prenatal-early childhood nutrition supplement and the NL Child Benefit for families in low income. These benefits help with the cost of raising children, including the cost of nutritious food.
- This year, an additional 4,100 children will have access to food at school through initiatives such as:
 - Continued funding to the Kids Eat Smart Foundation of NL and the School Lunch Association offering meals using a pay-what-you-can model in over 40 schools.
 - Investing in the advancement of school lunch programs in all pre-K to Grade 9 schools.
 - An investment of \$9.1 million with the Federal Government under the National School Food Program which will help more children access food in school.
- We are also simplifying, streamlining and improving Income Support benefits while helping Income Support recipient create or strengthen labour market attachments, as well as better supporting Income Support clients and other non-EI eligible individuals to train and upskill through our new Working Opportunities program.
- In addition to increasing the NL Seniors' Benefit by 15%, we are providing more adequate and stable financial supports such as \$400 for an Aging Well at Home grant that can help pay for supportive services like grocery delivery and \$500 annual supplement for food and heating for seniors in coastal Labrador communities.
- We have implemented two targeted basic income pilots:
 - one for people aged 60-64 who are both in receipt of Income Support and are assessed as requiring supportive services and financial supports by NL Health Services;
 - and another for youth receiving residential services through our Youth Services Program.

- The Newfoundland and Labrador Disability Benefit will help to achieve a basic income for persons with disabilities. This targeted approach is increasing the incomes of some of the lowest income people in our province.

Secondary Messages/Background Information

- We are also partnering with the Maple Leaf Centre for Food Security, to implement an innovative program to improve food access for families living in low income in Newfoundland and Labrador. With a \$1.8 million investment, this program selected Family Resource Centres throughout the province that are working directly with families to address food insecurity and improve health outcomes.
- Expansion of the Prenatal-Early Childhood Nutrition Supplement up to age five. Approximately 3,400 families currently qualify, with approximately 4,000 children. (September 2024 point in time data.) Previously this benefit was only available up to age one. (\$4 million annually)
- Increasing the NL Child Benefit rates by 300%. (Annual increased budget of \$30 million). For example, this means:
 - A single parent with two children living in low income, is receiving over \$300 each month to help with the costs of raising children, or \$3,684 each year. This is up from \$921 a year they received prior to the increase this year.
 - If one child is under 5, this this family would also receive another \$150 a month from the Prenatal-Early Childhood Nutrition supplement for a total of \$5484 and if both children are under 5 the family would receive a total of \$7284 in these benefits.
- The Newfoundland and Labrador Disability Benefit will help to achieve a basic income for persons with disabilities. This Benefit will include:
 - Up to \$400 per month, on top of the Canada Disability Benefit, to persons who qualify beginning in July 2025; and,
 - \$1,200 in the Registered Disability Savings Program (RDSP), which will begin in January 2025.

Digital Government and Service NL
Fuel Pricing
November 2024

Summary

In Newfoundland and Labrador and throughout the country, people are concerned about the cost of living. Concerns have been raised publicly about inflation and interest rates, the lack of affordable housing and rent increases, food costs and the high price of petroleum products.

Anticipated Questions

- What can government do to address fuel pricing concerns?
- Is government concerned about the PUB review?
- Why does this province have some of the highest fuel prices in the country?

Key Messages

- The PUB sets maximum fuel prices in the province.
- The PUB is an independent, quasi-judicial body and Government has no role in their decisions on the regulated components of the price.
- In June 2022, the former Minister directed the PUB to review the suitability of the pricing mechanism for benchmark prices, the maximum mark-up between the wholesale price to the retailer and the retail price to the consumer for all regulated fuels. She also asked them to hold a public hearing to help inform this review.
- We are disappointed with the amount of time it has taken for the review. This review is nearing conclusion, as the PUB is only now informing residents of potential outcomes from their review. As an independent quasi-judicial body, it will be a decision by the PUB as to whether to implement the price increases they are proposing.
- Any potential increase is concerning. When deciding whether to implement the price increases, they are proposing, the PUB is going to have to find a balance between fair fuel prices for residents and fair market price for suppliers.
- Increases in fuel prices are the result of several global market factors including rising crude oil prices, higher demand for fuel products, and inflation in transportation and labour costs.

