December 2023 Volume 8 Number 4

NGC News

Quarterly newsletter of the Nunatsiavut Group of Companies

Part of NCI's vehicle fleet in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. Commercial vehicles such as these are now required to have electronic logging devices installed to record driving distance. Provincial rules apply to vehicles operating within the province and took effect on December 1. (NCI photo)

NCI Installs New Electronic Recording System for Drivers

Nunatsiavut Construction Inc. is installing electronic logging devices (ELDs) in several of its vehicles, including dump trucks, loaders, and tractor trailers. ELDs record driving distance, ensuring that drivers are complying with hours of service regulations.

The devices were required by December 1 for vehicles that travel within the province and 160 kilometres outside of home base or worksite. Federally-regulated carriers were required to have the devices installed as of June 2022, but enforcement and penalties were delayed until January 1, 2023 to allow industry and the provinces time to comply with the regulations.

"Transportation regulators are hoping this new system will reduce fatigue for drivers by requiring companies like ours to install electronic devices that automatically record daily driving time," says NCI Construction Manager DJ Elliott. "This will improve road safety for drivers of commercial vehicles and for other people who use public roads and highways. NCI fully supports this new process for enhancing safety."

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The Trust and NGC leaders met at Base Camp in the Torngats in August 2023. L-R: Erin Everard, NGC Business Analyst; Catharyn Andersen, Trustee; Isabella Pain, Trustee; Garry Best, LICST Chair; Chris Webb, NGC President and CEO; Sarah Leo, NGC Chief Operating Officer; Natan Obed, Trustee.

Message from the Chair of the Labrador Inuit Capital Strategy Trust

I am delighted to extend greetings to NGC leadership, staff, and all Beneficiaries on behalf of the Board of the Labrador Inuit Capital Strategy Trust (LICST) - Natan Obed, Isabella Pain, Kristy Sheppard, Catharyn Andersen, and myself.

Our companies and the Trust are concluding another busy year. We met President Chris Webb and his team several times during 2023 to discuss a wide range of issues. During those meetings, we tracked progress on key strategic objectives that were approved in Nain nearly two-and-a-half years ago. The Board is strongly committed to serving the interests of Nunatsiavut Beneficiaries. We are focused on making NGC successful, healthy, and sustainable.

It is critically important that NGC continue to be impactful and offer excellent services to Beneficiaries in all our business lines, including construction, marine, aviation, logistics, fisheries, and real estate. We are also engaged with NG to advance plans for medical accommodations and further environmental cleanup of Ten Mile Bay.

NGC is an attractive career choice. We offer excellent career opportunities and provide significant training and development for staff, often leading to lengthy careers in their own communities. We are a respected and major employer of Nunatsiavut Beneficiaries.

LICST members continuously provide their input and expertise on issues, as well as risks and opportunities. We are committed to being transparent and accountable. Each fall we brief the Nunatsiavut Assembly on our Annual Report. We communicate with Beneficiaries through social media, newsletters, and community meetings.

Chris Webb, his senior management team, and the entire NGC family are professional and dedicated, and they continue to experience operational success in all of their business entities. The team has displayed enormous skill and commitment in fostering and maintaining our many effective business partnerships with IDLP, Air Borealis, Vale, and other companies.

The Board is extremely proud of what LICST/NGC is doing, especially with respect to our Corporate Social Responsibility program. Our Beneficiary scholarship opportunities, support to local sports teams, and donations to community freezers and wood programs make a positive difference in our communities. This year alone, a total of over $100,000 was gifted to assist local volunteer groups to provide food and firewood throughout Nunatsiavut.

It is an honour and privilege to serve as Chair of the Board for LICST/NGC. I sincerely wish all of you and your families a most joyous and peaceful Christmas and health and happiness throughout 2024.

Garry Best
Board Chair, LICST

Formed in 2006, the Labrador Inuit Capital Strategy Trust is comprised of five members who provide independent oversight of the Nunatsiavut Government's business interests held by the Nunatsiavut Group of Companies, including the review and approval of business plans, budgets, and investments.

Message from NGC President and CEO Chris Webb

The Nunatsiavut Group of Companies is concluding another successful year. As we stated in our recently released annual report (available online at ngc-ng.ca), we have had three consecutive years of surplus. Our financial position in 2023 allowed NGC to make a $100,000 contribution to volunteer community groups to help them carry out the important work that they do in our communities.

