

Centre for the North.



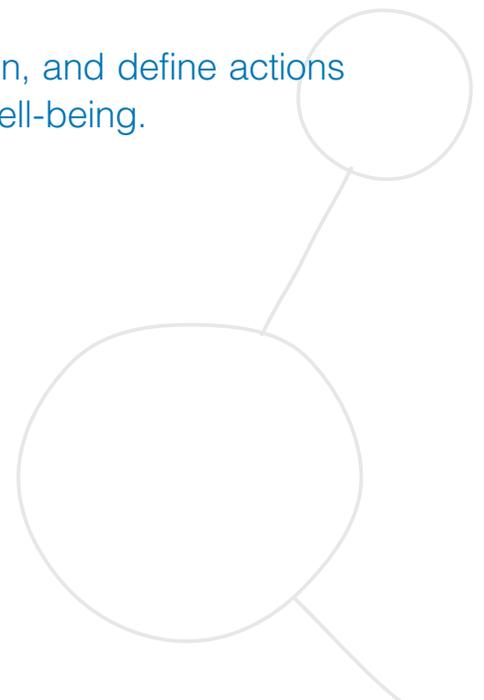
The Centre for the North is a forum for thought leaders and senior representatives from the private, public, and not-for-profit sectors, as well as Aboriginal organizations and academia. All parties have a vested interest in building a prosperous, healthy future for Canada's North.

Centre members work together to further the conversation on, and define actions and solutions around, Northern prosperity, resilience, and well-being.



The Conference Board
of Canada

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du Canada



To fill a perceived gap in independent applied research on issues affecting Canada's North, The Conference Board of Canada launched the Centre for the North in 2009. This led to research and discussion papers on critical issues of importance to Northerners, including education, housing, health, governance, and community resilience. Extensive research was also produced that covered key Northern economic development topics, such as major resource projects, labour force capacity, and infrastructure construction and maintenance. As the Centre developed, it released a series of economic forecasts for the territories. The "territorial forecast" is now recognized as an invaluable tool by its users.

The Centre for the North has grown into an impactful research initiative and a trusted convener, providing a safe space for constructive dialogue on Northern and Aboriginal issues. The Centre maintains a grounded and action oriented approach to research and outreach—one that embraces the North's diversity, provides tools for better decision-making, and highlights innovative and successful initiatives. Based on the aspirations of Northerners, the Centre strives to develop practical approaches to problems.

Exclusive Benefits

- Contribute to the direction of the Centre's research agenda and activities, based on your organization's mandate and interests.
- Garner leading-edge information and access to new approaches that will help you make more informed decisions and develop effective organizational strategies.
- Gain access to a Canadian and international community of experts and practitioners who will share their knowledge, experiences, perspectives, and best practices.
- Receive research briefings and reports, as well as a copy of the twice annual *Territorial Outlook*.
- Access research, advisory, or event services from the Centre's director and staff (negotiated on a case-by-case basis).
- Request private briefings. As a member, you are entitled to have Centre staff speak to your team and/or at your organization's events. (Speaking fee will be waived.)
- Engage with the members of the Conference Board's Council on Corporate Aboriginal Relations (CCAR) to widen your network of Aboriginal relations professionals.

Who Should Join

The Centre for the North is for senior corporate, Aboriginal, and public sector leaders responsible for developing and leveraging their organizations' Northern and Aboriginal policy mandates. Members must have a vested interest in the general themes covered by the Centre. They should also be motivated to contribute their expertise to furthering discussions and actions on the prosperity of Canada's North—as seen from a domestic as well as an international perspective. Equally, members must have a desire to build trusted relationships and mutually beneficial partnerships to the benefit of Northerners.

“The Centre for the North started a national conversation around sustainable prosperity and then elevated it to a new level.”

