

Northern Solutions by Northern People



MakeWay

MakeWay's Northern Program

Supporting northern solutions by northern people



Lasting solutions are best understood and led by the people who are closest to the challenges. MakeWay's Northern Program works across the Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut, as well as in the Inuvialuit, Nunavik, and Nunatsiavut regions. We support the leadership of northern people, communities, and organizations advancing community well-being, economic prosperity, and environmental stewardship solutions.

We build partnerships and deep community connections. We have unique in-house charitable tools, place-based expertise, grantmaking, strategic planning, advisor networks, and more.

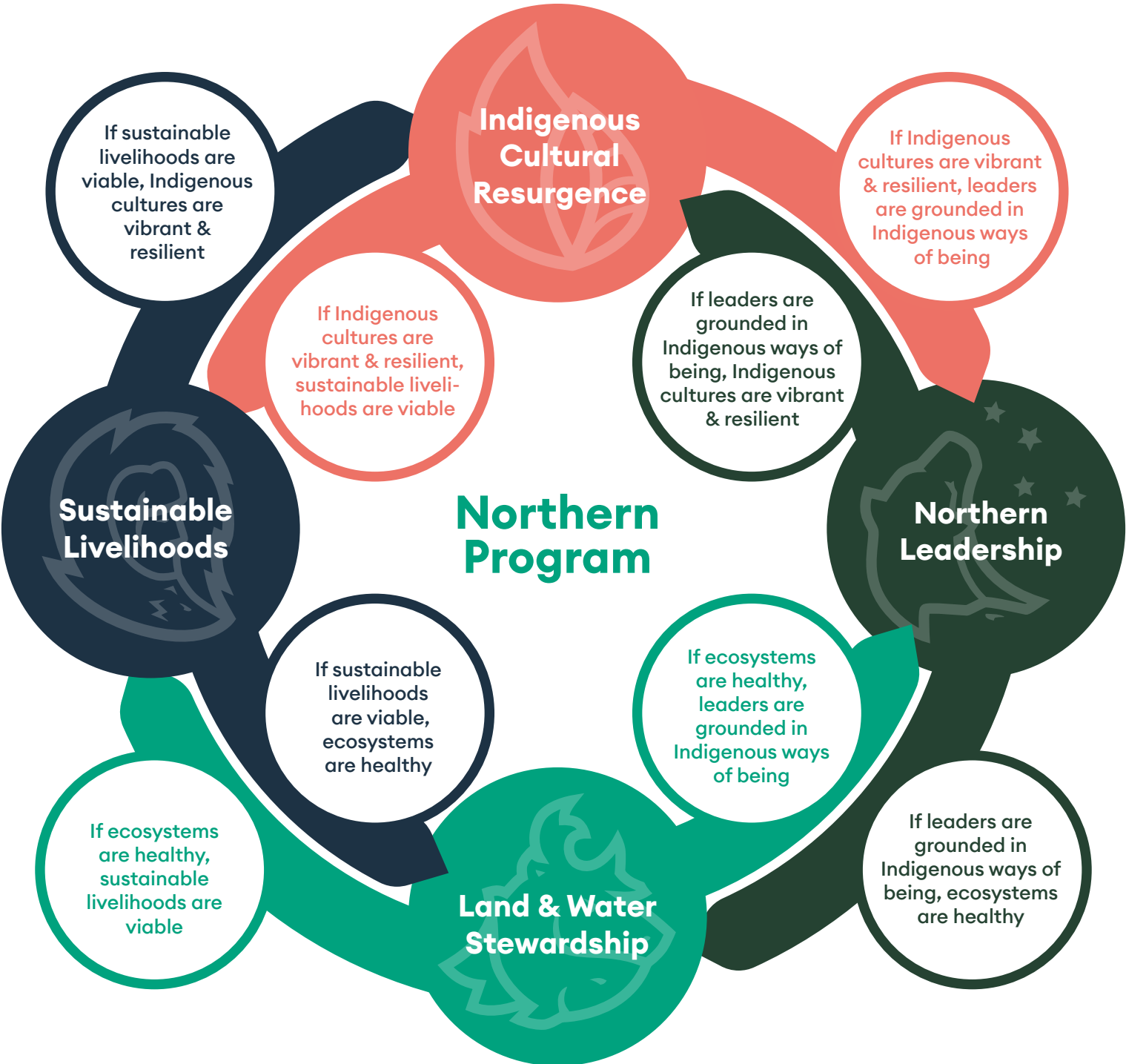
We offer support by:

