

# CANADA DAY MESSAGE *from* PRESIDENT RUSSELL

On Canada Day, we reflect, remember and celebrate the good that being Canadian is all about. And we acknowledge and lift up all those who contribute to making life better for all. This day of reflection is particularly significant as we pause to remember the great sacrifice made by soldiers of the Newfoundland Regiment during the First World War in the Battle of the Somme at Beaumont Hamel. We honour these courageous soldiers who, more than 100 years ago, bravely fought for peace and freedom.

This is also a time to honour the Indigenous peoples of this land. While Canada was founded on nation-to-nation relationships with Indigenous peoples, it has been marred by a long history of colonialism. NunatuKavut Inuit, like other Inuit and Indigenous peoples, have experienced systemic and deep wrongs and hurt. Yet, through it all, we celebrate our place and remain deeply connected to our territory and the land, sea and ice. We proudly fish from our waters and harvest on our lands. We are part of a great and lasting heritage with an unbroken link to our ancestors and all those who have been here before us. We celebrate our story of resiliency, determination and belonging.

We look to the future with a renewed energy, a sense of optimism and an unfailing sense of hopefulness. NunatuKavut Community Council's relationship with Canada, based on the recognition of our Indigenous rights and self-determination, is stronger. We look forward to building good, meaningful agreements with Canada, as well as the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and other Indigenous peoples, that will allow us to fulfill our vision and support the health and wellbeing of our people. This fresh spirit of reconciliation gives us all reason to celebrate.

On behalf of the NunatuKavut Community Council, I wish each of you a Happy Canada Day in the true North strong and free.

Nakummek.



**NunatuKavut**  
our ancient land