

# NunatuKavut News



The official newsletter of the Southern Inuit of Labrador



Spring/Summer 2013 Issue

## Recognized by the Queen

This year marks the Queen's 50th year on the throne. To celebrate medals are awarded in her name. Check out some NunatuKavut members receiving their Diamond Jubilee medals.

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## Labrador Winter Games

NunatuKavut members proudly took their place at this year's games.

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## Moving towards acceptance

NDP and Liberal party make the move for acceptance of the NunatuKavut Land claim.

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The Daniels Decision helps pave the way for future negotiations.

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## The People of NunatuKavut

Documentary film explores NunatuKavut history.

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## Food security

It was a message being shared to old and young in several of the NunatuKavut communities, but what does it mean for us?

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## A firm decision

NunatuKavut council stands strong in their decision to support a caribou hunting ban.

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## NunatuKavut On-the-Ground Action

*Why the fight for our rights must continue*

On April 5, 2013, dozens of NunatuKavut members gathered on the Trans-Labrador Highway, their aim to show the provincial and federal governments and the rest of the country that NunatuKavut will not stand by and be ignored while its resources are depleted and the needs of the people are not met.

That day, eight members were arrested while peacefully protesting including President Todd Russell, Vice President Jim Howell, elder Garfield Bessey, elder Jim Learning, CEO Dorothy Earle, Marjorie Flowers, Ed Heard and Lloyd Pardy.

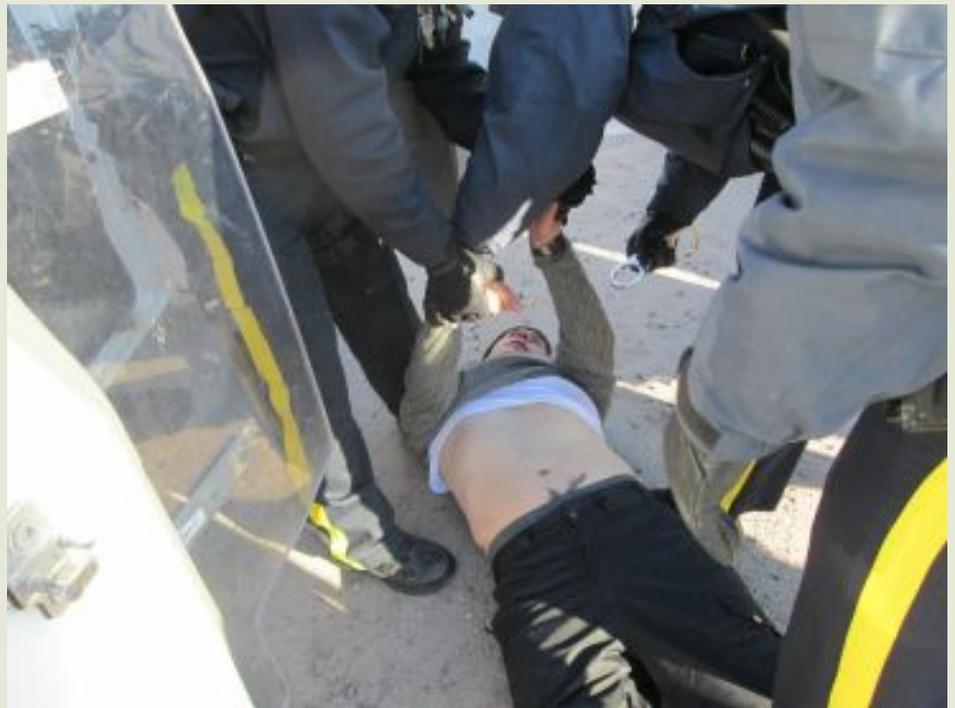
Despite the arrests, dozens of people stayed on the road and peacefully made their point.

"When they took our Elder, he was not deterred and we were not shaken, instead we have become stronger and more determined than ever," said President Todd Russell.

With the arrest of the leadership, NunatuKavut youth were quick to take the reins of leadership. They fearlessly walked on the road, slowing but not stopping traffic.

Their voices were heard from Labrador to the other side of the country, yet government refuses to listen.

"Our work is not yet done; there is much left to do and we will persist," said Russell. (continued on page 2)



NunatuKavut President Todd Russell being taken from the site of April's on-the-ground action

Kirk Lethbridge photo

**NunatuKavut On the ground action:**

*Why the fight for our rights must continue* (continued from P. 1)

NunatuKavut and On-the-Ground Action Committee member Kirk Lethbridge said members have to continue to make themselves heard. He says NunatuKavut wasn't always the thriving organization that it is today, but it was the people and their determination that has helped it grow. He remembers a time when his mother and other founding members of the organization would hold bake sales to raise money for office supplies to mail letters, a task that was carried out from someone's at-home, makeshift office.

"Sometimes we forget where we came from," said Lethbridge. "That's as grass-roots as it gets—selling pies for a dream."

That was the 80's and since then Kirk has participated in more protests than he can remember. The biggest protest he recalls is the blockade of Groves Point by NunatuKavut members. The blockade prevented any ships from entering the dock at Terrington Basin for a period of three days. In all, Lethbridge says there were over a hundred people involved in that protest and the aims of the organization were met with a forestry deal from the province—exactly what they had been looking for.

He has also seen the fruits of his efforts—recognition of forestry rights, fishing rights and the right to hunt small game.

"We've always had these rights, they (the government) just don't want to acknowledge these rights and that's the problem."

He said NunatuKavut has fought for everything it has accomplished so far, as limited as some of the gains may be—limited fishing rights, limited hunting rights and funding to help run the organization.

For years, he said it's been a stand-off with the provincial government to have NunatuKavut's rights acknowledged.

And so the struggle for recognition continues. NunatuKavut established an official On-The-Ground-Committee earlier this year with 10 members ready to go when needed. In early April they put the call out that it was time to go back on the road for an on-the-ground action. The province and Nalcor were, at the time of publication, still denying NunatuKavut the right to be consulted about development happening on ancient lands, the hunting and trapping grounds fathers and grandfathers lived on, and in many cases, died on. The support was tremendous. More than 100 people throughout the day and in the day following joined the On-the-ground action team to voice their concerns. Young and old alike held signs and stayed on the road to show that we do have a right to be heard.

