Chesterfield Inlet 2023 Community Economic Development Plan

A Community Based Approach to Responsible Socio-Economic Development
Tagvauvuti,
Welcome to Igluligaarjuk, the original arctic community! Chesterfield Inlet’s rich heritage and strong Inuit values have defined our small community for thousands of years. As the first permanent settlement in Nunavut, our community is built on resilience, hard work and coming together in tough times. As Chesterfield Inlet moves forward into the future, we will maintain our deep-rooted values while ensuring prosperity for the next generation.

Chesterfield Inlet 2023 is a 5-year Community Economic Development (CED) Plan that strives to create a balance between social, environmental and economic priorities. The plan focuses on initiatives that preserve and strengthen our Inuit culture while promoting a strong interaction with the land. The essence of our Community Economic Development plan is based on the ideas, hopes and aspirations of Chesterfield Inlet residents and has been guided by Inuit Societal Values throughout.

The goal of this 2023 Community Economic Development Plan is to create a community-based approach to responsible socio-economic development that puts the community first and respects cultural values and traditions. Our strategic priorities have been identified by listening to what our community has to say. We will invest, budget and manage our resources effectively to execute our plan and sustainably grow our local economy.

Our vision for Chesterfield Inlet starts with recognizing where we have come from and determining where we would like to go. We will learn from our Elders and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) while creating opportunities for our Youth to thrive in a modern world. We will support and develop local businesses that encourage entrepreneurship, empowerment and the building of our community members’ capacity and skills while contributing to a diverse local economy. We will initiate local programs that foster community cohesiveness, social development and healing to enhance the overall well-being of our community members. All residents of Chesterfield Inlet will be encouraged to become active participants in sustainable community development.

We realize that socio-economic development is not only about identifying the community’s priorities, goals and objectives, but also about creating realistic action plans for achieving our vision. Chesterfield 2023 identifies 7 key community directions that will guide us on our path to realizing our socio-economic goals:

- Education, Employment & Training
- Wellness & Recreation
- Culture & Heritage
- Tourism
- Local Business & Infrastructure
- Environment
- Mining & Resource Development

Our plan for implementation of these 7 community directions is consistent with local realities and territorial conditions. All the recommendations and action plans have been developed based on a thorough review of community priorities, ideas, hopes, aspirations, as well as addressing current challenges as identified by community members. Realizing its significance, we feel that it is important to hire one person to manage the CED plan by coordinating and collaborating with the community’s different departments.

As Nunavummiut, we will continue to move forward and adapt as we have always done, with a clear vision for cultural, social and economic prosperity. Our values remain the same as they have throughout history with an emphasis on respect, family, collaborative decision making, skill development, working together, resourcefulness and caring for the land. As a community, we have established a plan that embodies these values while creating a vibrant future for years to come.

Qujannamiik,
Mayor Simionie Sammurtok
What Community Economic Development Means to Us

Although our CED plan places an emphasis on growth and prosperity, our priority still remains to enhance the overall quality of life for our community members, whether it be by social, cultural, environmental or economic means. Community economic development planning also aims to be able to handle social, economic and environmental change as we proceed into the uncertain future. We will use our existing community strengths and resources to build capacities that strengthen our social and economic base.

As an initial step in creating our CED plan, several objectives were identified in order to set a clear direction and establish guidelines Chesterfield Inlet’s CED plan:

- Establish a community plan that is guided by the values and needs of Chesterfield residents
- Identify a strategy for responsible socio-economic development that respects local culture and traditions
- Provide a holistic approach to community development that balances social/cultural, environmental and economic priorities
- Identify and leverage the community’s strengths
- Create a feasible and actionable plan for community development that considers local realities
- Recognize the challenges faced in the community and develop creative solutions
- Create a significant and measurable positive impact in the community

A Collaborative Process – Hearing All Voices

The intent of our CED plan is to embody the ideas, needs and aspirations of the community. A thorough consultation process was conducted to ensure that the voices of Chesterfield Inlet residents were heard as much as possible. The stakeholder engagement process used the methodology of listen, learn and confirm, whereby key stakeholders and community members were consulted with and recommendations were developed based on feedback and findings. As a final step, these recommendations were brought back to and confirmed by the community. The community was engaged in the following formats:

