



economic development: fisheries, mining, cultural industries and tourism; as well as providing investments in community and organizational capacity building and cross-cutting infrastructure such as broadband. The NEF continues to work with the Nunavut Regional Office of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to review the plan on an annual basis.

The NEF has just completed a discussion paper entitled **Qanijijuq II (the Journey Continues)**. Building on previous work, this paper forms the basis for discussion on the federal SINED program and the need to extend the program beyond its current termination date of March 31, 2009. This document will be released and presented to federal government officials in conjunction with the 2008 Northern Lights Trade Show and Conference in Ottawa.

The Executive Director of the NEF also participates as part of a review committee that evaluates project proposals and makes recommendations to the Minister of Economic Development & Transportation for funding under the Government of Nunavut's Strategic Investments Program. The objective of this participation is to help ensure that funded projects contribute to the implementation of the Strategy.

## Measuring progress

In October 2005, the NEF released the **2005 Update to the Nunavut Economic Outlook (Outlook)**. This document is a companion to previous Outlooks produced by the Conference Board of Canada in 2001 and 2002. During this year, the NEF will produce the **2008 Update to the Nunavut Economic Outlook**. This update will be the fourth in the series that has helped inform decision makers on issues related to Nunavut's economic development since 2001. The NEF will contract the firm Impact Economics, whose principal was senior economist with the Conference Board when the original Outlook was developed. Impact Economics also prepared the 2005 Outlook.

The 2008 Outlook will be an excellent analytical tool to help measure our progress in implementing the Strategy and to help us prepare for the Sivummut III Economic Development Conference planned for the fall of 2008. This will be an important milestone event as we come together to assess our progress and evaluate our priorities for Nunavut's economic growth.

In May 2006, the NEF released the **2005 Progress Review of the Nunavut Economic Development Strategy**. This was the first comprehensive progress report related to the implementation of the Strategy, and was prepared through the collection and compilation of data related to the specific action items in the Strategy. This was achieved through workshops, submissions from NEF members and other research efforts. The final report includes activity details, recommendations for lead and support roles for implementation and a review of key findings and observations from the review process.

## A voice for Nunavummiut

In response to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance for pre-budget consultations on the theme "The Tax System the Country Needs for a Prosperous Future", the NEF has made a submission on the Northern Residents Tax Deduction (NRTD). The submission advocates for an increase to the NRTD based on the cumulative impacts of inflation since it was introduced in 1987. The submission also discusses the need for the Government of Canada to consider the NRTD within the broader context of northern economic development. It includes recommendations for the NRTD to be enhanced in order to provide greater benefits for lower income earners, to address the high cost of living and to provide an equitable tax burden for northerners who receive the enhanced compensation necessary to attract and retain skilled labour. A presentation summarizing the written submission was also made to the Standing Committee on November 29, 2007. The submission has received the support of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

For further information, visit our website at [www.nunavuteconomicforum.ca](http://www.nunavuteconomicforum.ca) or contact:



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