



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### BACKGROUND

The *Sivummut IV* Conference was held in Iqaluit, Nunavut December 1 – 4, 2014. The Conference built on work done in the previous three *Sivummut* conferences held in 1994, 2003 and 2009, as well as on the first Nunavut Economic Development Strategy (NEDS I) published in 2003. The NEDS I laid out a detailed, 10-year strategy for building the foundations of the Nunavut economy. Ten years later the NEF has organized the *Sivummut IV* conference as one step toward development of a new Nunavut Economic Development Strategy (NEDS II). This new strategy will help plot a way forward for the 2014-2024 period.

The theme of the *Sivummut IV* Conference, as set out by the Nunavut Economic Forum, was “*Parnaqatigiit – Planning Ahead Together.*” The goal for the conference was “To set a course for the further economic development and economic growth of the Nunavut economy for the next ten years.”

These two concepts – economic growth, as measured by the increase in products and services – and economic development, as measured by overall community well-being and prosperity – became the primary themes the NEF chose to explore in the *Sivummut IV* Conference. As stated by Graeme Clinton, author of the 2013 Nunavut Economic Outlook:

“The growing economy is revealing where Nunavut’s challenges lay. There are enough jobs in Nunavut to employ most, if not all unemployed Nunavummiut if it weren’t for issues of human capabilities, inclusion, mobility, housing, and a welfare trap. The next ten years must be focused on rectifying these challenges.”

A secondary objective of the conference was to develop consensus among NEF members and conference participants about priorities and direction for the next Nunavut Economic Development Strategy, referred to throughout the conference as NED II. Again, as stated by Graeme Clinton:

“NEDS II must have more focus on development, but not by abandoning growth altogether. NEDS II must be appropriately balanced.”

An important feature of conference organization was the decision to make it a Made in Nunavut event. Rather than drawing in specialists in various fields from outside Nunavut all the presenters and most participants were people who had lived or worked in Nunavut for a long time. *Sivummut IV* was also designed to alternate presentations or panels with breakout groups as much as possible, so the real experts – all the people working in various aspects of economic development in Nunavut – would have an opportunity to interact and contribute their knowledge. The result was a dynamic and engaging conference that held participants’ interest from start to finish.

## **DAY 1: SETTING THE STAGE**

The first day of the Sivummut IV Conference introduced participants to the conference's main theme: establishing the appropriate balance between economic growth and economic development. Day 1 also had the intent bring attendees up to speed on the work that had been done over the past ten years, as well as most recently in the four community roundtables leading up to conference.

The day's activities included:

- A keynote address from Nunavut's Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, George Kuksuk, setting out the themes of growth and development;
- A breakout group session to explore participants' expectations from the Conference;
- A review of information gathered from NEF Roundtables held between 2012 and 2014, as well as the 2013 Nunavut Economic Outlook; and
- A panel that discussed social and economic progress since the first Nunavut Economic Development Strategy was written in 2003.

### **Minister Kuksuk's Speech**

Minister Kuksuk's speech posed a number of important questions, including:

- How can we capture these jobs and this money, and achieve a high and sustainable quality of life?
- How can we adapt to and benefit from the changes in our economy and in our communities? and
- How can we use these opportunities to address our own economic and social challenges?

He spoke of a number of sectors of the economy, including resource development and tourism, but emphasized most strongly the need for organizations to build partnerships and collaborations and work to address the challenge of turning economic growth into prosperity for people and for communities over the next ten years.

### **Breakout Group – Participants' Expectations.**

To encourage people attending the conference to begin interacting with each other, the facilitators asked the seven or eight participants seated at each table to speak among themselves and discuss their expectations from the conference. These discussions were based on participants' attendance at previous Sivummut conferences and Roundtables, and review of the discussion guides they had been provided.

### **Summary of Roundtables**

Sylvie Renaud, Colleen Dupuis and Rowena House presented a summary of the NEF Roundtables organized by five themes:

- Infrastructure
- Education and training

- Partnerships
- Human capacity
- Realistic Expectations

### **Review of Nunavut Economic Outlook 2013**

Graeme Clinton, who has written all of the Nunavut Economic Outlook reports since 2001, reviewed the most recent 2013 Outlook. He also clarified the difference between growth and development in the Nunavut context.

### **Panel: Changing Social And Economic Environment – Progress Since NEDS 1**

The Nunavut economy has grown considerably since 2003, when Sivummut II took place and the first Strategy was written. Panelists for this session talked about their own experience of these changes, as well as the structural issues still facing the economy of Nunavut.

#### **Panelists**

Rhoda Katsak, Director Community Operations - Qikiqtaaluk, ED&T  
 Laura Mackenzie, Regional Director - Kivalliq, ED&T  
 Ed McKenna, Director, Poverty Reduction, Department of Family Services  
 Bernie MacIsaac, Assistant Deputy Minister, ED&T

## **DAY 2: KEY CHALLENGES**

On Day 2 of Sivummut IV participants were given the opportunity to hear presentations and panels and to take part in extensive follow-up discussions on the major conference themes. Activities on Day 2 included:

- A panel on Economic Growth
- A presentation on Education and Training, and
- A second panel, this time on Development in Communities

In addition, Inuit conference participants made extra time at lunch to discuss issues particular to Inuit and Inuit communities.

