

Economic Viability

A state of community self-sufficiency, where there are businesses and economic partnerships to promote a local economy; jobs available to sustain personal and family needs; food, housing and medical services that are affordable; and a sense of optimism when community members consider future developments.

Indicators:

Employment

Local Availability

- 1 – unemployment rate
- 2 – jobs in the community
- 3 – people working outside community

Strategic Training

- 4 – training for potential jobs

Disincentives to Work

- Indicator #1
- 5 – cost of working vs social assistance

Local Business

- 6 – local businesses
- 7 – employment in local business

Cost of Living

Cost of Food

- no indicators proposed

Cost of Healthy Food

- no indicators proposed

Food Subsidies

- 8 – food programs & usage
- 9 – incentive to carry healthy foods

Transportation Costs

- 10 – cost of fuel
- 11 – distance to services
- 12 – cost of airline travel

Cost of Housing

- 13 – % of income spent on housing
- 14 – housing waitlists
- 15 – low income housing availability

Utility Costs

- 16 – cost of utility hook-up/reconnects

Competitive Retailing

- 17 – level of retail competition

Social Assistance Rates

- 18 – costs met by social assistance

Single Parent Families

- 19 – single parent families

Health Benefit Coverage

Prescription Drugs

- 20 – drug costs paid out-of-pocket
- 21 – unfilled prescriptions

Medical Transportation

- 22 – medical transportation coverage
- 23 – treatment not followed due to cost

Companion & Translation Services

- 24 – Elders & youth travelling alone

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Funding for Community Programs

Sufficient Funding

no indicators proposed

Stable Funding

no indicators proposed

Infrastructure

no indicators proposed

Staffing

25 – vacant staff positions

26 – staff training levels

27 – length of time in position

28 – community satisfaction with staff

Promotion

29 – program participation rates

30 – program awareness levels

Economic Viability

Economic Viability >> Employment >> **Local Availability**

Issues Identified: *Having few jobs available in the community requires people to leave in order to obtain work, which impacts family members left behind, community morale and volunteerism. Local jobs contribute to community sustainability.*

Indicator #	Community Proposed Indicator	Community Level Data Sources (suggestions)
1	Unemployment rate	Existing data found at: A) http://www.statscan.ca >> (English / French) >> Community Profiles >> 2001 Aboriginal Peoples Survey Community Profiles or 2001 Aboriginal Population Profile >> Choose a community <i>See Glossary of Unemployment Terms used by Statistics Canada (next page)</i>
2	# of jobs in the community	See Indicator 1 Local survey required
3	% of community members working outside the community	Local survey required

Data Sources:

A) Statistics Canada: 2001 Community Profiles. Find source at: <http://www12.statcan.ca/english/profil01/PlaceSearchForm1.cfm>

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Glossary of Unemployment Terms used by Statistics Canada

Participation Rate

Refers to the labour force in the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to Census Day (May 15, 2001), expressed as a percentage of the population 15 years of age and over.

Employment Rate

Refers to the number of persons employed in the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to Census Day (May 15, 2001), expressed as ***a percentage of the total population*** 15 years of age and over.

Note: The “% of adults not working for pay or in self-employment” is expressed as a percentage of the total population.

Unemployment Rate

Refers to the unemployed expressed as ***a percentage of the labour force*** in the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to Census Day (May 15, 2001).

$$\text{Unemployment rate} = \frac{\text{Unemployed}}{\text{Labour Force}} \times 100$$

When last worked for pay or in self-employment

Refers to the year or period in which persons last worked for pay or in self-employment (even if only for a few days). It includes those who worked without pay in a family farm, business or professional practice. It does not include unpaid housework, unpaid childcare, unpaid care to seniors or volunteer work. It is used to identify persons with recent paid work experience.

Unemployed (in reference week)

Persons who, during the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to census day (May 15, 2001) were without paid work or without self-employment work and were available for work and either:

- Had actively looked for paid work in the past four weeks, or
- Were on temporary lay-off and expected to return to their job, or
- Had definite arrangements to start a new job in four weeks or less.

