

Executive Summary, 2017 Kivalliq SEMC Meeting

The eleventh annual Kivalliq Socio-Economic Monitoring Committee (KivSEMC) meeting was held in Rankin Inlet on June 6th and 7th, 2017. There was a successful turnout at the meeting, where 4 of the 7 Kivalliq communities were represented. A number of factors, including inclement weather, affected the 3 other Kivalliq communities from attending, as well as impacted participating communities timely arrival. Despite this, all participants were able to provide valuable information. Most importantly, community representatives had the opportunities to express what impacts and benefits their communities have observed and provide direction to improve future SEMC meetings.

The meeting was also well attended by representative staff from Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) and Government of Nunavut (GN). Various GN departments had the opportunity to present on their programs and initiatives that to one extent or another have the capacity to address socio-economic impacts and benefits. These programs and initiatives proved valuable to community members and generated discussion between all stakeholders. In addition to GN departments, Agnico Eagle Mines (AEM), Stratos (AEM consultants), North Arrow Minerals, and the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA) were in attendance. The RCMP were also able to deliver a brief presentation, which included predictions regarding the opening of Meliadine and how it may impact Rankin Inlet and the greater Kivalliq.

Due to some late arrivals the meeting agenda was reorganized to prioritize attending communities and give them equal opportunity to share updates. GN departments opened the meeting with their presentations and subsequent discussions where the need for all levels of government to work more collaboratively to benefit Nunavummiut was highlighted. Other discussion topics included the need for data to come out of GN departments and the capacity issues that may result in data gaps. Conversation also steered towards the use of Inuktitut in the private sector, and programs available to communities on behalf of Finance, Education, Culture and Heritage, and Health. The Nunavut Bureau of Statistics also presented regional socio-economic data and trends in Nunavut relating to the Valued Socio-Economic Components and Indicators identified in the Meadowbank Monitoring Program.

Mining companies in attendance provided updates on exploration (i.e. North Arrow) and operations (i.e. AEM) and how it's impacting and/or benefitting communities, including updates from the Baker Lake Wellness Report and Implementation Plan. Conversations touched on the number of employees being trained that shift from semi-skilled to skilled positions; apprenticeship programs; the Role Model Program; the need to measure impacts on traditional lifestyle; and the need for infrastructure in communities and whose responsibility infrastructure development is.

INAC had an opportunity to provide an update on the Nunavut General Monitoring Plan and other relevant programs being funded in the Kivalliq. Day two of the meeting ended with a new activity that allowed participants to speak to the impacts, benefits, and other related effects they have observed. Representatives also had an opportunity to write down what it is they are concerned and/or pleased with and then have them compared against one another. The most common concerns cited

include: Racism (on-site and in the work place); lack of daycare for parents wanting to gain employment at the mine; country food and traditional activity on and off-site; career and personal growth; and the lack of affordable infrastructure in communities along with housing initiatives.

In regards to the overall success of the 2017 KivSEMC the turnout was noted as a large improvement from the year prior, however, there is an apparent need to encourage increased community participation and outline what is precisely expected from their attendance.

The GN and AEM worked closely together leading up to the meeting in an effort to find community representatives that not only understand the needs of the community, but also understand the relevance of the SEMC. Moving forward, further discussion will need to take place in order to guarantee attendance and to enhance understanding on how communities are being impacted. Discussion on how stakeholders can move forward to ensure communities are benefitting from resource development in the Kivalliq should take place as well.