- Community awareness campaign – community posters, radio announcements, online and social media postings
- An online socio-economic development survey, including a youth survey
- Extensive research and integration of existing plans and resources
- Phone interviews with key department stakeholders
- Presentations to departments, organizations and local businesses
- Presentation and feedback from students at the local school
- Ratification and feedback of draft recommendations to Mayor, Council members, SAO and CEDO
- Community open house

Using a Community-Based Approach

Our Community Coming Together

As a community, we have identified key projects and initiatives that will provide a significant benefit to our people and our local economy. Throughout the process of developing our Community Economic Development (CED) plan, we have consistently looked to our residents for guidance, ensuring that the projects and initiatives that have been recommended are a direct reflection of our people. The recommended action items contained within the plan have been developed based on the ideas and opinions of Chesterfield Inlet community members, community departments and organizations, local business, and community leadership. Community economic development will be in-tune with local realities, ensuring that the projects we pursue are feasible and aligned with our community capacities.

The Nunavut Economic Developers Association (NEDA) defines Community Economic Development as a community-based approach to planning and development that combines economic, social, cultural and environmental priorities and goals. This is a holistic approach that considers all aspects of the community to ensure that the various sectors and community departments work together in a symbiotic relationship. It is true that the whole is greater than the sum of all its parts, which is why socio-economic development in Chesterfield Inlet will strive to promote inclusivity, seamlessly working together to ensure the greatest benefit for all who live here.

A Collaborative Process – Hearing All Voices

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- Community awareness campaign – community posters, radio announcements, online and social media postings
- An online socio-economic development survey, including a youth survey
- Extensive research and integration of existing plans and resources
- Phone interviews with key department stakeholders
- One-on-one interviews with individuals from community departments, organizations and local businesses
- Presentation and feedback from students at the local school
- Ratification and feedback of draft recommendations to Mayor, Council members, SAO and CEDO
- Community open house
Building on Community Strengths

Throughout the consultation process for the development of our CED plan, Chesterfield Inlet community members were asked what they believe is the greatest strength of their community. This question is powerful because it allows people to reflect on the most positive things about the community and consider how to build upon these.

Traditional knowledge based on a strong connection to the land was identified as the greatest strength of Chesterfield Inlet by its community members. In order for successful community development to occur, we must nurture our traditions and honour our past which has defined our current values. Opportunities to travel out onto the land to hunt and connect with our environment is essential for our community well-being — mentally, physically, spiritually and emotionally. We will learn from community Elders to ensure that Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) is preserved and passed down to the next generation. Socio-economic development in Chesterfield Inlet will provide opportunities for residents to practice and learn about our Inuit culture while strengthening the traditional land-based economy.

People coming together in times of need has also been identified of one of Chesterfield Inlet’s greatest strengths. Sharing country food is an ancient practice that has not been lost in our community and if there is someone who is forced to go without, community members are quick to step up and share what they can with their neighbours. Chesterfield Inlet is known for helping people who are in need and this is an important attribute for community economic development. We will work together to achieve our goals, supporting our families and neighbours when they require a helping hand. After all, many hands make light work.

Overcoming Challenges

An important step of planning for socio-economic development is identifying key challenges that face the community and developing creative strategies to overcome them. It is no secret that there are many factors that make economic development in Nunavut a challenge which are not encountered in the south. Some of these include the quality of the education system, high cost of living/doing business and housing.

Throughout our CED plan, community challenges have been acknowledged and community-based solutions have been recommended. We have developed innovative strategies which include improvements to education and training, social programs, business and infrastructure development, increasing employment opportunities and supporting Elders and youth.

Creating Opportunities for Youth

Young people in Chesterfield Inlet make up the majority of the population with 54.5% under the age of 25 years old. The average age in Chesterfield Inlet is 27 years old, therefore it is very apparent that the CED planning must prioritize youth in order to establish a successful and sustainable community for the future.