The unemployed category consists primarily of those persons who, during the week prior to enumeration (count; to ascertain a number), were without paid work, were unavailable for work, and had actively looked for paid work in the past four weeks.

Economic Viability

Economic Viability >> Employment >> **Strategic Training**

Issues Identified: *When industry is developed in the region, local people are often not qualified for the available jobs. A need exists for targeted training in advance of industry start-up so that when industry is set up and jobs are available, local people are trained and qualified.*

Indicator #	Community Proposed Indicator	Community Level Data Sources (suggestions)
4	# training programs directly related to available job opportunities	Local survey required

Data Sources:

No indicator/survey source at this time

Economic Viability

Economic Viability >> Employment >> **Disincentives to Work**

Issues Identified: *Employment can negatively impact living costs by the loss of access to low income housing, subsidized utility rates and medical cost coverage. As a result it can be more economically viable to remain on social assistance.*

Indicator #	Community Proposed Indicator	Community Level Data Sources (suggestions)
	Unemployment rate	See Indicator 1
5	Cost analysis on benefits of working vs. social assistance	Local survey required

Data Sources:

No indicator/survey source at this time

Economic Viability

Economic Viability >> Employment >> **Local Business**

Issues Identified: *Local businesses contribute to a tax base (in provincial communities), provide employment and increased infrastructure, and improve community morale.*

Indicator #	Community Proposed Indicator	Community Level Data Sources (suggestions)
6	# of local businesses in the community	Local survey required
7	# of community members employed in local businesses	Local survey required

Data Sources:

No indicator/survey source at this time

Economic Viability

Economic Viability >> Cost of Living >> **Cost of Food**

Issues Identified: *Cost of food in all categories in northern communities is high, especially in relation to income levels.*

Indicator #	Community Proposed Indicator	Community Level Data Sources (suggestions)
	None proposed	<p>Local survey required – suggested measures:</p> <p>A) Healthy Food Costing Assessment (Community Vitality Monitoring Partnership Process project). Involves detailed calculations.</p> <p>B) Refer to the DIAND Alternative Northern Food Baskets publication. Calculating the cost of a northern food basket involves detailed calculations.</p> <p>Existing data found at:</p> <p>C) Existing data for costs of a weekly northern food basket dated 1991-1995 for the communities of Regina, Prince Albert, La Ronge, Black Lake and Stony Rapids. Find source and extensive data on Food Mail at: http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca >> Programs and Services >> Northern Affairs Program >> Food Mail Program >> Northern Food Basket >> Saskatchewan</p>

Data Sources:

A) Community Vitality in Northern Saskatchewan. Third Annual Report of the Community Vitality Monitoring Partnership Process 2001. Find reference source at: <http://www.northern.gov.sk.ca>

B) Lawn, Judith and Hill, Frederick. 1998. Alternative Northern Food Baskets. Ottawa: Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development

C) Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. (2004). Northern Food Basket; Saskatchewan. Find source at: http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ps/nap/air/Fruijui/PDF/nfbsask_e.pdf

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Economic Viability

Economic Viability >> Cost of Living >> **Cost of Healthy Food**

Issues Identified: *Cost of healthy foods (typically fresh & perishable) is high in relation to other foods available and income levels, resulting in low consumption.*

