



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

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Northern Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative (NICFI)

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PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

The Northern Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative (NICFI) was launched to help Indigenous groups:

- Build knowledge and skills required to manage fisheries enterprises;
- Increase access to training to fish safely and effectively operate their vessels;
- Build the capacity needed to meet future commercial fisheries operations, administration and training requirements independently; and
- Enhance economic returns from fisheries and aquaculture for the local and broader benefit of communities.

NICFI PRINCIPLES



Focus on long-term solutions

TAILORED TO THE NORTH

- The engagement sessions that helped feed into the co-design and co-development of NICFI included experienced hunters, trappers, and commercial fish harvesters in communities across the Kitikmeot region of Nunavut, along with regional wildlife board members.
- These sessions helped shape the programming goals, which include generating employment, addressing food security and helping with the unique challenges of operating in the North.
- Commitment to providing the support under NICFI on an ongoing, year-over-year basis, which will allow for long-term planning horizons and goals for communities.
- NICFI also aims to help enable opportunities to leverage other funding sources from other organizations (e.g., CanNor, other federal departments, and/or Territorial or Provincial Governments).

NICFI PRINCIPLES

Focus on long-term solutions

TAILORED TO THE NORTH

- NICFI features three different capacity-building models to tailor program support to the needs of the community. The three models are:
 - **Commercial:** Honing enterprise governance and business management skills, building capacity in commercial fisheries and aquaculture operations, and ensuring a resource co-management role.
 - **Local Redistributive:** Developing business management skills, building capacity in redistributive fisheries operations, and improving indicators of health and food security.
 - **Combined Commercial/Redistributive:** Ensuring program design flexibility for redistributive businesses moving into small-scale commercial activities.

FOUR PILLARS OF NICFI

Capacity Building (Business Development)

- Provide support to develop business plans, document effective business practices and strengthen enterprise governance structures.
- Provide support to help implement the business plan (Management, Accounting, Marketing) and hire dedicated resources from within the community.

Expansion and Diversification

- Will support projects with business cases directly linked to a business plan to expand and diversify commercial or redistributive fisheries enterprises.
 - Purchase or upgrade fishing vessels and gear
 - Develop on-shore facilities (e.g. community freezer, processing facility, vessel compound)
 - Purchase of access or quota

Training

- Provide support to develop an enterprise-wide training plan where training needs are identified (harvester and business management training).
- Provide support to implement training initiatives identified in the training plan (e.g. harvester safety training, mentoring, and safe handling and harvesting practices, etc.)

Aquaculture

- Provide support for sustainable aquaculture operations.
- This includes costs to expand or upgrade existing aquaculture facilities, for materials required in new and expanded operations, and those associated with entering into an aquaculture business.

REDISTRIBUTION MODEL

OUTCOMES

Self-Sustaining Communities

- HEALTHIER, LOWER COST FOOD
- CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE FOOD
- STRONGER LOCAL ECONOMIES



PLANNING & MANAGEMENT

INVEST IN PLANNING & MANAGEMENT

- WHAT DOES THE COMMUNITY NEED?
- WHO HUNTS & FISHERS?
- WHAT TRAINING IS NEEDED?
- WHERE AND HOW IS IT HARVESTED?
- HOW IS IT STORED?
- WHAT EQUIPMENT IS NEEDED?
- HOW IS IT DISTRIBUTED?
- WHAT ARE THE COSTS?
- WHAT AGREEMENTS NEED TO BE MADE?
 - Schools
 - Restaurants
 - Artisans

HOW DOES IT WORK?

DISTRIBUTION

STORAGE IN COMMUNITY

Freezer Manager

FOOD AWARENESS PROGRAMS

ARTISANS: Clothes, Tools, Crafts

CHILDREN & SCHOOLS

ELDERS

HARVESTERS ARE PAID

HARVESTING & PROCESSING

MOBILE

Freezer

Harvester

Processing

TRAINING

TRAINING HARVESTERS

SAFE HANDLING & PROCESSING

DISTRIBUTION

MENTORSHIP

INFRASTRUCTURE

PROCESSING FACILITIES

COMMUNITY FREEZERS

HARVESTING EQUIPMENT

INVEST IN TRAINING & INFRASTRUCTURE

KEY PARTNERS

- TERRITORIAL/PROVINCIAL/INDIGENOUS GOVERNMENTS
- DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS
- LOCAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES
- HUNTERS & TRAPPERS ORGANIZATIONS
- NUTRITION NORTH HARVESTERS' SUPPORT GRANT
- CANADIAN FOOD INSPECTION AGENCY
- EMPLOYMENT & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CANADA

- **Reach out to the NICFI Business Development Team at the National Indigenous Fisheries Institute**
 - The NICFI Business Development Team can assist communities with developing a commercial, local redistributive, or a combined fishery.
 - They are available to set up discussions and meetings, and they can assist with the development of a business plan for your community's fishery and NICFI applications at no cost to the community.
- **Contacts:**
 - National Indigenous Fisheries Institute Business Development Team:
 - Vernon Amos (867) 678-5361 / vernon@indigenousfisheries.ca
 - Shaun Cormier (778) 675-8882 / shaun@indigenousfisheries.ca
 - The NICFI Program Authority from Fisheries and Oceans Canada can be contacted at the following email address: DFO.NICFI-IPCIN.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
- **Check out the program guides that are available online:**
 - <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/aboriginal-autochtones/nicfi-ipcin/index-eng.html>