The priorities of youth in Chesterfield Inlet must be placed at the forefront of community economic development and their needs must become an integral part of the activities undertaken. In order to support our youth, Chesterfield Inlet must develop and offer a variety of structured youth programs or activities that provide young people with the opportunity to engage with their peers, develop skills and promote learning. It is crucial that these programs are permanently established and run on a consistent basis to offer the most benefit to youth.

Throughout our CED plan, we prioritize youth by recommending at least one project in each of the community’s directions that directly support the needs of people under 25 years old. In addition, we’ve recommended opportunities for Elders to interact with and teach youth valuable life skills.
Hearing Voices from Our Community

As a community-directed plan, the starting point for Chesterfield Inlet 2023 was to ask residents what they envision for their community. Ideas, opinions and aspirations were provided by community members related to socio-economic development in Chesterfield Inlet and potential strategies to achieve community goals were also identified. The consultation process for our CED plan included a diverse range of stakeholders: at least one representative from each of the community’s sectors, leadership and employees of the various community departments and organizations, local businesses, students of Victor Sammurtok School and the Arctic College Learning Centre, representatives from regional and territorial organizations, Hamlet leadership and community members at large.

Local Voices Heard – Key Findings of the Community Survey

- 71% of community members said that providing employment opportunities is the most important factor for creating socio-economic opportunities in Chesterfield Inlet
- 67% of community members said that education and training have the highest potential to bring benefits to the community
- 88% of community members said they would like to see the natural environment continue to serve as traditional hunting and fishing grounds
- 92% of community members said that they would like to see the Hamlet invest in the preservation of traditional knowledge, skills and language
- 67% of community members support the development of responsible cultural tourism or ecotourism in Chesterfield Inlet

Local Voices Heard – Some of Our Community Member’s Responses

What do you believe is Chesterfield Inlet’s greatest strength as a community?
- “Staying strong and focused on opportunities”
- “I strongly believe in traditional knowledge to teach the younger generation”
- “When members harvest country food, it is shared in the community, and it’s free…another is keeping traditional knowledge alive to be preserved…and its history”
- “Connection to the land is strongest here as we have every animal and is still practiced year-round”

What do you believe is the most important factor in building a strong community within Chesterfield Inlet?
- “Working together with Elders and teaching youth as we build the community stronger”
- “Creating employment opportunities by building different sectors in the community”
- “Working with each other, not against each and more activities for the young to keep them busy during the summer break”
- “Building recreational facilities for the youth and young adults, coffee shop or a general corner store, creating different new programs such as dancing lessons, musical lessons, etc.”

What kind of support do youth need in order to thrive in the future development of Chesterfield Inlet?
- “Education and interacting with Elders”
- “More programs or courses for youth, organized events, more people coming to train youth and young people”
- “Strong leaders”

Some Voices from Our Youth

- 80% of youth said they support programs that address social issues
- 85% of youth said that they would be most interested in sports and fitness activities

What are your ideas, hopes and aspirations for your community over the next 5 years?
- “I hope for better educational opportunities. Better understanding about student and youth wellness & mental wellness. Better sport opportunities such as going to tournaments. Food banks. Better employment opportunities”
- “That as youth actually get our concerns heard too, it’s been too long that middle aged adults have been in control of everything”
- “Youth exchange, bigger arena with turf, new airport, more houses”
- “What I see in this community is beyond out of my reach, so I really would love to see a better long life living and build the dream you/me dream”
The people of Chesterfield Inlet have shared their vision for their community. As a community-directed plan, Chesterfield Inlet 2023 embodies the needs, hopes and desires of community members to establish a realistic and feasible action plan that will ensure sustainable community development over the next 5 years and beyond.

Chesterfield Inlet Strategic Priorities

According to the residents of Chesterfield Inlet, the following sectors have the greatest potential to bring cultural, economic and social benefits to the community:

1. Education, Employment & Training
2. Heritage & Culture
3. Wellness & Recreation

The action plans contained within Part 2 of the CED plan take into consideration the above strategic priorities and provide meaningful recommendations that will help Chesterfield Inlet achieve its community development goals.

