

Pathways to Prosperity: Northern Governance and Economy Conference Overview

The purpose of the conference is to:

- Bring together Indigenous and Northern business leaders, policy makers, and social activists with academics working on Indigenous and Northern issues for information exchange and networking;
- Vision how political institutions could change to better accommodate shifting governance authorities (land claim, self government, devolution) to create social and economic stability;
- Vision concrete partnerships, mechanisms and strategic goals essential for actioning change toward social and economic stability and prosperity.

Participants

Business and social issues advocates often operate in solitude, or speak about each other but rarely have forums to work together. The exception is Indigenous governments and businesses: often established through land claims capital, one purpose of Indigenous business is to promote social and economic opportunity for its membership. The impact of land claim businesses, the employment and profit they generate, and their influence in the social sphere extends beyond Indigenous peoples to affect the broader NWT economy and citizens. Participants will have time to reflect on NWT political institutions' roles in creating social and business stability and prosperity, and how policies of and changes in those institutions might improve the socio-economic landscape.

Panels and Workshops

Panels and Workshops for this conference will include (but not be limited to) topics such as:

- Colonization Impacts: implications for governance institutions, businesses and economic policy;
- Culture and Indigenous peoples governance institutions;
- Why educational quality, cultural relevance, and resourcing matters for economic development;
- Land relationship, wellness and economy;
- Negotiating Impact Benefit Agreements;
- Case Study: Alaska Native Corporations and Cultural Renewal;
- Case Study: Indigenous Governments and Businesses in the NWT.