September 2024 Volume 9 Number 3

NGC News

Quarterly newsletter of the Nunatsiavut Group of Companies

NGC President and CEO Garry Best and other members of the IDCA delegation get ready to embark on an open water fast ride on an Ök hull design vessel in Iceland. The vessel uses hull-and-keel technology that significantly reduces slamming in rough waters. (Photo: NGC)

Iceland Trip Positive Experience for NGC and other Inuit Economic Development Corporations

A delegation of Canadian Inuit, including NGC President and CEO, Garry Best, spent an activity-filled week in Iceland in mid-September, with a focus on fisheries, renewable energy, and tourism. But Best says the trip encompassed much more.

"We discussed air travel, banking, mining, and various other topics," says Best. "It was a learning experience for our delegation but also for the Icelanders, who appreciated getting an understanding of Canadian Inuit culture."

The delegation was headed by the Inuit Development Corporation Association (IDCA), an organization formed in 2018 to establish a national voice for the country's Inuit economic development corporations. It also included three Inuit-owned energy corporations. Officials with Iceland's Ambassador to Canada, Hlynur Guðjónsson, and Jenny Hill, the Canadian Ambassador to Iceland, worked with the IDCA for over two years to develop details for the trip.

"If IDCA is to successfully grow, we have to explore and exploit promising opportunities," says Best. "We are all creating wealth and jobs and careers for our members. When we come together on a mission such as this one, we take what we've learned back to our respective groups. We will have discussions on what we've seen in Iceland and determine what is a fit for us in Nunatsiavut and Inuit Nunangat. I've already had invitations to go to Kuujjuaq in Nunavik Region and Iqaluit for follow-up discussions."

continued on next page...

IDCA In Iceland cont'd...

Left, the IDCA delegation, including NGC President and CEO Garry Best (fourth from right) poses with Iceland's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Canada's Ambassador to Iceland in Reykjavik during their recent visit to discuss business opportunities. Centre, Makivvik's Andy Moorhouse views a small-scale wind turbine developed by ICEWIND. Right, part of the Canadian delegation attend a reception hosted by Canadian Ambassador Jenny Hill at her residence in Reykjavik. (Photos: Garry Best, NGC)

FISHERIES AND MARINE POTENTIAL

Iceland is renowned for its fishery and the development of fisheries and marine technology. That was on prominent display at the Fisheries Exhibition, which took place during the IDCA visit.

"NGC, through the LICST, has fish quotas," says Best. "We saw that there is a lot of potenial for turning fish waste into new products such as pharmaceuticals and for use in the cosmetics industry."

As a retired officer with the Royal Canadian Navy, Best was especially impressed with the demonstration of the Ök hull, an Icelandic-designed hull that provides a stable platform in rough seas. The design significantly reduces slamming and operator fatigue and results in fewer injuries and better control.

"The vessel was a real eye-opener," says Best. "We were out in some fairly good waves. They ran at 30 to 40 knots with a high degree of stability. This would be an outstanding craft for fast rescue in Canada and for other uses in our marine environment."

VISIT FOLLOWUP

With the trip concluded, Best says he and the others will take time to speak with their respective teams and reflect on what they've seen.

"IDCA will also follow up with Ambassador Guðjónsson. The Ambassador and Ambassador Hill provided us with a program that gave us all a lot to think about, including small-scale wind energy technology that could be very useful for remote communities or defense purposes. This was a very useful trip with lots of potential."

In This Issue

President and CEO Message	*4*
TSI adjusts to ending of VBME	*6*
Coastal Trip Report	*8*
NMI Enhances Passenger Service	*10*
Beneficiary Profile: Melissa Webb	*12*
NCI 2024 Update	*14*
Air Borealis	*16*
NGC at Expo Labrador	*17*
2024 NGC Scholarships	*18*
Elders & Youth Cruise the Coast	*19*

This newsletter is a publication of the Nunatsiavut Group of Companies.

Nunatsiavut Group of Companies

2-6 Royal Street
P.O. Box 1000, Stn B
Happy Valley-Goose Bay, NL
A0P 1E0

Tel: (709) 896-8505
Fax: (709) 896-5834

17 Sandbanks Rd.
Nain, NL
A0P 1L0

Tel: (709) 922-1967

info@ngc-ng.ca

Photo: Marie-Ève Charlebois

Successful Season at Torngat Base Camp

The weather cooperated, guests and researchers came, and NGC Nunatsiavut Solutions Inc. (NSI) and Air Borealis again created an authentic Inuit cultural and food experience at Base Camp in The Torngats.