In recent years, members have protested a lack of NunatuKavut consultation for the Muskrat Falls project as well as the lack of fishing rights for Nunatukavut members in Upper Lake Melville. "We



Jenny McCarthy photo

*Elder Jim Learning is released from custody after three days of a hunger strike following his on-the-ground action arrest.*

wouldn't be where we are today without those protests," Lethbridge said.

NunatuKavut member Jim Learning feels the organization would not have come so far as it has if people had not been ready and willing to stand up for their rights. The 74-year-old elder with an otherwise clean record has been arrested twice in his peaceful protests, once for ignoring an injunction to stay a certain distance from the Muskrat Falls work site and more recently while laying on the roadway during the on-the-ground action, peacefully protesting at the intersection to the south coast. "But we are not criminals," said Learning. "We wandered these roads when we were kids hunting for partridges. They came to us. It's that simple." Learning has been involved with the fight for rights for many years. He remembers clearly the night in 1996 when protesters 'took' a helicopter. The previous night, a group of NunatuKavut members (then known as Labrador Metis) came together to talk about proposed fish camps for the Eagle River, a waterway that runs deep into NunatuKavut territory and is very dear to the hearts of its people.

A new fish camp was being built on the Eagle River, a traditional salmon fishing area of NunatuKavut, but NunatuKavut members were forbidden by government to fish for salmon there. News of the camp was enough to anger members who had spent their youth fishing where now only visitors would be permitted.

The idea was bred and soon a plan was in place. What began with a group of 30 or so people in the wee hours of the morning turned out to be a group of more than two hundred people surrounding a

helicopter and preventing it from heading to the proposed place of the new camps. On top of this occupation, there were supportive protests in Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

Learning said it was the steadfast action of the on-the-ground movement that created access for NunatuKavut members.

"They won't say that's the reason we got those licenses, but it was," said Learning, "It changed the game, it really did."

With many of the inherent rights to the land NunatuKavut has always occupied ignored, on-the-ground-action is often imperative to getting a message across to those running the province and the country.

Learning say he has no plans to stop fighting for the life on the land he has always lived and hopes to see future generations continue that fight.

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Kirk Lethbridge photo

*The boat used in the 80s protest that helped NunatuKavut obtain their forestry rights.*



Jenny McCarthy photo

# On the Ground Action in pictures

*These are a few of the many photos we collected during our on-the-ground action in April*



Jenny McCarthy photo



Jenny McCarthy photo



Jenny McCarthy photo



Kirk Lethbridge photo



Jenny McCarthy photo



# The People of NunatuKavut

*History in the making*

Jenny McCarthy photos

*In the first event of it's kind for NunatuKavut, a film documenting the history of Labrador's Southern Inuit people was screened at the Lawrence O'Brien Arts Centre on Feb. 9.*

Dozens of people filled the auditorium to witness the documentary created by a group of independent university researchers and archeologists.

Dr. Lisa Rankin, an associate professor at Memorial University of Newfoundland is the lead archeologist in the 5-year project entitled "Understanding the Past to Build the Future" which culminated in the documentary film, of which she was also the executive producer.

Dr. Rankin has been researching the Inuit presence in Southern Labrador for more than 10 years. It was her team's findings that enabled the information for the film to be compiled.

The evidence of a constant Inuit presence in Southern Labrador was one that was not widely accepted prior to the archeological digs of the past decade.

Now Dr. Rankin said there is no doubt of that presence.

"We know for certain there have been Inuit in the Sandwich Bay area for several hundred years."

The Archeologists have excavated four different Inuit home sites.

"They were the first clue that there was year-round settlement of Inuit," Dr. Rankin said.

The funding for the current project runs out next year so this summer will be the last dig for the archeology team.

Through the knowledge of people living in the south coast communities, the archeologists have determined a location to excavate the site of the remains of another southern

Inuit home.

The research of Dr. Rankin and her associates has been incredibly important to NunatuKavut—both in affirming for its residents something they had been trying to explain for years and also in establishing the unbroken continuance of the Southern Inuit people, right up to the people who inhabit the communities today.

As Dr. Rankin points out, there was no end to the Southern Inuit presence in Labrador. The lives of the Southern Inuit simply evolved into a different way of life, as did the culture and lives of the other aboriginal groups in Labrador. The people of NunatuKavut are direct descendants of those southern Inuit people who inhabited the sod houses now being excavated in much the same way as the Innu who now live in Sheshatshiu are direct descendants of the previous Innu populations who lived nomadically in caribou-skin tents.

The People of NunatuKavut remain connected to the land, as were their Southern Inuit ancestors. Hunting, Trapping, fishing and seal hunting remain important parts of the NunatuKavut culture. Members of NunatuKavut communities still maintain dog teams and spend time in traditional activities such as snowshoeing, trapping and crafting.

The film was a connection to the past for the people of NunatuKavut.

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) through CURA (the Community-University Research Alliances) funded the People of NunatuKavut project.

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Everyone enjoyed some social time after the screening of the film at the Lawrence O'Brien Arts Centre on Feb. 22



Pauline and Aubrey Russell of Mary's Harbour with NunatuKavut President Todd Russell.

# Sticking to their word:

*NCC stands by its decision to ban the hunting of caribou*

NunatuKavut Vice President Jim Howell has hunted for as long as he can remember. Caribou has been a staple in his diet since growing up with his parents in Spotted Islands when the caribou would make their way south.

“It was a lot of hard work to get it,” Holwell said. His parents would often travel for days by dogsled for the hunt.

“It was a regular part of our diet. That and seal.” The last caribou he’s heard of in the area of Spotted Islands was in the 1960s.

When he joined caribou meetings in Kuujuaq this year, Holwell knew the consensus was that drastic measures needed to be taken to protect the George River herd. It was the largest meeting of Quebec and Labrador aboriginal groups including NunatuKavut to date.

“The amount of knowledge in that room was incredible,” he said. “And I think everybody knew that something had to be done.”

NunatuKavut didn’t take long to declare their support for a ban on the hunt.

