

Qikiqtaaluk

Socio-Economic Monitoring Committee



Spring 2013 Executive Summary

on

Sixth Qikiqtaaluk SEMC Meeting

Pond Inlet, Nunavut: 11-12 March 2013

and

Qikiqtaaluk Socio-Economic Monitoring

Produced by the Government of Nunavut
Department of Economic Development & Transportation – April 2013

Executive Summary

Summary of meeting

The Sixth Qikiqtaaluk Socio-Economic Monitoring Committee meeting took place in Pond Inlet, Nunavut on 11-12 March 2013. The meeting was not as well attended as our Fifth meeting due to weather – about half of the participants were stranded in either Ottawa or Iqaluit. Considering that 17 people were able to make it to Pond Inlet, the meeting went ahead with minor schedule revisions.

The SEMC confirmed that the five areas of concern identified in previous meetings continue to be the same. These priority items are: food security, health and safety, youth, traditional activities, and training and education. Following presentations by the Government of Nunavut on both a background on SEMCs and the work to date, and on observed trends and statistics, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada on their role with respect to socio-economic monitoring and environmental assessments, RCMP on their policing observations and needs, and Baffinland on their recent and proposed activities, the SEMC participated in engaging discussions within the participants.

Although the Qikiqtaaluk SEMC affirmed their concerns for the five areas previously identified, the majority of the discussion that ensued during and after the presentations were related to business and employment opportunities, education mostly as related to youth, housing and port security.

Highlights of indicators and associated data

This section describes some of the statistics and trends presented at the meeting.

Demographics

Population continues to increase in the Territory as a whole. Grise Fiord, Resolute, Igloolik and Hall Beach were the only communities with slight population declines in the region between 2010 and 2011. The largest decline in absolute numbers was Hall Beach, which lost 108 people.

Health and well-being

Suicide in the region is higher than the Nunavut average, at 133.5 suicides per 100,000 people in 2011. Pregnancy rates are highest in the age group from 20 to 24 years, at 200.3 live births per 1,000 people. Qikiqtaaluk represented about 57% of the total number of community health care

centre visits in the Territory in 2010, and 33% of the total caseload of children receiving social services without Iqaluit, and 58% including Iqaluit.

Food security

The consumer price index in Iqaluit continues to increase, from 111.8 to 113.4 in 2010 and 2011 respectively. Similarly, the price of a Northern Food Basket continues to increase, having gone from \$354 in Iqaluit in 2005 to \$398 in 2010 compared to \$189 and \$226 for the same period in Ottawa. Grise Fiord received the largest Nutrition North subsidy per capita at \$4270 for the 2011-2012 fiscal year, and Sanikiluaq received the lowest at \$263 for the same year.

Education

In 2011 the high school graduation rate in the region was essentially the same as the Territory's, at 35.9%. The majority of the population over 25 years of age in the Qikiqtaaluk region has no certificate or diploma (42%)

Housing

Housing statistics have not changed since the last report due to the fact that the numbers came from a one-off housing survey. From last year's report, 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

Iqaluit continues to experience the highest numbers of criminal activity, but experienced a slight decrease in the number of actual violations from 76,879 per 100,000 people in 2010 to 72,069 in 2011. Arctic Bay experienced a significant decrease in the same period 25,066 per 100,000 people to 14,653, taking Clyde River's place as the community with the lowest number of criminal activity.

Employment

In 2012, the participation rate in the wage economy went down by 1% from 2011 from 66.9% to 65.9%. In 2012, the Inuit participation rate in the wage economy was 58.6% and the non-Inuit participation rate was 91.3%. The caseload of social assistance in Qikiqtaaluk region went up slightly from 1,935 in 2010 to 2,015 in 2011.

Conclusion

Although the Sixth Qikiqtaaluk SEMC went well, the meeting would have definitely benefitted from the attendance of those members unable to make it to Pond Inlet due to weather. There was a general agreement that SEMCs are a great tool for engaging discussions on the impact of development and that more should be held. Participants voted on where the next meeting should take place and Cape Dorset was chosen to host the group in the Fall of 2013, likely sometime in the month of November. The GN and partners look forward to reconvening at said time and hopes that participants have the opportunity to read this report so that they come prepared for active discussions again.