

Qikiqtaaluk

Socio-Economic Monitoring Committee



Spring 2012 Report

on

Fifth Qikiqtaaluk SEMC Meeting

Pangnirtung, Nunavut: 7-8 June 2012

and

Qikiqtaaluk Socio-Economic Monitoring

Produced by the Government of Nunavut
Department of Economic Development & Transportation

Executive Summary

Summary of meeting

The Fifth Qikiqtaaluk Socio-Economic Monitoring Committee (SEMC) Meeting took place in Pangnirtung, Nunavut on 7-8 July 2012. The meeting was well attended by industry, government, and community delegates. The meeting proceeded well but had to end early due to funeral services for three Pangnirtung elders. This meant that the planned discussion following the roundtables had to be cancelled.

The meeting started with an overview of SEMCs by the Government of Nunavut (GN), followed by a summary of what happened at the last meeting, and the presentation of key regional data. Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada then presented on their role in socio-economic monitoring, particularly with respect to the SEMCs and the Nunavut General Monitoring Plan (NGMP). Industry had an opportunity to update the Committee on the status of their projects, starting with Peregrine Diamonds. Peregrine provided participants with a general background on how diamonds are formed and how they are found and briefly discussed its three exploration properties in the Territory, Cumberland, Qilaq and Chidliak. The latter project was the focus of the rest of the presentation. Baffinland presented on the Mary River Project, which at that point was going through the last stage of the Nunavut Impact Review Board's environmental review and preparation for the Final Hearing. As such, Baffinland was the focus of the meeting. Baffinland presented on the status of the project within the regulatory framework, the company's activities within 2012, human resources perspectives and approaches, business opportunities, and socio-economic monitoring.

Participants were divided into five groups to discuss five areas of concern identified at previous meetings: Food security, health and safety, youth, traditional activities, and training and education. Issues raised range from the availability of good quality country foods to addressing the impacts of increased wealth. Based on these roundtables and the discussions during the meeting, the community concerns relate to three themes: Business development and community involvement, traditional activities and culture, and safety and well-being.

Highlights of indicators and associated data

The Qikiqtaaluk Spring 2012 SEMC Report contains detailed information on several indicators that aim to assess the state of the socio-economic environment in the Qikiqtaaluk Region. The key indicators are highlighted below.

Demographics

The population of the Qikiqtaaluk region grew by approximately 7% between the census years of 2006 and 2011, with the steepest increase in Arctic Bay at about 20%, growing from 690 people to 823. Grise Fiord, Hall Beach, Igloolik and Resolute experienced small declines over the same time period. Thirty nine percent of the total Qikiqtaaluk population in 2011 was under 25 and 80% of the total regional population was Inuit in 2006.

Health and well-being

Drugs and alcohol were equally perceived to be a problem, with 71% of people surveyed stating that drugs and alcohol abuse were problems in their communities in 2006. Qikiqtaaluk had the highest suicide rates in the Territory, at 110.5 suicides per 100,000 people compared to 83.9 in Nunavut, 54.3 in Kivalliq, and 51.9 in Kitikmeot in 2009. Suicides were predominantly male (77.8%), Inuit (96.3%), and under 20 (40.8%) in the Territory in 2009.

Food security

A Northern Food Basket cost \$354 and \$396 in Iqaluit and Pangnirtung respectively in 2005, rising to \$395 and \$460 in 2010. In comparison, the same food basket in Ottawa cost \$194 and \$226 in the same years.

Education

Grade 10 in 2011 had the highest enrolment rate in the Qikiqtaaluk region at 9.2% of all students in all grades, but the lowest student attendance at 47%. When compared to other grades, Grade 10 has consistently absorbed most of the students across all grades, and yet maintains the lowest student attendance rates in 10 years (2001-2011).

Housing

Government housing (including staff and public housing) accounted for 66% of the total number of dwellings in 2009-2010 in the region. This percentage is highest in Hall Beach, where 78% of the dwellings are public housing, and 6% is staff housing, totaling 84%.

Crime

By far, Iqaluit has the highest number of actual violations per 100,000 people, at 76,232 in 2010, while Clyde River has the lowest, at 16,996 in the same year. The type of offence with the highest number of police-reported incidences is property crime violations, at 168 incidences in 2010.

Employment

The participation rate in the wage economy in Nunavut hovers around 60%. In 2010, 65.1% of the total population was engaged in the wage economy. This participation drops to 57.4% when considering the Inuit population only. In contrast, the participation rate of the non-Inuit population in the same year was at 92.3%. In 2011, 38% of the Qikiqtaaluk population received income support.

Conclusion

The Fifth Qikiqtaaluk Socio-Economic Monitoring Committee meeting in Pangnirtung was successful, and allowed for participants to dialogue and exchange ideas amongst themselves. This version of the SEMC report provides detailed, yearly and community-specific information (when available) since the creation of Nunavut, and is presented in an organized way to allow for the Committee to determine the socio-economic impacts of resource development projects in the Qikiqtaaluk Region. It is hoped that participants will review this report, and build on the data presented within to be able to start making recommendations to organizations to lessen impacts and better their socio-economic environment.