

Exploring Northern Economic Development

Introduction to Special Issue: Northern Economic Development

Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency

The Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor) is one of seven federal regional development agencies. Celebrating its fifteenth anniversary, the Agency has fostered diversified and dynamic economies that promote long-term sustainable growth and prosperity across Nunavut, the Northwest Territories, and the Yukon, with offices in Iqaluit, Yellowknife, Whitehorse, and Ottawa.

CanNor collaborates closely with communities, businesses, Indigenous organizations, and various levels of government to help unlock the economic potential of the North. The Agency's initiatives support building a skilled workforce, enabling firms to seize opportunities, and creating high-quality jobs. CanNor's work helps close the North's infrastructure gap, advance sustainable resource development, and promote diversification and innovation.

CanNor is pleased to partner with Yukon University to support this special issue exploring northern economic development, including the contributions of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis businesses. Grounded in the North, for the North, advancing economic opportunities is at the heart of CanNor's work.

- In Nunavut, CanNor houses Pilimmaksaivik, the Federal Centre of Excellence for Inuit Employment, which leads a number of initiatives to support the education, recruitment, retention, and talent management of Inuit in the federal public service.
- In the Northwest Territories, CanNor is investing in five local food initiatives to support communities, organizations, and businesses in improving infrastructure to produce, harvest, process, and distribute local and country foods, as well as in promoting a competitive agricultural sector in the territory.

- In the Yukon, CanNor, along with the territorial government, is providing funding for the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations to build and launch T'su Ghay (Spruce Roots), an industrial sewing makerspace, benefiting First Nations women entrepreneurs and supporting cultural revitalization.
- CanNor's Northern Projects Management Office oversees the Crown's consultation record for major infrastructure and resource development projects across the territories to ensure that potentially impacted Indigenous peoples and communities are consulted and accommodated, and that their views are considered in decisions on major projects.

Starting with this volume, CanNor's partnership with Yukon University will support three consecutive annual special issues of the *Northern Review* focused on research related to economic development in the Canadian North and Arctic. CanNor actively seeks new partnerships to expand opportunities for meaningful, locally engaged, and globally relevant research on northern economic development. We welcome inquiries from interested academics, institutions, and research networks.

The views and opinions expressed in this volume are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Government of Canada.