

[← Back](#)
Newspapers

Features

[Home page](#)
[News Desk](#)
[News Briefs](#)
[Columnists](#)
[Sports](#)
[Editorial](#)
[Arctic arts](#)
[Readers comment](#)
[Find a job](#)
[Tenders](#)
[Classifieds](#)
[Subscriptions](#)
[Northern mining](#)
[Oil & Gas](#)
[Construction \(PDF\)](#)
[Opportunities North](#)
[Best of Bush](#)
[Tourism guides](#)
[Obituaries](#)
[Advertising](#)
[Contacts](#)
[Archives](#)
[Today's weather](#)
[Leave a message](#)



Northern News Services



E-mail this story



Order a classified ad



Print this page

Preparing for treatment

Dez Loreen

Northern News Services
Thursday, March 13, 2008

INUVIK - The Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC) plans to start work on addictions treatment programs, if it receives social impact money from the pipeline project.

The money would come from the Mackenzie Gas Project Social Economic Impact Fund, which has an application deadline of March 31.

The impact fund is only available if the Mackenzie Valley pipeline goes through.

IRC chief executive officer Nellie Cournoyea said the group wants to place addictions treatment programs in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region to give aid to those in need.



"We've spent a lot of time working to get the programs that are necessary because we know that people need that extra help," said Cournoyea.

The Inuvialuit Regional Corporation has many programs in place to help residents and beneficiaries find careers. They are also working to prepare a report for the upcoming Mackenzie Gas Project Social Economic Impact Fund, which outlines concerns from residents in the region. - Dez Loreen/NNSL photo

She added that the group also travels to communities in the region to hold workshops where people can identify if they need assistance.

"We take offence when people say we aren't doing anything to help people with their addictions," said Cournoyea.

Dealing with addictions is not the only task taken on by the corporation.

Cournoyea said the IRC group assisted when they could in the H. pylori bacteria research in Aklavik earlier this year.

Cournoyea said the Inuvialuit group is concerned with acting on initiatives and may not seek recognition in all their dealings.

"We don't put out press releases for everything we do in the region," she said.

"Sometimes it's better to keep your head down, because government works with you better. We don't go out there to wave the flag, even though our beneficiaries say we should."

Inuvik has been without a alcohol treatment centre since the closing of the Delta House in 1997.

The house went from being a full-time drug and alcohol treatment facility to a drop-in centre, where treatment and counselling were offered.

With the change in services came a change in the name.

Delta House became Turning Point.

In 2004, the centre ran into even more difficulty when the GNWT announced a new plan to take the drug and alcohol counsellor out of the program, making it a shelter.

A policy of Turning Point was not to permit people under the influence of drugs and alcohol to stay the night.

Since then, various organizations have taken the helm, with the Inuvik Native Band being the current operator.

Cournoyea said since the money from the impact fund is conditional and relies on the advancing of the proposed pipeline, the group has been searching their options.

"We're looking into federal funding and other options," she said.

