

- This young population has little formal education, restricting opportunities even where jobs are available.
- The North continues to be heavily dependent on subsidies from the federal government. Creating a tax base remains problematic.
- The remoteness of the region contributes to very high transportation, energy, and communications costs and limited market access.
- Many northern communities are suffering from social problems, including frighteningly high rates of youth suicide.
- Strengthening the skills and knowledge necessary to maintain traditional activities as a viable lifestyle option is as important as ever.

*"The Government of Canada agrees with the [Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples'] conclusion that Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people must work together, using a non-adversarial approach, to shape a new vision of their relationship and to make that vision a reality. In that spirit, Canada is undertaking to build a renewed partnership with Aboriginal people and governments."*

—Gathering Strength, 1997

The learning will be in the doing as the journey toward sustainable development in the Canadian North continues. Partnership and capacity building with Indigenous peoples are cornerstones of the Government of Canada's sustainable development strategies in the North. The Government of Canada is committed to building the foundations for sustainable development by working with Indigenous peoples as they create their own institutions and craft their own development models.