Our positive financial position is due to the work of our skilled and dedicated employees, our strong leadership team, and the guidance of the Labrador Inuit Capital Strategy Trust.

End-of-year is a busy time for our leadership group. They continue to oversee operations, and at the same time, they are preparing business plans and budgets for the coming year. Our business plans and budgets will be reviewed by the Trust and their decisions will guide our operations in 2024.

Construction will continue their activities through the winter, marine operations will plan for next year, including purchasing equipment to improve service, and aviation and Vale site services will have a busy winter season.

SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENTS IN 2023

There is no such thing as standing still in business. In 2023, we made large investments in new capital equipment for the marine operation so that we can continue to provide the best possible service to Nunatsiavut and other coastal communities. The finalization of our acquisition of Melville Trucking and Excavating strongly positions Nunatsiavut Construction Inc. for future growth. Our leaders and the Trust are attentive to the immediate needs of our business while also planning for the future.

STAYING CONNECTED

One of our many strengths as an organization is our commitment to Nunatsiavut Beneficiaries. Beneficiaries hold senior positions in our organization, both at the leadership level and in our general staff. We are committed to hiring qualified Beneficiaries and mentoring them so that they will have successful careers. TSI carries out a highly regarded program on the Vale project that has trained many Beneficiaries and enabled them to advance in their career.

As an organization, we are committed to staying connected with Beneficiaries. In November, we held community meetings in Nain, Hopedale, Upper Lake Melville, and North West River. We will schedule meetings for Rigolet, Makkovik, and Postville in the weeks ahead.

Taking questions at the community meeting in Hopedale. (Janice White photo)

After a busy year, our employees will get a well-deserved break to enjoy Christmas and New Years with their family and friends. Our focus on safety in our workplace extends to your time at home. Be safe and continue to make good decisions.

We wish all of you a Merry Christmas and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2024.

Chris

Photo: Wyman Jacque

TSI Employment Levels Increase as Vale Underground Expansion Progresses

In mid-November, TSI's newest recruits made their way to the Vale site at Voisey's Bay, as the company fulfilled the request for additional support staff for the underground mine expansion. The new hires brought TSI's employment numbers at site to 272, the highest number since the expansion project got underway.

"Employment numbers at the site continue to be strong," says TSI General Manager Wyman Jacque. "We are working closely with Vale to recruit the employees who will be required to get the project successfully completed."

PROJECT TO CONTINUE INTO 2024

The underground expansion project will continue into next year. While there's no certainty about the completion date, Jacque says there will continue to be new opportunities as some TSI employees obtain employment elsewhere.

"Attrition is a normal event in any workplace," he says. "We continue to recruit employees. TSI has an excellent pay and benefits package and we offer two-weeks-on and two-weeks-off."

But that's not the only attraction for potential future employees. There's the variety that comes with working in positions such as heavy equipment operating.

"Anyone who's hired to operate heavy equipment can expect to get a vast amount of experience on various pieces of machinery," says Jacque. "Getting to work on this site opens up many opportunities to utilize and build your skills and it creates new avenues for employment. It's a very dynamic and satisfying workplace."

TSI also has a training program that prepares Beneficiary employees for higher level technical and operating roles.

"We've trained several people in this way," says Jacque. "They have gained experience and new skills and have advanced their careers."

Future Hiring Prospects next page...

TSI Employment Levels Increase cont'd

NEW LONG-TERM OPPORTUNITIES COMING

There's a great deal of excitement and anticipation about long-term job opportunities that will arise at TSI once the underground expansion is complete. In 2022, the company signed a 5-year contract to continue providing site services to Vale until the end of August 2027.

"For comparison purposes, TSI employed 65 people in site services prior to the start of mine expansion," says Jacque. "Our new contract provides for a minimum of 80 employees once underground goes fully into operation. Depending on Vale's requirements at that time, that number could change. It all spells opportunity for qualified Beneficiaries."

Regardless of the final number of employees that TSI will be required to provide, Jacque sees new roles being created within the company.

"We have already seen TSI employees move into management and supervisory roles," he says.

"There will be more of those types of opportunities. We will begin advertising for those positions when expansion is complete."

SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT AT TSI

TSI is committed to operating safely in all parts of its business. The company's safety protocols and its practices are COR certified, meaning that the company has successfully completed assessments by external safety auditors.

"We're close to completing the work for the current audit," says Jacque. "Safety concerns and completing work so that everyone gets to go home healthy every day is our top concern. Our commitment is to a safe workplace and to a workplace that provides opportunities for Beneficiaries to progress and learn new skills. On top of that, we offer excellent pay and benefits. This is a great place to work and to build a career."

