

Kitikmeot Socio-Economic Monitoring Committee

2015 Annual Meeting Report

Cambridge Bay, Nunavut: November 3-4, 2015



View of Cambridge Bay shoreline in summer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Kitikmeot Socio-Economic Monitoring Committee (SEMC, or 'the committee') met for its annual meeting on November 3-4, 2015 in Cambridge Bay to discuss active resource development projects in the region and the subsequent socio-economic changes in surrounding communities. The meeting was well attended by industry and government staff, and included representatives from three of the five regional hamlets. The two-day meeting included presentations from government agencies and industry proponents, as well as much discussion of overall socio-economic benefits and impacts of major development projects in the Kitikmeot.

This was the first Kitikmeot SEMC meeting in two years after the committee was unable to gather last year. As such, the meeting began with a detailed overview of the SEMC and included a review of resource development activities and environmental assessment reviews in the region from the past two years. Although there are currently no operating mines in the Kitikmeot region, there are two major projects in the advanced stages of the environmental assessment process which could be nearing development. Industry representatives from these projects engaged the committee in discussions to explain their projects and to hear some of the expectations and concerns from nearby communities.

TMAC Resources Inc. presented results from the 2015 Doris North Socio-Economic Monitoring Program (SEMP) report, which included data from 2014 and 2015. TMAC also explained the recent changes to the Doris North SEMP, which incorporated updates to some of the indicators. Sabina Gold & Silver Corp. also attended to present the latest information on the Back River Project including upcoming steps in the environmental assessment process. Sabina recently submitted their Final Environmental Impact Statement to the Nunavut Impact Review Board, which included a draft socio-economic monitoring program that will be of significant interest to the committee as the project proceeds. Other participants included mineral exploration company Kaizen Discovery Inc., and staff from Polar Knowledge Canada and the Canadian High Arctic Research Station.

With no major mines currently in production, much of the attention during the meeting was devoted to preparing communities for the future when one or both of these major projects could be operating. Committee members emphasized the need for training for the current workforce in order to maximize benefits from the employment opportunities from these upcoming projects, and to establish support systems to reduce and cope with any potential undesired social impacts. The committee also expressed interest to learn more about how communities near the Meadowbank and Mary River projects have responded to change attributable to these developments at next year's meeting.