The 5-year contract with Air Borealis and NSI ended after last season but the Nunatsiavut Government requested the two companies to run the program again in 2024. The government has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to operate Base Camp in 2025 and beyond.

Family Week Held at 2024 Base Camp

Amidst the beauty and the solitude of the Torngat Mountains, it's easy to forget the people who make that once-in-a-lifetime experience happen. The chef and kitchen staff. The housekeeping staff. The bear guards. The flight crews and boat operators. And others who make Base Camp at Torngat Mountains National Park so special.

Operators NSI and Air Borealis wanted to make it extra special for staff who spend the entire summer away from their families. They created Family Week where families could come and spend the week with their loved ones, and at the same time, experience Base Camp.

"We hosted the families as we would host tourists," says Philip Earle. "They got the amazing Base Camp experience. And we even had a wedding!"

The wedding involved one of the bear guards. Staff made sure it was extra special.

"One of them completed the online course to perform a marriage," says Earle. "Another of our staff loaned the bride her Akulik. Kitchen staff made a beaded ring for the bride, with colours matching her Akulik. One of the bear guards made a ring from caribou bone for the groom. Another staff member harvested flowers for a bouquet. The ceremony took place next to the sod houses of the bride's ancestors at Ramah. It was a beautiful and amazing event."

PRESIDENT AND CEO MESSAGE

Garry Best (L) with Makivvik Corporation VP of Economic Development Andy Moorhouse at the Icelandic Fisheries Exhibition 2024.

Recently, a young Beneficiary came to our office with an application for employment. It was a joy for me to sit and chat with him and discuss the opportunities that exist for qualified Beneficiaries in our wholly owned companies and partnerships.

Our door is open. I encourage Beneficiaries to approach us, to talk about their career plans, and to be part of the energy that is moving our companies forward.

NGC is well into its second decade as a pivotal part of the Labrador economy. Our operations in aviation, marine, construction, site services, real estate, and logistics contribute significantly to Nunatsiavut and to all Beneficiaries.

We are a major employer in the region, with 100's of employees in our own companies and through our partnerships. Within Nunatsiavut, we buy locally where we can, we employ local people, and 95% of their federal taxes go back into the coffers of the Nunatsiavut Government.

COMMITMENT TO BENEFICIARIES

I have witnessed the commitment of our companies and leaders to Nunatsiavut and all Beneficiaries both in my present role as President and CEO of NGC and in my previous position as chair of the Labrador Inuit Capital Strategy Trust.

Everyone is seized with our mission. We are in business to build wealth for Beneficiaries. That is shown in the work that we do everyday.

I saw the commitment of Gary Latimer and his team at Nunatsiavut Marine in my recent trip along the coast on the *Kamutik W*. You can read about my experience and see some photos on pages 8 and 9 in this edition of the newsletter.

Wyman Jacque and the team at Torngait Services Inc. (TSI) are transitioning from the high employment levels of the Vale mine expansion years to a smaller operation. TSI will continue to be a major player in providing site services to the underground mine, and employing well over 100 staff, most of whom will be Beneficiaries. I was proud to have Vale officials tell us recently that TSI is a trusted and dependable partner. Their message was that TSI delivers.

TSI site services employees sort ore at the Vale mine. (TSI photo)

NCI completed repairs on 34 homes in Nunatsiavut in 2024. The work involves exterior and interior repairs. (NCI Photos)

Our commitment to Nunatsiavut and to Beneficiaries is reflected in the work of DJ Elliott and his group at Nunatsiavut construction. NCI has invested substantial resources in strengthening its project procurement and management team.

They have successfully completed repairs to 34 homes in the 5 Nunatsiavut communities this year, a role that they have performed expertly for NG for several years. This work is carried out by local crews. The homes belong to their friends, their neighbours, their relatives. They take great pride in living the mission that we are in business for Nunatsiavut. NCI will continue to play a large role in the region's construction industry.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES AND PARTNERS

NGC's small executive team is helping us find and assess new opportunities. Chief Operating Officer Sarah Leo provides exemplary and strategic leadership through oversight of daily operations.

At the recent Expo Labrador, NGC met with many companies that want to do business with us. They know us from partnerships such as the ones with Air Borealis, Integrated Nunatsiavut Logistics, TSI, and our Vale mining partners. They know that NGC can be depended on.

NGC Chief Operating Officer Sarah Leo speaks during a discussion on Understanding Indigenous Economic Reconciliation at the Expo Labrador in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. (NGC photo)

One of our most valued partners is the Innu Development Limited Partnership, the economic development group that supports the Innu Nation. Our relationship is based on mutual respect and the desire to ensure that Inuit and Innu continue to benefit from the economic activity that takes place throughout Labrador.

INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Inuit Nunangat refers to the lands in which all Inuit live in Canada. NGC is allied with Arctic economic development corporations through our investment in Pan Arctic Inuit Logistics and the operation of the North Warning System through Nasittuq Corporation. In 2018, we formed the Inuit Development Corporation Association (IDCA) to be the national voice for Inuit economic development. NGC is a founding partner and together, we are focused on economic opportunities for all Inuit.

In mid-September, we travelled to Iceland to discuss economic opportunities and our common interest in Arctic security. NGC is proud of its relationship with the other Arctic economic development corporations. We are making a positive difference to the people and communities of Inuit Nunangat.

FUTURE IS BRIGHT

NGC and its employees work hard every day to contribute to all Beneficiaries and to Nunatsiavut. But there is more to come. There are exciting new opportunities in the fishery, construction, further involvement in northern defense, and in infrastructure development within Labrador.

Together, we will explore opportunities that make economic sense and that bring benefits to Inuit.

Vale Mine Expansion Project Coming to a Close

TSI Announces Layoffs and Prepares for Next Phase

Torngait Services Inc. has been playing a pivotal role in the Voisey's Bay Mine Expansion (VBME) since the project began in 2018. Since then, the company has hired scores of employees to support VBME in its role as provider of site services. With the construction project coming to an end, TSI requires fewer employees to perform that role.

"The original forecast was for the mine expansion to be completed a couple of years ago," says TSI general manager Wyman Jacque. "Under ordinary circumstances, we would have reduced our workforce at that time. Our workforce of nearly 300 at peak times has obtained a couple of years of additional employment."

Regardless, though, Jacque and the TSI team understand the anxiety that comes with a layoff.

"No matter how much you appreciate that the jobs will end, it is a big blow for the people involved. We have a very skilled and dedicated workforce. We are thankful for their contribution and their work has helped get the job done."

At the time this newsletter was published, TSI and Vale were discussing the exact number of layoffs and whether some of the additional site support staff would be retained for a period.

"The mine is a big and complex project," says Jacque. "It's frustrating for our staff who may be uncertain about their immediate employment situation, but TSI and Vale are working hard to ensure that we go through this process properly."

QUALIFIED BENEFICIARIES HAVE PRIORITY FOR POST-VBME JOBS

There will be an unspecified number of additional jobs to support ongoing underground operations and TSI looks forward to continuing to implement the Impact Benefits Agreement (IBA), which guarantees that qualified Beneficiaries get priority for those jobs.

"The positions will be advertised," says Jacque. "Qualified Beneficiaries have priority for hiring under the IBA and TSI will ensure that the IBA is followed. I encourage Beneficiaries to check in frequently on the TSI website for new job postings."

TSI's focus on training Beneficiaries at the site since 2018 has allowed many to enhance their skillset and qualifications.

"We have provided more than 47,000 hours of training in the past 6 years to Beneficiary employees, including nearly 25,000 hours of training on equipment," says Jacque."Because of this training, many Beneficiaries have acquired new skills and this positions them to have long and fulfilling careers."

continued on next page...

TSI Prepares for Next Phase of Vale Project

cont'd...

LOOKING FORWARD

TSI is in the second year of a 5-year contract extension to provide site services at the Vale mine, a role it has performed since 2005.

Wyman Jacque sees the contract extension as a vote of confidence in the work that TSI and its employees carry out for Vale.

"Our company looks toward the future with optimism and we're committed to providing the support that Vale needs to ensure that the mine remains successful. That will also mean success for TSI and its employees."

One of the roles that TSI employees perform as part of the site services contract is the loading and unloading of aircraft, and maintenance of the airstrip. (TSI photo)

TSI has performed additional services since mine expansion began in 2018. Jacque says that has been positive for TSI and its employees.

TSI has seen its scope of work expand since mine expansion got underway in 2018. The additional work has enhanced skillsets within the company. (TSI photo)

"We have greatly expanded the scope of work and we will continue to do that based on our client's needs. The expertise and experience that we've gained allows TSI to take on any additional work that Vale requires and it positions our company to take on larger projects. This work for Vale is an extremely positive thing for TSI and we are eager to continue in that role."

Delivering for Nunatsiavut

An Account of My Trip Through Nunatsiavut on the *Kamutik W* in July

by Garry Best, NGC President and CEO

In the first week of July, I took the *Kamutik W* from Goose Bay to Nain to learn more about the service that Nunatsiavut Marine Inc. (NMI) provides through its shoreside support of the coastal marine service and the work performed by Nunatsiavut Construction Inc. (NCI). The marine service is vitally important to Nunatsiavut. From June to December, NMI plays a crucial role in assisting the movement of passengers and helping transport thousands of tons of food and other necessary supplies, as well as construction materials and equipment.

