



Context

A recent study shows that the level of poverty in Nunavik is two to three times higher than in other parts of Québec. Moreover, poverty in our region is continuing to increase, while elsewhere in Québec and Canada, it is decreasing. The low level of education of Nunavimmiut is a barrier to employment, and constitutes one of the major elements contributing to poverty.

A Few of the Challenges

In Nunavik, 50% of the population is under the age of 20, and 93.4% of students drop out of classes before completing high school. A wide variety of jobs exist in the region; however, because 58% of these full-time positions require post-secondary education or trade certification, many can not be filled by Nunavimmiut.

A long-term labour plan that integrates the various actions and initiatives of different stakeholders needs to be developed.

As Québec follows through on its goal to develop the north, expanded mining activities are expected to continue to drive demand for more qualified workers. Increasing the number of Nunavimmiut qualified to work in mining will be a major challenge.

The Kativik Regional Government has prioritized the hiring of Nunavimmiut in the region's construction industry over several years without Québec-government support.

For many jobs in Nunavik, locally organized vocational training is the best solution. However, because many other positions require college or university diplomas, college programs and infrastructure are needed in the region to help youth stay in school longer.

The criteria for many training programs funded by the federal and provincial governments are inapplicable in Nunavik.

Despite the job opportunities with Nunavik organizations in Montreal, Inuit living in this city also face serious employment difficulties. There is an absence of appropriate training programs.

Solutions and Priorities

Youth need to be encouraged to stay in school, and to strive to obtain higher levels of education and trade certification. The development of a school retention strategy will help focus regional efforts in this respect, but the mobilization of resources and limited funding remain an issue.

