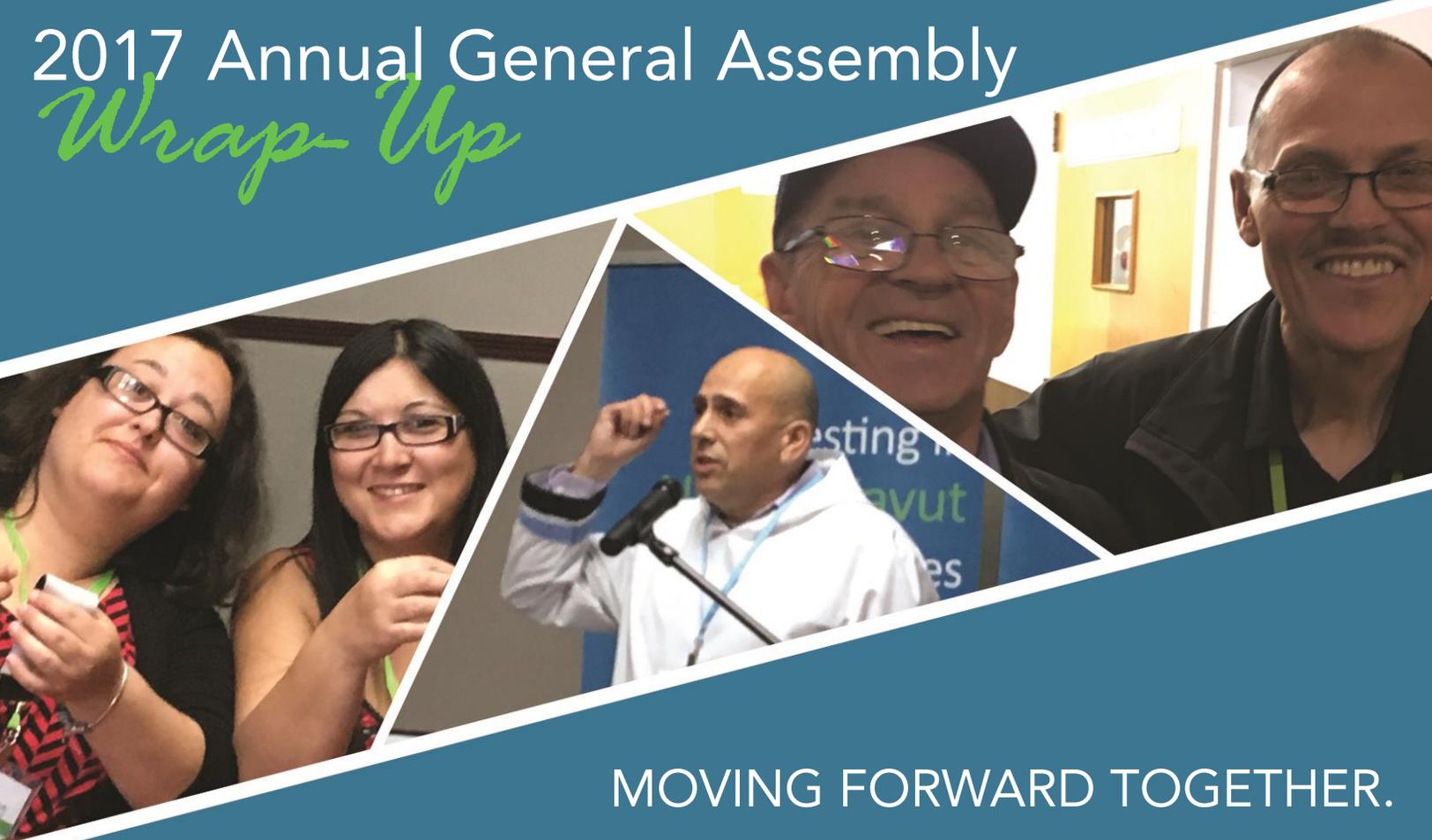


# 2017 Annual General Assembly

## Wrap Up



## MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER.



Figure 1: The large crowd gathered on the first night of the AGA.

The NunatuKavut Community Council's (NCC) 2017 Annual General Assembly (AGA) took place at Hotel North Two in Happy Valley-Goose Bay on October 20 and 21. It was the final gathering of an extensive AGA process that included numerous community meetings throughout NunatuKavut. It was one of the largest – if not THE largest – AGAs with well over 200 people registering and hundreds more Southern Inuit participating in the AGA process in total.