TSI employees perform a broad range of jobs at the Vale site, including delivering fuel, loading seacans, and overseeing the landfill operation. (TSI photos)

Marine Season Goes Late in 2023

Photo: Dwayne Canning

Ice conditions that impacted the start of the 2023 marine season and heavy freight and cargo loads, combined to extend the north coast shipping season in 2023. Regardless of the challenges, NMI General Manager Gary Latimer and his team work hard to get the job done.

"During the last few weeks of the season, people ask, 'can you get the job done this year?'."Our people always get the job done."

For several years until 2018, NMI operated the coastal marine service with the *Northern Ranger*. Since 2019, NMI has provided shoreside services to Labrador Marine Inc.

As shoreside provider, NMI accepts, loads, and unloads freight, and runs the reservations system. Latimer credits NMI's employees with helping ensure the smooth flow of goods from Goose Bay to coastal communities.

"We have a crew that has been pretty much constant and keeps coming back year after year. We added some new people this year and that has worked out well. We also made improvements in the warehouse and added a third reservations line. The third line eliminated some issues that we had last year."

EQUIPMENT SUPPLY CHAIN STILL AN ISSUE

It's been a challenge for NMI to complete its capital aquisitions plan, as the company renews its fleet of vehicles and equipment. Supply continues to be tight for both new and used machinery, making it tricky to replace old gear in order to make the operation more efficient.

"We tried buying a new shunt truck in 2022 to move trailers and seacans about the yard and onto the vessel," says Latimer. "We gave up trying to source a good used truck and eventually decided to buy a new one, and that was with an 18-month delivery period. There were also problems with adding to our fleet of forklifts. We settled on an interim solution with a used one this year. A new forklift should arrive for next year."

It's been a similar story with acquiring a backup/ standby generator to power reefers at Goose Bay to keep food chilled in the event of power outages. Despite those challenges, NMI has been successful in renewing its container fleet and in enhancing service with its 53-foot dry trailers.

"It really makes a difference when you can ship an entire 53-foot trailer load to a single community,. "It is an extremely efficient use of deck space on the vessel, especially when freight volumes increase in the latter part of the season."

With the 2023 shipping season nearing an end, Latimer looks back with satisfaction at what his team has accomplished.

"We're getting the job done despite the difficulties we faced in acquiring equipment," he says. "We have a strong team at NMI and that allows us to work through the challenges and complete the work. We are already looking forward to 2024."

Photos: Donald Donnelly

Integrated Nunatsiavut Logistics Completes 6th Season of Voisey's Bay Barge Lifts

Integrated Nunatsiavut Logistics (INL), a venture between NGC and Integrated Logistics, reached a milestone in 2023, surpassing 50 barge lifts for the mine expansion project at Voisey's Bay.

Since the lifts began in 2018, INL has completed 50 barge lifts and 4 trips by chartered ship. The lifts in 2023 were carried out with the barge *Tobias*, a 120 metre long vessel chartered from McKeil Marine.

The cargo that INL transports from Quebec City to Voisey's Bay includes everything that Vale requires for the mine expansion project, including heavy machinery and trucks, prefabricated steel, trailers, and mining equipment.

All barge and ship offloads are a joint effort between INL stevedores and three TSI staff, who operate the crane and reach stackers.

Nunatsiavut Construction

Foundation for Nain Seniors' Apartments in Place

NCI crews have completed the concrete foundations for six seniors' apartments in Nain. The units were built by NL Modular and transported to Labrador in late October. The Nain units are being installed and interior work will be completed during the winter. Installation of the five units for Hopedale will be delayed until 2024 because it's too late in the season to pour concrete.

Nunatsiavut Home Repair Projects Proceeding

This year's contract to repair 34 homes under the annual Nunatsiavut Government program is progressing, with six homes in Makkovilk and Rigolet near completion. By early December, work was being completed on the exterior of twenty homes in Nain and Hopedale. NCI directed additional workers to those projects as other construction projects wrapped up for the season. Exterior work includes windows, doors, and siding. Work on all projects is due to be completed by the end of February.

Western Labrador Stone Crushing Season Complete

Nunatsiavut Construction successfully completed the first season of a two-year stone crushing project for Bird Heavy Civil in Western Labrador. NCI's crew crushed 50,000 cubic metres of Class B gravel in 2023 and will produce another 50,000 cubic metres in 2024. By late November, the crushing equipment, as well as two loaders and an excavator had been returned to Happy Valley-Goose Bay for winter storage.