Based on the community’s strategic priorities above, a set of overarching community objectives have been determined:

- Increase the amount of employment opportunities by means of training and high-quality education
- Support youth by providing increased opportunities for recreation and participation in sport
- Increase the amount of community programs that enhance social development/cultural preservation for young, middle-aged and Elders
- Provide opportunities and support to practice Inuit traditional culture, including going out on the land
- Stimulate business creation and infrastructure development
- Pursue tourism and commercial fishing as key sustainable economic opportunities for the future

Chesterfield Inlet
Community Economic Directions

In order to approach community economic development in a holistic way, 7 community directions have been identified that represent the various sectors of the local social and economic landscape in Chesterfield Inlet. Action plans have been developed for each of the community directions.
1. Education, Employment & Training

Education, employment and training are key priorities for the residents of Chesterfield Inlet and we will utilize our resources effectively to ensure sustainable livelihoods for our community members. Investing in community training programs that build crucial life skills will fill gaps in the local economy and stimulate economic growth. Our mixed economy will support a diversity of wage-based employment opportunities, as well as the traditional land-based economy.

In order to establish a strong workforce and a sustainable economy, high-quality education is of utmost importance, therefore increasing educational and training opportunities for youth will be a priority. We will support an education system that reflects and integrates traditional Inuit values, knowledge, language and cultural practices.

The people of Chesterfield Inlet have identified community participation as one of the strategies to improving the overall quality of education and training. Our hope is that the people of Chesterfield Inlet will have equal access to the level of education and quality of employment as seen down south. As a result, the need to hire from outside the community will be minimized, and employment opportunities for local residents will increase.

Education, Employment & Training Key Action Items:

- Expand and construct a new building for the Arctic College Learning Centre to offer more courses to community members
- Promote and support community members to enroll in the Inuit Learning and Development Project, with a goal of 2 community members participating in the program per year
- Support the creation of a Youth Council
- Provide information to encourage Victor Sammurtok School students to participate in experience exchange and learning programs located outside of the community
- Offer tourism training courses and certifications in all areas including hospitality, guiding and business management

2. Wellness & Recreation

High quality and accessible recreation opportunities are integral to a well-functioning society. The residents of Chesterfield Inlet understand that recreation and wellness play a beneficial role in community development by improving mental, emotional and physical health of individuals and the community as a whole. We will create an inclusive and supportive environment while increasing opportunities for community members to interact and engage with one another.

It is essential that Inuit knowledge, beliefs and values be a pillar of community wellness initiatives and that the land is utilized as a source of healing and strength. Therefore, new recreation initiatives will present opportunities to return to traditional paths and forge new ones. In addition, support for those who’ve experienced emotional trauma will be prioritized.

Community members of all ages have expressed the need for increased recreational opportunities including organized sports, improvements to recreational facilities and a youth centre. Consequently, wellness and recreation initiatives will be sustainable and in tune with local realities.

Wellness & Recreation Key Action Items:

- Establish consistent and ongoing programs for community members that focus on social development, traditional knowledge, mental health, healing and secure funding to support these programs
- Secure a permanent mental health worker who is from outside of the community to assist residents with struggles such as suicide, anxiety, depression and residential school trauma
- Increase recreational facilities (indoor swimming pool, fitness centre, indoor playground and upgrades to the arena) in collaboration with a Youth Centre

Building Community Capacity and Skills

Promoting Community Well Being
One of Chesterfield Inlet’s greatest strengths as a community is its strong sense of traditional culture and connection to the land. Inuit culture is alive and well in Chesterfield Inlet, and our community may represent one of the best examples of how these traditions have been maintained throughout history.

There is an abundance of talented individuals in the community who have knowledge of traditional Inuit crafts, sewing, hunting, fishing, gathering, cleaning skins, preparing traditional foods, and so on. Chesterfield Inlet’s history and archaeological background offer an opportunity for the community to preserve and share its unique and interesting culture. As the oldest community in Nunavut and with its archaeological remains, Chesterfield has an enormous potential to attract cultural eco-tourists to the community. Therefore, there is strong value in assuring archaeological sites and heritage buildings be protected and maintained into the future.

Preserving traditional Inuit culture and nurturing a strong relationship to the land is a key ingredient in ensuring the well-being of our community. Opportunities for cultural expression and learning will be pursued through community programs, especially initiatives that strengthen the link between youth and Elders.

