

The Makivik Corporation

Context

Makivik Corporation was established in 1975 to administer the funds from the first comprehensive Inuit land claim in Canada, the James Bay Northern Quebec Land Claim Agreement (JBNQA),¹ to the inhabitants and communities of Nunavik, a mineral-rich region. Nunavik is the homeland of the Inuit of Quebec and comprises the northern third of the province covering an area of over 440,000 square kilometres. As the legal representative of Quebec's Inuit people, Makivik works to secure long-term benefits for its 15 communities by using funds to promote the economic and social development of Inuit society in Nunavik.



Lead: Community (Que.)

Steps of the Mineral Development Sequence:

Pre-exploration, exploration, development, operation, closure

Key Finding: The Makivik Corporation is an example of an organization representing local communities that has helped to facilitate engagement with industry and governments and enhanced community readiness by building capacity and maximizing local benefits from mineral resource development activities taking place on its territory.

Originally established as the result of hydro-electric development, Makivik has played an important role in the development trajectory in Nunavik over the past four decades. Its mandate includes owning and operating businesses, generating jobs, fostering development, improving housing conditions, and protecting the natural environment and Inuit language and culture. This sustained and beneficial role Makivik has played in the development of the Nunavik region makes it a good practice in community engagement and development.

Description of Measures Implemented

Makivik recognizes first and foremost that the economic future of Nunavik will continue to depend on renewable and non-renewable natural resources. In terms of non-renewable resources, it is involved in ongoing negotiations, including negotiating agreements on behalf of communities, and partnerships in both private and public sectors. These include ongoing partnerships with mining companies such as the Raglan Mine, owned and operated by Glencore, and the Nunavik Nickel Mine, owned and operated by Canadian Royalties Inc.



¹ The JBNQA, initially established due to a hydro-electric project in the region, was a significant step in the history of Nunavik and is considered the first modern land claims settlement in Canada. According to this Agreement, the Inuit of Nunavik received a land settlement that provided exclusive Inuit ownership over Category I lands. Moreover, the Agreement established a number of governmental institutions that have jurisdiction in Quebec's north and the number of beneficiaries, or, 9,200 inhabitants.

Makivik is also responsible for investing and managing the funds obtained through these negotiations. For example, Makivik administers the Makivik Scholarship Program to help motivated Inuit student-beneficiaries of the JBNQA achieve their education goals.

Makivik supports the development of programs, services and infrastructure that support mineral exploration and mining. For example, Makivik participates in the Tamatumani Program, which provides specific training for positions in the mining industry to Inuit employees. This program includes a variety of skills training and has significantly increased the number, retention rate, and career development of Inuit employees. Makivik is also in the process of developing a Board-endorsed Nunavik Inuit Enterprise list and a procurement policy, which will support local Inuit-owned enterprise and enable them to successfully have access to and bid on public- and private-sector contracts for goods and services in the Nunavik region. Access to such contracts provides an important and essential opportunity for economic development and job creation in local communities.

Results

Makivik has become a leader in Canada and the world in successfully combining Indigenous rights, political negotiation and business acumen into successful business and economic initiatives that contribute to the national, provincial and regional economies. To date, the Makivik Corporation has entered into two impact and benefit agreements (IBAs) with mining companies: the 1995 Raglan Agreement with the communities of Salluit and Kangiqsujuaq, which was the first Inuit IBA in Canada, and the 2008 Nunavik Nickel Agreement with the communities of Salluit, Kangiqsujuaq and Puvirnituq. The IBAs included profit-sharing



Mineral exploration in Nunavik, Quebec

measures and trust fund payments to Makivik and the communities over the life of the mine, as well as preferential hiring and contracting to the local population and businesses. For example, in 2014, 175 employees working at the Raglan mine site were Inuit (approximately 18 percent of the total workforce) and a total of \$82 million in contracts were awarded to eight Nunavik Inuit enterprises, including aviation services, road maintenance, diamond drilling, and hazardous goods disposal.

Lessons Learned

The Makivik Corporation is an example of an organization representing local communities that has helped to facilitate engagement with industry and governments and enhanced community readiness by building capacity and maximizing local benefits from mineral resource development activities taking place on its territory.

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