Derrick Hynes, former Director, Yukon Department of Economic Development



Looking Forward

In May 2015, Centre for the North members and other stakeholders discussed key themes and issues that flowed from the Centre's five-year compendium report *Building a Resilient and Prosperous North*. The report articulated three key priority areas to be addressed in the years ahead: Aboriginal youth, infrastructure, and governance. The Centre's work will evolve around these areas as well as emerging issues that members and stakeholders would like to see explored in greater depth.

Priority areas:

Aboriginal Youth

The North's economic potential hinges on the depth and availability of talent to do the work. To prepare adequately, Northern governments must understand what employers are likely to require; assess the gaps between the current capacity of their populations and future needs; and develop strategies to secure, develop, and retain talent. This should begin with education and local curriculum development that focuses on appropriate career pathways. Better integration of the Aboriginal labour force will be key to enabling Northern communities to make the most of the immense economic opportunities that will emerge in the decades ahead. Through its research framework, the Centre for the North will support these and other objectives.

Northern Infrastructure

The Northern infrastructure deficit will continue to be a concern in the years ahead, particularly for local communities/municipalities, regional governments, and the private sector. Industry and Northern stakeholders are searching for innovative ways to finance projects and mitigate risk. Indigenous economic development corporations

and trusts have an important role to play, although their mandates and capabilities vary and are not always clearly understood. Key sectors include transportation corridors, housing, energy, public works, and telecommunications. The Centre for the North will explore pressing issues and potential models surrounding the construction, maintenance, and financing of infrastructure.

Good Governance

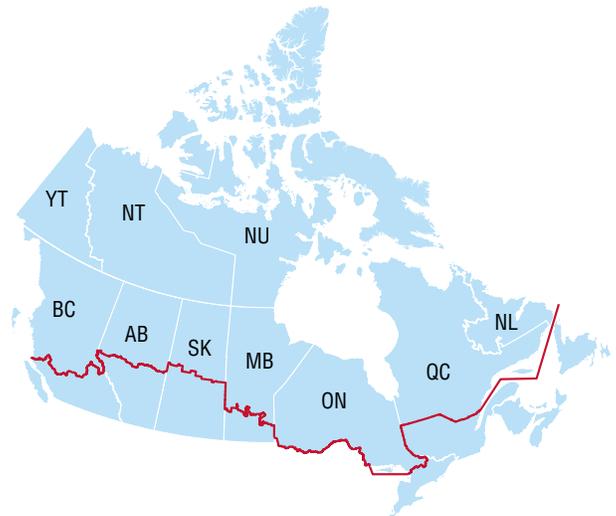
Governance in the North presents a formidable challenge. The Northern public service almost invariably faces significant demands on its time, capacity, and resources. Being the subject of federal, territorial/provincial, regional, municipal, and Aboriginal governing authorities, Northerners must also contend with the issue of jurisdictional complexity. And the public sector is of considerable importance given its role as a major employer in the North.

The Centre for the North will delve into these and other issues for the purposes of supporting evidence-based Northern policy-making and establishing mechanisms for enhanced collaboration, capacity development, and human resource management across sectors.

Member Organizations

Assembly of First Nations
Business Development Bank of Canada
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
Cisco Canada
First Air
Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami
Government of Quebec
Government of Manitoba
Government of the Northwest Territories
Government of Nunavut
Government of Yukon
Makivik Corporation
Métis National Council
Royal Bank of Canada
Société du Plan Nord
TD Bank Group
University of Saskatchewan

Considering Canada's North and South



The Centre's working definition of Canada's North includes the territories and the northern extents of seven provinces. The North/South boundary line was selected based on Statistics Canada's defined economic regions and census divisions. The resulting line corresponds closely to the definition of the North used by the Northern Development Ministers Forum.
Source: The Conference Board of Canada.

“The Centre for the North is not an advocacy body, which makes its impartial and credible voice on our priority issues a welcome addition to the conversation.”

Jonathan Thompson, Director, Assembly of First Nations

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