Indicator #	Community Proposed Indicator	Community Level Data Sources (suggestions)
	None proposed	<p>Local survey required – suggested questions and measures:</p> <p>A) Healthy Food Costing Assessment: Healthy Food Costing Assessment (Community Vitality Monitoring Partnership Process project). Involves detailed calculations.</p> <p>B) Health Canada: Alternative Northern Food Baskets Refer to Health Canada and the Alternative Northern Food Baskets publication (listed in references). Note: this is quite an involved calculation/ process.</p> <p>C) Food Quality in Labrador survey: - What is keeping you from buying more fresh fruit and vegetables? (List includes the option “they cost too much”) - Since this time last year, how has the price of fresh fruit and vegetable in your community changed?</p> <p>D) Nutrition and Food Security in Kugaaruk survey: - If you cannot get country food, can you tell me why? (List of answers includes “Gas too expensive” and “Repairs too expensive” - Some families might say “We couldn’t afford to eat healthy meals”. In the last 12 months did this happen often, sometimes, or never for your household? - Some families might say, “We could only feed our children less expensive foods because we were running out of money to buy food”. In the past 12 months did this happen often, sometimes, or never for your household?</p>

Data Sources:

A) Community Vitality in Northern Saskatchewan. Third Annual Report of the Community Vitality Monitoring Partnership Process 2001.
Find reference source at: <http://www.northern.gov.sk.ca>

B) Lawn, Judith and Hill, Frederick. 1998. Alternative Northern Food Baskets. Ottawa: Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development

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C) Food Quality in Six Isolated Communities in Labrador – Questions 7/8
Find Source at: http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ps/nap/air/survfoo2001_e.PDF

D) Nutrition and Food Security in Kugaaruk, Nunavut. Baseline Survey for the Food Mail Pilot Project – Questions 403/602/603
Find Source at : http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ps/nap/air/rep2003/KugaRep03_e.pdf

Economic Viability

Economic Viability >> Cost of Living >> **Food Subsidies**

Issues Identified: *There is a lack of food subsidy programs – the existing Food Mail program is not widely known or understood and is not directly accessible by community members. Incentives do not exist to encourage stores to carry healthy food products.*

Indicator #	Community Proposed Indicator	Community Level Data Sources (suggestions)
8	# and use of food programs	<p>Local survey required – suggested questions:</p> <p>A) Food Quality in Labrador study (retailer survey): If the quality of fresh fruit and vegetables improved in your store, do you think you would sell more of these foods?</p> <p>B) Nutrition and Food Security in Kugaaruk survey: Where do you usually buy most of your food? From the Coop, from Yellowknife by Food Mail, or from the south by air cargo?</p>
9	Incentives for stores to carry healthy food items	<p>Local survey required – suggested questions:</p> <p>A) Food Quality in Labrador study (retailer survey):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If the quality of fresh fruit and vegetables improved in your store, do you think you would sell more of these foods? - If the quality of fresh food improved, would you: Increase prices because customers would be willing to pay more? Lower prices, because you would have less spoilage? Continue to charge the same price?

Data Sources:

A) Food Quality in Six Isolated Communities in Labrador – Questions 7/8
Find Source at: http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ps/nap/air/survfoo2001_e.PDF

B) Nutrition and Food Security in Kugaaruk, Nunavut. Baseline Survey for the Food Mail Pilot Project – Question 500
Find Source: http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ps/nap/air/rep2003/KugaRep03_e.pdf

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Economic Viability >> Cost of Living >> **Transportation Costs**

Issues Identified: *Residents in remote communities pay higher costs for fuel and travel longer distances to access some services.
Residents in communities not accessible by road must pay the cost of airfare to travel outside the community.*

Indicator #	Community Proposed Indicator	Community Level Data Sources (suggestions)
10	Cost of fuel	Local survey required
11	Distance to services	Local survey required
12	Cost of airline travel to PA, Saskatoon	Local survey required

Data Sources:

No indicator/survey source at this time

Economic Viability

Economic Viability >> Cost of Living >> **Cost of Housing**

Issues Identified: *An overall scarcity of housing units contributes to higher rents and a further lack of low-income housing units contributes to overcrowding as those with low incomes move in with other family members. Frequent moves in search of better housing increases costs (i.e. re-hookup of utilities).*

Indicator #	Community Proposed Indicator	Community Level Data Sources (suggestions)
13	% of income spent on housing	Local survey required
14	Housing waiting lists	Local survey required
15	# of low income housing units	Local survey required