- Our Government has been very clear and very vocal about the fact that we strongly oppose the carbon tax and the Clean Fuel Regulations imposed by the Federal Government. We continue to call on the Federal Government to provide relief from the carbon tax and the Clean Fuel Regulations.
- It is worth noting that the carbon tax and the Clean Fuel Regulations, which have a major significant impact on residents in Newfoundland and Labrador, have a greater impact on this province than any of the changes being contemplated today by the PUB.
- Our Government reduced the gas tax, saving over 8 cents per litre for consumers.

**Industry, Energy and Technology
Labrador Broadband Update**
October 28, 2024

Summary:

The Department of Industry, Energy and Technology provided a Labrador Broadband update by region.

South Coast and Labrador Straits

Account Name: Bell Canada

Community	Households	Project Stage	Project Start	Project End (construction)	Status
Charlottetown	57	Operational	5/23/2023	11/30/2023	Complete
Lodge Bay	24	Operational	5/23/2023	11/30/2023	Complete
Mary's Hr.	108	Operational	5/23/2023	11/30/2023	Complete
Port Hope Simpson	160	Operational	5/23/2023	11/30/2023	Complete
Red Bay	54	Operational	5/23/2023	10/20/2023	Complete

L'Anse au Loup

Account name: Xplore Fibre L.P.

Community	Households	Project Stage	Project Start	Project End (construction)	Status
L'Anse au Loup	257	Planning	8/4/2024		

North Coast

Account name: Nunatsiavut Government

Community	Households	Project Stage	Project Start	Project End Date	Status
Nain	265	Detailed Design & Construction	9/1/2022	12/31/2025	
Hopedale	193	Same	9/1/2022	12/31/2025	
Makkovik	137	Same	9/1/2022	12/31/2025	
Rigolet	126	Same	9/1/2022	12/31/2025	
Postville	112	Same	9/1/2022	12/31/2025	
Natuashish	228	Same	9/1/2022	12/31/2025	

Labrador West

Account name: Community Recreation and Rebroadcasting Services Assoc. (CRRS)

Community	Households	Project Stage	Project Start	Project End (construction)	Status
Wabush	128	Operational	10/1/2022	5/20/2023	Complete
Labrador City	536	Operational	10/1/2022	3/31/2024	Complete

Department of Children, Seniors and Social Development
Children in Care – Labrador
November 12, 2024

Key Messages (CSSD)

- The Department of Children, Seniors and Social Development is committed to the safety and well-being of children and youth in our care.
- We have a close working relationships with our Indigenous partners, to ensure we can preserve an Indigenous child or youth's connections to their family, community and culture.
- The Children, Youth and Families Act requires us to complete cultural connection plans.
- In 2021, my Department worked with our Innu partners to implement a new Innu-CSSD Protocol, which guides the information sharing, collaboration and coordination of services.
- We meet regularly with the Innu Prevention Agency to discuss issues specific to Innu children, youth, and families with a focus on the overall goal to keep Innu children in Innu communities.



Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
The Premier

April 15, 2021

The Honourable Lisa Dempster
Minister Responsible for Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation
Minister Responsible for Labrador Affairs
Deputy Government House Leader

Dear Minister Dempster:

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister Responsible for Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister Responsible for Labrador Affairs, and Deputy Government House Leader. As part of this Cabinet, you are working on behalf of, and alongside, the people of Newfoundland and Labrador to face the challenges confronting our province while preparing for the great opportunities ahead. I have confidence in our Government and in this province. This is the right team at the right time.

Together, we will deliver on our promises to the people of this province. Together, we will promote a healthy Newfoundland and Labrador, drive meaningful economic opportunities, foster inclusive population growth, modernize education and childcare, and build strong partnerships. We will realize our vision of a prosperous and fiscally responsible province that is inclusive and welcoming to people from all over the world.

