



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



Monica Ell, President
Nunavut Economic Forum

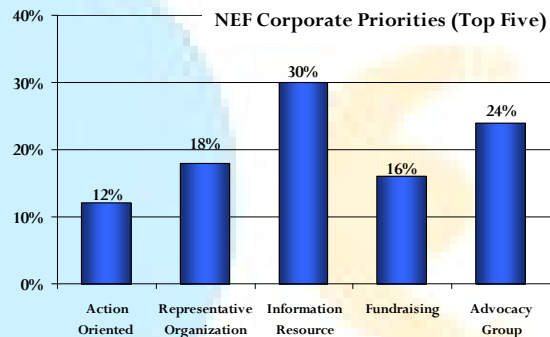
Our third year has come and gone quickly and we have moved forward on a number of projects described in the Three Year Planning Framework that we reviewed at the Annual General Meeting on May 30, 2006.

These projects were initiated to study specific issues connected to economic development and the implementation of the *Nunavut Economic Development Strategy*. This is part of our role as determined by the membership during our workshops held in 2005. While our role is defined in the Strategy, the membership also determined that the NEF should be an action oriented, representative and advocacy organization.

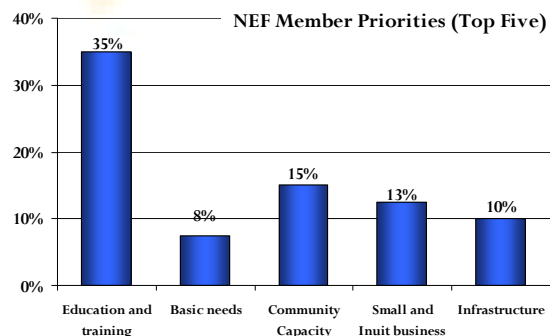
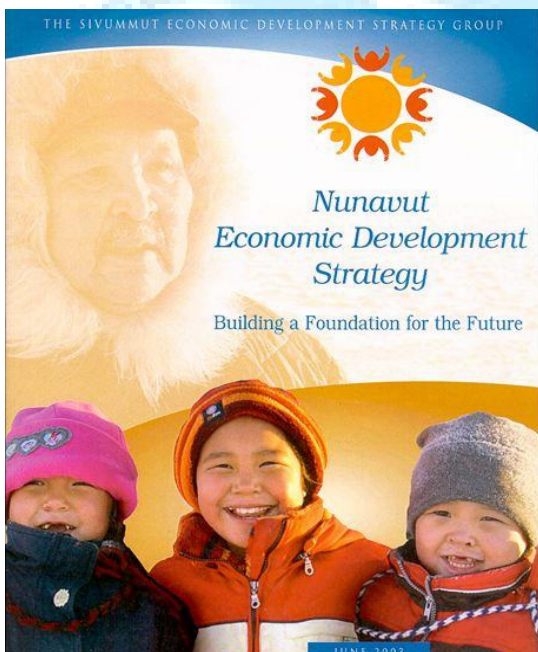
Last year I wrote that we had made progress in establishing the organization and our role in working with our partners and different

levels of government. We had gained a reputation as a valuable consultation group and, as a result, the Forum was among the groups selected to meet with Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs when he made his first trip to Nunavut as Minister. We provided a presentation on the challenges and opportunities for economic growth and presented a copy of the Strategy, and recommended that it should form the basis for any federal planning for economic development in Nunavut.

One of our key initiatives for the coming year will be to plan for the Sivummut III Economic Development Conference to be held in 2008. We will also begin work on the next update to the Nunavut Economic Outlook and prepare a report on the federal Strategic Investments in Northern Economic Development program.



I would like to express my gratitude to the member organizations for their continued support, both for their financial contributions and for their participation. I thank those that dedicated their time to serve as board members, and I would like to thank our funding partners at the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik for their continued support of the Nunavut Economic Forum as we work together to implement the *Nunavut Economic Development Strategy*.





