

On the question of capacity, it was felt that more federal and provincial support for northern communities would be beneficial to capacity building generally. Financial limitations and distances between northern communities (in BC and other parts of Canada) were identified as key obstacles to capacity building. There was also a sense that we must not recreate the wheel. In other words, we must use efficiently the resources that exist in our communities.

The recommendations below are preliminary, given that the workshop marked the first time that this kind of group was brought together. Many of the recommendations listed below focus on building on already established local initiatives, highlight the resources found in the presence of the University of Northern BC, or point to the need for sustained support from different levels of government.

Recommendations

- * First Nations peoples must be included in any discussions of the North and capacity building in Northern communities.
- * We cannot wait for the government(s) to acknowledge the Northern existence and to legitimize us. We must define and advocate our own community needs. These efforts may include exchanges with southern communities and universities so they can learn more about northern perspectives and northern views of foreign policy.
- * Northern communities should build on already established networks and work to ensure that there is effective communication within communities.
- * Work to create a sense of community with NGO circles. This will help build a more united and more informed NGO community. It will also aid in building a voice and identity for the north.
- * Create linkages within the NGO community in northern British Columbia, across provincial/territorial boundaries, and between circumpolar communities in various countries.