I wanted to witness this work. In Goose Bay, I saw the preparation that takes place to load the ship for the trip north and the important work that our Customer Service Representatives do in processing thousands of passenger and private vehicle reservations each season.

During the trip through Nunatsiavut, I talked with passengers, the captain, and ship's crew. On the coast, I witnessed the energy and excitement as supplies were unloaded and as passengers boarded and deboarded.

I was impressed with the work carried out by NMI. From the dock staff and Customer Service Representatives in Goose Bay to the wharfingers on the coast, our people understand the mission to serve Nunatsiavut. This is their community. The pride that they take in their work shows.

I met many of our NCI staff and viewed several projects. Their expertise and enthusiasm is reflected in their excellent work.

As leaders, we must support the people who deliver these essential services. Our NMI and NCI leadership teams do an outstanding job ensuring that their health and safety is our top priority. The crews who load the vessel in Goose Bay, the wharfingers on the coast, and our construction crews are on the job in fair weather and foul. I wanted to tell them that we have their back.

The Trust's significant investments over the past several years have made a vast positive impact on the quality of service provided by NMI. The purchase of forklifts and other equipment has improved efficiency in freight loading and movement. The reefers that we purchased for the transport and temporary storage of perishable food on the coast ensures that quality is maintained. The new lighting on our docks and work areas improves health and safety. Computerized freight tracking and staff training contribute to NMI's "customer first" philosophy.

During the trip, I spoke with community leaders. I listened to their views on the service and how it might be improved. I reinforced our commitment to continuous improvement. NGC is in business for Nunatsiavut. We work hard to prove that each and every day. I captured images of some of that hard work and commitment as we made our way along the coast. I'm proud to share them.

Delivering for Nunatsiavut *cont'd...*

Photos: Garry Best

An NMI reefer with frozen and perishable food is landed in Rigolet.

The NMI crew in Postville prepares to accept shipments as the ship arrives in port.

Tying up the Kamutik W in Hopedale. This is one of the many roles carried out by wharfingers on the coast.

Top left, Hopedale wharfinger using a forklift to move cargo on the dock. Right, the crew in Makkovik handling frozen fish product for shipment.

Left, passengers board the vessel in Makkovik. Right, sunset in Nain.

NMI Enhances Passenger Service at Port of Goose Bay

For NMI General Manager Gary Latimer and the staff at Goose Bay and coastal ports, the job is all about providing the best possible service. This summer, NMI improved accessibility for people with mobility issues. The company bought an accessible and air-conditioned bus to transport passengers to and from the vessel at the Port of Goose Bay. The bus has capacity for 20 passengers and 1 wheelchair, or 18 passengers and two wheelchairs. NMI also modified the entrance to the ticket office and reception area to improve access and for passengers. ***(Photos: NMI)***

TSI leaders and staff take part in a day of activity at the Labrador Interpretation Centre at North West River to commemorate the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. (TSI photos)

TSI Staff Participate in Orange Shirt Day Activities

TSI's leadership and support group took part in a project that was educational and hands-on to commemorate the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. They did a full day immersive experience at the Labrador Interpretation Centre in North West River.

"We wanted to do something that would complement what our NGC and ATCO partners do to recognize this day which commemorates the tragic and painful history of the residential school system and its ongoing consequences for survivors and their communities," says TSI General Manager Wyman Jacque. "We chose a day of learning and activity that focused on those who survived residential schools and those who never returned home."

One of the activities the group engaged in was a viewing of several videos. They viewed the NFB production by Makkovik's Holly Anderson, entitled ***Hebronnimit Notitausimajut (Hebron Relocation)***, which explores her hometown's connection to generations of displaced Inuit from the resettled community of Hebron.

They also viewed an NFB production by Jennie Williams ***Nalujuk Unnunga (Nalajuk Night)***. Centred in Nain, the film explores the Inuit tradition that takes place on January 6 each year when figures dressed in fur and masks appear in Nunatsiavut communities. If children have been good, the Nalujuit (translation: heathen or non-believer) will give them treats. They viewed a CBC ***Land and Sea*** production on the Lake Melville seal hunt which features three current TSI employees.

A particularly moving production was a film from the Orange Shirt Society titled ***Phyllis Webstad - On Orange Shirt Day***. Webstad explains her experience at residential schools and the start of Orange Shirt Day. The film is available for viewing on YouTube.