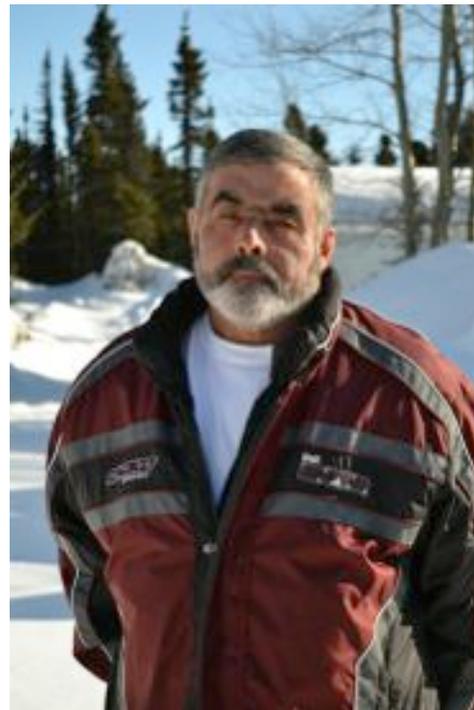
“The caribou herd is down so low, we had to do something,” Howell said.

Like many members of NunatuKavut, Caribou was a part of Holwell’s diet since his childhood, so it was not an easy position for him to take. But he

knew it was what needed to be done, that a year or two without caribou was a small price to pay to ensure caribou for the future.

*“The caribou herd is down so low, we had to do something,” NunatuKavut Vice President Jim Howell.*

No one knows what effect this would have on the numbers so the decision to play safe was a wise one. Two years ago, the provincial government announced that caribou numbers had dropped drastically from nearly 800,000 in the late 80s to 385,000 in 2001 and finally 20,000 this year. Recognizing the drop in numbers in 2010, the government suspended the commercial hunt, the non-resident hunt and license transferring in Labrador. Resident licenses were also cut in half from two caribou to one. This year as the numbers continue to plummet, the provincial government announced a Labrador-wide ban on the hunt of caribou, not long after NunatuKavut announced it’s choice to suspend it’s hunt indefinitely.



Jenny McCarthy photo

*NunatuKavut Community Council Vice President Jim Holwell*

With these actions, the NunatuKavut community council hopes the caribou numbers will increase to once again enable membership to carry out their traditional caribou hunt.

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## *Aboriginal leaders of Québec and Labrador unite to protect the Ungava caribou*

*The official Press Release from the Ungava Peninsula Caribou Aboriginal Round Table:*

Kuujuaq and Nain, April 26th 2013 - It is with great pride that the Aboriginal governments and Nations of Québec and Labrador stand together and formerly announce the creation of the Ungava Peninsula Caribou Aboriginal Round Table, a united and powerful voice that will endeavor to preserve caribou and the deep relationship that aboriginal people have long held with it.

Following an initial historic meeting in Kuujuaq in January, the Inuit, Innu and Inuit/Metis living in Labrador as well as the Inuit, Innu, Naskapi and Cree living in Quebec gathered together again in Uashat mak Mani-Utenam last week to formalize the Ungava Peninsula Caribou Aboriginal Round Table. The Round Table has been created to respond to the decline of the migratory caribou and will strive to develop a conservation and management system in a way that respects all cultures and traditions. This gathering is a strong step towards aboriginal leadership and responsibility towards the preservation of the land and animals on which they depend.

The Round Table has elected two Co-chairs, Ms Sarah Leo, (Government of Nunatsiavut), and Mr. Adamie Delisle Alaku, (Makivik Corporation) as well as an executive committee composed of representatives from each Nation namely Réal McKenzie (Innu of the Québec region), George Guanish (Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach), Todd Russell (NunatuKavut Community Council), Prote Poker (Innu Nation) and Isaac Masty (Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee/ Cree Regional Authority (GCCEI/CRA) as well as the Co-chairs.

A technical Committee has also been assigned to support the activities of the Round Table and initiate the development of a Conservation Plan for the Ungava Caribou Herds including a process for recommending the sustainable sustenance and cultural allocation of caribou while respecting the sovereignty and independence of each member nation.

“The caribou has brought us together; we are united and committed to preserving caribou and our relationship with it for our present and future generations” says Sarah Leo, President of Nunatsiavut and co-chair of the Round Table.

As stated in a joint declaration (<http://www.makivik.org/aboriginal-leaders-come-together-to-protect-the-george-river-and-leaf-river-caribou-herds/>), caribou is central to the Aboriginal Peoples of the Ungava Peninsula. It is an integral part of the Aboriginal cultural, physical and spiritual well-being, as well as the food security of our nations. All members of the Round Table share deep respect and responsibility towards the caribou, and agreed that actions must be taken to respond to this critical decline of the George River Caribou Herd and the uncertain future of the Leaf River and Torngat Caribou Herds.

“The Round Table is a true testament of the respect for the individual realities and sovereignty of each participating aboriginal nations.” says Adamie Delisle Alaku of the Makivik Corporation and co-chair of the Round Table. “I have great faith in the power of our unity, and that we will achieve our goal of preserving caribou while protecting our cultural well-being” he added.

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# Overcoming Obstacles

*Despite the everyday struggle of diabetes, this 16-year-old athlete met the challenge of the Labrador Winter Games*



Jenny McCarthy photo

*Natalie skies in after five kilometres of skiing to tag her partner in the cross country skiing relay at Birch Brook, a mandatory event in the Labrador Winter Games. Right: Natalie sports her team Charlottetown gear after two grueling days of skiing competition.*



Jenny McCarthy photo

It was three weeks before the games were set to begin that 16-year-old Natalie Dempster decided she would compete.

It wasn't the first time she had to prepare for the cross-country skiing segment of the games on short notice.

Three years ago, the Charlottetown native was brought into the games at the last minute when another skier dropped out. For those games, she trained only two weeks. Thirteen years old at the time, Natalie said she's always been involved with sports and skiing is just something she likes to do.

"It's kind of exhilarating," she said. "I'm in pretty good shape."

Natalie participated in the 10-kilometre individual as well as the relay race (5 kilometres each) with partner Irving Powell. "The race was good. It challenges you," she said. "The hills were tough."

For Natalie, competing also means taking into consideration Diabetes (Type 1) and carefully monitoring her sugars.

While skiing the Birch Brook runs, there were checkpoints with juice to help her in the case her sugars went low but otherwise she was as fast—and in some cases faster—than the other girls her age.

She doesn't let Diabetes limit her choices. She is aware of the precautions she needs to take

and the risks involved in the choices she makes.