As Minister, you will take a lead in building a prosperous future for this province. You will foster strong relationships with Indigenous governments and organizations and with relevant stakeholder groups. Each relationship must be founded upon respect and mutual understanding.

Now is the time to take meaningful steps on the path to prosperity, and decisive action to build a solid foundation for future generations. I am asking you to work with your Cabinet colleagues and with all Members of the House of Assembly to advance the following priorities.

As Minister Responsible for Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation, I ask that you continue to partner with Indigenous peoples in Newfoundland and Labrador to inform and monitor appropriate and relevant efforts to advance reconciliation now and into the future.

Keeping with Call 57 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, work with your colleagues in Cabinet, other members of the House of Assembly, and Indigenous leaders to develop and deliver training on Indigenous perspectives to elected representatives, their staff, and the public service. This will help foster deeper understanding and cultural awareness of the unique history and perspectives of each community and support the maintenance of respectful relationships with Indigenous peoples in the province.

I ask that you host an annual Indigenous Leaders Roundtable to advance matters of mutual importance to Indigenous communities. Continue to advance work on land claims agreements and self-government agreements.

You will continue collaborating with your Cabinet colleagues, including the Minister of Children, Seniors and Social Development, as well as the Nunatsiavut Government, and other community partners to address the recommendations of the Independent Review of Child Protection Services to Inuit Children in Newfoundland and Labrador to improve outcomes for Inuit children, youth and their families.

In keeping with the memorandum of understanding signed between Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Innu leadership, support the participation of our Government in the forthcoming inquiry into the treatment, experiences and outcomes of Innu in the child protection system. This work will be done in collaboration with the Minister of Justice and Public Safety, the Minister of Children, Seniors and Social Development, and the Government of Canada. Please continue to collaborate with Innu leadership on the Anti-Racism Working Group.

Working with your colleagues, the Minister of Justice and Public Safety and the Minister Responsible for Women and Gender Equality, continue to advance necessary work in response to the final report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Along with the Minister of Justice and Public Safety, please also support the Minister of Immigration, Population Growth and Skills on the Ministerial Committee on Anti-Racism.

Recognizing the challenges put forward by the COVID-19 pandemic, please work with Indigenous groups to identify an appropriate time and approach for an apology to Residential School survivors.

Working with the Minister of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation and the Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs, I ask that you prioritize the efforts of the interdepartmental working group focusing on provincial monuments and observances. Through public engagement and close consultation with Indigenous peoples, the group will provide recommendations on how best to recognize and commemorate our history, namely through the designation or re-naming of historical and commemorative sites, statutory holidays, and other areas of cultural significance.

This work shall include working with Indigenous leaders to update the description of the provincial Coat of Arms to more accurately describe the peoples and cultures of this province. In consultation with Indigenous leaders, please continue advancements to create and install a statue to commemorate the Beothuk people.

In collaboration with the Minister of Education and with Indigenous groups, I ask that you continue to revise and update the existing curriculum and devise new curricula on the culture, history and traditions of the Indigenous peoples of our province.

As Minister Responsible for Labrador Affairs, I ask you to ensure that widening and hard-surfacing of the Trans Labrador Highway continues, and upon completion, work closely with the Government of Canada on options and feasibility of a road connecting the north coast of Labrador, in partnership with the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure. We need to

continue to provide funding for safe access from isolated communities in Labrador to the nearest service centre through the Labrador Transportation Grooming Subsidy Program, including grooming machines and equipment for Cartwright, Nain, and Hopedale. I ask you to ensure the delivery of the Labrador Travel Subsidy program for minor sport organizations and athletes and the Labrador Aboriginal Nutritional and Artistic Program. Please support the work of the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure to explore a fixed link between Labrador and the Island of Newfoundland under the National Infrastructure Fund.

In your role as Minister, please ensure that the Labrador Affairs Secretariat provides advice to provincial government departments and agencies on policies, programs and services affecting Labrador. You will lead Arctic and Northern policy initiatives and continues to support the Combined Councils of Labrador by providing an annual operating grant.