- › Providing core and program funding
- › Advising on best practices with professional expertise
- › Enabling knowledge exchanges among communities
- › Empowering local leaders to grow their leadership potential
- › Facilitating partnerships with public governments, academia, philanthropy, and NGOs
- › Informing favorable policy development
- › Offering administrative supports with our innovative Shared Platform

Program Priorities

MakeWay’s Northern Program focuses its supports in four priority areas: Northern Leadership, Land and Water Stewardship, Sustainable Livelihoods, and Indigenous Cultural Resurgence.

The Northern Program’s four priority areas are tightly connected and dependent upon each other as shown in the diagram below:



Indigenous Cultural Resurgence

Strengthening Indigenous languages and cultures in the North



A sense of self. Relationships to the world and to one another. A way of life. Language and culture are essential to a rooted identity, stating “this is who I am and this is what I am a part of”.

In the North, Indigenous communities have practiced their ways of life, culture, and languages for countless generations. Through storytelling, art, and cultural practice, deep knowledge and ethical connections to land, water, and ice are shared from one generation to the next. However, these northern Indigenous ways of life rooted in language and culture are threatened.

When a language dies, key concepts for humanity’s future are buried with it.

Yet, against tremendous odds, Indigenous cultures are in a period of resurgence as communities are healing and prioritizing the revitalization of their languages and cultural practices.

To support this resurgence, investment in people, communities, and organizations strengthening Indigenous language and culture across the North is more important than ever. In all northern communities we hear from Elders and youth: Help us keep our language and culture alive!



Census comparisons between 2011 and 2016 show a nearly 15% average decline in individuals considering an Indigenous language as their mother tongue in the Yukon, the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.



In 2016, the average age of people who considered an Indigenous language their mother tongue was 37.1 years, while the average age for second-language learners was 30.8 years.



Under UNESCO’s endangered language criteria, more than two-thirds of Indigenous languages spoken in Canada are endangered, and the rest are vulnerable.

Indigenous Cultural Resurgence Goals



PAT KANE

MakeWay supports existing and emerging culture and language work led by northerners.

We work with partners on achieving the following goals:

1. Empower healthy, resilient northern leaders and communities by deepening connection between Indigenous peoples and their homelands.
2. Foster Indigenous knowledge and art that is inspired and defined by nature and culture.
3. Ensure Indigenous languages thrive so the next generations can communicate in their mother-tongue.

Ultimately, we hope for the following outcomes:

- › Increased sustainability of existing community-based culture and language programs.
- › New community-based culture and language programs are catalyzed.
- › Knowledge sharing and collaboration amongst communities and organizations amplifies best practices and scales success.
- › Favorable Indigenous culture and language policies exist.
- › High fluency in Indigenous language and ways of knowing and being is being transmitted between generations.



Inuvik Children First Society Gwich'in Daycare

A full day Gwich'in immersion program offered to children 2 to 4 years of age. Facilitated by elders and fluent speakers, the children are exposed to Gwich'in language and culture in a sensory-rich play environment.



Nyēn Nzhän - Sing Your Song

Through written songs and music the celebration inspires language sharing and transmission, and promotes inter-generational language learning.



Ilitaqsiniq – Inuktitut Daycamp

Children aged 5-11 take part in a 6-week summer day camp that teaches and promotes Inuktitut culture, language and literacy development. Youth summer students who are role models of the Inuktitut language act as camp leaders.



Northern Leadership

Empowering the next generation of northern leaders

Emerging northern and Indigenous leaders are uniting in response to environmental, cultural, and social challenges facing their northern communities. They share a true desire to reclaim and invigorate their identity as northern and Indigenous peoples and to be the champions and caretakers of their environment and culture.

These emerging leaders represent the North's greatest asset. Empowering their leadership is critical to building solutions to northern social and environmental challenges, from adapting to climate change to diversifying community economic opportunities.