Completion of the erosion control project in the Trouser Lake subdivision in Nain has been postponed until next spring, due to the onset of winter conditions. (NCI photo)

Arrival of Winter Weather Impacts some North Coast Projects

The early arrival of significant snowfall and freezing conditions will delay the completion of two projects by Nunatsiavut Construction Inc. at Nain and Hopedale, until next spring.

Work on the Trouser Lake erosion control at a subdivision development in Nain was halted after discussions between the consultants, the Inuit Community Government, and NCI. It was decided to stop further work this fall and to recommence the project next spring. NCI is installing new liner, weeping tile, culvert, and concrete headwalls, as well as completing side and rear lot stabilization.

Similarly, foundation work for the five seniors' apartment units in Hopedale will be delayed until conditions improve in the spring. The units themselves have been completed and are being stored in the community.

The seniors' apartments in Nain have not been impacted by the arrival of winter. The foundations were poured by NCI in the fall and the units will be put in place and completed during the winter.

Right Where He Wants to Be

Beneficiary Steve Saunders of Nunatsiavut Construction Inc.

We caught up with Steve Saunders at work ordering parts for some of Nunatsiavut Construction Inc.'s fleet of equipment. He had just come off several stints in Nain to maintain NCI's equipment there. It's been a busy summer and fall season for the heavy equipment technician.

"Since June, I've probably been back and forth to Nain eight or ten times," he says. "I've been helping with the concrete truck that was put in service this year. We have about 15 pieces of equipment in Nain and we've had a lot of work there. So, that makes for a busy time."

MOVED TO NCI ONE YEAR AGO

Saunders began his career in welding but got interested in heavy equipment maintenance and repair while working alongside mechanics in his first job. He decided to enroll in CNA's Heavy Equipment Technician program in 2009. Within several years, he earned his journeymen's designation and has become a Red Seal Heavy Equipment Technician.

"Being a Nunatsiavut Beneficiary, I wanted the chance to work for NCI and that opportunity came up a year ago," he says. "I was ready for a change in my career and this job came right out of the blue. I was ready to make the move."

The job and the travel involved make for a busy time, and combined with family responsibilities at home in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, there's not a lot of time to spare. But Saunders wouldn't change any of it.

"It's been an amazing experience to meet so many people from Nain and Makkovik," he says. "It was my first time to the north coast and that was special because both of my father's parents came from there (William Saunders from Daniel's Rattle near the former community of Davis Inlet and Anne Pottle from Tishialuk near Makkovik). I'm just taking it all in."

Steve Saunders on the site for the seniors' apartments in Nain. (Photo: Janice White)

While the job and travel have made for a busy several months, he's able to be present at home for important times in his family's life.

"I really am having a blast," he says. "I'm often working from 7 am until 7 pm, but NCI still gives me the time to take care of my family, even if it means travelling back from the coast for an important event."

GIVING BACK TO THE PROFESSION

Saunders is also conscious of what's happening in the profession. There's a shortage of skilled mechanics across the country, which Ontario has described as a crisis. He feels NCI has become part of the solution by taking on apprentices.

"You can only become a qualified mechanic if you get into the trade. In order to get in, you need someone to take you under their wing as an apprentice. We have an apprentice here in our shop. I'm willing to take as many as I can. It took me seven years to get my Red Seal. I worked with a group of guys who supported me. Someone has to take the chance on an apprentice."

For Saunders, the job at NCI is an ideal situation. The future? "I'd like to step up to the plate and become a supervisor. And I would like to encourage other Beneficiaries to get into this line of work and maybe they would get the chance to come back and work on the Coast.

"It's Okay to Ask for Help"

A Guide to NGC's Employee Assistance Plan

by Mike Evoy
NGC Human Resources Manager

I would like to take some time to discuss NGC's Employee Assistance Program.

Life can be challenging, and it is okay to ask for help. NGC takes great pride in providing free 24/7 options to assist our employees with navigating personal and work-related difficulties. We recognize that employees may from time-to-time experience stress, trauma, or other life events that affect both their personal and work lives as well as their overall quality of life. The Lumino Health Virtual Care Employee Assistance Program offers confidential professional assistance for employees and their families to help them address such challenges.

Through Lumino, permanent employees of NGC and its wholly owned companies have convenient and on-demand access to health-care professionals.

