

Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada: Gender-Based **Analysis of Inuit Women-Owned Business**

Perspective: Economic Development Officers

This data is from a 2021 study called Gender-Based Analysis of Inuit Women-Owned Business conducted by Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada. Interviews were conducted with 30 Inuit Women Business Owners (IWBO), as well as six Economic Development Officers (EDO) and nine Service Providers, to better understand and support the needs, priorities, challenges and gaps for Inuit women's economic development.

Contacting Economic Development Officers

IWBOs were asked if they had ever contacted an EDO or someone in an equivalent position. Those who had were all in Inuit Nunangat, showing there could be a service gap outside of Inuit Nunangat.



EDO and Service Provider Client Base

None of the service providers serve exclusively Inuit businesses, and many have wide service areas.



Support from EDOs

The most common services IWBOs accessed included information about available programs and funding, as well as business planning support.



Information about Available Programs and Funding for Businesses



Information about Best **Business Practices** (e.g. Accounting)



Business Planning

or Feasibility

Studies

Identifying Training Needs and Directing **Business Owners to** Appropriate Agencies



Coordination of Funding from Third Parties



Marketing or

Communications

Planning



Assist Business Owners in Identifying and **Overcoming Challenges**



Information on **Legislation Related** to Business

Financial Counselling



Provide Training Directly

Support Available

While many northern communities have an EDO, this model is not mirrored outside of Inuit Nunangat for Inuit. As well, the support and resources that are available in most cases are not unique or targeted specifically to Inuit women business owners or aspiring entrepreneurs.

Service Gaps

The EDOs all agreed service gaps for Inuit women entrepreneurs exist in their community. They offered ideas such as helping strengthen the supply chain for materials that could be used for traditional crafts, as well as offering training and workshops for aspiring businesswomen.

Source: Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada: Gender-Based Analysis of Inuit Women-Owned Business, 2021 www.pauktuutit.ca

EDO and Service Provider Perceptions of Culture and Gender

EDOs and Service Providers were nearly unanimous in agreeing that businesses owned by Inuit women can be just as successful as any other type of business.

