

# Qikiqtaaluk

## Socio-Economic Monitoring Committee



Iqaluit at sunset. © 2014 Clayton Lloyd

## Spring 2014 Report

Eighth Qikiqtaaluk SEMC Meeting  
and  
Qikiqtaaluk Socio-Economic Monitoring

Iqaluit, Nunavut: May 5-7, 2014

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## Executive Summary

The Qikiqtaaluk Socio-Economic Monitoring Committee (SEMC, ‘the Committee’) and the Mary River Socio-Economic Monitoring Working Group (SEMWG, ‘the Working Group’) met in Iqaluit May 5-7, 2014. The Qikiqtaaluk SEMC meeting was well-attended by a variety of organizations that included Government, industry, the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA), 11 of the 13 regional hamlets, and other interested parties. Many committee members in attendance had participated at previous SEMC meetings and were familiar with this unique discussion forum. The presence of experienced members helped guide productive and engaged discussions, complementing the work from the last SEMC meeting in Cape Dorset.

The Committee heard from government agencies including the Government of Nunavut (GN), Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC), and Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor) about their respective roles in socio-economic monitoring. Both Baffinland and Peregrine Diamonds provided project-specific updates followed by a description of current and expected impacts on regional socio-economic health. The Committee also heard from QIA and the City of Iqaluit/Sustainable Iqaluit in a joint-presentation that briefly outlined ongoing community-led research and monitoring projects being done by each organization. The Nunavut Bureau of Statistics (NBS) provided a quick summary on some key statistical figures, and the Nunavut Housing Corporation (NHC) presented information on the new Public Housing Rent Scale system, as well as homeownership programs that are offered throughout the territory. The final presentation of the meeting came from the RCMP as they shared information and statistics on crime related activity.

The Committee had opportunities to ask questions and discuss topics relevant to each presentation throughout the meeting. Discussions were informative and well-engaged, consisting of specific questions for presenters and other committee members, as well as general observations and comments.

On Day 2, the Committee broke into smaller groups for a discussion exercise. This allowed hamlet representatives and other impacted stakeholders the opportunity to voice their predicted and/or already observed socio-economic impacts from major development projects. The four smaller discussion groups focused largely on the Mary River project in North Baffin as it is the largest operation in the Qikiqtaaluk region. The predictions and observations were written out on poster paper by all four groups to serve as a snapshot of the current perceived socio-economic impacts.

One of the greatest strengths of the regional SEMC is the collaborative approach to socio-economic monitoring and the opportunity for all impacted stakeholders to actively engage in monitoring efforts. Over the course of the two day meeting, the Committee discussed statistical

data collected by industry proponents and the GN, learned of community-led monitoring projects through holistic data collection, and recorded their own predicted and observed socio-economic impacts in the context of major resource development projects. When discussed together, various methods of monitoring can offer a comprehensive and effective assessment of community health. This approach will be carried forward to the next Qikiqtaaluk SEMC, tentatively scheduled to take place in late November, 2014.

## **Report Format**

This report is divided into three chapters. The first chapter introduces the reader to the Qikiqtaaluk SEMC Chair, Rhoda Katsak, and provides a background of SEMCs as a whole to those who are new to the Committee. Chapter two summarizes the proceedings of the Eighth Qikiqtaaluk SEMC meeting held in Iqaluit May 5-6, 2014. This chapter includes the meeting's agenda, participant list, and summaries of presentations and discussions. It also provides a summary of the project-specific Mary River SEMWG meeting that took place following the SEMC on May 7, 2014. Lastly, chapter three provides some discussion on this and previous meetings, and some points for further consideration.