

NEW GOVERNING COUNCIL

On April 26, 2016 a new Governing Council was elected to lead NCC over the next four years. We congratulate those who are newly elected and welcome back those who were re-elected. Here is our current Council:

President: Todd Russell

Area 1 (Straits) Councillor: Levi Snook

Area 2 (Battle Harbour) Councillor: Nina Pye

Area 3 (Bolsters Rock to Spear Point) Councillors: Cyril Campbell and Boyce Turnbull

Area 4 (Sandwich Bay/Island of Ponds) Councillor: Shawn Holwell

Area 5 (Central/Northern Labrador) Councillors: Jim Learning and Jim Holwell

Area 6 (Western Labrador) Councillor: Jessie Tobin

Youth Councillor: Kellie Clark

Elder: Harrison Campbell (by appointment)

Jim Holwell was elected Vice-President and Boyce Turnbull was elected Member-at-Large by their fellow governing council members. Together, with the President, they will form the Executive of NCC.

A sincere thanks to the outgoing Council for their leadership and dedication over their past term. You have helped NCC and our people move forward.

LAND CLAIM

NCC is witnessing an important, long overdue and significant shift in the way Indigenous peoples are treated in Canada and in this Province. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has very clearly stated that "it is time for a renewed, nation-to-nation relationship with Indigenous Peoples, based on recognition of rights, respect, co-operation, and partnership."

We have seen some evidence of this new approach in our relationship with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) over the past few months. We are working closely with INAC Minister Carolyn Bennett and her officials on our Land Claim acceptance and we are assured that this file is very much a priority. During Minister Bennett's visit to the NCC office in early April, she emphatically stated "our Prime Minister wants to get this done and we are going to take the steps to make it happen. I'm keen to get to work...this is a very exciting time for us to go forward together."



Figure 1: Minister Bennett visits NCC office and meets with NCC Council members and seniors and Elders

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT RUSSELL

NCC has so much to be proud of and I am honoured to once again serve as your President. We have seen a renewed energy in our people and a sense of hopefulness. We have celebrated many successes, from our program and service delivery to our increased capacity and economic viability. And we have fought strategically and positioned ourselves to make significant progress on major files, which will ultimately improve the overall well-being of our people.

On behalf of NCC and myself personally, I thank all our members for your steadfast support. I also thank our staff who work each day on behalf of our people. Their expertise and dedication is essential to building a strong and vibrant organization and this document reflects that dedication.

We have also had several meetings with Premier Ball, who continues to express his government's support for our Claim. This critical advocacy work must continue as we ready the organization and our people for the great possibilities that the Land Claims process will present.

MUSKRAT FALLS AND LABRADOR ISLAND TRANSMISSION LINK (MF/LITL) PROJECTS

NCC continues to raise its very serious concerns and objections around the Muskrat Falls and Labrador Island Transmission Link projects.

NCC publicly supported the new scientific report released by the Nunatsiavut Government in April, which concluded that methyl mercury levels could rise by 1500%, cause serious food insecurity and disrupt a way of life that is heavily dependent on the land and water. This is part of Nunatsiavut's "Make Muskrat Right" campaign, which we also fully support as our people and communities share the same waters and land.

We proudly stood with Nunatsiavut and Innu Nation at a huge public rally on June 27 to call on the provincial government to fully clear the reservoir, which will lessen the negative environmental impacts of the project. It was a powerful gathering, marking the first time that all three

Indigenous groups in Labrador have united to fight for the health and well-being of all of our people and the generations that will follow.

"We may have our differences but I think we can all agree that the Muskrat Falls project was ill-conceived, ill thought out and is now being poorly executed," said President Russell. "It never, ever had the sanction of all Indigenous peoples or the buy-in of Labradorians overall. We, who are most impacted, were not once asked what we thought of this project. Today, as we speak in one voice, the government must listen."

FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL BUDGETS

NCC has reviewed both the federal and provincial budgets. While the federal government could have invested more to meet our specific needs, we have identified some new areas where we can potentially benefit.