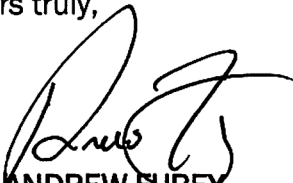
We will always remain focused on a robust economy where there is a place for all workers, an economy that embraces renewable energy while maximizing our oil and gas advantage. We will foster a business environment that supports new and growing technology work and we will reimagine and reinvigorate our fishing and mining sectors to meet global demand for our abundant resources.

As we work to build a strong economy, we must also work to create a prosperous society. We envision a province with healthy, active residents who not only have access to the means to treat illness but also to achieve wellness. We envision a province with vibrant, engaged communities in which nobody is left behind. We must ensure that in our quest to build economic wealth we also build social, environmental, and cultural wealth.

Our Government must always be mindful of the needs of the most vulnerable in our society and must ensure that quality social services are available and accessible to Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. To ensure our Government is meeting this need, a Gender-Based Plus Analysis must be integrated into all policies and proposals.

I call on you and every other Newfoundlander and Labradorian to join me in my commitment to make a difference for our province. Together, we will harness our collective strengths and build a better and brighter future for this province.



Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Furey', written over a circular stamp or seal.

DR. ANDREW FUREY
Premier

Notes and Information HOA

1	LMI Press Release_Guarantee Freight Delivery Date_Kamutik W (Oct 11 2024)
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115 Terminal Road, CBS, NL, Canada, A1X 7B5 adaley@woodwards.nf.ca 

October 11, 2024

For immediate release

LMI SETS GUARANTEED FREIGHT DELIVERY DATE SET FOR NOVEMBER 15

Increases in passengers, private vehicles, and freight on coastal marine service

(Happy Valley-Goose Bay) – The deadline for guaranteed delivery of freight to Northern Labrador and Black Tickle is Friday, November 15, Labrador Marine Inc. (LMI) announced today. All freight must be delivered to the dock at the Port of Goose Bay by 5 PM on Friday, November 15 to be assured of delivery to coastal ports by the end of the season.

“We will be accepting and shipping high volumes of freight between now and the end of the season,” says LMI General Manager Capt. Austin Daley. “A guaranteed freight delivery date ensures that we can manage everyone’s supplies to the coast before freeze-up. We’ve extended the guaranteed delivery date by 6 days this year to allow additional flexibility for coastal residents sending and receiving shipments.”

The reliability of the coastal marine service and the large capacity of the *Kamutik W* have accounted for increased traffic over 2023.

INCREASE IN TRAFFIC IN 2024

“We’ve had an increase of nearly 12 percent in passenger traffic to September 30 compared to this time a year ago, as well as increases in private vehicle traffic and tonnage transported,” says Daley. “The service offers a reliable connection to and from the coast.”

TO SEPT. 30	PASSENGERS	PRIVATE VEHICLES	TONNAGE CARRIED
2024	4,647	828	9,194
2023	4,156	813	8,870

LMI is focused on providing quality service on the coastal marine route. In partnership with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, LMI introduced free passenger Wi-Fi in 2024, allowing continuous connection for the duration of the voyage.


For full information on LMI’s coastal marine service, check out the LMI website at <https://labradormarine.com> or the MYLMI Facebook page.


www.labradormarine.com 

www.facebook.com/LabradorMarineInc 

mylmi.woodwardgroup.ca 



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For further information contact:

Captain Austin Daley

General Manager, Labrador Marine Inc.

adaley@woodwards.nf.ca

cc. Photos attached

Photo 1:

The *Kamutik W* at Makkovik, October 7, 2024. (Photo Credit: Brad Pennell, LMI)

Photo 2:

Unloading cargo from the *Kamutik W* at Postville, October 7, 2024. (Photo credit: Brad Pennell, LMI)

www.labradormarine.com 

www.facebook.com/LabradorMarineInc 

mylmi.woodwardgroup.ca 