The group was also given a tour of the Interpretation Centre and viewed artifacts, including the original Labrador flag, designed by Mike Martin. They created orange shirt pins and keychains from dyed sealskin.

"The day was very special for everyone," says Wyman Jacque. "TSI employs dozens of Beneficiaries and this insight into Inuit culture and the tragic and painful consequences of the residential school system impacted all of us. While our company works hard every day to support Vale in its mining operation at Voisey's Bay, we are also mindful of our commitment to ensure that Inuit fully benefit from our operations through the Impact Benefits Agreement. That includes employment and skills training to prepare Beneficiaries for long-term and fulfilling careers. Together, it contributes to strong and sustainable communities.

Beneficiary Profile

Melissa Webb

Human Resources Business Partner
Air Borealis

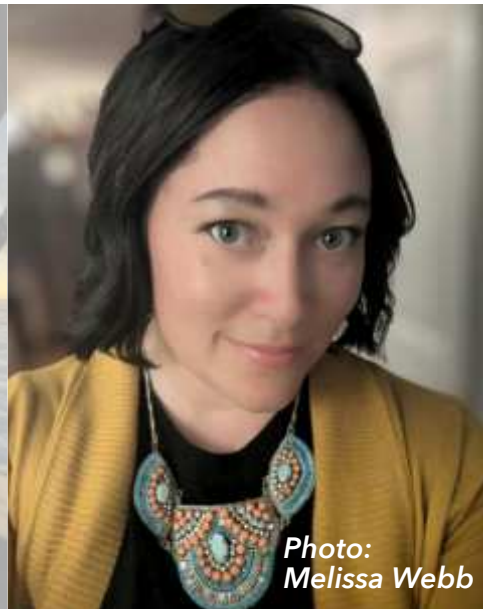


Photo: Melissa Webb

Melissa Webb's plan was to be a social worker after graduating with a degree in psychology from St. Mary's University in Halifax in 2012. But in the last part of her program, she discovered her true passion when she took courses in organizational behaviour. She was hooked.

After graduation, she relocated to Fredericton and enrolled in a post-degree Human Resources Management program at the University of New Brunswick. Her career path in Human Resources was set.

"In the final semester of the Human Resources program, the Nunatsiavut Government reached out and asked if I would consider taking on a maternity replacement. I finished my program and relocated to Nain, my hometown."

It wasn't a hard sell. The opportunity to return home was a big attraction for Melissa. It was a chance to show her appreciation.

"The Nunatsiavut Government funded my education and I always felt that I wanted to give back," she says.

Over the next several years, she would return for two stints with the Nunatsiavut Government, including a 4-year term as HR Manager.

AIR BOREALIS OPPORTUNITY

18 months ago, Melissa was asked to consider applying for the Human Resources position at Air Borealis.

"I love the work here," she says. "And we are so important in people's lives on the coast. In winter, we are their main link for getting in and out and transporting essential supplies. We transport produce, diapers, medicine. If we didn't exist, people wouldn't get those items that are so crucial to everyday living."

In her role as Human Resources Business Partner, she's a "one-stop shop for HR at Air Borealis. I deal with everything from compensation analysis, coaching mentorship, training, recruitment and retention, and onboarding new hires."

She's especially proud of a new project to assess the workload of Customer Service Representatives at airports on the coast.

"Their roles are multi-faceted. They check Vale passengers in and out, do the work of cargo attendants, they're the ramp attendant. That's in addition to checking passengers in and dealing with freight. We're looking at what we need to do to modernize those roles and bring in different equipment and even new resources to make their jobs less stressful and more efficient. We're also reviewing what additional support our small leadership team needs in order to do their job."

Her favourite part of the job?

"It is the people," she says without hesitating. "There's a shared passion within leadership that they want to provide an exceptional level of service for passengers and customers. And it's a combined effort. And it's not just the leaders, the pilots, and ground crews. It's everyone at Air Borealis."

continued on next page...

"I love the work here"

Melissa Webb profile

Air Borealis provides vital services to the North Coast. (Air Borealis photo)

OUTDOOR LIFE IMPORTANT

When she's not handling the many tasks that come with being the HR Business Partner for Air Borealis, Melissa takes advantage of the big Labrador outdoors.

"I really enjoy kayaking during the summer and into the fall," she says. "Snowmobiling is a great winter activity."

She does it all with her trusty sidekick, 9-year old Coonhound, Sherlock.