The provincial budget was, by contrast, devastating to the southern Inuit and our communities. In addition to the insulting levies, fees and taxes, there are other direct hits to our communities. Labrador Grenfell Health announced the doubling of medical travel rates and a serious reduction in services, as well as the elimination of a full-



Figure 2: President Russell, Innu Nation Grand Chief Anastasia Qupee and Nunatsiavut Government President Johannes Lampe stand united at the Muskrat Falls rally

time nurse in the NunatuKavut community of Black Tickle. We believe this is a major infringement on their basic human right of having timely and acceptable access to health care. On July 20, NCC, LG Health, the province and the Local Service District met in Black Tickle to discuss the health care situation. Nearly the entire community, young and old, gathered outside of the clinic to protest and demand change. We continue to strongly advocate for a reversal in the decision to eliminate the nursing position. For more information on Black Tickle and this story, check out the three-part series released by APTN at www.aptn.ca



Figure 3: Residents in Black Tickle protesting LG Health's decision

Other significant budget cuts included the closing of the Advanced Education and Skills Office on the south coast and the doubling of ferry rates, along with cancellation of the food lift air subsidy. There is no doubt that this budget is the direct result of the escalating cost of Muskrat Falls, which already has significant impacts on us environmentally and from a human rights perspective. It is callous to ask the Southern Inuit of NunatuKavut to bear the cost for this devastating project again.

FISHERIES



Figure 4: Rebecca Notley with the salmon she caught during the first few days of the salmon season. Photo courtesy of Rebecca Notley.

The fishery is the lifeblood of NCC and our people have depended upon it for as long as we have been in existence. The food fishery in Lake Melville and the south coast of Labrador have opened and all tags for salmon have been

distributed. The NCC cod food fishery season runs from July 1 to Oct 15, 2016 and NCC staff have prepared 50,000 tags for distribution. Our cod fishery is taking place in the area from Fish Cove Point to Cape Charles.

The NCC's community freezer program provides salmon, cod, char and moose to members, when available, in all regions of NunatuKavut. It has grown significantly over the last two years and we continue to receive positive feedback. NCC hopes to expand the program this year with the addition of traditional berries.

The commercial fishery is extremely important to fishers, plant workers and communities in our territory. It is also vital to NCC and NDC Fisheries (our fishing company). NCC has met with the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to discuss the Aboriginal rights and adjacency issues around fish being harvested in our own waters. We have submitted proposals on shrimp, turbot and cod that would give NCC more equitable access to our own resources.

On shrimp specifically, NCC has been engaged in a lengthy process of advocacy regarding equitable and rights-based access to the adjacent shrimp resource in Shrimp Fishing Areas (SFA) 4, 5 and 6.

