
FAQ - IFA ECONOMIC MEASURES REVIEW FINAL REPORT

This FAQ is based on the Inuvialuit Final Agreement Economic Measures Review Final Report from December 2024.
Read the report [here](#).

1. What is the Economic Measures Review?

It's a public review required under section 16 of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA). It looks at whether the economic measures are helping Inuvialuit participate fully in the northern Canadian economy and develop economic self-reliance and a solid economic base.

2. Why was the review done?

The IFA requires economic measures reviews every five years while section 16 obligations remain in effect. The first review was completed in 2000 and this is the first substantial review since then. It looks at the overall economic health of the ISR, what has changed since 2001 and how section 16 is being implemented.

3. Who was involved?

The review was overseen by representatives of

- Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC)
- Government of Canada
- Government of the Northwest Territories
- Government of Yukon

Big River Analytics conducted the research. Interviews were held with 30 people, including Inuvialuit elders, leaders, community members, development and business representatives and federal and territorial officials.

4. What did the review examine?

The review looked at seven connected areas:

- population and demographics
- culture
- social wellbeing and health
- education
- housing
- labour and employment
- the economy

It used Census and government information, data about programs and investments and interviews that provided community experience and context.

5. What's the main conclusion?

The report concludes that section 16 economic goals had not been met as of 2023. IRC has built more capacity and delivered important programs and investments. Some beneficiaries and businesses are doing well. But progress has not been shared equally, and many people still face economic and social barriers.

6. What progress did the review identify?

- The percentage of people with a high school diploma or higher increased in every ISR community between 2001 and 2021.
- After adjusting for inflation, the typical income for individuals in the ISR went up between 2001 and 2021.
- High school graduation improved across the ISR, rising from about 50% in 2001 to about 62% in 2021, supported in part by IRC Education and Training funding and programs such as ISET and other federal and territorial funding streams.
- The number of procurement-ready businesses based in the ISR increased.
- There's optimism about opportunities in tourism and construction.
- More people in the ISR are producing arts and crafts, even as production has decreased elsewhere in the Northwest Territories. The report points to arts and crafts as both an economic opportunity and a way to preserve, share and renew Inuvialuit culture, stories and traditions.
- From 2009 to 2021, 2,537 federal contracts, worth approximately \$146.8 million, were awarded to 12 businesses in the ISR.
- Data showed that approximately \$9.5 million was provided in the ISR through eight labour programs from 2009 to 2021.

7. What concerns did the review identify?

The report found little or no significant improvement in several priority areas, including culture, health and housing.

It also identified:

- declining participation in hunting and fishing
- declining Indigenous-language use
- continuing poverty in ISR communities
- serious concerns about substance use
- housing shortages, high costs and homes needing major repairs
- young people leaving their communities for education and employment opportunities

People interviewed for the review described a “two-tiered” system. Some people have developed a strong economic base, while others are experiencing worsening conditions and greater economic and social marginalization.

8. What does the 2021 beneficiary information show?

In 2021, 3,130 Inuvialuit living in private dwellings resided in the ISR.

Among Inuvialuit living in the ISR

- 10.7% reported an Inuit language as their mother tongue.
- 47.6% had a high school or post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree.
- The employment rate was 47%.
- The unemployment rate was 16%.
- 54.1% of Inuvialuit workers worked full time throughout the year.
- Median total individual income was \$33,200.
- Median income was \$42,800 for the total ISR population and \$84,000 for the non-Indigenous population.
- 14% were categorized as having low income after tax.

These figures provide a 2021 starting point for measuring future change. They don’t describe every beneficiary’s experience.

9. What did the report say about housing?

Housing is a major concern. In 2021

- 18.2% of Inuit households in the ISR had unsuitable housing.
- 30.7% lived in dwellings needing major repairs.
- Inuit households in Tuktoyaktuk had the highest level of unsuitable housing, at 29.2%.
- Paulatuk had the highest percentage of Inuit households living in homes needing major repairs, at 50%.

The report also identifies limited housing supply, affordability problems and barriers to building new homes. Twelve new housing complexes were completed in the ISR between 2018 and 2022, but their longer-term effects weren’t yet visible in the available socioeconomic data.

10. Are Inuvialuit businesses receiving government contracts?

Yes, but the results are mixed. Beneficiary-owned businesses received 47.7% of the federal contracts examined for 2009–2021. However, those contracts represented only 31.6% of the total contract value. Non-beneficiary-owned businesses received 68.4% of the total value.

The report identifies procurement as an area where implementation, coordination and results require continued attention.

11. Why can’t the report say exactly which programs caused which results?

The available information had important limitations. Data often

- weren’t collected every year
- didn’t identify Inuvialuit recipients
- covered too short a period
- used inconsistent program names
- didn’t include usable counts
- didn’t provide enough observations for detailed statistical analysis. The review can show trends and possible links, but it cannot prove that one specific investment caused one specific result. Other major events also affected people and communities, including COVID-19, climate change and boom-and-bust economic cycles.

12. What does the report recommend?

The report also makes clear that IRC will continue to hold the Inuvialuit Corporate Group, Canada, the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Yukon accountable to the IFA so section 16 is implemented in a way that benefits the ISR and Inuvialuit. The report calls for

- continued collaboration among all IFA parties
- sustained, flexible and long-term investment
- better coordination of programs and services
- clearer roles and responsibilities
- stronger relationships among IRC and federal and territorial governments
- annual and consistent reporting on programs, investments and activities
- information that identifies Inuvialuit beneficiaries and recipients
- clear reporting of funding amounts, dates, program duration and results

13. What does this mean for beneficiaries?

The review provides evidence that the section 16 objectives haven't yet been achieved and that the work must continue. It can support discussions and decisions about housing, employment, education and training, procurement, language and culture, health and community investment.

It also creates a 2021 Inuvialuit-specific starting point that can be compared with future information to see whether conditions are improving.

Important note

This FAQ summarizes a detailed public report. It does not replace the IFA or the complete Economic Measures Review and should not be considered legal advice. The full report is available to read at: inuvialuit.com/documents/inuvialuit-final-agreement-economic-measures-review-final-report/

About Us

Inuvialuit Regional Corporation represents the collective interests of Inuvialuit, advancing their rights, culture, and long-term prosperity. Through strong partnerships and community-driven programs, the organization supports economic growth, cultural preservation and opportunities for current and future generations.