"I take him for walks and on snowshoeing treks. Being outdoors allows me to reconnect with Sherlock and recharge for the job. It provides work-life balance." ***(Photo: Melissa Webb)***

SEEING BENEFICIARIES SUCCEED

As a Beneficiary, Melissa is especially keen to see other Beneficiaries come to work with Air Borealis. More than 30 Beneficiaries are current employees of the airline.

"The more local talent we have, the better our operations will be. They understand the issues and they know the people that we serve."

And it's extra special to see Beneficiaries succeed in their jobs.

"Recently, two Beneficiaries, Captain Kayla Torarak and First Officer Mandy Smith flew Inuit passengers to take part in a reunion at Hebron. It was a very emotional flight. Passengers were incredibly proud to be on an aircraft flown by two female Inuit pilots. I live for those moments."

Captain Kayla Torarak and First Officer Mandy Smith are Beneficiaries. (Air Borealis photos)

While Melissa is relatively new to the world of aviation, having just taken on her role a year-and-a-half ago, aviation has taken hold.

"A manager once told me that you will love it or hate it, there's no in-between. I asked 'how will I know where I land on that spectrum?' And the manager replied, 'you will know when you enjoy the smell of jet fuel more than coffee.'"

Those are two smells that definitely agree with her. That, and the many positive developments that the Air Borealis team is working on.

Erosion Control Project in Nain Subdivision

NCI's crew in Nain completed work on the Trouser Lake erosion control project in September. Trouser Lake is a new subdivision that will eventually have approximately 20 homes.

NCI began work on the project a year ago. The work involved ditching, culvert installation, and headwalling. Headwalling involves installing prevent erosion of the surrounding soil and it promotes stability of the ditch embankment.

NCI also completed back sloping work on the project, which angles the side of the ditch opposite the road to match the natural contour of the land. Back sloping is an essential aspect of effective erosion control.

NCI's concrete batch truck (left) was utilized extensively in the erosion control project. The truck is capable of producing large batches of concrete to precise specifications. The truck was purchased by NCI in 2023 and has substantially improved and increased concrete production. (Mike Evoy photos)

Home Repair Program Complete

Nunatsiavut Construction Inc. has completed repairs to 34 homes in Nunatsiavut under the Government's Affordable Warmth Home Repair Program.

The repairs covered a wide range of work, including roofing, exterior siding and doors, and various interior projects such as flooring, stairs, drywall, and plumbing.

Work was carried out in all 5 Nunatsiavut communities.

The project was awarded on August 18, 2023 and work commenced in mid-September.

Rigolet	*3*
Makkovik	*3*
Postville	*8*
Hopedale	*9*
Nain	*11*

Other NCI Projects

NCI crews completed a variety of smaller projects inside Nunatsiavut and in Upper Lake Melville.

Some recent work included installation of a roof on the Moravian Church in Makkovik, emergency home repairs in Rigolet and Hopedale, and exterior maintenance work for contractors in Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

Photos: Bruce Humby, Bird Heavy Civil

NCI Closes Out 2-Year Stone Crushing Project in Labrador City

NCI is closing out a 2-year contract to provide stone and sand to Bird Heavy Civil in Labrador City. The company crushed approximately 50,000 tons of aggregate in 2023 and another 44,000 tons this year. In addition, NCI provided Bird with 4,000 tons of sand.

NCI's new jaw crusher was utilized successfully during both seasons. The crusher and associated equipment will be returned to the company's facility in Happy Valley-Goose Bay once the work is complete.

An NCI loader stockpiles aggregate in Labrador City. The company has crushed nearly 100,000 tons of material for Bird Heavy Civil in the past two seasons.

Air Borealis provides helicopter services through a lease arrangement with Custom Helicopters. (Photos: Air Borealis)

Helicopters Expected to be Used in Labrador Fall Mineral Exploration

Gold Mine Activity in Central Newfoundland Positive for Air Borealis

Resurgent mineral exploration in Labrador and on the island is having a positive impact on Air Borealis' helicopter and fixed-wing operations. Helicopter support for activity near Hopedale is expected to pick up this fall.

Air Borealis' fixed-wing operations have received a boost from the Valentine Lake goldmine development near Millertown in Central Newfoundland. Air Borealis flew employees to and from the site during the summer and is discussing a longer term arrangement as construction continues. About 400 people are working on the site during construction and it is anticipated that 500 employees will be required once the mine is in operation.

The value of mineral exploration in the province has increased from about $70 million in 2020 to an anticipated $223 million this year.

Outfitting Season Strong

On Par with 2023

Apart from a brief period this summer when low water levels in the region's rivers impacted salmon and trout fishing, Air Borealis' had a strong outfitting season. The airline supports the outfitting operation with float planes.