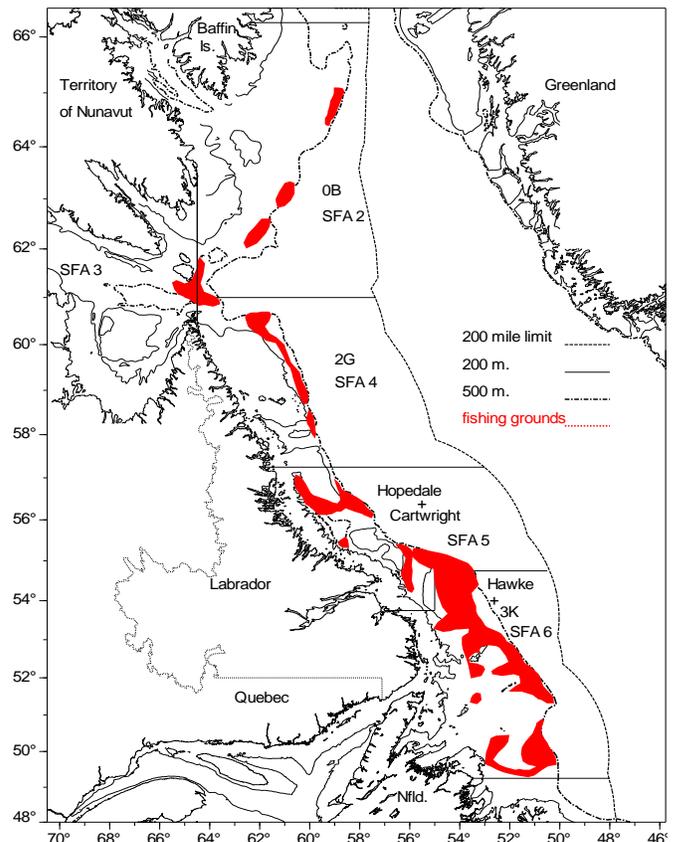


Figure 5: SFA map

Our approach has been based on the principles of adjacency and Aboriginal rights and a call to eliminate the federal government's Last In First Out (LIFO) policy on shrimp. Following a federal Ministerial Advisory Panel process and report on LIFO, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) announced plans to scrap LIFO. Subsequent to the Northern Shrimp Advisory Meeting on July 7, DFO issued a reduction in quota and a sharing arrangement in SFA 6. On July 29, the department released its decision on access in SFAs 4 and 5. While the results are mixed, we are pleased that NCC has increased its quota share in SFA 5 by 112 per cent. While there is still much work to do on shrimp and other adjacent fish resources, this increase bodes well for future allocations. It also recognizes our presence in the fishery as a significant and important Indigenous participant.

DANIEL'S DECISION



Figure 6: CAP National Chief Dwight Dorey and other representatives on the day the Daniels' Decision was released.

On April 14, 2016 the Supreme Court of Canada ruled unanimously that Métis and non-Status Indians are "Indians" for the purpose of Parliament's law-making jurisdiction under subsection 91(24) of the Constitution Act, 1867. The Court disagreed with Canada's position that a court declaration would have no "practical utility." The Court noted that clarity on who has legislative authority over Métis and non-status Indians would have an enormous effect for those groups who have been living in what one Supreme Court Justice described as a

"jurisdictional wasteland," where both the federal and provincial governments deny any responsibility for them, leaving no one accountable.

NCC saw this as a huge win for the southern Inuit of NunatuKavut on the analogous grounds that we have been treated as "non status" Inuit. We believe it has cleared the path for our Land Claim process and should ensure that we have equitable access to programs and services like Non-Insured Health Benefits, housing and education that have long been denied our people.

The specific details of how and when the Daniel's Decision will be implemented will be worked out through negotiations with the federal government, which will take some time.

TOP 50 CEO AWARD



Nunacor CEO Andy Turnbull was recently named one of the Top 50 CEOs in Atlantic Canada by Atlantic Business Magazine. The award, which was presented during a special gala on May 12, 2016, recognizes corporate leadership excellence. Andy has been the CEO of Nunacor for approximately four years and has lead the development corporation through tremendous growth in a wide range of sectors from real estate to safety training. Andy was also recognized for innovation, a crucial component of Nunacor's agenda.

"Our entire team has an open mind," said Andy. "It's always looking for new ways of doing things. We use a variety of technologies to run our business."

Congratulations to Andy on his award!



Figure 7: Andy Turnbull receiving his Top 50 CEO award.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



JOE GOUDIE

Written by Crystal Braye, June 28, 2016

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"I can't remember not using them," said Joe about canoes. "Either being a little passenger in them or paddling them myself." Born in 1939 into a family of trappers in Mud Lake, Labrador, Joseph Goudie grew up around canoes. His father, Jim, and brother, Horace, would paddle for five weeks each fall to reach their trap line. Leaving the canoe behind, they would snowshoe for twenty-two days home to Mud Lake, towing a toboggan of pelts.

"He had to build a canoe every year, as did a lot of other trappers," said Joe. "They used mostly white spruce and covered it with canvas and then painted it... They were probably not as fussy as I am because it was only going to be one trip right? Paddle it in the country and leave it."

In 1941, Jim and his wife Elizabeth moved their family to Happy Valley-Goose Bay. With a decline in the fur trade industry, Jim found work building the Goose Air Base and continued to work as a carpenter once the base was constructed.

