



Comprehensive Report on the  
Activities and Expenditures of the Energy Secretariat  
2015-2016

Department of Economic Development and Transportation

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# Comprehensive Report on the Activities and Expenditures of the Energy Secretariat

## Introduction

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation has produced this report in response to the motion passed by the Legislative Assembly on November 5, 2015 calling on the Government of Nunavut to table a comprehensive report on the activities and expenditures of the Energy Secretariat in the Legislative Assembly on the first day of its spring 2016 sitting.

The Secretariat was transferred from the Department of Executive and Inter-governmental Affairs to the Department of Economic Development and Transportation (EDT) in 2013-2014.



The Energy Secretariat is responsible for the implementation of *Ikummatiit*, Nunavut's Energy Strategy, and works to address the territory's dependency on imported oil for heat, power and transportation. The Energy Secretariat monitors energy-related issues, develops options and recommendations on territorial energy policy and coordinates Government of Nunavut action on strategic energy decisions.

The Secretariat coordinates energy and climate change mitigation policies and activities across GN departments, territorial corporations and agencies as well as in Federal/ Provincial/Territorial forums.

## Priorities

The following priorities were set out in EDT's 2015-2016 Business Plan for the Energy Secretariat, presented together with status updates:

- Work with communities and other stakeholders to assess potential for alternative energy systems in Nunavut.

**Status:** The department is working with the Nunavut Housing Corporation to determine the feasibility of solar hot water systems on new and existing multiplex units.

- Participate in Hudson Bay Regional Round Table to continue analyzing and assessing energy options and development opportunities for the Kivalliq region.

**Status:** A Scoping Study has been completed and next steps are being considered. The department will undertake a more detailed feasibility studies and initiate environmental reviews as part of the process.

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- Building on the results of the 2015 Oil & Gas Summit, provide leadership to develop stakeholder consensus on a proposed Strategic Environmental Assessment to address petroleum exploration and development.

**Status:** The Oil & Gas Summit report has been tabled in the Legislature. The department will establish a working group to monitor oil & gas issues and provide support to stakeholders.

### **Project Work**

Project work for 2015-2016 stemmed from the annual \$50 thousand funding agreement the Secretariat has with the Arctic Energy Alliance (AEA), a not-for-profit society with a mandate “to help communities, consumers, producers, regulators and policymakers to work together to reduce the costs and environmental impacts of energy and utility services”. The majority of these funds (in addition to un-spent funding from the previous year) were spent on providing energy audits for the communities of Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay.

Energy audits are performed by Natural Resources Canada-certified energy management specialists. These specialists assess a building by examining all electrical appliances, heating systems, and the building envelope. The building is then rated on a numerical scale and the building owner is given a report with energy efficiency recommendations.

In February 2015 the AEA had provided 10 energy audits to private homeowners in Iqaluit. Energy management specialists also provided a solar energy assessment for the Arctic Winter Games Arena and held a community energy information session. The total cost of this work was \$36 thousand.

In October 2015 the AEA provided 10 energy audits to private homeowners in Rankin Inlet, and two audits to the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet. Energy management specialists also held an evening community energy information session. The total cost of this work was \$25 thousand.

In February 2016 the AEA provided 10 energy audits to private homeowners in Cambridge Bay, as well as two audits to public housing units in collaboration with the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Plans were also made to work with Polar Knowledge Canada (a federal agency) to audit facilities associated with the Canadian High Arctic Research Station. A community information energy session was also held. The total cost of this work was \$25 thousand.

In addition to the provision of energy audits, the AEA also provided their services to the Nunavut Housing Corporation (NHC) to examine the feasibility of solar hot water systems on NHC multiplex buildings.

### **Policy Work**

In 2015-2016, the Energy Secretariat represented the Government of Nunavut on a number of Federal/Provincial/Territorial (FPT) forums. These included the Energy and Mines Ministers’ Conference (EMMC), the Council of the Federation with respect to the

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Canadian Energy Strategy, and the Hudson's Bay Regional Roundtable. In addition, the Secretariat responded to a variety of policy issues, as and when they came up.

EMMC 2015 was held in Halifax, Nova Scotia between July 19 and 21. The Secretariat represented the Government of Nunavut on a number of working groups leading up to the conference, including: Energy Technology Working Group, Energy Efficiency Working Group, and Oil and Gas Working Group. A staff member of the Secretariat also travelled with and provided support to Minister EII-Kanayuk during the conference.

The Canadian Energy Strategy was released on July 17, 2015 and contained four areas of focus: Energy Efficiency, Delivering Energy to People, Climate Change and a Transition to a Low Carbon Economy, and Technology and Innovation. The Energy Secretariat was active in both the creation and implementation of the Strategy, including the Pan-Canadian Task Force on Reducing Diesel in Remote Communities.

Throughout 2015, the Energy Secretariat represented the Government of Nunavut at the Hudson Bay Regional Roundtable through its participation in the Energy Options Working Group. The purpose of this group was to examine the feasibility of a transmission line from northern Manitoba to the Kivalliq region. The Secretariat has led the review of a scoping study on this concept in partnership with the Qulliq Energy Corporation and the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

In addition to intergovernmental work the Energy Secretariat responded to a number a policy issues throughout the year. These include advising on carbon pricing, contributing to the federal government's review of the *Canadian Petroleum Resources Act*, and examining the feasibility of various renewable energy projects.

### Expenditures

The Secretariat's annual operating budget, as set out in the 2015-2016 Business Plan, was \$697 thousand, of which \$515 thousand is budgeted for compensation and benefits and \$182 thousand for other expenses.

Besides compensation and benefits, in 2015-2016 the Energy Secretariat made the following expenditures:

Travel and transportation	27,468
Arctic Energy Alliance agreement	50,000
Purchased services	2,618
Fees, materials, equipment	2,017
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$82,103</b>

### Staffing

The Secretariat has a total of four positions: Director, Energy Secretariat; Senior Policy Advisor; Energy Resource Analyst; and Public Awareness Coordinator.

In fiscal year 2015-2016, there were two employees in the Energy Secretariat, the Energy Resource Analyst and the Senior Policy Advisor.

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### Future Plans

For fiscal year 2016-2017, the Energy Secretariat will continue to participate in the implementation of the CES and the planning for EMMC 2016. This will include the ongoing discussions around the merging of these two FPT forums. In addition, following the commitments to create a national strategy on climate change at the recent First Ministers' Meeting, the Secretariat will be providing critical support on climate change mitigation strategies and options.

The Energy Secretariat will continue its partnership with the Arctic Energy Alliance. While a work plan has not yet been established, possible projects include: continuation of energy audits around the territory, solar energy assessments in communities, and the creation of energy efficient building guidelines.

In addition, the information gathered from previous energy audits will be analyzed and may be used to study the feasibility of a targeted energy efficiency incentive program. While the Government of Nunavut currently offers no such support for homeowners or businesses, there may be a case for doing so given the Government of Nunavut's support of both the Canadian Energy Strategy and the forthcoming national climate change strategy.

With respect to longer-term plans, EDT's 2016-2017 Business Plan commits the department to initiating a review of *Ikummatiit* and begin consultations and work towards renewing the government's energy strategy beginning in 2018-2019.