Family Fun Day

Air Borealis' Family Fun Day in late August was a huge success, with more than 100 employees and their families enjoying float plane rides from the Otter Creek Base. Chief Pilot Keith Leonard and Captain Brianna Ricketts were at the controls. Air Borealis said the event captured the spirit of family and community at the airline.

NGC and its Partners Play Large Role at Expo Labrador

From moderating panel discussions (NGC Business Analyst Erin Everard) and taking part in conversations on Understanding Indigenous Economic Reconciliation (NGC COO Sarah Leo) and Workforce Retention and Advancement of Indigenous Skills (TSI GM Wyman Jacque) to discussing potential new ventures, NGC and its partners played an active role at the recent Expo Labrador trade show and showcase in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. The event took place from September 10-12.

1. NGC Business Analyst Erin Everard moderates a panel discussion on Labrador's Critical and Strategic Mineral Developments. 2. Air Borealis VP and Executive-in-Charge Philip Earle with NGC COO Sarah Leo (R) and Stephanie Campbell, Serco Site Manager, Goose Bay. 3. Trustee and NG's Director of Economic Development Kristy Sheppard (L) with Sandi Michelin, NG Business Development Manager and NG Business Development Officer, Heather Sheppard. 4. TSI delegation led by GM Wyman Jacque (second from right) attending a luncheon at Expo. 5. President and CEO Garry Best (R) led the NGC group during the 3-day event. (Photos: Becken/Janice White)

2024 NGC Scholarship Recipients

NGC awards four annual scholarships worth $1250 each to Beneficiaries enrolled in post-secondary education programs. The scholarships are directed toward areas where NGC operates, including business, marine, and construction trades. One award is reserved for a woman enrolled in either of those programs.

NGC congratulates the four students who will receive the 2024 awards.

Amy Cooney
Happy Valley-Goose Bay

St. Francis Xavier University

Aquatic resources

"[The ocean] is the world's largest eco-system and is responsible for our weather, climate, and overall global health. My future goals align with Nunatsiavut's goals to manage and protect the coastal and marine areas of Labrador."

Shane Wolfrey
Rigolet

Marine Institute

Marine diesel mechanic

"This course of study will enable me to be able to do mechanical work. I could provide free services to community members who might [want to] avail of mechanical work."

Riley Blake
Happy Valley-Goose Bay

College of the North Atlantic

Business Administration

"My goal is to someday work for the Nunatsiavut Government. I want to give back to Nunatsiavut because they have given so much to me and my family. I also want to make the lives of Labrador Inuit easier"

Cole Shiwak
Rigolet

Academy Canada

Construction/ Industrial Electrician

"After I graduate and complete my work term, I plan on moving back to Rigolet. I would love to work at our local Hydro Power Plant to start gaining work experience (and later, Vale)...I would be a good role model for the younger Inuit generation."

Top left, the group gathers on the deck of the Kamutik W prior to leaving Goose Bay on August 4. Top right, one of the onboard activities was a game of Inuktitut bingo. Bottom right, Tina Kautjasiak and Sarah Nochasak with the "chimo hats" that they crocheted during the trip. (Photos: NDHSD)

Inuit Elders and Youth Enjoy Trip to Nunatsiavut

A group of Inuit elders and one youth from Happy Valley-Goose Bay took part in the second-ever "Cruise the Coast" event from August 4 to 9 on the *Kamutik W*. The trip was sponsored by the Nunatsiavut Department of Health and Social Development (NDHSD), and was overseen by Juliette Whalen, the Community Health Worker from Happy Valley-Goose Bay and Beverly Hunter, NDHSD's Regional Elders Coordinator.

The group called in at all five communities in Nunatsiavut. Some of the highlights included a performance by the Moravian Church Choir in Makkovik, a visit to the Nunatsiavut Assembly building in Hopedale, and overnight stays by some members of the group who had relatives in Nain.

But much of the activity happened on board the ship as people in the group got to interact and take part in activities designed to showcase their Inuit culture and language.