Joe attended the first school in Happy Valley, completed high school and went on to postsecondary education. His varied career included working as a broadcaster with CBC, sitting in NL House of Assembly and working for the Department of National Defence.

"Before the base came, we lived by the season. A lot of fish in the summer, meat in the fall, and so on," Joe said. "When I was growing up, if you got aboard a canoe and paddled for fifteen minutes you would be out in what would refer to as the wilderness – you were out in the country," he described. "We hunted ducks and geese from the canoe in the spring and used them for trapping until freeze up."

In the spring, migratory birds would arrive on Grand River (also known as Churchill River or Mishta-shipu) before the ice had broken up, so hunters would paint their canoes white, dress in white, and put a white "fly" in front of them across the gunnels of the canoe to camouflage themselves.

"That one on the right, the short white one," said Joe pointing to a paddle hung in his shop. "That's used for duck hunting." Joe explains that in order to get to the ducks, they had to have a paddle that was short enough that your hand wouldn't reach up over the fly and silent enough that it would not startle them. "That's why the wool is on her, so if she touched the gunnels it wouldn't make any noise."

Joe learned how to build canoes in 1996 and started the Grand River Canoe Company the following year. "This was more of hobby for me than a business. It was a business, I made them commercially, and they were a custom build, but it was also a hobby." After taking a break from building for almost three years, Joe returned to his craft in 2014.

Joe received the Male Lifetime Achievement Award at the 8th Atlantic Aboriginal Entrepreneur Award Show on June 22 in Halifax, Nova Scotia for his success as a canoe builder. The awards, hosted by the Ulnooweg Development Group Inc, recognizes the success of Aboriginal entrepreneurs in Atlantic Canada. Congratulations Joe!

RAINWATER HARVESTING IN BLACK TICKLE

Researchers from Grenfell Campus' Environmental Policy Institute (Dr. Maura Hanrahan and Master's student Nick Mercer) have partnered with NCC and the Black Tickle-Domino Local Service District to carry out a water security pilot project in Black Tickle, a community with no access to piped freshwater and limited access to other freshwater sources.



Figure 8: Two of 14 rainwater harvesting units installed.

Through the Harris Centre - RBC Water Research and Outreach Fund, a research grant was received to purchase, ship and install rainwater harvesting units in the community. As a result of the pilot project, changes will be measured in freshwater consumption, contributions to community development, and broader cultural, health and economic effects of poor water access will be analyzed.

The project was launched in early July and the research team have installed 14 rainwater harvesting systems.

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SURVIVORS OUT-OF-COURT SETTLEMENT

On May 10, an out-of-court settlement was reached for survivors who attended residential schools in five schools in the province, four of which were in Labrador and one in St. Anthony, NL. This ended a nearly 10-year class action legal battle with the federal government. Residential schools are a black stain on our national and provincial history that has left a legacy of trauma and suffering passed from generation to generation. In a

statement released on May 11, President Russell called on the Prime Minister to offer an apology for Canada's participation in the residential school system in this province. The court will determine in late September if it accepts the out-of-court settlement. A healing and commemoration committee with the federal government and other representatives has been formed. Kirk Lethbridge has agreed to serve on this extremely important committee on behalf of NCC.

NCC continues to liaise with the lawyers and others associated with the case. We have been assisting with getting information out on the settlement and supporting the survivors.

POLAR BEAR CONSERVATION PROJECT

NCC recently received funding approval from Environment and Climate Change Canada for a polar bear conservation project called "Understanding Nanuk in NunatuKavut for its Conservation in Labrador and Recovery in Canada." This project will be vital to dealing with the increased sightings of polar bears in our territory.



Figure 9: Nanuk the polar bear. Photo courtesy of Charlene Keefe.

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NCC is gearing up for the next Annual General Assembly (AGA), which will be held in Forteau on October 21 and 22. It is an opportunity to bring communities together to celebrate our achievements and successes over the past year.

We will also announce this year's recipients for the Nakummeksuak Awards, which means "thank you very

much” or “a big acknowledgement.” The award is given annually to individuals who have demonstrated outstanding support for NunatuKavut and its communities and have given unselfishly of their time and energy to make a difference.