The support, flexibility, and understanding from MakeWay has been amazing. This opportunity will allow us to build structure, policy, program development, and partnerships to come out of COVID-19 ready to create spaces youth are calling for in their communities.

WESTERN ARCTIC YOUTH COLLECTIVE

Northern Leadership Goals

MakeWay supports the efforts of next-generation northern leaders to fulfill their leadership potential.

We work with collectives of next-generation leaders and other partners on achieving the following goals:

1. Support emerging leaders in their development of resilient community-led initiatives and institutions.
2. Facilitate broadening networks and secure human and financial resources to make change happen.
3. Catalyze efforts to champion, develop, and implement sustainability, policy reform, and community well-being programming.

Ultimately, we hope for the following outcomes:

- › Collectives of emerging northern leaders have institutional stability with established mission, identity, and strategic direction.
- › Emerging leader collectives are leading self-directed, innovative projects addressing key social, economic, and environmental challenges in the North.



SNOWSHOE STUDIOS

Western Arctic Youth Collective

Created by Inuvialuit and Gwich'in youth, WAYC strives to create opportunities to prepare and support ongoing development to improve the lives of youth ages 18-35 years old. The collective empowers youth to be changemakers by providing a platform of youth-led collaborative initiatives and partnerships in their communities.



KYLE NIEBER

Northern Birthwork Collective

Creating culturally safe and gender inclusive spaces, programming and services for northern communities as it relates to reproductive health, pregnancy, birth, postpartum, and the parenting journey. The NBC's primary initiative is the development of an Indigenous birthwork training and network to prioritize the needs of northern families with a focus on revitalizing traditional knowledge.



PAT KANE

Northern Women and Girls

Through a partnership with the Canadian Women's Foundation, MakeWay manages a grantmaking strategy in the Northern Territories and Inuit Nunangat. The partnership amplifies community-driven work to uplift women's roles in family and community settings and support northern women and girls in making positive change in their communities.

Land & Water Stewardship

Amplifying Indigenous stewardship of terrestrial and marine homelands



For those of us who live in northern Canada, our lands and waters are an extension of our families and communities. We rely on the clean water and healthy animals for our culture and sustenance just as they rely on us for their care. When ecosystems are healthy, sustainable livelihoods are viable and our cultures remain strong. It has been this way for countless generations.

However, the rhythm of nature in northern Canada are being rapidly upset. Habitat degradation due to climate change and industrial development plays a major role, as does unsustainable commercial harvesting. Boreal forest and tundra landscapes are burning, permafrost is melting, and some of the last great animal herds in the world are crashing.

Northern Indigenous peoples, intimately entwined with the land, water and animals, are suffering a parallel loss in agency and self-sufficiency. Poverty, social ills, and dependency have been the consequence.

To reverse these trends, it is imperative that we catalyze and sustain efforts by Indigenous peoples and their partners to caretake northern terrestrial and marine homelands.



Summer sea ice has declined across the Canadian Arctic at a rate of **5% to 20%** per decade since 1968.

Decreasing sea ice increases overall water temperature which **impacts marine ecosystems and the communities that depend on them.**



The Bathurst caribou herd, a key northern species, has declined in numbers from **470,000 in the mid-1980s to 8,200 today.**

Between 2015 and 2018, the number of breeding cows dropped by almost **40% to about 3,000 animals.**

Land and Water Stewardship Goals



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MakeWay supports existing and emerging land and water stewardship work led by northerners.

We help community partners achieve the following:

1. Develop and implement plans for land and water, including protected and conserved areas, land and marine-use plans, and wildlife management programs.
2. Design and implement Indigenous guardian, community-based monitoring, and stewardship programs.
3. Increase knowledge of wildlife, land, water, and other natural resources.