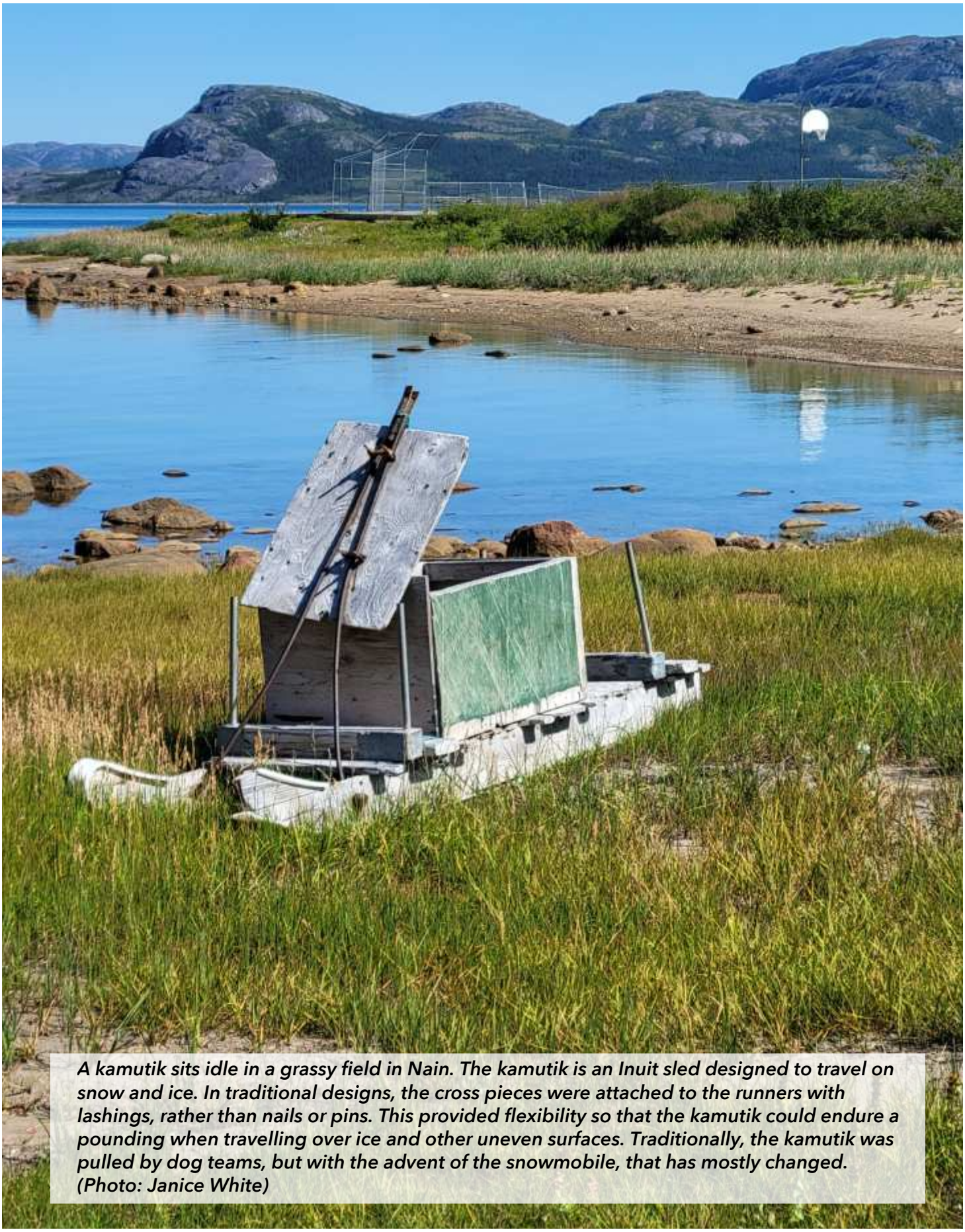
They played Inuktitut bingo, devised ways to learn Inuktitut words, and matched words with pictures. The group also learned to make Inuit crafts.

Elder Mina Campbell led the way by teaching the group to sew uppet (owls) out of sealskin and moose hide. Another member of the group showed participants how to crochet mini "chimo hats."

"It was all very positive," says Beverly Hunter. "People really enjoyed everything about the trip. They liked how they had the opportunity to visit communities as well as the connection and social aspect of meeting other people."

The first "Cruise the Coast" event took place in 2022 and involved people from Rigolet. The original idea was that the cruise would be an open boat experience with stopovers for land-based activities. But Transport Canada's regulations with respect to open boat charters forced the organizers to adjust their plans.

The Nunatisavut Group of Companies was proud to help support the event through its Donations and Sponsorship program. Two core purposes of the program include activities directed toward youth and elders, and programs that contribute to the preservation of Inuit culture.



A kamutik sits idle in a grassy field in Nain. The kamutik is an Inuit sled designed to travel on snow and ice. In traditional designs, the cross pieces were attached to the runners with lashings, rather than nails or pins. This provided flexibility so that the kamutik could endure a pounding when travelling over ice and other uneven surfaces. Traditionally, the kamutik was pulled by dog teams, but with the advent of the snowmobile, that has mostly changed. (Photo: Janice White)