Culture & Heritage Key Action Items:
• Support the KIA in building the new cultural centre, ensuring that it fulfills community needs by providing services and contributes to socio-economic development
• Support the traditional land-based economy by creating incentives for residents to hunt, fish and gather country food
• Organize regular community festivals & events so residents can get together and share food
• Create opportunities for Elders to participate in community initiatives and support programs
• Establish a consistent arts and crafts program that teaches young people and the middle generation traditional sewing, tool making and carving
• Conduct archaeological mapping of historical sites, involving youth and Elders as part of a cultural preservation project
• Conduct a feasibility study for the preservation of the community’s heritage buildings

Chesterfield Inlet will become a community recognized for a strong cultural awareness which celebrates our sense of heritage and community in the development of a strong Nunavut – Chesterfield Inlet Heritage Strategy

Strengthening Our Traditions

Sharing Our Culture with the World

Chesterfield Inlet has the potential to develop a thriving tourism economy by sharing authentic, memorable and enriching cultural experiences with visitors. As the community moves forward while maintaining a strong hold on its traditional heritage, ecotourism offers an excellent chance for Chesterfield Inlet to bring socio-economic benefits to its people. Considering the community’s cultural resources and natural assets, there is huge potential to establish a sustainable industry based around tourism.

Exploring Inuit culture and communities are among Canada’s most unique tourism experiences. Tourism development in Chesterfield Inlet will be respectful of the local culture and highlight the region’s unique attributes while ensuring authenticity. Cultural and nature-based experiences are in high demand and communities all over Nunavut are beginning to realize the possibilities.

Responsible tourism development in Chesterfield Inlet will generate positive impacts by fostering pride in cultural traditions, encouraging cultural expression and preservation while providing opportunities for learning. Local tourism development will strive to involve members of the community from all age groups. Tourism will provide significant opportunities for employment, local businesses development and economic growth within the community. For this to happen, it is essential that tourism be developed based on proper planning and strategies that ensure a sustainable industry.

Tourism Key Action Items:
• Develop a 5-year community ecotourism plan outlining the immediate and long-term initiatives needed for tourism development
• Improve visitor accommodations in the community
• Work with the Government of Nunavut to reduce insurance costs for guides and outfitters
• Pursue funding and political support for tourism through the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s calls to action
• Refine the current self-guided community tour and train a local guide to deliver it

Traditional knowledge working groups with Elders need to be implemented to develop an eco-tourism strategy for our community – Chesterfield Inlet Community Economic Development Officer

4. Tourism
5. Local Business & Infrastructure

By supporting community businesses and infrastructure development in Chesterfield Inlet, the local economy will be stimulated. The goal of the Hamlet is to improve the lives of community members by building a vibrant and competitive economy based on increased employment opportunities.

Business development in Chesterfield Inlet will be responsive to present economic opportunities and based on a framework of creativity and innovation. As a result, a diverse range of local business and economic opportunities will be pursued by supporting community entrepreneurs and local leaders. Training and capacity building will also be pursued to allow local businesses to flourish.

Inclusive community planning will ensure that basic infrastructure requirements are fulfilled and new projects that support the local economy are put into action. Exploring the feasibility of expanding the commercial fishing industry in Chesterfield Inlet will be a priority through collaborations and identifying new potential markets. In addition, Chesterfield Inlet will continue to support large-scale territorial infrastructure projects that will link communities to other economic zones.

Local Business & Infrastructure Key Action Items:
- Implement and align with 2017/2018 infrastructure plan priorities
- Apply for a search and rescue boat and equipment through the Indigenous Community-Boat Volunteer program
- Complete necessary upgrades to the Iqalukpik Fish Plant and conduct a feasibility study for its expansion to accommodate commercial fishing operations and meat processing capabilities
- Collaborate with the Government of Nunavut in the development of the road to Rankin Inlet and other Kivalliq communities
- In support of the deep-sea harbour project at Chesterfield, pursue the recommended studies such as community consultations, site investigation and ice study
- Establish a business incubator space and hire a coordinator to support business development through capacity building and information on funding

6. Environment

Inuit culture is defined by the people's relationship to the land and even with the influence of modern technology, the community members of Chesterfield Inlet continue to maintain a strong connection and reliance on the environment. There are many changes that are happening in the Arctic and the future will certainly bring new challenges. However, with proper planning, the residents of Chesterfield Inlet will be able to effectively adapt, as they have for many years.

