



## *Aerospace and Defense Sector: What is required for Aboriginal businesses to enter and operate in supply chains?*



### What is the research about?

Recent changes in Canada's Defence Procurement Strategy and potential further changes open the door for greater involvement by Aboriginal businesses and communities seeking to expand own-source revenues. The research develops a broader understanding of optimal pathways for Aboriginal entrepreneurs and businesses to participate in Aerospace and Defense Sector supply chains, and provides a baseline on engagement by Aboriginal businesses in the Atlantic Region against which to measure longer term progress.

### What does the research do?

To improve opportunities in this sector, the research documents challenges and barriers faced by Aboriginal entrepreneurs and businesses entering and operating in Aerospace and Defense Sector supply chains, and identifies mitigation strategies designed to increase involvement. It recommends policies, mechanisms and approaches to ensure meaningful participation by Aboriginal stakeholders in this sector.

**Timeline:** October 2016-March 2017

### Why is the research important?

The Aerospace and Defense Sector is made up of over 700 companies across the country and is responsible for over 180,000 jobs, and that number is expected to grow significantly over the next 20 years. Atlantic Canada is one of the fastest growing regions in Aerospace manufacturing and MRO (maintenance, repair and overhaul). In particular, Aboriginal organizations across the Atlantic Region are exploring ways for Aboriginal entrepreneurs and businesses to engage in the Irving Shipbuilding supply chain. Among other things, this work has uncovered the much larger issue of limited Aboriginal engagement and participation in Aerospace and Defense Sector supply chains overall. The research highlights required initiatives to assist Aboriginal entrepreneurs and businesses increase their participation in Aerospace and Defense Sector supply chains.

### Research Team:

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