

An Enterprising Success Story

Leslie and Tia credit Atuqtuarvik Corporation with supporting their business at key times of expansion. "We couldn't have achieved anything without them," says Tia. "They recognized our potential and really backed us up. Atuqtuarvik Corporation plays a valuable role in the Nunavut economy," says Tia. By supporting Inuit-owned business startups the Corporation allows the Nunavut economy to be representative of its people.

In 2001, Leslie and Tia Nukiwuak were outfitting and selling carvings out of the back room of their house in Qikiqtarjuaq. They had recently landed a contract selling fuel to the community and needed a large space. Hearing on local radio about a new financial corporation that was lending money to Inuit-owned businesses, they brought their company, Leelie Enterprises, to Atuqtuarvik Corporation.

After providing a business plan and meeting with representatives, their loan was approved. Leslie and Tia got the critical financing to be able to create a storefront and expand their business. A few years later, their services included accommodations for visitors and outfitting clients for sightseeing, wildlife viewing and eco-tours. They had a chance to expand the accommodations side of their business by buying a bed and breakfast in Iqaluit. Leslie and Tia had such a positive experience working with Atuqtuarvik Corporation they returned for help financing this new venture as well. It was approved and they were able to purchase and expand Leelie Lodgings.

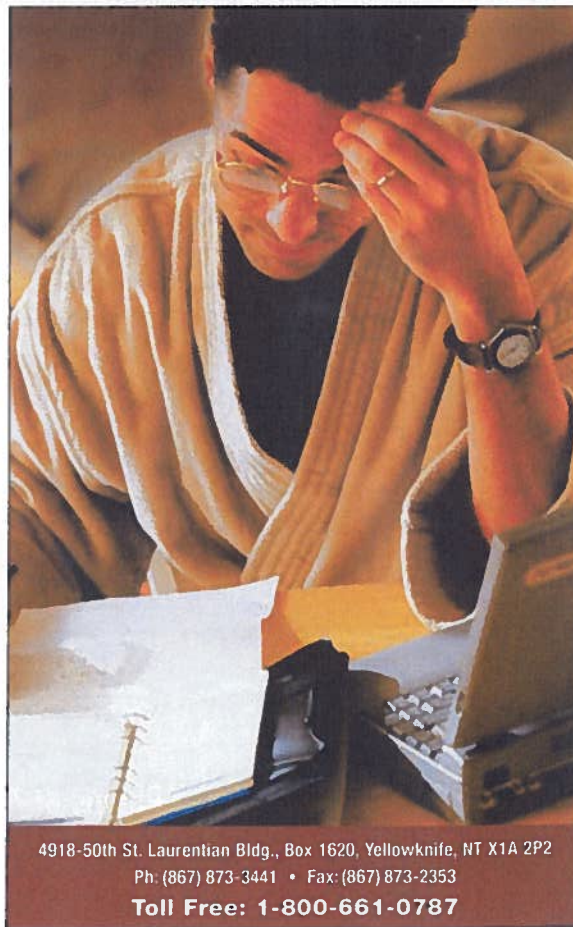
Both companies have thrived throughout the decade. A few years ago, Leslie and Tia wanted to improve the accommodations for visitors in Qikiqtarjuaq and returned to Atuqtuarvik Corporation to expand yet again. With the corporation's help they were able to purchase top-of-the-line AirStream units for

visitors. Leelie Enterprises has developed into a solid retail, lodging and outfitting business in the Qikiqtarjuaq region. The company supplements those operations with exporting, fuel delivery, consulting and rental services, as well as passenger services and baggage handling within the community.

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people. "Their knowledge of the area and having seen the development here from the beginning is a big asset," she says. "They're more approachable, have incredible insight and understanding of the ins and outs of business here, and we're treated like real people rather than just a loan number."

By acting as a partner that is familiar with Nunavut, its business environment and its people, Atuqtuarvik Corporation really helps businesses succeed more than a hands-off bank or other institution, she says. "It's just really nice to know that Atuqtuarvik Corporation is there."



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