Below is an outline of some of the features of the Lumino EAP:

- ✔ Chatting with certified professionals
- ✔ Mental health resources
- ✔ Legal and financial advice
- ✔ Career counselling
- ✔ Support for families and relationships
- ✔ Access to a library of wellness content and tips on topics such as sleep, anxiety, depression, managing stress, physical health, nutrition, finance, work and career, divorce and separation, loss and bereavement.

To sign up, follow these instructions:

1. **Download the App** from Google Play or the App Store on your smartphone. You can also register at *luminovc.dialogue.co*.
2. Click on "Get started'
3. Enter your first name, last name, and date of birth
4. Follow the instructions to create your account. If you are prompted for an access code, please enter SUNLIFE
5. Complete your profile and invite your spouse and children under "Account" > "Family."

Once you register online, you'll have access 24/7 anywhere in Canada for you and your family.

For additional information regarding the program or if you require assistance with registration, please reach out to a member of the Human Resources Department at **(709) 217-4469 or by email at mevoy@ngc-ng.ca.**

"Vulnerability sounds like truth and feels like courage. Truth and courage aren't always comfortable, but they are never weakness"
Brene Brown

NGC President and CEO Chris Webb (far right) takes part in a panel discussion about unlocking opportunities in Canada's Arctic in order to attract investment that takes into account the environment, social concerns, governance, and Indigenous interests, during the Arctic Circle conference in October in Reykjavik, Iceland. (Photo: Arctic Circle Assembly 2023)

NGC President and CEO Promotes Large Role for Northerners in Development

Stresses Engagement Necessary with Inuit

With governments and corporations increasingly turning their gaze toward northern security and mineral development, Inuit development corporations, including NGC, are demanding a role in building infrastructure and ensuring respect for the interests of Inuit.

NGC President and CEO Chris Webb attended conferences in Iqaluit and Reykjavik, Iceland this fall, on behalf of the Inuit Development Corporations Association (IDCA).

"Our associations have shown that we are strong partners in Arctic security, with our partner Nasittuq Corporation recently being awarded contracts to operate the North Warning System and Canadian Forces Station Alert," says Webb. "But we also want to ensure that any development happens with Indigenous consent in matters such as protection for traditional hunting grounds, salmon runs, migratory birds and animals, and fish populations, as well as for overall environmental concerns."

NGC's successful business operations and those of other northern development corporations have provided Beneficiaries with jobs, new skillsets, and other significant economic benefits.

"We want to achieve the right balance between economic development and respect for the Inuit who have lived in the north for thousands of years," says Webb. "We have successfuly made the case that the Inuit are not barriers to development. But it must be development that coexists with Inuit lifestyle and values."

Webb took that message on a trade mission to Japan early this year and in a meeting with the Icelandic Ambassador to Canada this fall.

"We are open for business in the North," he says. "But it must be on terms that promise real benefits such as jobs and broadband development for the North, genuine engagement with Inuit, and a development strategy that respects Inuit culture."

Rita Andersen, prior to accepting the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012. Right, the cover of the 2022 LICST Annual Report, the 7th Annual Report that Rita has translated for LICST and NGC.

Still practicing her craft, nearly a decade after official retirement

When NGC decided in 2017 to have its annual report translated into Inuttitut, it approached Rita Andersen in Nain. Rita readily agreed, and in the time since she has translated each annual report, various notices, and job ads.

Rita's association with Nain began with the forced relocation in 1959 of all residents from Hebron, an all-Inuttitut community. Her family settled in Nain, where Inuttitut and English were spoken. Just 9 years old at the time of the relocation, Rita had to navigate between the two languages, a situation that became the ideal combination for the future translator.

A VARIED CAREER

Rita's first job was as a nurses' aide with the International Grenfell Association at the hospital in North West River, where she worked under Dr. Anthony Paddon and the other doctors and nurses. She later returned to Nain and eventually was employed by the Labrador Inuit Association (LIA).

Rita's association with the LIA began in the late 1970's. The organization had been formed several years earlier to promote Inuit culture, improve health and well-being of Inuit, and advance land claims with the federal and provincial governments. Talks and negotiations between the LIA and the two levels of government required a substantial amount of translation. Rita not only provided translation services, she also became a vital link in preserving Inuttitut and began teaching the language to a young generation of Inuit through the Torngâsok Cultural Centre.

