



News Release

Community participation is key to planning for economic development

IQALUIT, Nunavut (May 19, 2000) - Sustainable Development Minister Peter Kilabuk and Nunavut Association of Municipalities President Dennis Lyall say one of the keys to the economic success of Nunavut is the development of community-based and supported strategies.

“Hamlets strongly support the Government of Nunavut’s efforts to create an economic strategy for Nunavut that has a strong foundation in our communities,” Minister Kilabuk said. “The government has opened the dialogue with communities and I am committed to continuing this process.”

Minister Kilabuk met with community leaders to discuss economic development and to launch the Forum on the Economy during the Nunavut Association of Municipalities Annual General Meeting in Iqaluit. In his presentation, Minister Kilabuk outlined his department’s Community Initiative Program, a \$2.5 million fund to support community projects, including the creation of economic development plans.

“We need this information if we are to plan effectively for the development of local economies,” Mr. Lyall said. “Developing this relationship with the government is also important if communities are going to contribute to the economic strategy of the entire territory.”

Minister Kilabuk added that the Department of Sustainable Development would spend more than \$1.6 million to help fund community economic development officer positions in Nunavut hamlets in 2000-2001.

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For more information, contact

Wende Halonen

Manager, Communications

Government of Nunavut

☎ (867) 979-5822

📠 (867) 979-5833

Email: whalonen@gov.nu.ca