"You shouldn't let anything like that hold you back."

She said it's important that people realize that just because they have diabetes, it doesn't mean they shouldn't exercise.

"Exercising is important in keeping your system regulated," she said. "It's important for everybody to do daily exercise."

Natalie is thankful for her parents and the support they offer. Her dad forged a 'groomed' trail with his skidoo so she could practice.

"He would drive ahead so he could cheer me on," Natalie said.

She said both parents offer constant encouragement in everything, not just the games.

Natalie said the games were extra special this year because many of the 14 Charlottetown team members were also members of her family and some had courageous stories of their own, including that of one of her uncles who is a cancer survivor.

"It's very uplifting to be a part of something like this," she said.

Natalie graduates high school next year and plans to focus her study somewhere in the field of medicine.

## The Games of Year's Gone By

This snapshot was taken of Labrador Winter Games Competitor and NunatuKavut member Selby Mesher of team Cartwright in 1983 when he won gold in the Labrathon event. The photo was taken by Libby Anderson and first appeared in the Labrador Song Book.



Libby Anderson photo

### The Games: An editors note

Although we would love to include them all, we've chosen two stand-out stories to feature for our Labrador Winter Games Special Feature. We are proud of all of our athletes and congratulate everyone on an outstanding performance at this year's Labrador Winter Games. This was the 30th anniversary of the Labrador Winter Games and a tremendous show. The competition was top notch and the sportsmanship a point of pride. Despite the many cultural and language differences throughout Labrador, everyone showed great respect for their competitors. We look forward to the next group of talented athletes from our communities.

# A point of pride:

NunatuKavut members show traditional skills with three gold and 3rd place overall



*Jenny McCarthy photo*  
Team Cartwright's Barry Dyson celebrates his Labrathon win (top), Todd Russell greets the top three dog team racers—Everett Campbell, Alton Morris Jr. and William Russell after crossing the finish line s, Sarah Sooley (bottom left) breaks the previous record with her high kick.

**Final results for 2013 Labrador Winter Games:**

1. Labrador City
2. Happy Valley-Goose Bay
3. Cartwright
4. Nain
5. Makkovik
6. Wabush
7. Postville
8. NWR
9. Rigolet
10. Charlottetown
11. Forteau
12. Pinsent's Arm
13. Lanse Au Loup
14. Port Hope Simpson
15. Natuashish
16. Sheshatshiu
17. Hopedale
18. West St. Modest
19. Lodge Bay
20. Mary's Harbour
21. Mud Lake
22. Churchill Falls

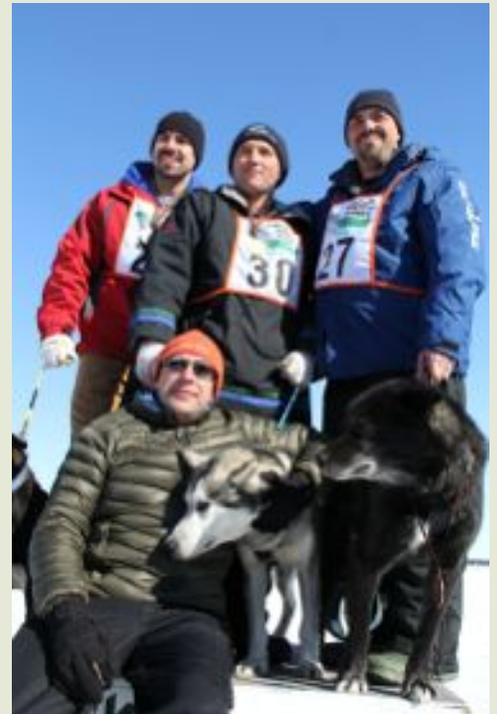
Labrador Winter Games participants did NunatuKavut proud, demonstrating their handle on the traditional skills of their early ancestor, the southern Inuit and the Labrador trapper.

In both the Northern Games (the traditional Inuit games) and the Labrathon for the men, NunatuKavut members Richard Lewis, Sarah Sooley and Barry Dyson, respectively, finished in first place. The Northern games consist of the Labrador Hurdles (pictured right), the one-foot high kick (pictured left), over the rope and the seal crawl. The Labrathon is a circuit test of traditional trapping skills including water boiling, log sawing, shooting and fish hole cutting, all with a sled in tow.

Bud Morris and Everett Campbell of Charlottetown and William Russell of Port Hope Simpson took the three top places in the the dog team races and Preston Morris of Cartwright took second place in the biathlon. Overall, all the NunatuKavut communities and members showed remarkable skill and sportsmanship.



*Sonya Blake photo*



*Lori Dyson photo*

# Food Security

*NunatuKavut health and social development staff talks food security*

The Learning For Life ~ Preventing Diabetes project partnered with Jill Airhart who is currently employed by Labrador Grenfell Health doing work around food security and gardening. Melita Paul, Coordinator for the Learning For Life project travelled with Jill in January, visiting four

communities on the South Coast of Labrador. They carried out school sessions with children in grades kindergarten through grade 8 in Port Hope Simpson and St. Lewis. The focus was around the importance of eating healthy and how to grow vegetables at home, especially during the cold Labrador winters.

“We talked about the importance of eating healthy food, especially traditional food and the role they play in the prevention of type 2 diabetes,” said Melita. “The children had a lot of fun planting their seeds and are looking forward to seeing them grow.”

The team was excited to hear the majority of children say that they take part in traditional food gathering and eat many of the traditional foods that are hunted or gathered. In addition to the school sessions, they hosted a session around natural traditional foods with children and parents at the Southern Labrador Family Resource centre in Mary’s Harbour as well as a public information session in St. Lewis and a senior’s brunch in Charlottetown. There were great turnouts at each session and everyone



*Jill Airhart speaks with children about growing food.*

*Submitted photo*



**Elders and children learn all about Food Security**

was very interested in learning how to grow vegetables and herbs along the South Coast of Labrador where there are so many challenges with poor soil and short growing seasons. Growing your own food plays a big role in food security and the organizers hoped the sessions would promote more food

growing in the NunatuKavut communities. If you require any further information about this event or other events offered through NunatuKavut’s Learning for Life Project please contact; Melita Paul at [mpaul@nunatukavut.ca](mailto:mpaul@nunatukavut.ca) or by calling (709) 949 0292 or Darlene Wall at [dwall@nunatukavut.ca](mailto:dwall@nunatukavut.ca) or by calling (709) 896 0592 ext. 238.