In 1992, two years after the framework for a land claims agreement was agreed, Rita and several others enrolled in the first-ever language translation course sponsored by the LIA and the Labrador College of what is now College of the North Atlantic. The two-year program involved 900 hours of translation and interpretation in subject areas such as land claims, health, justice, linguistics, and Labrador studies. The graduates became official interpreter/translators.

That role took on extra significance in 1996 when Ottawa, the LIA, and the province agreed to fast track land claims negotiations and centralize the process in St. John's. Rita became part of the LIA team, spending a six-month stretch in St. John's. It would take more than two additional years to reach an Agreement-in-Principle.

When the Nunatsiavut Government was formed in 2005, Rita and several others were hired by the government to translate official documents and provide translation services for the new Assembly. She was eventually promoted to Translator/ Interpreter Coordinator with the Nunatsiavut Government, and in that role, Rita also trained all new translators/interpreters.

Still practicing her craft, *cont'd.....*

Left, The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, presented to Rita Andersen in 2012. Top, Rita (lower right) with the group receiving the 2015 Newfoundland and Labrador Seniors of Distinction Awards. Then-NG President Sarah Leo is at top right. (Photo: Government NL)

"LEGENDARY" ROLE ACKNOWLEDGED

In a speech in September 2015 commemorating her retirement after 37 years of service to the LIA and the Nunatsiavut Government, the Minister of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism, Sean Lyall, said "Rita's contribution to the preservation and revitalization of our language is legendary."

RECEIVED SEVERAL HONOURS

Then-Nunatsiavut President Sarah Leo accompanied Rita to St. John's in 2015 to accept one of the province's *Seniors of Distinction* Awards. The award organizers stated that she was "passionate about the need to ensure that the Inuttitut language survives and flourishes" and stressed that "she takes time to teach the language to as many people as possible."

"Rita plays a vital role in assisting NGC and our partners in providing information in Inuttitut," says Leo, now NGC's Chief Operating Officer. "Rita has supported and championed the Inuttitut language. Because of her expertise in both languages, she very naturally came into the role.

Rita has also received several other honours for her work in preserving and teaching the Inuttitut language.

In 2012, she was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, which honoured significant contributions and achievements by Canadians.

In 2017, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) awarded her its Advancement of Regional Issues Award. In making the award, ITK noted that Rita has "worked tirelessly to preserve, protect, and enhance" the language.

Nunatsiavut Group of Companies

Check us out online at

ngc-ng.ca

Air Borealis to Make Food Donations to Nunatsiavut Food Banks

Air Borealis is again making donations to Nunatsiavut Food Banks and Food Hamper programs. Executive-in-Charge and Vice President Philip Earle says the airline will make donations of food.

"We bought food and donated to various food pantries in coastal communities last year and will do the same again this year," says Earle. "We know that people are hurting because of inflation and the impact that has on the cost of living."

Photo: Air Borealis

Photo: Kyle Fraser

Charter and Helicopter Operations Continue Success

Air Borealis' float flying season wrapped up in late October, the latest closing date in 8 years. Airline VP Philip Earle attributes the extended season of operations in 2023 to mineral exploration.

"At the end of the season, our focus was on Aurora Energy's uranium exploration work near Postville," he says. "In the later part of the season, we flew in fuel and equipment in anticipation of the winter drilling program."

Natural resource exploration is also a factor in a busy season for the helicopter operation. "We continued to have a dedicated helicopter at Voisey's Bay as part of Vale's mineral exploration program. That aircraft has been working into the fall on advanced exploration and environmental work."

Photo: Julia Penney/PAL

Orange Decals to Remain

What began as a month-long commemoration to honour the victims and survivors of residential schools, has now become a permanent fixture on two Air Borealis aircraft. The orange Air Borealis logos were installed on September 15 and intended to stay in place until October 15. However, Air Borealis Vice President and Executive-in-Charge, Philip Earle, says the logos will remain in place. "Our support for Truth and Reconciliation is not just for one day in a year. It is permanent. We are Indigenous-owned and we want to show all of our customers and the ownership group our strong connection and support for reconciliation."

Expanded Flight Schedule for Holiday Season

Air Borealis is prepared to meet the increased demand for travel leading up to the holiday season by expanding its flight schedule to and from the Coast. The additional flights will run on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from December 15 to 24, depending on demand.

"We are reviewing the flights in our system that have already been sold out," says Vice President Philip Earle. "On any day when our flights are filled, we will schedule additional flights, up to three additional flights a week."