PRIMARY PROJECTS

Social Programs as Barriers to Workforce Participation

The *Nunavut Economic Development Strategy* emphasizes the need to develop a skilled local workforce in Nunavut and to create opportunities for Nunavummiut to be successful in the emerging economy. And, with the pace of development occurring in Nunavut the need to mobilize the workforce has never been greater. However, there are barriers, or perceived barriers to workforce participation.

The barriers include disincentives, or perceived disincentives, to workforce participation created by social programs such as income support and the public housing rent scale.



Members of the Forum participate in a roundtable discussion on the barriers to workforce participation

This was one of the findings of the *Barriers to Business* study, undertaken by the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. A presentation based on the study delivered to the Nunavut Economic Forum Annual General Meeting and Conference, June 1, 2006 states: "Housing and income subsidies of income support create a disincentive to enter the workforce."

These concerns have been recognized in the past and addressed through policy changes in both Income Support and Public Housing. However, despite the development of new policies the desired outcomes may not have been achieved, as the perception of these barriers appears to persist.

In order to examine this issue and report on findings, the Nunavut Economic Forum contracted the firm New Economy Development Group, partnered with Uqsiq Communications, to undertake a study that included a series of community focus groups and key stakeholder interviews. The objective was to investigate how these programs may create disincentives that influence individual choices regarding workforce participation and to explore ways that they can be more effective in contributing to workforce development.

This final report for this project is still under development.

Effective Support and Organization of Non-Profit Organizations in Nunavut

A number of non-profit organizations exist in Nunavut that are funded by various sources including governments, fund raising activities and from their membership. Many of these organizations are members of the Nunavut Economic Forum and have specific roles in the implementation of the *Nunavut Economic Development Strategy*. These include the promotion of specific sector development, delivery of literacy and training programs, social advocacy, and community wellness programs.

It is generally recognized that these organizations can perform many functions



Graeme Clinton, author of the Nunavut Economic Outlook, presents on the status of the Nunavut economy at the 2006 Annual General Meeting



much more efficiently than government, however, despite their best efforts, these organizations may not be operating in an optimal way. Challenges include inadequate or inefficient financial support, insufficient staff, poor facilities, equipment, and a lack of training. These challenges can lead to burnout of staff and board members and decrease the effectiveness of the programs or services delivered and the end use of available funds.

There is also a real concern that the ability to deliver required programs will further diminish as various levels of government reduce, reallocate or eliminate existing programs.

The objective of this study was to capture information regarding the range of non-profit organizations in Nunavut, identify and document challenges and to examine opportunities for these groups to make the most effective use of their limited financial and resource capacity. There was also a complementary effort to engage the funding agencies in order to gain their perspective on the various challenges and to ensure that government recognizes the important role of the non-profit organizations operating in Nunavut. The firm Aarluk Consulting was contracted to complete the study, which included a survey, key stakeholder interviews and a large group discussion.

“The Nunavut Economic Development Strategy does not deal specifically with the role of non-government organisations (NGOs) or non-profit organisations, but their responsibilities in its implementation are substantial. These responsibilities are particularly noticeable in the development of communities. This has led the Forum to question whether a disconnect exists between their responsibilities and the support they receive.

The success or failure of organisations such as Nunavut Economic Developers Association, Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association, and the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation can have a tremendous bearing on community outcomes, and can often contribute to the success or failure of comprehensive programming efforts of the Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.”

From the 2005 Progress Review of the Nunavut Economic Development Strategy, released by the Nunavut Economic Forum May 2006.

The complete report on this study was released at the 2007 Annual General Meeting of the Nunavut Economic Forum on June 19, 2007.

WORKING WITH OUR PARTNERS



Ed McKenna from the GN Department of Economic Development and Transportation presents on the Strategic Investments Program at the 2006 Annual General Meeting

Strategic Investment Program

The Executive Director has continued to work with our partners at the Government of Nunavut Department of Economic Development as part of the proposal review panel for the Strategic Investments Program.