Figure 10: Presentation of Nakummeksuak Awards during the 2015 AGA

Candidates must be nominated by an NCC member and would normally be a member. If you would like to nominate someone, forms can be downloaded at www.nunatukavut.ca

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY



Figure 11: NCC member John Roberts with his daughter Myah showing off the Inuksuk that she made at NAD celebrations in Labrador West

The Aboriginal Service Centre – Labrador West, which is run by NCC, held its second annual National Aboriginal Day (NAD) celebrations at the Gateway Building in Labrador City on June 21. It was the result of a successful partnership with Gateway Labrador, the Labrador West Heritage Society and other community partners. Funding for the event was provided by Celebrate Canada.

The celebrations drew approximately 130 people, who thoroughly enjoyed traditional food of fish n’ brewis, baked beans and bakeapple cheesecakes. Interactive

booths were set up for demonstrations on rug hooking, rock painting and Inuksuk building. There was also drumming, singing and guitar/accordion playing.

NCC also participated in NAD celebrations in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, which were coordinated by the Labrador Friendship Centre in partnership with Aboriginal organizations and community partners. Our staff hosted a tent to teach participants how to make seal skin bracelets, which attracted a number of visitors throughout the day.



Figure 12: NCC seal skin bracelet-making tent at NAD celebrations in Happy Valley-Goose Bay

RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND CULTURE

NCC has committed to piloting Southern Inuit traditional education programming in various schools in NunatuKavut this coming school year. The NCC and the school board has begun working together so that we can make this happen in our communities. Through this initiative, we will work with schools and communities to integrate culturally relevant educational activities into existing curriculum.

A research collaboration among NCC, the Labrador Institute, Memorial University and Southern Inuit women in NunatuKavut communities continues and we are now working to expand with the creation of digital stories to highlight the life, culture and history of our communities. We are also partnering with Them Days in the production of a special Them Days Issue dedicated to women of Labrador. Southern Inuit women from NunatuKavut will be highlighted in the issue.

SOCIAL SECTOR UPDATE

NCC's Social Sector staff are involved in a number of outreach activities in our communities, many of which engage youth. Here are photos from three of the many activities that we led or participated in over the past few months.



Figure 13: Charlottetown Full Circle Project Youth Truth Matters group displaying their "Pink Shirt Day" poster focusing on "Friendship is One Size Fits All". This poster was displayed in the school and later at the Southern Labrador Family Centre in Charlottetown.



Figure 14: Full Circle Project Staff were excited to partner with the JCRs in Port Hope Simpson on their Regional Cultural Exchange Weekend. Pictured here are two of the girls getting their kettle of water boiling over an open fire.



Figure 15: The Unveiling of Aboriginal Artwork for an Eastern Health Cancer Care project called, "Journey Into the Big Land."

NOTICES

Education and Training

NCC provides information on various scholarships and bursaries available to Indigenous students. We also administer our own bursaries, including the Bernie Heard Memorial Bursary and the Raymond Turnbull Memorial Bursary. We encourage members to check out the scholarships and bursaries section of www.nunatukavut.ca to keep updated on application details and deadlines.

Membership

NCC membership continues to increase and our staff work diligently to ensure applications are processed as quickly as possible. Members are reminded that you will need a current card to participate in the communal fishery and to avail of funding.

If your card is due to expire at anytime over the coming weeks/months, we encourage you to start the renewal process early. Please visit the NCC office nearest to you for any assistance you may require or contact the membership clerk at membership@nunatukavut.ca or 709-896-0592, ext 242.

George Roberts Community Grants Program

The George Roberts Community Grants Program provides grants of up to \$2,500 available to eligible non-profit or community groups to celebrate our culture while improving the economic, social, physical, mental and spiritual well-being of our members.

There are four deadlines for applications per year. If you have a project idea, don't miss the upcoming deadline on September 15. Applications are available at www.nunatukavut.ca

Have an idea? Want to get involved? Have a question or concern? Contact us!

admin@nunatukavut.ca

1 (877) 896-0592 (toll free) or 1 (709) 896-0592

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