### **Panel: Economic Growth And Community Prosperity**

Panelists for this session were invited to make presentations on economic growth as seen from a Nunavut-wide perspective, and focusing primarily on business issues, as separate from community or community economic issues.

#### **Panelists**

- John Main, Business Development Officer, Kitikmeot Inuit Association/Kitikmeot Corporation
- Darrin Nichol, President, Nunavut Development Corporation
- Joe Tigullaraq, Northern Affairs Manager, Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation
- Adamie Itorcheak, President and CEO, Baffin Fisheries Coalition

### **Presentation: Education And Skills: Potentials And Gaps**

The shortage of people with sufficient training or education to take available jobs is one of the most critical problems for the Nunavut economy. More than any other jurisdiction in the country, Nunavut must bring its labour-force entrants up to standard Canadian workforce levels of numeracy and literacy. Training programs are effective only when delivered to students with strong academic skills.

#### **Presenter**

- Peter Ma, President, Nunavut Arctic College

Peter started his presentation with some ideas about what can be done to increase educational attainment. He also suggested a number of other things that can be emphasized to improve educational outcomes. He spoke of inter-organizational partnerships that work now and underlined the need for more of these. He spoke of the need to enhance support mechanisms for students, and closed his remarks describing ways having an educated workforce is beneficial to everyone in Nunavut.

### **Panel: Economic Development For Communities**

Participants in the panel on community economies spoke about their experiences in development at the community level, providing a useful contrast to the earlier panel on Economic Growth.

#### **Panelists**

- Clare Kines, EDO Arctic Bay
- Keith Collier, EDO Arviat
- Trevor Attungala, EDO Baker Lake

### **Inuit And The Economy**

NEDS I included strategic priorities like Respecting the Land, Preserving the Mixed Economy, and Building on the Knowledge of Our Elders, and dealt in detail with the importance of Inuit cultural integrity - preserving the primary relationships and values that come from Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

While many of these matters came up in panels and breakout group discussions during the Sivummut IV Conference, there was no specific focus on Inuit issues in the conference program. In response, a group of Inuit conference participants met over lunch to speak about Inuit and community issues they wanted to highlight. This discussion is included here as a fourth session on Day 2, to make a more complete record of the day's proceedings.

## **Day 3 The Next Strategy – Preparation And Implementation**

The main activities for Day 3 were:

- A session summarizing discussions on Day 2
- A presentation outlining the process for developing new Nunavut Economic Development Strategy

- Breakout groups to discuss issues the Strategy needs to address
- Breakout groups to discuss implementation of the new Strategy

## **Summary Of Key Themes From Day 2**

### **Presenter**

- Colleen Dupuis, Executive Director, Nunavut Tourism

Colleen provided a synopsis of Day 2 events.

## **Developing Nunavut's Next Economic Development Strategy**

One of the most significant NEF goals for the Sivummut IV Conference was to hear conference participants' thoughts, concerns and priorities for the next Nunavut Economic Development Strategy. The rest of Day 3 was devoted the next NEDS.

- **Presenter**

Pauloosie Suvega, Deputy Minister, EDT

As Chair of the Conference, Pauloosie Suvega opened the final day with comments regarding the importance of creating a consensus on future directions based upon a clear plan. The key reason for a strategy was to present a plan which would attract funding which would otherwise go elsewhere. The need to reflect the rapidly changing reality and the current rapid growth in the economy presents additional challenges. In addition, he stressed that the discussion cannot just be about mining, but also needs to take into account other sectors, especially those which stimulate Inuit employment.

- **Presenter**

Graeme Clinton, Impact Economics

In relation to developing a NEDS II strategy, Graeme emphasized a number of key points concerning the challenge that it is trying to address. Firstly, the planning process is meant to lead to a common understanding of the issues of economic growth and development. Secondly, he emphasized the need for a strategy which should reflect the conference participants' goals and the NEF objectives. As well, it was pointed out that the strategy did not need to be as long and detailed as its predecessor.

## **Breakout Groups – Discussions Of The Next Nunavut Economic Development Strategy**

The breakout groups that took place on Day 3 were among the most important discussion to take place during the Sivummut IV Conference. They went into some depth on a number of topics, including:

- What Is The Strategy For?
- Key Elements Of A Strategy
- Discussions Of Implementation

In the implementation discussion topics covered included

- General strategy and implementation issues;
- Implementation start-up and ownership of strategy;
- Term of strategy and review; and
- The future role of the Nunavut Economic Forum.

In the final plenary session and closing remarks participants in the Sivummut IV Conference discussed ideas about developing the next Nunavut Economic Development Strategy and about implementation of the strategy. In the process, participants illuminated a number of themes that had come out during the three days of the conference.

**For more detail on any of the topics discussed in this Executive Summary, please refer to the full Sivummut IV Conference Report, posted online at <http://www.neds2.ca>.**