ILISAQSIVIK SOCIETY

Clyde River, Nunavut

Ilisaqsivik Society is a non-profit community organization operating in Clyde River, Nunavut. It operates the Ilisaqsivik Family Resource Centre. The society runs 60-70 programs at any given time that include a food component. These programs focus on promoting strong nutrition and effective ways of using healthy country and store-bought foods. All programs also try to include some opportunities for developing cooking skills. Seasonal land camps and land-based programs provide country foods.

A community with continuing high unemployment, Ilisaqsivik has been concerned about making food available at times between government cheques, in the development of stronger access and reliance on nutritious country foods and in looking at ways to address chronic un and under employment.



Recently, in partnership with TIDES Canada (tidescanada.org) the society ran a pilot paying a full-time hunter a wage which included covering harvesting costs. It's aim was to assess the potential for harvesting as employment. At the same time, Ilisaqsivik is working with the HTO on a new building where country foods can be processed, similar to the fish plant operation in Pangnirtung and is being funded through Baffinland Iron Mines Ltd. The idea of making country foods more readily available through these types of initiatives is the kind of innovative solutions that Inuit are seeking in addressing both the specters of unemployment and food insecurity in their communities.





ILISAQSIVIK SOCIETY

Clyde River, Nunavut

Ilisaqsivik has launched on an ambitious social enterprise approach. They have built a community hotel both to provide employment and income for further program development. They are actively exploring a second hotel and other facilities which can generate income and employment.

They have also created a for profit arm as a business development initiative which hopes to create new opportunities and respond to the strategic planning they engaged in through community consultations. This new stage may result in the establishment of a store that could further impact lowering food pricing and availability and start to address food security in an on-going way. There are many challenges associated with the success of such a project. These challenges require more supportive policy and legislation to facilitate both social enterprise and small business development in our communities.