Originally announced in July of 2005, this program provides \$4 million in annual funding to support business start-up and expansion and projects for non-profit organizations.

The Nunavut Economic Forum has been able to access funds from this program to support project activities.



Nunavut Investment Plan

The Nunavut Investment Plan is as a guide to provide direction for the federal Strategic Investments in Northern Economic Development fund (SINED). The plan focuses on the four key sectors for development; Mining, Fishing, Tourism and Arts & Crafts. Other investment areas were also identified, including; Broadband, Trade, Community and Regional Economic Development, Film, Parks, and Geoscience.

The Nunavut Economic Forum continues to play a role in the annual assessment of the plan with our partners at the Nunavut Regional Office on Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

The SINED program provides \$6 million in economic development investments annually for a total of \$30 million over five years. At this time the programs is scheduled to expire in March 2009.

In anticipation of this, and in an effort to have the program renewed, the Nunavut Economic Forum plans to prepare *Qanijjuq II (The Journey Continues)*. This discussion paper will be developed as the basis for an advocacy effort and will be based on the



Hagar Idlout-Sudlovenick delivers a presentation on the Strategic Investment in Northern Economic Development program at the 2006 Annual General Meeting

Strategy and *Qanijjuq (Preparing for the Journey)* that was produced by the Forum in 2004, and was the initial effort to influence the direction of the SINED program.

ABOUT THE NEF

The Nunavut Economic Forum is a broad group of member organizations that was developed to identify and share information on economic development activity in Nunavut.

The primary focus for the organization is to bring the members together to collaborate on the implementation of the Nunavut Economic Development Strategy, each within their own area of activity and expertise. Successful implementation of the Strategy depends on the actions of each of the stakeholders.

Participation and collaboration are key components to success.



NEF Vice-President George Bohlender and President Monica Ell at the 2006 Annual General Meeting



TIME LINE OF ACTIVITIES

Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs (April 2006)

Members of the Forum participated in a presentation and discussion with the Minister during his first trip to Nunavut.

Arctic Marine Strategic Plan consultations (April 2006)

Participation in consultation with the Arctic Council's Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment working group, as directed by the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP).

Nunavut Labour Force Survey (April 2006)

Participated in presentation and discussions with Nunavut Statistics and Statistics Canada regarding the validity of the Labour Force Survey.

Larry Hillier, Assistant Commissioner for the Canada Revenue Agency (May 2006)

Members of the Forum participated in a presentation and discussion with the Mr. Hillier and his staff regarding personal and business taxation challenges.

Executive Director International Polar Year (IPY) (May 2006)

Participation in a meeting with Dr. David Hik, Executive Director of the Canadian International Polar Year Secretariat.

2005 Progress Review of the Nunavut Economic Development Strategy (June 2006)

Follow up activities from the release of the document in an attempt to engage Government of Nunavut leadership to re-affirm commitment to the Strategy.

Review of the Nunavut Investment Plan (June 2006)

Meet with INAC and GN representatives to review the Nunavut Investment plan that guides investments under SINED.

Inuit Relations Secretariat (July 2006)

Members of the Forum met with the Inuit Relations Secretariat during their visit to Iqaluit.

Development of Northern Vision Framework (July 2006)

Meeting with INAC representatives to determine potential role for NEF and the Nunavut Economic Development Strategy in the development of a new federal Northern Vision announced as part of the Conservative Party Platform. Communications to government leadership regarding possible NEF role and the use of the Strategy as a foundational planning document.

Social Economy Research Network of Northern Canada (August 2006)

Work with Nunavut Research Institute to develop project list for social economy studies for the Social Economy Research Network of Northern Canada, which connects researchers with northern partners.

Consultation on National Marketing Campaign Web site (August 2006)

Participation in the review of the website and discussion on the design of the Nunavut portal.



