

Boom's benefits flowing south, report concludes

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YELLOWKNIFE - The south is poised to reap most of benefit from the N.W.T.'s economic boom, according to an independent report on development in the territory.

- [LINK: Setting the Pace for Development: An Economic Outlook Report for the Northwest Territories](#)

The Conference Board of Canada, a respected research body, says as things stand, the people of the North are ill-prepared to benefit from mega-projects like pipelines and diamond mines.

- [LINK: Conference Board of Canada](#)

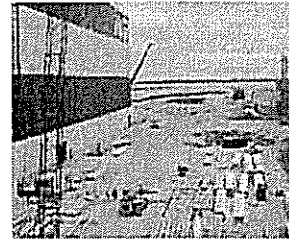
"If these opportunities were all to come about within the next few years without anything to be done to raise the capacity of those individuals who aren't working, the opportunities would go to individuals outside the territory," says Graeme Clinton, one of the authors of the report.

The Conference Board report says aboriginal people in particular are missing out on the benefits of development. It says they are hampered by a lack of basic life skills, literacy and numeracy problems, and low self-esteem. The board says economic prosperity should be used to address such problems.

The report also focused on the pace of development in the N.W.T. Bob McLeod, the deputy minister of resources, wildlife and economic development, says that's a crucial issue.

"We've always realized that in order to maximize the benefits from development that we have to ensure that it occurs at a pace that will be beneficial to the Northwest Territories," he says.

But so far, the report observes, there's been a glaring lack of public debate about what that pace should be.



Diavik and other mega-projects stand to benefit southerners the most, says the Conference Board of Canada