## The Daniels Decision

*What it means for NunatuKavut*

### What was the Daniels Decision?

The Daniels Decision was a tremendous victory for aboriginal peoples in Canada. The case began with Harry Daniels, a Metis man from Saskatchewan. He was president of the Native Council of Canada (now the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples). In 1999 Harry Daniels along with his son Gabriel, Leah Gardner, a non-status Indian from Ontario, Terry Joudrey, a non-status Indian from Nova Scotia, and the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples went to court to fight for three things: that Metis and non-status Indians be included in the term ‘Indian’ as it occurs in the constitution act, for recognition that the Queen owes a fiduciary duty to them as such, and that they have the right to be consulted by the federal government on a collective basis,

respecting their Aboriginal rights and interests. Daniels died in 2004 before the case was heard. 15 years after his court appearance, in January of 2013, the court found that the term ‘Indian’ as it appears in the Act does include Metis and non-status Indians. Although they dismissed the other two claims of the Daniels team, they did award this recognition to the first claim. The Canadian government has since appealed the courts decision but the case has yet to return to court.

### What does it mean for NunatuKavut?

This verdict validates NunatuKavut’s long-standing positions that members cannot be subject to different rules and tests than the Innu and other Inuit groups; that people of NunatuKavut can no longer be discriminated

against when it comes to the crown’s duty to consult; and the the people of NunatuKavut cannot be ignored as they have been in relation to their health needs, and excluded as they have been from key federal programs.

### The way forward

NunatuKavut invites Canada and the province to sit down in a calm and reasoned way to address the implications. The supreme court has gotten tired of calling for negotiations in the face of related refusals to talk and punitive litigation launched by governments. The time has come for a little political leadership in Ottawa and St. Johns. For more information on the Daniels Decision check out the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples website at [www.abo-peoples.org](http://www.abo-peoples.org).

# Women unite to take back the night

*Second annual anti-violence event for Charlottetown*



Participants of the Take Back the Night event in Charlottetown

*Submitted photo*

The Charlottetown Anti-Violence Committee partnered with NunatuKavut's "Learning for Life" and "Full Circle" projects to host its second annual Take Back the Night event on December 08, 2012. A group of more than 50 women from Charlottetown and nearby Pinsent's Arm united to take a stand against violence against women.

The oldest woman in attendance was 79-year-old Mildred Campbell of Pinsent's Arm. The group kicked off the event by sharing a lovely meal at the local Charlottetown Recreation Centre.

The "Word Wall" and banner loudly announced the

theme of the evening, "End the Silence, Stop the Violence". The Anti-Violence Committee gave a short briefing of the history and importance of Take Back the Night. A video presentation featuring participants from all over the country then set the atmosphere for the ladies participating to share their reasons for taking part in the event in Charlottetown. The reasons were as diverse and unique as the participants themselves. They marched for their daughters, granddaughters, future children, sisters, god-children, for those children who never had a voice, for teenagers such

as Samantha Walsh, for all ladies everywhere, to create awareness, to demand respect, to stand-up against Violence against Women and because they themselves had been violated in the past. It was an empowering and emotional activity!

Each woman received a purple t-shirt, a flashlight and a noise maker. Many wonderful prizes were drawn throughout the evening and there was a lovely door prize from Everyday Style as well. The Charlottetown Anti-Violence Committee hosts memorable initiatives such as this to create awareness of sexual violence against women in hopes of encouraging safe communities and respectful relationships. They hope to empower women to take a stand against violence and to stand by their sisters who are survivors or victims of sexual violence.

The message rang out loud and clear in the little remote village as the ladies marched in town chanting loudly, blowing their whistles, sounding their noise makers and announcing over the megaphone to all villagers, "1,2,3,4...we won't take it anymore. 5, 6, 7, 8, down with violence, down with hate! Break the Silence & put an end to Violence". Townspeople heard the commotion and stopped to listen.

The Charlottetown Anti-Violence Committee would like to encourage other coastal Labrador communities to participate in their 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Take Back the Night which will be taking place in Mid-November of 2013. If you can't make it to Charlottetown's TBTN why not host one in your hometown?

Bouquets of thanks are extended to all who participated, cooked, organized, donated prizes, and helped in any way, shape or form! The Charlottetown Anti-Violence Committee would like to give a special shout out to the brave ladies of Charlottetown & Pinsent's Arm, Darlene Wall, Sherry Turnbull, Melita Paul of NunatuKavut's Social Sector, Carmen Hancock of Violence Prevention Labrador, the Northern Regional Wellness Coalition and the NL Sexual Assault Crisis & Prevention Center in St. John's - you are all awesome!



Participants enjoy a snack during the second annual anti-violence initiative, Take Back the Night, in Charlottetown.



# Stitching together

*Youth learn about quilting at weekend workshop in Cartwright*

*Youth learned to quilt during a weekend workshop in Cartwright.*

*Submitted photos*

NunatuKavut's, "Learning for Life ~ Preventing Diabetes" and "Full Circle ~ Breaking the Cycle of Drug Use" projects hosted a quilting weekend for youth and quilters from communities on the South Coast of Labrador.

This event was made possible with funding from Health Canada and the provincial government's Women's Policy office under the violence prevention initiative funds.

The event was held in Cartwright in partnership with the Community Youth Network staff and volunteers. Thirty two youth, quilters and parents participated in the event that took place from March 8-10.

The goal of this weekend was to get youth from our communities to learn the skill of quilting from the experts. It was also a time of sharing knowledge and connecting the two generations. Watching the adults share their knowledge and seeing the youth put this learning to work was an awesome experience for the staff of NunatuKavut and CYN.