Sustainable community planning in Chesterfield Inlet will include safeguarding the environment in order for it to continue to serve as traditional hunting and fishing grounds. In addition, we will plan for the expansion of commercial fishing in the community, mitigation of negative environmental impacts and implementing cleaner technologies. Establishing a balance between resource development and preserving the environment will be a priority.

Our people share a spiritual, cultural, social and economic relationship with their traditional lands. An emphasis on education will ensure that traditional values and philosophies regarding the environment are embraced by the next generation. We will ensure that the traditional land-based economy is strengthened, resulting in a positive impact on the life of the people of Chesterfield Inlet.

Environment Key Action Items:
- Provide education to ensure that selective hunting techniques are passed down to younger generations
- Support knowledgeable community hunters through programs such as the GN's Country Food Distribution and Nunavut Tunngavik’s Harvester Support Program
- Work with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Department of Environment and the Aqigiq HTO to establish development goals for fishing and initiate at least one project that will benefit the community
- Develop an Environmental Mitigation Strategy to minimize the negative impacts of shipping on wildlife, marine animals and local hunting practices
- Implement clean technologies for water treatment, waste processing, energy generation through the Indigenous Innovations Corporation’s demonstration project and iSolara Solar Power
- Conduct a feasibility study for the development of a bio-research lab to monitor wildlife, migration routes and attract research opportunities to the community
7. Responsible Mining & Resource Development

Ensuring Mutual Benefits

The Hamlet of Chesterfield Inlet and other community departments will attempt to ensure long-term socio-economic benefits for the residents of Chesterfield Inlet as a result of partnerships with mining and resource development companies.

This is accomplished primarily through innovative ideas on how to move forward together. We will encourage mining and resource development companies to work with our community to develop plans jointly and gain the approval of the community.

By ensuring effective environmental management, we can establish a balance between resource development and safeguarding the environment and traditional culture. The needs of community members will steer the direction of mining and resource development in the surrounding areas.

The mining industry has much potential to support economic growth in Chesterfield Inlet, especially with Agnico Eagle’s Meliadine Mine opening in 2019. By developing programs that will provide needed skills for community members to work in the mines and by supporting local businesses, we will be able to take advantage of the opportunities put forth by mining development.

Mining & Resource Development Key Action Items:

- Continue to ensure awareness and support for community members in the hiring process for the Meliadine Mine, including the Nunavut labour pool, career path, trainee programs, and the pre-trade and apprenticeship program
- Deliver a presentation at the Kivalliq Trade Show to showcase what the community has to offer and to attract investment
- Develop a go-forward strategy with the KIA that is specific to Chesterfield Inlet focusing on community benefits while supporting alternate industries such as tourism through the IIBA
- Develop a communications plan to promote Chesterfield Inlet as a community ‘open for business’ to local responsible mining companies (AEM, Dunedin, Auryn)

Projected 5-Year Community Economic Development Plan Budget

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Projected Financing for Community Economic Development

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Growing Our Local Economy

Sustainable economic growth will be a priority for Chesterfield Inlet as we move forward into the future. Our goals are to increase employment opportunities, improving job-related skills and enhancing community infrastructure development. Our local strategy will foster a healthy mixed economy while diversifying our interests and making sound investment decisions.

Lastly, we will take advantage of strategic economic partnerships on local, regional, territorial and national levels. In order for this plan to be implemented, it is of utmost importance that a CED manager be hired by the Hamlet to execute the activities and coordinate the various departments.

