

**MINUTES
CITY OF IQALUIT
COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING #01
OCTOBER 30, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

PRESENT FROM COUNCIL

Councillor Methusalah Kunuk, Chair
Deputy Mayor Kimberly Smith, Vice Chair
Jessie Hale, Member at Large
Laura Thompson, Member at Large
Lauren Allan, Member at Large
Taya Tootoo, Member at Large

ABSENT

Mayor Solomon Awa, Ex Officio Member
Councillor Kyle Sheppard
Steve England, Chief Administrative Officer
Adam Fisher, Member at Large

PRESENT FROM ADMINISTRATION

Brianna Longworth, City Clerk
Dominik Gagné, Economic Development Officer – City Staff Resource
Bill Williams, Senior Executive Director of Municipal Infrastructure and
Planning – City Staff Resource

Councillor Kunuk opened the meeting at 6:01 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion CEDC 25-01

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Smith
Seconded by: Lauren Allan

Adoption of agenda as presented.

Unanimously Carried

1. MINUTES

- a) **Community Economic Development Committee Meeting #01 Minutes
dated August 8, 2024**

Motion CEDC 25-02

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Smith

Seconded by: Taya Tootoo

Community Economic Development Committee Meeting #01 Minutes dated August 8, 2024.

Unanimously Carried

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

3. DELEGATIONS

None

4. DEFERRED BUSINESS AND TABLED ITEMS

None

5. NEW BUSINESS

a) Introduction of New Economic Development Officer – Verbal

Bill Williams, Senior Executive Director of Municipal Infrastructure and Planning, introduced and welcomed Dominik Gagné, Economic Development Officer.

b) Operational Overview

Dominik Gagné, Economic Development Officer, presented an Operational Overview – Economic Development Officer - Activity Report.

Deputy Mayor Smith made the following comments, to which Mr. Gagné provided information:

- Positive feedback regarding work on internal systems to streamline processes
- Website has the ability for On-line Application for Business License
- Helpful for residents and businesses to access resources on website
- Prioritize developing a functional website to provide users with ability to access information
- Website should offer the ability for a payment portal
 - Cloudpermit software system offers the ability to develop a payment portal
 - Consideration must be given to internal processes
 - Will discuss with staff

Bill Williams, Senior Executive Director of Municipal Infrastructure and Planning, made the following comments:

- Staff are working on a digital transformation
- Cloudpermit software system
 - Being used by Planning and Development
 - Extending to Business Licensing
 - Other services are being considered
- Working on data security
- Finance and Corporate Services will be updated for payment processing

Jessie Hale made the following comment/questions, which Mr. Gagné answered:

- Acknowledged the increase in city events
- Have you met with non-profit organizations?
 - Have met with some non-profit organizations and provided assistance
 - Resources are not as readily available as they are for small businesses
- How do you see non-profit organizations playing a role in your position?
 - During Lunch-and-Learn events was able to meet and discuss
 - Gathered resources to provide information and possible opportunities
- Non-profit organizations are an untapped source of economic development
- There are 125 non-profit organizations in Iqaluit.
- Employ over 1,000 people
- Contribute five percent to the gross domestic product
- Encourage contacting non-profit organizations to provide assistance with various things

Bill Williams, Senior Executive Director of Municipal Infrastructure and Planning, made the following comments:

- There are three pillars that the Economic Development Officer provides.
 - Licensing – mandatory legislative directive
 - Pathfinding – businesses and non-profits
 - Workforce development – workforce for the city as a whole and matching demands for businesses and organizations
- Working on different initiatives and opportunities, which will continue to grow and help various businesses and organizations
- Economic Development typically works to grow business development
 - Iqaluit currently has businesses that require support
 - Growing business development is not a priority at this time

Taya Tootoo made the following comments/questions, which Mr. Williams answered:

- Boom in economic development being proposed by the federal government through Arctic relocation
 - Arctic security will be a concern, which will change the economic systems in the territory
- Is consideration being given to future planning for the next five to ten years?

- What will business development look like for Inuit property owners to have Inuit-owned businesses?
- Are policies being put in place to ensure Inuit-owned businesses have a priority and support that is needed?
- Southern businesses are finding northern Inuit partners to fund 50 percent of Inuit-owned business
- Economic change is coming within the next few years with cruise ship, deep sea port, tourism, and television show. How can Inuit be supported locally to have the opportunity to create and sustain businesses without relying on major southern partners?
 - City has an Economic Development Plan, which was finalized and approved last year, and is a guiding document
 - City is a public government and serves everyone
 - Cannot prioritize anyone
 - Based on contribution agreement with Government of Nunavut
 - Education regarding joint ventures and partnerships –
 - Can play a role in education with ongoing Lunch-and Learn series
 - Advocacy around procurement priorities – Government of Nunavut and federal government on procurement practices
 - Council sets their procurement opportunities
 - Committee could discuss further for consideration
 - Overall, follow the Economic Development Plan in conjunction with the Planning and Lands Department on incoming businesses
 - There seems to be a lot of announcements, but until there are firm developments and permits, it is difficult to determine what is needed.
 - It can take up to five years before a business becomes a reality.
 - Will work with partners to be ready for any opportunities
- What can be done to ensure that Inuit are being protected and supported by promoting the creation of local businesses to avoid business coming from the south?
- Important to keep the economy in Iqaluit
 - City administers Business Licenses
 - City cannot tell anyone who they can do business with
 - Individuals doing ventures with joint partnerships are local businesses and residents
 - Educational sessions regarding joint ventures with fair and equal partnership, and best business practices can be offered
- Who creates the policies to ensure that supports are in place to administer Business Licenses?
- In terms of economic boom, what procedures ensure there are policies in place to protect the local economy so it can grow versus southern manufacturers?
- There is so much opportunity in the north and a lot of opportunity that is here is not seen.
- Who creates policies to ensure protections for the community?

- Consideration must be given to who is buying/procuring the services/goods/product
- A lot of economic development in Iqaluit is not the City's projects. They are federal government, private businesses, Inuit organizations and many people making investments.
- City has a procurement process in place for local and best value within the Procurement By-law that is set by Council
- Other private and government entities have their own procurement policies to buy goods and services

Deputy Mayor Smith made the following comments:

- There has been some development in the Core Area.
- Recently, Council approved developing the West 40 for commercial, industrial, outfitting space and dedicated lots for eco-tourism
 - Disposal of lots will provide opportunity
- Difficult to start a small business with the lack of available space, exorbitant cost of leasing space, operation cost and lack of resources
- Discussions were held regarding incubator space, which could be beneficial to local businesses to help get them started

6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion CEDC 25-03

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Smith

Seconded by: Laura Thompson

Committee adjourns at 6:34 p.m.

Unanimously Carried

Councillor Methusalah Kunuk
Chair

Dominik Gagné
Economic Development Officer – City Staff
Resource

Approved by the Community Economic Development Committee on the _____ day
of _____ 2026.

Note:

At the March 24, 2026, City Council Meeting #03, Council unanimously approved Motion No. 26-51, which states:

“Council folds the existing committees of Council into the Governance and Priorities Committee of the Whole.”

Following the restructuring of Community Economic Development Committee, the committee no longer meets to approve its minutes, and these minutes were therefore not signed. The Chair has confirmed that they are an accurate record of the proceedings. Administration has also reviewed and confirmed their accuracy.