There was a jam-packed agenda with various presentations and cultural workshops and AGA Chair Jamie Snook did a great job of keeping the meeting on track. NCC and Nunacor staff highlighted the many initiatives they were involved in over the past year. As always, the Natural Resources files, from an update on our fishery to our involvement in methylmercury mitigation, generated lots of discussion among members. There were also various information tables set up and there was a high level of participation in surveys on NCC initiatives like gathering information on potential mental health initiatives. The overarching theme of the AGA was “Moving Forward Together” and there an incredible sense of excitement about what the future holds for our people and communities.

### ANNUAL REPORT

President Todd Russell presented an annual report on NCC's successes over the past year and the significant progress that was made on files and issues of importance to the Southern Inuit of NunatuKavut.

NCC, with assistance from Nunacor, raised nearly \$4,000 at the AGA through the sale of tickets and the auctioning of table centre pieces at the closing banquet. These funds have been set aside to assist NunatuKavut individuals or families with urgent medical needs to cover items such as medication, equipment or travel. Our sincere thanks to those who contributed in any way!



Figure 2: Fundraising ticket sales



Figure 3: Diane Poole & Parliamentary Secretary Yvonne Jones accepting the Nakummesuak Award from President Russell on behalf of Cheryl & Keith Rumbolt



Figure 4: Freeman Russell accepting the Nakummesuak Award from President Russell

He discussed the NunatuKavut Land Claim and the positive results from the ongoing engagement process with the Government of Canada, stating “I am confident that this is the last AGA before the acceptance of our Land Claim for negotiations.” He spoke on Muskrat Falls and NCC’s serious concerns around the project for many years. He then talked about the change in leadership at the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador and Nalcor and how that has opened the doors to a more respectful relationship. Negotiations with Nalcor on an agreement are very advanced. And a significant agreement on methylmercury mitigation was reached in the fall of 2016 and the Independent Expert Advisory Committee, as part of that agreement, is up and running.

President Russell emphasized the newly announced \$1.5 million *Investing in NunatuKavut Communities Infrastructure Program*, fully funded from NCC’s own source revenues. Another highlight was the recent signing of a joint caribou management strategy with other Indigenous groups as part of the Ungava Peninsula Caribou Aboriginal Round Table (UPCART), which covers an area of 1.5 million square kilometers and impacts 60,000 Indigenous peoples. He also gave an update on the Labrador Residential Schools Out-of-Court settlement, including the announcement of an upcoming apology from the Prime Minister in Happy Valley-Goose Bay on November 24.

Other items of discussion included the Mealy Mountain National Park Reserve, the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls national inquiry, polar bear education activities, the community governance and sustainability initiative, the Southern Inuit Education Program, Nunacor and the Aboriginal Service Centre in Labrador West.

## NAKUMMESUAK AWARDS

Nakummesuak, which means “thank you very much” or “a big acknowledgement,” is a prestigious award created by NCC. It is given annually to individuals who have demonstrated outstanding support for the Southern Inuit of NunatuKavut and communities and have given unselfishly of their time and energy to make a difference.

At this year’s AGA, the following well-deserving recipients were presented with a 2017 Nakummesuak Award:

- **Cheryl and Keith Rumbolt**, Lodge Bay, for their knowledge of first aid and quick actions in saving the life of Cheryl’s brother Scott when he suddenly collapsed. Family and friends are forever grateful in the positive outcome that otherwise could have been a tragedy.
- **Freeman Russell**, William’s Harbour, for his unwavering support of NCC over many years and for being a valuable resource in his and other communities. He openly shares his knowledge about the history and



Figure 5: Drum dancer performing at the opening of the AGA



Figure 6: Participants learning how to craft with duffle



Figure 7: President Russell facilitating the provincial portion of the political engagement session



Figure 8: Parliamentary Secretary Yvonne Jones speaking during the federal portion of the political engagement session

culture of our people and has provided help to so many, especially those in need, expecting nothing in return.

## CULTURAL COMPONENT

The AGA included important cultural teachings and activities. The opening ceremony started with the lighting of the Kullik, a ceremonial lamp that was traditionally used by Inuit women as a means of lighting and heating their homes and feeding their families. Today, it is a symbol of the strength of women in our communities and sets the tone for respectful and honest discussions. There was also a performance by drum dancers Salome Jararuse and Emilia Townley, showcasing our rich Inuit culture.