Judith MacBride-King (September 2006)

Organized by the NEF, Members of the Forum and other guests participated in a presentation and discussion with Judith MacBride-King a nationally known speaker of workforce issues.

Well-Being of Inuit Communities (October 2006)

Participation in a presentation and discussion session on new measures developed; the Human Development Index and a Community Well-Being index, to gain deeper understanding of the socioeconomic conditions in Inuit communities and of their well-being relative to the broader Canadian population.

Social Programs as Barriers to Workforce Participation (October 2006)

The Nunavut Economic Forum announces the launch of this project to review how social programs may create a disincentive to workforce participation.

National Aboriginal Economic Development Symposium (November 2006)

The Executive Director assisted organizers in developing the list for invitees and potential guest speakers from Nunavut.

Senate Standing Committee on Aboriginal Peoples (November 2006)

The Executive Director supported our partners at NTI in the development and presentation to the Senate Standing Committee on the challenges to economic development Nunavut.

National Roundtable on the Environment and the Economy (November 2006)

Together with our partners at NTI, the Executive Director attended a meeting of the roundtable regarding sustainable development, alternative energy and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Effective Organization and Support for Non-Profit Groups in Nunavut (January 2007)

The Nunavut Economic Forum announces the launch of this project to review the status of non-profit organizations and gain an understanding of their role and importance in implementing the Strategy.

Economic Development Officers Conference (January 2007)

The executive director attended the conference held in Igloolik and provided a presentation on the Strategy with a focus on the role of the EDO's in implementation.

Nunavut Education for Sustainable Development (January 2007)

The executive director participated in a discussion group with representatives from the Department of Education and other stakeholders on the concept of education for sustainable development and the application to Nunavut. The Strategy and the Nunavut Economic Outlook were used as reference documents.

Roundtable on Barriers to Workforce Participation (February 2007)

Roundtable session with group of NEF members and stakeholders to review initial findings from the Barriers study.

Nunavut Literacy Council Roundtable (March 2007)

The executive director participated in a discussion group with the Nunavut Literacy council and other stakeholders regarding their work on barriers to employment.



List of NEF Members for 2006

INUIT ASSOCIATIONS

Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
Kivalliq Inuit Association
Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Atuqtuarvik Corporation

REPRESENTATIVE

Monica Ell President
Tongola Sandy
Terry Audla
Rod Hick

INUIT BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS

Sakku Investment Corporation
Qikiqtaaluk Corporation
Kitikmeot Economic Development Commission
Kivalliq Partners in Development
Kakivak Association

Brock Junkin
Lynn Kilabuk
George Bohlender Vice-President
Ron Dewar
Gordon Miles

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

Baffin Regional Chamber of Commerce
Iqaluit Chamber of Commerce
Kivalliq Chamber of Commerce

Chris Cote Director
Ken Spencer
Ellie Cansfield

MUNICIPALITIES

Nunavut Association of Municipalities
Nunavut Economic Developers Association

Elisapee Sheutiapik Director
Jennifer Patey

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Baffin Business Development Corporation

Bob Long

LABOUR

Nunavut Employees Union

Doug Workman Secretary

GOVERNMENT OF NUNAVUT

Dept. of Economic Development & Transportation
Nunavut Arctic College
Nunavut Business Credit Corporation
Nunavut Development Corporation
Qulliq Energy Corporation

Paul Suvega Treasurer
Jason Brown
Mel Orecklin
Gordon Rennie
Anne Crawford

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

Department of Indian and Northern Affairs
Nunavut Federal Council

Hagar Idlout-Sudlovenick Director (ex-officio)
Todd Wilson Director (ex-officio)

SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES

Arctic Co-operatives Ltd.
Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association
Nunavut Tourism
Baffin Fisheries Coalition
Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation

Barry Cornthwaite Director
Beth Beattie
Alison Dubeau
Ben Kovic
Lorraine Thomas