In addition to the quilting, participants took part in a Drug / Diabetes Jeopardy game as well as another craft. It was a successful event so far, however it

didn't end there. There wasn't sufficient time in Cartwright to get all the work done to complete the quilts, so several ladies have agreed to take a quilt back to their communities and get it finished. Once the quilts are completed they will be donated to teams participating in the Relay for Life event, to be used for their fundraising efforts. The end result will be beautiful quilt sown with lots of love and commitment by all involved. We are very pleased with this partnership and we look forward to displaying the end product. One comment from a participant was: "I learned that everyone does things different and it's nice to see different talents and some new things about diabetes and drugs." NunatuKavut staff would like to extend a big thank you to all those who participated in this weekend and a special thanks to Staff at CYN for helping to

make this possible. If you have any questions about this event or ideas for future events, please get in contact with either of the following staff through email; Melita Paul [mpaul@nunatukavut.ca](mailto:mpaul@nunatukavut.ca), Darlene Wall [dwall@nunatukavut.ca](mailto:dwall@nunatukavut.ca) or Sherry Turnbull at [sturnbull@nunatukavut.ca](mailto:sturnbull@nunatukavut.ca).



## Treasures of the past

*Earlier this year, a very interesting morning was spent in the Anglican archives by visitors Patty Way, Darlene Wall and Jennifer Baggs from Happy Valley-Goose Bay.*

*The opportunity to have a look at Labrador Parish records from over a century ago was certainly a thrill, and the hours very quickly passed. They were investigating information needed for confirmation and use in the membership database for NunatuKavut. These archives were a treasure trove. They were assisted by archivist Peter Chalker and welcomed also by Bishop Cyrus Pittman and Archdeacon Sandra Tilley. The visit was most productive and it is hoped another opportunity will present itself in future.*



*Submitted photo*

# Nunatukavut founding members among Queen's Diamond Jubilee recipients



Kirk Lethbridge photo



Jenny McCarthy photo

Both Jane Lethbridge and Ken Mesher played important roles during the establishment of the original NunatuKavut organization, known at that time as the Labrador Metis Association. From protests to fundraising to sharing their viewpoints and carrying out the daily grunt work, the pair were among those who first saw a vision of a united Southern Inuit Community. They were fittingly honoured during the Queen's Jubilee this year with medals for their work. Pictured above is NunatuKavut elder Jane Lethbridge and to the right is NunatuKavut elder Ken Mesher.

### Other NunatuKavut Medal Recipients:

*Other members awarded with medals include:*

- Diane Brown
- Denise Russell-Burden
- Harrison Campbell
- Johnathon Earle
- Sarah Fowler
- Jocelyn Hancock
- Laura Keefe
- Annette Lethbridge
- Kirk Lethbridge
- Roxanne Notley
- Ben Powell
- Kate Turnbull
- Juanita Roberts
- Claude Rumbolt
- Monica Williams

*If you are a NunatuKavut member and you received a medal but are not listed above, please let us know for the next edition of our newsletter.*



Submitted photo

*Pictured to the left is NunatuKavut President Todd Russell and above NunatuKavut member Corporal Jean Raymond Diotte, receiving their Queen's Jubilee medals.*



# A Story of Success

*Red Bay native completes Law degree with help from NunatuKavut*



*Submitted photo*

After finishing high school, Johnathon Earle went to university to pursue a degree in Business. After completing that degree, he moved on to apply to Law School and Medical School.

Happy to pursue a degree in either field, Earle said Law happened because that was the program that accepted him first.

After three years of study, Johnathon graduated in May of last year from the University of New Brunswick with a degree in Law and went on to carry out a year of obligatory on-the-job-training before writing his Bar Exam. He was admitted to the bar on Feb. 15th.

The Red Bay man is now employed with a firm in St. John's and is preparing to move to a new firm—Aylward, Chislett & Whitten.

At the moment, he practices all types of law except criminal and has a long-term goal of making partner in a law firm.

He says he enjoys the challenge of Law.

"There's always something new and different in this," he said.

So far, the work has been as he expected it—not in court every day as is often the preconceived notion.

"Cases often settle out of court," he said.

Johnathon tries to get to his home community, where his parents still live, two or three times per year.

He is the first person from Red Bay to graduate with a degree in Law.

"Everyone's quite happy," he said.

Asked if he ever plans to take his skill and move closer to home, he could only say "not yet."

"One thing I'd like to do is represent people in Labrador," he said.

Johnathon said the help NunatuKavut provided went a long way to help finish his schooling.

"It was quite significant."

NunatuKavut offers financial support to members pursuing post-secondary education. You can find out more about our programs on our website at [www.nunatukavut.ca](http://www.nunatukavut.ca)

On behalf of NunatuKavut, we wish Johnathon great success in his law career!

## Support for NunatuKavut Land Claim

### NDP and Liberals show support for NunatuKavut

The NDP party unanimously passed an emergency resolution regarding NunatuKavut's Land Claim at its National Convention earlier this year.

The resolution called upon the Federal Government to uphold its responsibilities and obligations and immediately enter into negotiations with NCC to resolve its Land Claim.

The resolution came on the heels of a large on-the-ground action organized by NCC, and a hunger strike carried out by NunatuKavut Elder, James Learning.

"I am happy that our actions have not gone unnoticed; that the hunger strike of Jim Learning and our protest did have an impact." NCC President, Todd Russell said. "It is wonderful to see

this Labrador issue be addressed on a national level."

### Liberals commit to resolving NunatuKavut Land Claim

NunatuKavut also asked the Liberal party to make a commitment to resolve the group's 22-year outstanding land claim.

In May, NCC President, Todd Russell and members of the Council met with Liberal Leader, Justin Trudeau and Labrador Liberal candidate, Yvonne Jones. During the meeting, Mr. Trudeau presented NCC with a letter in support of its land claim. The Liberal Leader called upon the Conservative Government to begin good-faith negotiations immediately.

Mr. Trudeau stated in his letter: "If the current government is unwilling to fulfill its obligations and begin negotiations, a Liberal government would start them."

"This is a good day for Labrador. We spoke of the need for a resolution, not just for NunatuKavut or Labrador, but for all of Canada," says NCC President, Todd Russell.

"We are delighted to receive the support and to see the speedy delivery of this commitment from the Liberal party. On behalf of all the people of NunatuKavut we applaud Mr.

Trudeau for his deep understanding and leadership for improving the relationship between aboriginal groups and the Federal Crown."

The commitment comes after a meeting was held with Liberal candidate, Yvonne Jones. "We would like to thank Ms. Jones for her continued support and contribution to realizing the aims and aspirations of the people of NunatuKavut." Mr. Russell continues, "She has been instrumental in ensuring a clear and definitive response from the Liberal Party."