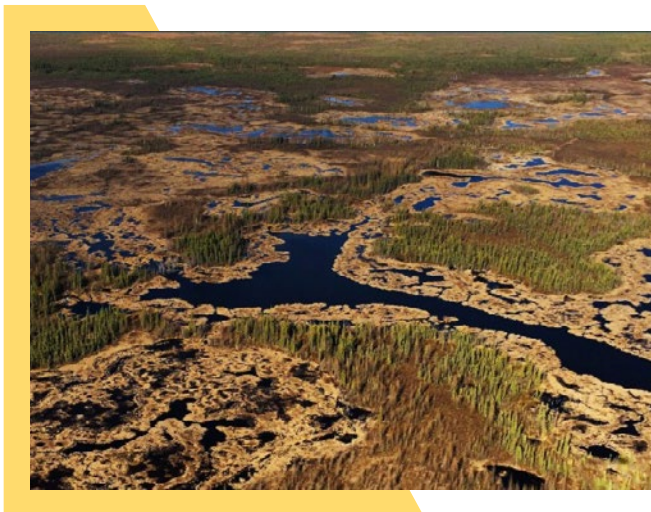
Ultimately, we hope for the following outcomes:

- › Northern ecosystems are healthy and resilient.
- › Northern peoples continue to practice ways of life that are dependent upon healthy northern ecosystems.
- › Indigenous land, water, and wildlife knowledge and expertise continues to inform stewardship.



Inuvialuit Settlement Region – Joint Secretariat: Community Based Monitoring Program

The Inuvialuit Settlement Region is one of the most highly researched areas in the country. The monitoring program acts as a hub for community-based monitoring activities and supports collaborative Inuvialuit-led program development and stewardship.



Indigenous Conservation Agreements in Canada

Entering into conservation agreements provides enriched opportunities for Indigenous communities to support their stewardship priorities. In 2021, MakeWay released a report in English and Inuktitut to identify best practices, including maintaining harvesting rights, creating opportunities for self-determination, and developing a long-term, relationship-based approach.



Dehcho K'éhodi Stewardship and Guardian Program

An Indigenous-led conservation initiative based on the Dene perspective. The program promotes the traditional ways of life and stewardship responsibilities over Dehcho lands and waters.

PAT KANE

Sustainable Livelihoods

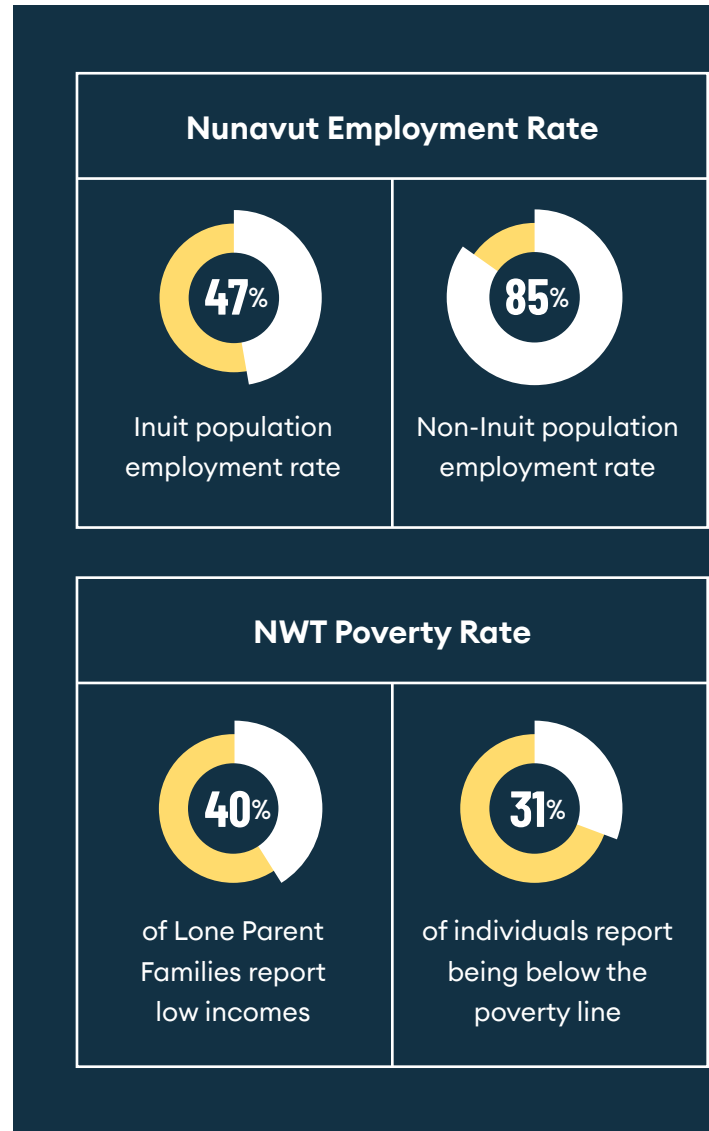
Empowering community-based economic solutions in the North



The North exhibits a significant lack of economic diversity and local employment opportunities. This is especially true for the majority Indigenous population, where training and development resources are limited locally, frequently resulting in positions being filled by non-local staff with a high turnover rate.