NGC Resumes 2023 Community Visits

Photos: Janice White

In November, NGC held community meetings in Nain, Hopedale, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, and North West River. Community meetings provide the opportunity to update Beneficiaries on NGC's activities and to address issues and questions. Meetings for the remaining Nunatsiavut communities will be arranged in the coming weeks.

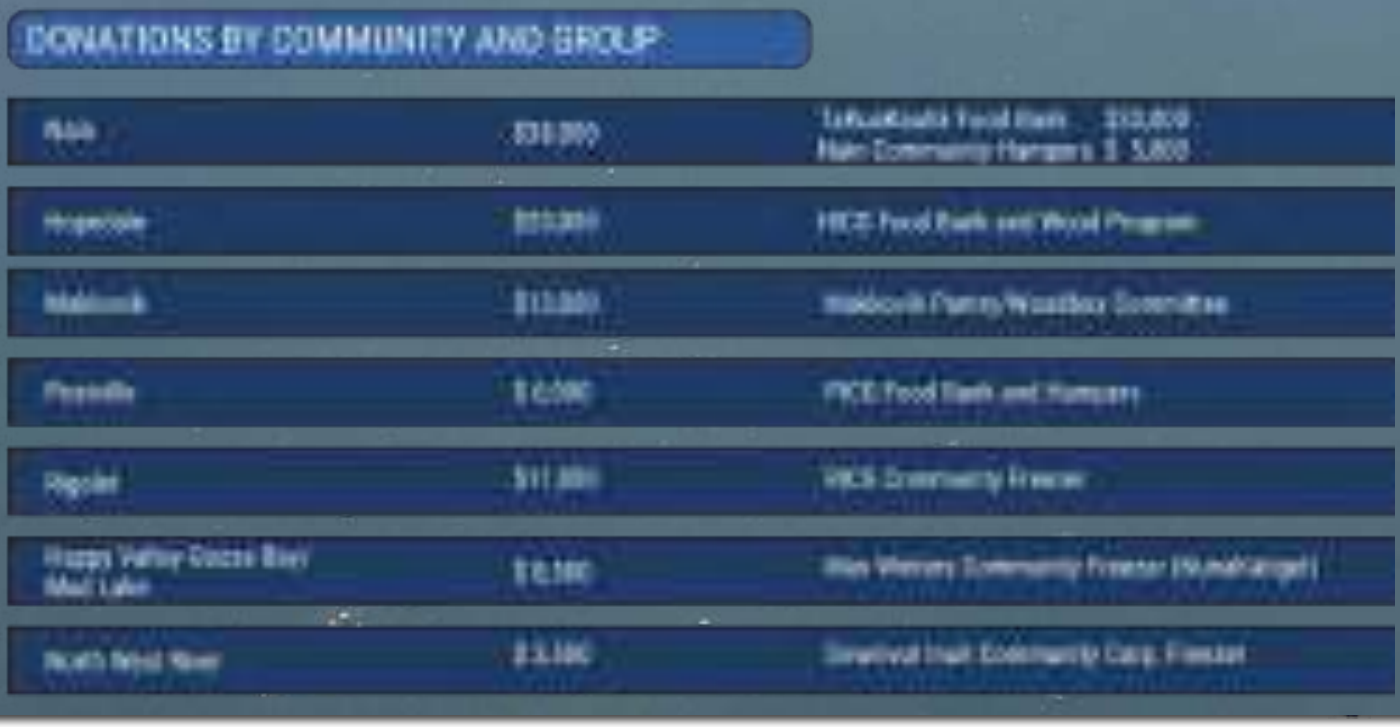
At left, NGC President and CEO Chris Webb addresses the Hopedale meeting. Centre, Chris and NGC Chief Operating Officer Sarah Leo at the meeting in Nain. Bottom left, Sarah hosts the meeting at North West River. People raised several issues, including plans for a new airstrip in Nain, Air Borealis service, coastal ferry and freight service, NGC scholarships, and donations.