Data Sources:

No indicator/survey source at this time

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Economic Viability >> Cost of Living >> **Utility Costs**

Issues Identified: *Utility costs can vary depending on whether a person is on social assistance or not. The cost of utilities is impacted by the cost of utility re-hook-ups.*

Indicator #	Community Proposed Indicator	Community Level Data Sources (suggestions)
16	Dollar amount of utility hook-ups and reconnects	Local survey required

Data Sources:

No indicator/survey source at this time

Economic Viability

Economic Viability >> Cost of Living >> **Competitive Retailing**

Issues Identified: *Food and fuel costs were reduced in communities where there was competition between retailers.*

Indicator #	Community Proposed Indicator	Community Level Data Sources (suggestions)
17	# of retailers per commodity (i.e. fresh food, gas)	Local survey required

Data Sources:

No indicator/survey source at this time

Economic Viability

Economic Viability >> Cost of Living >> **Social Assistance Rates**

Issues Identified: *Social assistance rates do not adequately provide for the cost of living in northern Saskatchewan.*

Indicator #	Community Proposed Indicator	Community Level Data Sources (suggestions)
18	% of cost of living met by social assistance rates	Local survey required

Data Sources:

No indicator/survey source at this time

Economic Viability

Economic Viability >> Cost of Living >> **Single Parent Families**

Issues Identified: *Many families are headed by single parents who experience reduced economic power (loss of spousal economies of scale) and increased costs (child care and other supports.)*

Indicator #	Community Proposed Indicator	Community Level Data Sources (suggestions)
19	# of single parent families	Existing data found at: http://www.statscan.ca >> (English / French) >> Community Profiles >> 2001 Aboriginal Peoples Survey Community Profiles or 2001 Aboriginal Population Profile >> Choose a community

Data Sources:

A) Statistics Canada: 2001 Community Profiles. Find source at: <http://www12.statcan.ca/english/profil01/PlaceSearchForm1.cfm>

Economic Viability

Economic Viability >> Health Benefit Coverage >> **Prescription Drugs**

Issues Identified: *The cost of prescription drugs is not always covered, depending on factors such as status and whether an individual is on social assistance. A recent policy requiring Treaty people to sign a confidentiality waiver or pay for health benefits up front has impacted whether people fill their prescriptions or not.*

Indicator #	Community Proposed Indicator	Community Level Data Sources (suggestions)
20	% of drug costs paid “out of pocket” vs. by health programs	Local survey required
21	# of prescriptions issued to a patient but not filled	Local survey required – suggested questions: A) RHS (Adult survey): - During the past 12 months, have you experienced any of the following barriers to receiving healthcare? (List includes: Not covered by Non-Insured Health benefits [e.g. service, medication, equipment]; Prior approval for services under Non-Insure Health Benefits was denied; Could not afford direct cost of care/service; Could not afford direct costs; Could not afford childcare costs). - <i>Community level data for RHS survey exists: must be accessed by community.</i>

Data Sources:

A) RHS: First Nations and Inuit Regional Longitudinal Health Survey (Adult survey) – Question 54. Find Source at: http://www.naho.ca/firstnations/english/pdf/key_docs_adult.pdf

Economic Viability

Economic Viability >> Health Benefit Coverage >> **Medical Transportation**

Issues Identified: *Coverage of costs for travel away from the community for medical treatment often do not cover the actual costs. e.g., accommodation is not always provided after hospital discharge; travel coverage is to the closest major centre from the community, not the city where the doctor or specialist is located. The abuse of medical transportation coverage results in a rigid application of benefits.*

