

Qikiqtaaluk Socio-Economic Monitoring Committee Annual Meeting, July 5 & 6, 2017, Arctic Bay, Nunavut

The meeting began with participant introductions. The following communities and other stakeholders were represented:

- Arctic Bay
- Cape Dorset
- Pangnirtung
- Sinikiluaq
- Pond Inlet
- Hall Beach
- Iqaluit
- Grise Fiord
- Qikiqtarjuaq
- Igloolik
- GN Department of Health
- GN Department of ED&T
- INAC NGMP
- Nunavut Bureau of Statistics
- Baffinland
- QIA

The community roundtable proceeded with a few items of note including

- The need for community freezers in almost all communities
- The need for more public housing
- Grateful for the employment from Baffinland in the communities in the LSA
- Lots of fishery exploration that has the potential of a positive economic effect in communities
- New infrastructure including hotels, daycares and housing units
- The need for more child care in all communities
- The need for community hall infrastructure in a number of communities especially for youth
- Overall infrastructure maintenance in all communities

Following the community roundtable, the GN department of Health gave a presentation. Discussions that followed included:

- Contaminated sites and how it impacts health
 - QIA steering committees are dealing with contaminated sites with NTI
- Meat studies for walrus and country food takes too long

- NRI just finished construction of a lab for testing – staff are being trained to do testing in Iqaluit which should decrease wait time for results
- Using statistical data, is there strategic planning that the GN is going to use to actually start this upstream planning process?
 - The GN needs to work together in all departments to start working in a systematic way to improve Nunavut as a whole

The meeting continued with a presentation from INAC on the Nunavut General Monitoring Program. Conversations that took place surrounded topics such as:

- Whether the data from projects being funded is shared publicly and how INAC is looking at making this info public
- The Nunavut Association of Municipalities (NAM) and the information they can provide to researchers including what needs to be researched
- The need for data from all institutions at a municipality level

After the lunch break, the presentation that followed was on behalf of the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics. Items of discussion that followed were:

- The many factors that can contribute to data trends
- The difficulty in relating specific trends directly to the Mary River Project since it's been in operation for a short time
- Collecting data for the sake of collecting data vs using this data and doing something with the information to make changes in Nunavut

The day ended with the Baffinland presentation and the discussion that followed. Items discussed included:

- Safety training and emergency response on-site
- Rotational shift issues for staff with children
- How staff can learn to properly manage money for their two weeks off the mine site
- The need to recruit and keep Inuit staff
- Work readiness programs that are successful for other Nunavut projects
- The need for childcare in communities and who plays a role in delivering these resources (QIA/GN/GoC/Proponent)
- The training for heavy equipment operators is great but there needs to be training for mechanics
- Pension planning and financial planning
- Shipping routes for the Project
 - **Baffinland to send the map presented at the meeting**
- The communities outside of the local looking for more hiring and employment opportunities at the project

- It was noted that jobs are open to all Baffin communities so all Qikiqtaaluk communities are equally eligible to apply

The second day of the meeting started with a recap of the previous day. Participants were given a document with the Valued Socio-Economic Components (VSEC's) for the Mary River Project. These VSEC's are:

1. Population Demographics
2. Education and Training
3. Livelihood and Employment
4. Economic Development and Self-Reliance
5. Human Health and Well-Being
6. Community Infrastructure and Public Services
7. Contracting and Business Opportunities
8. Cultural Resources
9. Resources and Land Use
10. Cultural Well-Being
11. Benefits, Royalty and Taxation
12. Governance and Leadership

The committee was asked to decide and order these VSEC's in number of importance to them. Discussions then followed surrounding these VSEC's, as well as any other relevant items according to the Qikiqtaaluk communities and stakeholders. The conversation took up the entire morning, and it proved to be a valuable morning full of discussions surrounding what communities feel are the most important to them, the region and the territory as a whole. These topics covered areas such as:

- Infrastructure for country food processing plants to provide for a local economy and better healthy food opportunities
- Racism resulting in Inuit turnover
- Mental health initiatives on-site and in the communities
- Human health and well-being needs to be a priority
- Conflict management and cultural sensitivity
- Employment leading to an increase in self-esteem
- The need for translations in communities at stores
- Smaller communities (especially farther away from the Mary River Project site) are not benefiting from education and training
- Drop-out rates from schools
- Where community members can find work if they have an education
 - Finding a lack of employment opportunities in the small communities even when people are well educated
- The need for mental health programs in communities and health centres
- Parents need education and guidance on good parenting skills
- The opportunity for role model programs in communities

- The need for cultural and recreational programs on-site at Mary River
- The disincentive in finding employment if you live in social housing
 - The more money you make, the more you pay in rent in social housing so to keep affordable rent people stay unemployed
- The need for recording Traditional Knowledge and IQ so young people can learn and carry on this knowledge
- Issues of racism on-site for local employees
- Stories of employees being demoted instead of promoted
- Turnover due to lack of childcare, homesickness, racism, 12 hour shifts being too long – need some breaks to enjoy recreational time
- The Elder advisor program is a good idea but it doesn't work when the Elder is not from the same community as the staff
- Mental health workers in communities do not keep information confidential – deters community members from using that resource
- Would like to see a program on behalf of Baffinland to see Elders receiving country food
- Royalties need to be better managed so that communities see more money

Overall, most VSEC's were touched on, but some that came up multiple times were:

- Human Health and Well-Being
- Education and Training
- Cultural Well-Being
- Community Infrastructure and Public Services

The meeting concluded with a decision on where the next QSEMC will be held. All members voted, and the decision was to host the next annual meeting in Sanikiluaq. The date will be determined at a later time.

Action items for the next meeting and the time leading up to the meeting are:

- Baffinland to send the map of the Mary River shipping route
- Have the community profiles provided by Department of Health translated
- The possibility of reporting on cultural activities on site at the Mary River Project