[communications@nunatukavut.ca](mailto:communications@nunatukavut.ca)



# Nunacor

## A Place to Prosper

# major development

If you plan to do business in Labrador, you need an aboriginal partner.

Make it Nunacor.



### A Message From Nunacor

It is an exciting time for businesses in Labrador, and we are proud to be in business for NunatuKavut. We are expanding our own companies, forming partnerships, and assisting NunatuKavut entrepreneurs to start or grow their business.

Over the past year we have expanded our fishing operations, signed strategic alliance agreements to help build our capacity and developed an employment eligibility list for NunatuKavut members who are looking for employment. We are currently forming a partnership in engineering, as well as expanding our real estate company. For more information on Nunacor, please visit our website at [www.nunacor.com](http://www.nunacor.com).



Regards,

Andy Turnbull - General Manager

[www.nunacor.com](http://www.nunacor.com) • 709.896.5722 • [info@nunacor.com](mailto:info@nunacor.com)

### NunatuKavut Business Registry

Grow your business networks by becoming a NunatuKavut Registered Aboriginal Business (NRAB).

**Go online to register today!**

**[www.nunacor.com](http://www.nunacor.com)**

Kerry Brown, NunatuKavut Business Development Officer will be travelling the South Coast and Labrador West to help you with your business needs.

For more information, please call 709 896 5722 or email [businesscentre@nunacor.com](mailto:businesscentre@nunacor.com)

### Nunacor/NunatuKavut has an Employment Eligibility List

# DID YOU KNOW



Are you interested in employment opportunities with our partners? Nunacor/NunatuKavut are encouraging interested members to join our Employment Eligibility List for anticipated employment opportunities. This list will highlight your education, training and the employment fields you are interested in.

If you would like to join our Employment Eligibility List, please contact Deborah Newman, Partnership and Job Development Coordinator at (709) 896-5760 or email [jobs@nunacor.com](mailto:jobs@nunacor.com) to find out more.

# Department of Natural Resources and Environment:

## *A look at some of our recent initiatives*

### Fishing rights

President Todd Russell announced the expansion of the council's communal fisheries license to include upper Lake Melville on June 18. "This is something we have fought for, for years, it is very significant," he said. "For us, it was a matter of understanding our people's historical



and current connection to this place and the fact that we have traditionally fished in this area." The expansion means that NunatuKavut people will be able to fish without fear of prosecution, that they

can put food on their table and share their knowledge and way of life with future generations. "This arrangement brings some measure of equality to the NunatuKavut Inuit," said Russell. "All the Aboriginal groups in Labrador will now be able to access salmon, trout, char and other important species for food, social and ceremonial purposes in our traditional waters." NCC appreciates the diligence and effort on the part of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans over these past few months. "It was important that we share information and this is good for the people and the fish." says Russell.

### Species at Risk

In mid-march of 2013 NunatuKavut Community Council met with land users to open dialogue between members and organizational staff regarding species at risk. The focus of the meeting was fairly broad, touching on many species either listed under the species at risk act as special

concern, threatened, endangered, or extirpated. During the workshop we did a presentation to discuss each animal and hold a mapping exercise to show areas where the species at risk are usually present. As the animals are at risk, providing the general public with this information usually isn't in the best interest of the animal's survival.

We focused on 3 terrestrial species at risk, the Woodland Caribou, Wolverine, and the polar bear as well as avian species at risk and marine mammals and fish such as the walrus and killer whale. The Canadian Wildlife Service also gave a presentation on their initiatives on species at risk and the responsibilities of CWS in the species at risk act.



The Natural Resources and Environment Department felt that the meeting was a success with great feedback from participants and we had gathered a lot of information on species at risk as well had a venue to disseminate species at risk related directives that the organization is pursuing.

### Mineral Agreements

In the summer of 2012, NunatuKavut signed a Mining Exploration Activities Agreement with Search Minerals. Search had been exploring mining opportunities in the NunatuKavut land claim and treaty area. Key elements in the agreement address environmental protocols and safeguards for matters of historic values. The agreement also sets out hiring and business opportunities for NunatuKavut members and communities as well as certain financial considerations.



*NunatuKavut President Todd Russell signs a Mining Exploration Activities agreement with Jim Clucus, President of Search Minerals (background) as Randy Miller of Search Minerals looks on.*

NCC President, Todd Russell said "This is good news for NunatuKavut and its people. This is the first mining exploration agreement we have reached with companies working on our Lands and it is a sign that development can proceed in an air of respect."

This was the second cooperation agreement signed between mining companies and NunatuKavut last year. The first agreement was signed in December with Labrador Iron Mines who mine iron ore in the Schefferville area.

# Scenes from NunatuKavut



Red Bay, Labrador

*Jenny McCarthy photo*



Mary's Harbour, Labrador

*Jenny McCarthy photo*

If you have some scenic photos you would like to see in our newsletter, send them to [communications@nunatukavut.ca](mailto:communications@nunatukavut.ca)

# Marking 250 years: Treaty Celebrations set to take place in 2015

## Nunatukavut, Labrador



*The lighting of a ceremonial candle during the treaty celebration announcement in 2011.*

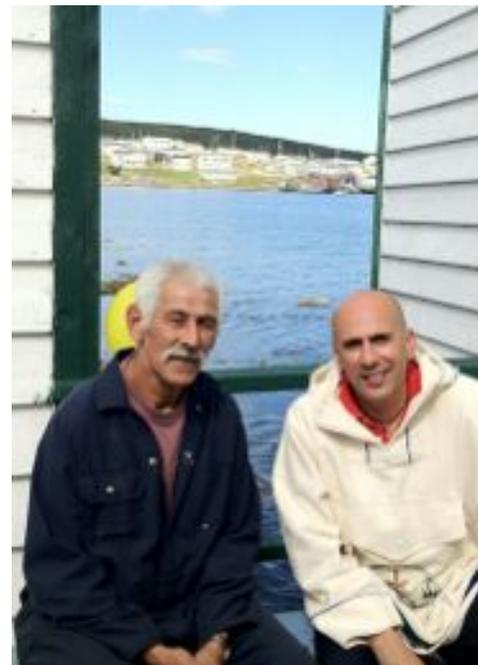
In 2015, NunatuKavut will be celebrating the 250-year anniversary of a treaty with the British Crown, signed with the southern and central Inuit of present day NunatuKavut in 1765. The Treaty established a “peace and friendship” relationship with the British, for the purpose of protecting the British interests. In exchange for this protection, the Inuit were promised the protection of the British Crown and and Treaty rights.

