



Fisheries and Oceans

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Pêches et Océans

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May 3, 2022

To Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC):

On behalf of Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Northern Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative (NICFI) I am pleased to send this letter of support and commitment for Qikiqtaaluk Corporation's (QC) submission under ESDC's Skills and Partnership Fund (SPF).

NICFI is a strong supporter of QC's efforts to evaluate and develop the inshore fisheries potential of its member communities in the Qikiqtani region and inshore fisheries in general throughout the north. In addition to the potential that commercial fisheries development can provide for much needed employment and socio-economic development in remote communities, the evaluation of fisheries resources also offers the potential to help address critical food security and identification of accessible fisheries options for these communities. This project is consistent with the goals and objectives of NICFI to build capacity in support of fishery development in northern communities.

As a result, DFO through the NICFI program, has been pleased to partner with QC on its efforts to date towards inshore fisheries development and remains committed to the evaluation and development of resource potential for the Qikiqtani region. The NICFI program has committed \$1,615,280 until 2022-2023 to the capital and operations costs over the past couple of years in the construction and operation of QC's new inshore fisheries research vessel, the Ludy Pudluk. This includes funding to support the capacity development through a survey and exploratory fishery

Given the importance of this initiative to inshore fisheries development in Nunavut, DFO is committed to additional support through the recently approved Strategic Partnerships Initiative project: the Indigenous Training and Skills Development (ITSD) is a pilot to co-develop, co-design and co-deliver streamlined approaches to coordinate Indigenous training and skills development in the fishery and ocean sectors. As ESDC is an identified partner in the ITSD, the SPF program is an additional leveraging opportunity to increase the capacity and ensure success in the Qikiqtani region. Through the ITSD, DFO is open to supporting requests from QC for funding of 25% of the 15% of total project costs required from external partners (3.75% of total project costs).

This project with ESDC will help address a critical component needed to build required capacity for the long-term success of inshore fisheries development in Nunavut by targeting the identification, training and mentoring of the local Inuit. With the young population of the Territory and the large number of Inuit who will be entering the workforce over the coming years, an early introduction to the potential career opportunities in the fishery, while they are still in school, is needed in order to attract the needed

talent for all aspects of fishery development, from the research technicians, to vessel and processing plant staff, and small business owners and managers.

We look forward to participating in the development, promotion and governance of this project, through sitting on its Management Committee.

Sincerely,

Kevin Fram

Senior Director, Indigenous Affairs Branch