

# The Inuvik Interagency Committee

For more than twenty years, the Interagency has worked to identify, address, and resolve gaps in social services programming. It is the Interagency's goal to implement changes in the town of Inuvik which are responsive, proactive, progressive and, ultimately, community-driven. Efforts to enact positive social change in the past have led to the establishment of entities such as the Inuvik Food Bank, Suicide Hotline, Victim's Services, and the New Beginnings Alternative School.

The Interagency performs a unique function in our community, serving as a forum and a model for collaboration. In short, through this collaborative approach, members are enabled to identify local needs and gaps in current service provision and to work together to address and fill those gaps. Members have also reported that the Interagency has filled an important role in orienting and networking new employees with the anticipated result of improving employee retention.

The Inuvik Interagency Committee has an open membership currently ranging between 60 and 85 individuals representing over thirty local agencies and programs and including members of the general community. Member involvement ranges between active participation in projects and subcommittees, attendance of monthly meetings, attendance of special events, and receiving informational communications. Everyone is welcome at our table.

Currently, all Interagency activities take place within Inuvik yet in many cases reach to the broader Beaufort-Delta Region. Benefits of our activities are directly realized by participating members and positively impact participating agencies, their clientele, and the general Inuvik community.

The Interagency was established in 1982 to address concerns regarding the impacts that an oil and gas boom had on residents of the Beaufort-Delta. These concerns persist with renewed exploratory activity on the part of the Mackenzie Gas Project (MGP). Current priority issues for Interagency members include social impacts of resource development as well as addictions, child wellbeing, healthy lifestyles and housing and homelessness. Our work is aimed at accounting for and addressing current social issues to minimize their exacerbation by the anticipated development stresses associated with the MGP thereby allowing us to direct more energy to maximizing the anticipated positive impacts.

## **Our Mission**

*The Inuvik Interagency Committee is a non-profit network of community representatives collaborating to implement community-driven social change.*

*Community-driven issues are those based on the expressed needs of the community.*

*To accomplish this mission, we:*

- *Facilitate communication between existing programs and services,*
- *Engage our community in consultations, needs assessments and issue-identification processes,*
- *Identify and resolve gaps in social programming,*
- *Act as a resource for service access, and*
- *Foster the development of new social programs and services.*



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