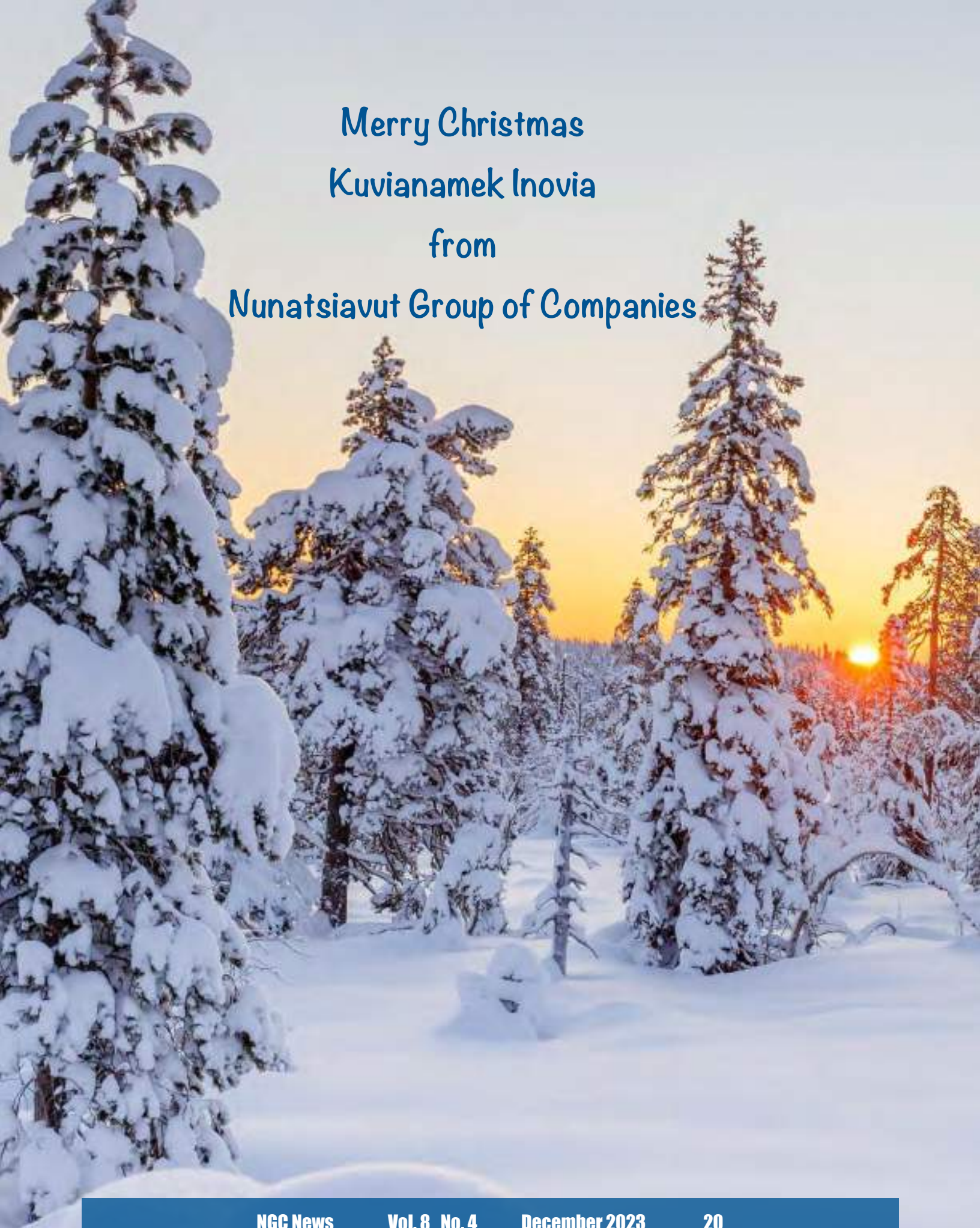
Right, Chris Webb being interviewed by Lavinia Jararuse of OKâlaKatiget Society Radio in Nain. Chris discussed the successful year that NGC had in 2022 and its busy 2023. He stated that the community meetings are a forum to inform Beneficiairies about how NGC is doing and a place for people to tell the organization how to improve. He also stated that early next year, NGC will resume visits to high schools in Nunatsiavut.

NGC Makes $100,000 Donation to Community Groups

The Nunatsiavut Group of Companies has made a one-time cash donation to Nunatsiavut community groups to assist people in need with food and firewood purchases. The donation is directed to the five communities in Nunatsiavut and community freezers in Happy Valley-Goose Bay/Mud Lake and North West River. The amounts are based on the Beneficiary population in each location.

"Each year, we consider whether we're in a position to make a donation," says NGC Chief Operating Officer, Sarah Leo. "We are in the fortunate position this year to continue with our contribution and to increase it. We know that rising prices have made things difficult for many people. We want to extend our gratitude to the volunteers in our communities and the various organizations who make sure that contributions like ours provide the maximum benefit to people in need."




Merry Christmas
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from
Nunatsiavut Group of Companies