Unemployment rates for Indigenous people across the North are approximately double that of the non-Indigenous population. Northerners deserve contemporary economic options that align with their environmental and social aspirations and that are compatible with Indigenous worldviews, values, and cultures.

Harnessing a strong culture of northern entrepreneurship is key. Northern and Indigenous entrepreneurs can be catalysts of prosperity and drivers of social change within their communities. MakeWay is working to nurture the incredible entrepreneurial potential and talent inherent in the people and communities of the North. By focusing on enterprises with the potential to deliver social as well as economic returns on investment, we aspire to activate innovative entrepreneurs who demonstrate northern and Indigenous values, promote community prosperity, health, and connectivity, and stabilize livelihoods.





PAT KANE

MakeWay helps accelerate local, diversified economies rooted in strong local cultures and healthy ecosystems.

We work with partners on achieving the following goals:

1. Explore local economic pathways that uplift Indigenous culture and are reliant on healthy ecosystems.
2. Increase knowledge that can be used to build local and sustainable enterprises that deliver social, economic, and environmental benefits and keep wealth in the North.
3. Demonstrate the contemporary economic value of healthy ecosystems and Indigenous culture.

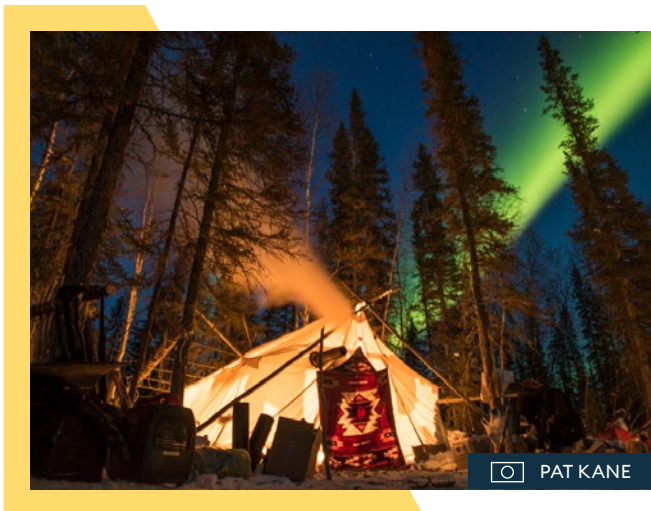
Ultimately, we hope for the following outcomes:

- › Sustainable, community-based enterprises are viable and are proven to deliver social, economic, and environmental benefits to northern communities.
- › Community-based northern enterprises have access to financing that recognizes their unique needs and circumstances.



EntrepreNorth

A project that is focused on empowering Indigenous and community-based entrepreneurs to build sustainable businesses and livelihoods across Northern Canada. EntrepreNorth believes northern entrepreneurs can be catalysts of prosperity and drivers of social change within their own communities.



Northern Impact Fund

MakeWay is developing a fund that will invest in innovative Northern and Indigenous social enterprises that demonstrate commercial viability, potential for scale, and measurable community impact.



It's amazing to have a made-in-the-North program like this that gives us the tools to develop businesses that are not only successful and sustainable, but that reflect community values.

MakeWay's team consists of experienced, place-based Northerners.



Please get in touch with our team to learn more about MakeWay's Northern Program. We are always happy to learn about your work and explore how we might be of help and develop a partnership.



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About MakeWay



MakeWay is a national charity and public foundation with a goal to enable nature and communities to thrive together. We do this by building partnerships, providing solutions, grants, and services for the charitable sector across the country.

makeway.org

The fact that MakeWay has a northern presence is critical; we know who we're working with and they understand the issues and the context for what solutions could or should look like.

DEBBIE DELANCEY
former Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services,
Government of Northwest Territories