



Tungasuvvingat Inuit

## Urban Partnerships *Increasing Inuit Participation in Urban Economies*

### Project Background – Phase I

#### 1. Background

Tungasuvvingat Inuit (TI) recently secured funding from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) under the Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAS) for the *Increasing Inuit Participation in Urban Economies* project. The project aims to establish a National Urban Inuit Strategy that will create a network of support, programs and initiatives to assist Inuit living in urban environments to fully participate in their local economies.

#### 2. Phase I Activities

Phase I has a number of planned activities occurring between March 1 – September 30, 2015, including: the creation of local urban community groups and partnerships; development of local strategic plans; and, the hosting of a national strategic planning and networking event.

##### 2.1 Local Urban Community Groups and Partnerships

TI, in partnership with local Inuit urban community groups, will host community engagement sessions in the following cities:

- Ottawa, ON (June 8 – 9, 2015)
- Edmonton, AB (June 29 – 30, 2015)
- Toronto, ON (July 13 – 14, 2015)
- St. John's, NL (July 20 – 21, 2015)
- Winnipeg, MB (July 27 – 28, 2015)
- Montreal, QC (August 5 – 6, 2015) – Revised Dates

The engagement process will include a broad segment of the local Inuit population, including: community leaders, Elders, youth, women and men. Participants may also include service providers, local, regional, provincial, territorial or federal government representatives.

The goal will be to engage the Inuit community and develop an Urban Inuit Strategic Plan focused on the full participation of the Inuit community in the urban economies. The Plan will be based on discussions about the realities faced by the Inuit populations within each city, identify the challenges, successes, strengths, existing assets and services. The Plan will set out goals and objectives to assist Inuit transition to the urban environment in order to better support urban Inuit and the community to reduce barriers to participation in urban economies.

##### 2.2 Development of Local Strategic Plans

Urban Inuit Strategic Plans will identify priority areas and coordinate efforts to assist Inuit participation in the local economies. The Strategic Plans will include existing local and regional plans, reports and strategies and will seek to build on what already exists. TI will aim to build consensus within each Inuit population in each city on where they want to go and how they want to get there. The Plans will include the identification of existing barriers and strategies and suggested ways to overcome identified barriers and allow each community to identify their own priorities and focus their efforts in those particular areas. The Plans will also serve as the basis

for a broader discussion on increasing Inuit awareness and access to existing federal, provincial and local programs and initiatives.

### **2.3 Hosting of National Strategic Planning and Networking Event**

The outcomes of the local discussions will be presented and validated at the national session. A key outcome of the session will be the identification of common themes, issues, barriers, priorities and successes that were identified during the local sessions.

The national session will also provide the opportunity to present the local discussion outcomes to Inuit representative organizations and to federal and provincial/territorial representatives. It will also be an opportunity for government to present and discuss initiatives they have already undertaken and how they may assist Inuit transition to participate successfully in the urban environment. The event will also identify existing programs that could be refined to be more culturally sensitive to Inuit cultural values as well as more accessible to the urban Inuit population.

Finally, the event will provide all levels of government with an opportunity to network and begin a dialogue on potential opportunities and partnerships to improve, enhance and coordinate a National Urban Inuit Strategy that will see a marked improvement in Inuit participation in Canada's urban centre economies.

For more information, please contact:

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