



SakKijânginnatuk Nunalik:

PHASE ONE:

Understanding opportunities and challenges for sustainable communities in Nunatsiavut

The SakKijânginnatuk Nunalik initiative has as its overall goal to inform best practices and provide guidance for enhancing community sustainability in Nunatsiavut. It has received strong support from the Joint Management Committee of the Nunatsiavut Government as well as communities along the North coast. The objective of Phase I was to understand current community priorities, challenges and opportunities through a series of workshops with focus groups from each community. While acknowledging local contexts and priorities, clear themes related to community sustainability emerged across the region:

- **Infrastructure, housing and community development** – enhance design (building lot and structure, water and sewer infrastructure), durability, cultural appropriateness, environmental suitability and life span of the built environment;
- **Valued spaces and places** – protect natural spaces, important buildings and landmarks, trails and roads (both traditional and modern), native vegetation and water bodies;
- **Energy security** – improved access to and reliability of energy (diesel, oil, and wood) and support alternative/renewable energy and energy efficiency;
- **Food security** – support healthy families through improved access to affordable, high quality, diverse country and market foods;
- **Transportation and emergency services** – improve critical transportation and emergency infrastructure, including airports and wharfs; establish public transportation in larger communities; facilitate open discussion of a road network connecting coastal communities and Goose Bay;
- **Safe communities** – advance human health and support a healthy environment by addressing issues related to water, dust, contaminated sites, diesel generators, quarries and garbage dumps in and around communities.

Alignment with Government Strategies and Action Plans

The SakKijânginnatuk Nunalik initiative is strongly aligned with the Nunatsiavut Government's Strategic Plan, specifically issues of Housing, Capacity Building, and Economic and Resource Development, as well as the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's Northern Strategic and Climate Change Action Plans; for example, Objective 1.2 seeks to "promote best practices in community development in the north through appropriate planning and building practices to support long-term sustainability".



Next Steps

Phase II of the initiative aims to adopt an integrated and holistic approach to the challenges and priorities identified by communities. It will explore innovative solutions and establish best practices in community development in the north. Specifically, Phase II will focus on issues that are central to community wellbeing and sustainability; they include, among others:

- Adapt and modify building codes and best practices for building design through local design charettes in partnership with community members and stakeholders;
- Create or adapt community sustainability plans for the new climate reality;
- Pilot the implementation of climate-adapted coastal infrastructure and evaluate the performance of that infrastructure (eg. integrity, energy efficiency, social suitability) over time;
- Build the local capacity and skills required to improve the long-term environmental, social and economic sustainability of Inuit communities.

Broad Government support for the SakKijânginnatuk Nunalik initiative will ensure that Nunatsiavut communities have the information and support needed to adapt to the already occurring and unavoidable impacts of environmental and social changes, while embracing integrated plans and opportunities to make Inuit communities more resilient and sustainable.

Principles

Transparent	to community leaders, decision-makers and community members
Respectful	of Inuit values, individual thoughts, community contexts and priorities
Accountable	to all residents of Nunatsiavut communities
Collaborative	with community members, regional decision-makers, governments, industry stakeholders and university partners

Timeframe and Governance

Phase I of the SakKijânginnatuk Nunalik initiative was completed in 10 months. Phase II is expected to take four years, including the exploration of adaptive solutions and the start of pilot implementation in communities. Directed by the Joint Management Committee of the Nunatsiavut Government, the SakKijânginnatuk Nunalik initiative and associated programs are managed by the Environment Division.