Indicator #	Community Proposed Indicator	Community Level Data Sources (suggestions)
22	% of actual costs covered by medical transportation funding	Local survey required – suggested questions: A) RHS (Adult survey): - During the past 12 months, have you experienced any of the following barriers to receiving healthcare? (List includes: Not covered by Non-Insured Health benefits [e.g. service, medication, equipment]; Prior approval for services under Non-Insure Health Benefits was denied; Could not afford direct cost of care/service; Could not afford direct costs; Could not afford childcare costs). - <i>Community level data for RHS survey exists: must be accessed by community.</i>
23	# of patients who do not follow recommended treatment due to cost	Local survey required – suggested questions: A) RHS (Adult survey): - During the past 12 months, have you experienced any of the following barriers to receiving healthcare? (List includes: Not covered by Non-Insured Health benefits [e.g. service, medication, equipment]; Prior approval for services under Non-Insure Health Benefits was denied; Could not afford direct cost of care/service; Could not afford direct costs; Could not afford childcare costs). - <i>Community level data for RHS survey exists: must be accessed by community.</i>

Data Sources:

A) RHS: First Nations and Inuit Regional Longitudinal Health Survey (Adult survey) – Question 54
Find Source: http://www.naho.ca/firstnations/english/pdf/key_docs_adult.pdf

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Economic Viability

Economic Viability >> Health Benefit Coverage >> **Companion & Translation Services for Elders and Youth**

Issues Identified: *Transportation costs are usually provided only for the person seeking treatment and as a result, very ill Elders and youth often have to travel alone. Elders do not have someone who can translate for them, especially needed to understand complex medical terminology.*

Indicator #	Community Proposed Indicator	Community Level Data Sources (suggestions)
24	# of Elders & youth (under 16) travelling alone for medical care	Local survey required

Data Sources:

No indicator/survey source at this time

Economic Viability

Economic Viability >> Funding for Community Programs >> **Sufficient Funding**

Issues Identified: *Programs are chronically under-funded in some or all areas of operation. In order to be effective and produce desired outcomes, programs require sufficient funding (budget) to carry out identified activities.*

Indicator #	Community Proposed Indicator	Community Level Data Sources (suggestions)
	None proposed	Local survey required

Data Sources:

No indicator/survey source at this time

Economic Viability

Economic Viability >> Funding for Community Programs >> **Stable Funding**

Issues Identified: *Programs require stable, long-term funding to allow for planning and evaluation, and to develop community commitment and support.*

Indicator #	Community Proposed Indicator	Community Level Data Sources (suggestions)
	None proposed	Local survey required

Data Sources:

No indicator/survey source at this time

Economic Viability

Economic Viability >> [Funding for Community Programs](#) >> **Infrastructure**

Issues Identified: *Programs require suitable infrastructure to carry out identified activities (buildings, equipment, supplies).*

Indicator #	Community Proposed Indicator	Community Level Data Sources (suggestions)
	None proposed	Local survey required

Data Sources:

No indicator/survey source at this time

Economic Viability

Economic Viability >> Funding for Community Programs >> **Staffing**

Issues Identified: *Programs often do not have sufficient funds to attract and hire trained staff; short-term funding can result in a lack of staff commitment.*

Indicator #	Community Proposed Indicator	Community Level Data Sources (suggestions)
25	% of required positions vacant	Local survey required
26	% of staff with formal training	Existing data found at: A) http://www.statscan.ca >> (English / French) >> Community Profiles >> 2001 Aboriginal Peoples Survey Community Profiles or 2001 Aboriginal Population Profile >> Choose a community
27	Trained staff - length of time in position	Local survey required
28	Community satisfaction with staff	Local survey required

Data Sources:

A) Statistics Canada: 2001 Community Profiles. Find source at: <http://www12.statcan.ca/english/profil01/PlaceSearchForm1.cfm>

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Economic Viability

Economic Viability >> Funding for Community Programs >> **Promotion**

Issues Identified: *In order for community members to support and participate in programs, an awareness and connectedness must be developed.*

Indicator #	Community Proposed Indicator	Community Level Data Sources (suggestions)
29	Program participation rates	Local survey required
30	Program awareness levels	Local survey required

Data Sources:

No indicator/survey source at this time