

# The Business of Mining: a CEDO's Perspective

**Keith Collier**

Community Economic Development Officer  
Hamlet of Arviat

Nunavut Mining Symposium

April 10, 2014



# The Business of Mining - Overview

- Overview of Arviat
- Arviat CED Goals
  - Training Programs
- Arviat's Entrepreneurs
  - Roadblocks to Business
- Developing Mining Business
  - Training.
  - Mentoring
  - Stakeholder roles.
- Conclusion – Success Stories

# Arviat - Overview

- Large, young, rapidly growing population
- High demand for employment
- Close to Churchill and Rankin Inlet
- Quiet and isolated – but connected
- Important for stakeholders to understand the communities





# Arviat Workforce

- Large numbers of people seeking employment.
- Largely low levels of education, training, and experience.
- Population is very young and growing very fast – so demand for jobs, housing, & infrastructure is going to grow exponentially.
- Social challenges and barriers to employment.



# Arviat Businesses

## General Businesses:

- Some established local businesses, especially in construction.
- Large retailers are major economic contributors and employers.
- Eskimo Point Lumber Supply is the major local business, with operations in retail, logistics, transportation, hotels, and construction.
- Small business startup is a challenge.

## Mining businesses:

- EPLS does some logistics, camp supply, and construction.
- EPLS benefits from demand for hotels in Arviat and have opened Katimavik Suites in Rankin Inlet.
- But in general, businesses serving the mining sector are based in Rankin Inlet, and it is difficult for Arviat to compete.

# Arviat CED Focus Areas

Community Economic Development Plan, 2013-2018:

1. Targeted Training
  2. Education, Career Development, & Workforce Participation
  3. Cultural Resources, Renewable Resources, & Tourism
- Priority is training and workforce development to get Arviammiut into skilled, high-paying jobs, particularly in mining.
  - Business development is not a priority at this time.



# Training Programs – Overview



- Flagship Program - Arviat Diamond Driller's Training Program
  - 8 weeks, 12 students
  - 43 grads to date
  - 60% employment rate
- Class 5/Class 3 Driving
  - Class 3 Literacy Challenges



# Training Programs – Cont'd



- Welder's Trade Readiness Programs
  - 8 weeks, 8 students
  - First Program Completed March 2014
  - Job possibilities
- Work Readiness Program
  - 3 week 'intervention'
  - Good results



# Arviat Entrepreneurs



- History of Entrepreneurial activity.
- Entrepreneurial spirit is still there.
- But capacity and financial resources are a challenge.

# Roadblocks to Business

- Wealth/Capital
- Education/Capacity
- Comfort with Bureacracy
- Commercial Space
- Shortage of local Professional Services – banks, etc.



# Businesses Opportunities in Mining



- Services – mechanical, professional, etc.
  - Kiluk Ltd.
- Expediting/Transportation
- Training
- Guiding

# Other Business Opportunities

- Renewable Resources
  - Fisheries
  - Berries
  - Caribou
- Tourism
- Arts & Crafts
- Professional Services





# Business – How do we get from A - B?

- Potential entrepreneurs need assistance and guidance.
- Mentorship
- Financial Resources
- Infrastructure
- Stakeholder roles
- A new approach?



# The Business of Mining



- Mining is an opportunity for businesses.
- But potential entrepreneurs may not have the skills and capital needed to take advantage.
- Partnerships are crucial.
- Training is the key to development and capitalizing on opportunity.
- But wealth is a missing piece of the puzzle.
- Preferential bidding limitations.

# Success Stories

## Businesses

- Double K Outfitters
- Sherlyn's Designs
- Inuit Creative Expressions
- Kiluk Ltd.

## Themes

- Education
- Experience
- Current Employment
- Multiple Activities/Revenue Streams





# Thank You – Questions?

**Keith Collier**

Community Economic  
Development Officer

Hamlet of Arviat

(867) 857-2941  
[arviatcedo@qiniq.com](mailto:arviatcedo@qiniq.com)