Participants had an opportunity to attend simultaneous workshops on learning to speaking Inuttitut and crafting with duffle and sealskin. There was also a workshop on what it means to be Southern Inuit and how our story can be shared with visitors to NunatuKavut.

## POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

During the opening ceremonies of the AGA, Happy Valley-Goose Bay Mayor John Hickey delivered some welcoming comments to participants. On the second day of the AGA, provincial and federal political representatives were asked to participate in an engagement session to bring greetings and to speak on our theme of Moving Forward Together. Provincial representatives – Randy Edmunds, Parliamentary Assistant to the Premier and Perry Trimper, Speaker of the House of Assembly – were called to speak first (Figure 7). Federal representatives – Yvonne Jones, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs, Terry Beech, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Coast Guard and Kim Rudd, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Natural Resources – were then asked to address the crowd (Figure 8). Statements were also read from the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples' President Robert Bertrand, Provincial Tourism, Culture, Industry, and Innovation Minister Christopher Mitchelmore and Provincial Children, Seniors and Social Development Minister Lisa Dempster, who each sent their regrets.

## SPECIAL INFORMATION SESSION ON NALCOR NEGOTIATIONS

During the AGA community meetings, President Russell discussed the current status of NCC's negotiations with Nalcor on a multi-year agreement. On day two of the AGA, President Russell and NCC lawyer Jason Cooke (Burchells LLP) facilitated a special information session for members to give an update on negotiations and to outline the elements of the agreement. There was a



Figure 9: Billie Williams (l) and Melita Paul (r) accept their service awards from NCC CEO Dorothy Earle



Figure 10: Billie Williams (centre left) & Diane Poole (right) recognized for their award from Service Canada by President Russell & NCC CEO Dorothy Earle



Figure 11: Debbie Goudie (centre) presented with a certificate by NCC CEO Dorothy Earle and President Russell on the occasion of her retirement from NCC

fulsome and open discussion on the steady progress made since negotiations started this past June following the approval of a mandate to negotiate by NCC's Governing Council. It was reiterated that this agreement is an opportunity to advance the relationship with Nalcor in a respectful way and that, throughout these talks, our Indigenous rights are being protected. NCC will continue to push for an agreement that is meaningful and significant and will provide tangible benefits to Southern Inuit and NunatuKavut communities.

## CLOSING BANQUET

NCC's own company, NDC Fisheries (operated by Nunacor), sponsored a beautiful closing banquet held at the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 51. It was emceed by Nunacor's Kenneth Williams and a powerful keynote address was delivered by Dr. Ashlee Cunsolo, Director at MUN's Labrador Institute. Ashlee spoke about love of place, moving forward together and the power of research and stories in NunatuKavut.

At the closing banquet, employees Billie Williams and Melita Paul were recognized for 15 years of service with NCC. Billie, along with Diane Poole, were also acknowledged for an award they recently received from Service Canada called the 2017 Assistant Deputy Minister Award of Excellence. It was presented for their hard work as part of the Labrador Service Delivery Expansion Strategy Team and assisting in providing information on government programming. In addition, Debbie Goudie was presented with a certificate and gift of appreciation on the occasion of her upcoming retirement from NCC. She has worked for NCC for approximately 13 years, assisting hundreds of members with employment and training.

## SPONSORS

NCC received significant support from a number of companies and organizations, contributing to the overall success of the AGA. Signature sponsors were NDC Fisheries, PAL Airlines/Air Borealis, Labrador Fishermen's Union Shrimp Company, Dwight Russell Enterprises/MV Miss McKenzie (NCC member and fisher), Battle Harbour Historic Trust, Bird Heavy Civil Ltd, Royal Bank of Canada and Burchells LLP. Other supporters were NCC members and fishers Wade Dyson and Darryl Burdett, Allnorth, the Royal Inn + Suites, LeGrows Travel and Cloud 9 Tours.

Thanks to contributions from sponsors, participants walked away with some amazing prizes like multiple airline tickets, a 40" Sony TV, handcrafted seal skin boots and a trip for two to Battle Harbour.

**QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? We'd love to hear from you!**  
 Visit us at: 200 Kelland Drive, Happy Valley-Goose Bay  
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 Call us at: 877-896-0592 or 709-896-0592  
[www.nunatukavut.ca](http://www.nunatukavut.ca)

We have accomplished great things over this past year and, while we have so much to look forward to, we know that great challenges remain. A heartfelt nakumek to our staff, Governing Council and all those throughout NunatuKavut and beyond who have participated and believe in the work we do as we "Move Forward Together."