Projected 5-Year Human Resource Investment

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Phase 1  
Laying the Groundwork

In year 1 of CED implementation, the main objectives will be:

- Hire a manager to implement the CED plan
- Complete the initial stages of planning for large priority projects, particularly infrastructure development, tourism and exploring a commercial fishing industry
- Initiate high priority projects that address pressing community needs
- Hire a full time mental health worker
- Hire a guidance counsellor or additional teacher at Victor Sammurtok School
- Commence easy to implement projects that do not require much investment of resources on behalf of the Hamlet
- Initiate programs that address community needs related to social, environmental and economic development
- Laying the groundwork for increasing business development and employment opportunities through training
- Secure funding and support for major infrastructure projects
- Investing in strengthening the traditional economy

Phase 2  
Expansion & Development

In years 2 and 3 of CED implementation, the main objectives will be:

- Build upon planning that was developed for large priority projects to initiate next steps
- Explore feasibility and implement secondary projects that will help the community reach its development goals
- Monitor and adjust community programs as needed
- Enhance and expand the array of recreation and wellness opportunities within the community
- Next steps in community tourism development – focus on improving visitor accommodations, product development and refinement
- Upgrades to the fish plant that will support the development of a commercial fishing industry
- Capacity building to support the development of local businesses
- Beginning the shift towards cleaner energies and technologies
- Enhance and expand community-wide programs for supporting the traditional economy
- Hire a program coordinator

Phase 3  
Long-Term Sustainable Development

In years 4+ of CED implementation, the main objectives will be:

- Continuing with long-term projects that require heavy community resources (including funding) and coordination to accomplish
- Major regional projects that require ongoing community support (i.e. Road to Rankin Inlet)
- Larger infrastructure projects
- Activities that address complex community issues and require ongoing attention (i.e. Housing)
- Hire a Tourism Coordinator
- Projects that support the community’s long-term development goals (i.e. Tourism organization, Community Business Incubator and Youth Drop-in Centre)
By creating a community-based plan, we have ensured that the voices from our citizens have been included in our strategies for sustainable socio-economic development. Chesterfield Inlet is well equipped to handle the inevitable changes that will occur in the future thanks to the community’s strong Inuit values and connection to the land, our resilience as a community and the strong bond that exists between all of our community members. Our community plan is based on providing opportunities for the next generation while maintaining a strong grasp on our heritage, traditions and beliefs. We will let our Elders teach us and our youth guide us. In order for true socio-economic development to take place, community members must be put first and ideas for the future must come from the people themselves. The planning process for Community Economic Development in Chesterfield Inlet has taken on a grassroots approach and the opinions of our citizens have been honoured to create a plan that is ‘for the people and by the people’.

Indicators of Success

Community Economic Development is a long-term and ongoing process that requires the commitment and collaboration of several community departments as well as the community at large. Consistent communication will be key in achieving the community’s CED goals. Throughout the CED process in Chesterfield Inlet, some of the key indicators of success will be as follows:

- An increase in employment opportunities in the community
- New business creation and economic growth
- An increase in social development support programs for all members of the community
- An increase in recreational opportunities
- Enhanced skill development amongst community members
- Increased opportunities to practice traditional skills
- An increase in educational and professional opportunities for youth
- A decrease in suicide, and rates of mental illness in the community
- An increase in community events and gatherings (and in turn community cohesiveness)
- An increase in funding secured for community projects as well as financial investment in the community

Chesterfield Inlet is a resilient community unified by strong Inuit values that shape our community’s social, environmental and economic planning and provide opportunities for all generations.

Inclusive community planning ensures that we create a positive future for our children that allows them to grow and reach their full potential. At the core of socio-economic development in Chesterfield Inlet is the concept of sustainability – meeting our current day needs without compromising the needs of future generations. Our community’s plan is based on establishing sustainable livelihoods for our people, enhancing community wellbeing and honouring our traditional values. We will be guided by these principles and ensure lasting benefits for our community members for years to come.

With Special Thanks To:

Economic Development Officer David Kattegatsiak, the Mayor, Senior Administrative Officer and Council Members for their guidance and support, and most importantly to our community’s members, leadership, Elders, partners and youth for contributing their vision for the Chesterfield Inlet Community Economic Development Plan.

For more information on this project such as partnership opportunities and/or involvement please kindly contact David Kattegatsiak at (867) 898-9206.

http://chesterfield-inlet.ca/

This is Part 1 – Executive Summary, of 2 parts. Full report available upon request.

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