The Lords of Trade formally reported the Labrador Inuit Treaty of 1765 to the Privy Council of Britain in May 1769. The Treaty is now protected by section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. The member communities of NunatuKavut are the current holders and beneficiaries of this Treaty Rights. Our communities are the modern day holders and beneficiaries of that Treaty and the only claimant thereto.

The 1765 Treaty protects the rights of Inuit and their descendants to harvest wildlife and to utilize the natural resources of their territory. It recognized their Aboriginal Title to their land and their right to be self-governing within their territory. forever. The significance of this Treaty must now be recognized and accepted by government and instituted immediately to implement these Treaty rights.

These rights are now held and possessed by the NunatuKavut communities as a gift of the Creator and their ancestors for their children’s children In the coming year, NunatuKavut will be planning celebration activities for 2015. We will be welcoming ideas and input from our community members.

More information will be available on our website at [www.nunatukavut.ca](http://www.nunatukavut.ca)



*Nunatukavut President Todd Russell visited St. Lewis for the announcement of the Treaty Celebrations of 2015.*

## Notices and Announcements

### Membership Update

The renewal process has begun for all members who re-applied for membership in 2008. Members will be receiving a letter and a one page renewal form in the mail. It is very important to fill out this renewal form and send it back to the office along with the required documents. This will ensure members have a continued access to educational funding, fishing and hunting tags and other programs. If you are unsure as to when to renew or if you have any questions please contact Jennifer Baggs at

[membership@nunatukavut.ca](mailto:membership@nunatukavut.ca) or 709-896-0592 ext 241.

### Updating contact information

If your phone number or address has changed please remember to call our office to let us know. We will update your file so you can continue to receive important membership and other information from NunatuKavut.

### On-the-ground action

We appreciate the support and participation of our members in our ongoing

on-the-ground action. It is important that we have strength in numbers at these times. Please keep an eye out for future happenings. We welcome all supporters.

### Educational Funding

Our forms and applications, as well as answers to common questions are available on our website at [www.nunatukavut.ca](http://www.nunatukavut.ca)

### Job postings

We regularly update our website job postings so keep an eye out if you are looking for employment. [www.nunatukavut.ca](http://www.nunatukavut.ca)

### Training Opportunites

We update our website and social media sites regularly with training opportunities offered by us and our affiliates. [www.nunatukavut.ca](http://www.nunatukavut.ca)

### Provincial Medical Travel Assistance

There is a provincial government travel fund for anyone who has to travel for medical reasons. It is provided through the department of health and community services. The website for more information is <http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/mcp/travelassistance.html> and

the toll free phone number is 1-877-475-2412.

### Website

Remember to check out our website [www.nunatukavut.ca](http://www.nunatukavut.ca) for important news, announcements, training and employment opportunities. The website will be updated very soon so keep a look out for a new layout.

NunatuKavut also has a [Facebook Page](#) and a [NunatuKavut Twitter Page](#) which are updated regularly or find our group on [Linked In](#) under NunatuKavut.



# A message from the president

Dear Friends:

It has been a year since I was re-elected as President of NunatuKavut. It is an extremely important position and I am so proud to once again lead and serve the people of NunatuKavut. We have a strong Council and a dedicated staff and I can say with confidence that NunatuKavut is stronger and a more determined governing body. NunatuKavut has made progress in its negotiations with the mining industry and on the Mealy Mountain Park. Our development corporation, Nunacor, continues to grow its capacity and to create new partnerships. Our programs offer opportunity for many and our ability to fight for and defend our people is as solid as it has ever been.

Our growing strength is in spite of the challenges of projects such as Muskrat Falls and the Labrador-Island Transmission Link being rammed through without any regard for our rights or the needs of our communities. Muskrat Falls is the latest example in a long line of projects that is being pursued with no benefit for the people of NunatuKavut or others in Labrador, it just happens to be in Labrador. We all know that this project will rob us of opportunities to build and grow here at home.

There is one thing we are certain of: our people know that NunataKavut holds great hope. The hope of many of our people and the future of our communities rests with NunatuKavut and the need for full and fair recognition of our aboriginal rights. It has become increasingly clear that the Land Claim of NunatuKavut must be accepted and negotiated now. As a people, we have been more than patient and it is time to settle all outstanding Claims. We, like others, must have the means to protect our environment, to share fully in

the benefit of our resources and to provide security for our people. Our Land Claim is also a necessary part of the journey of unifying all peoples in Labrador whether they are aboriginal or non-aboriginal.

I feel deeply that NunatuKavut is the one organization where our Elders can find respect and where our youth can realize a brighter future. NunatuKavut is only as strong as its people and our people have displayed tremendous resolve in the face of adversity. I thank all of those who have put themselves on the line during our recent protests. So many of you have stood your ground and are willing to do so again. Our young people are at the forefront and this offers us great encouragement. Our Elders continue to provide leadership and we are grateful. It is an inspiration to us to see such support. It makes me so proud to be back fighting for you and with you.

## Contact Us

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 @NunatuKavut

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Communications Officer: Jenny McCarthy  
[communications@nunatukavut.ca](mailto:communications@nunatukavut.ca)

## NunatuKavut Council Members

**Todd Russell** — President  
**Jim Holwell** — Vice-President  
**Boyce Turnbull** — Executive Member at Large  
**Lloyd Pardy** — Councilor Area 1: HV-GB, NWR and Mud Lake  
**Jessie Tobin** — Councilor Area 2: Lab. City, Wabush, Churchill Falls  
**Allan Dyson** — Councilor Area 3: Cartwright, Paradise River, Black Tickle/ Domino  
**Roxanne Notley** — Councilor Area 4: Port Hope Simpson, Charlottetown, Norman's Bay, Pinsent's Arm and William's Harbour  
**Keith Rumbolt** — Councilor Area 5: Lodge to Mary's Harbour and St. Lewis

**Levi Snook** — Councilor Area 6: Lanse Au Clair to Red Bay

**Holly Greenleaves** — Youth Representative

**Cyril Campbell** — Elder Representative