

WESTERN ARCTIC YOUTH COLLECTIVE

Building resilient communities through youth-led initiatives



The Organization

WAYC was created in 2020 by Inuvialuit and Gwich'in youth, for youth with connections to the Beaufort Delta region of the Northwest Territories. It aims to empower youth to be change makers by providing a platform of youth-led collaborative initiatives and partnerships in their communities.

The Need

Establishing a sustainable source of revenue that could provide a reliable income stream and reduce the dependence on grants was necessary to continue carrying out programs and services. Additionally, it was essential that this source of revenue not be affected by changes in government policies or donor preferences.

The Solution

The proposed solution is to start a social enterprise in the Northwest Territories that provides a communal space for selling local goods, working, and gathering. This multi-use space would also address the lack of safe places for community members and cater to the needs of visitors to the region.

In Their Own Words

“We can’t constantly rely on grants. It’s not sustainable. It’s a lot more work than it should be. Funding can also change so quickly with a change of government that doesn’t reflect or align with your objectives and values. And we also see an opportunity that is missing in the region.”

Key lesson(s) or best practice(s) shared

Knowing your organization’s worth and valuing your time and contributions is critical for achieving success, particularly for Indigenous grassroots organizations advocating for their community’s needs and working towards a sustainable future.

AT A GLANCE

Type of organization

Unincorporated organization

Social finance approach

Enterprising activity

Sustainable development goal(s)



Investment readiness stage

Social financial awareness

Organizational ability

Network development

