

# The Great Canadian Exchange

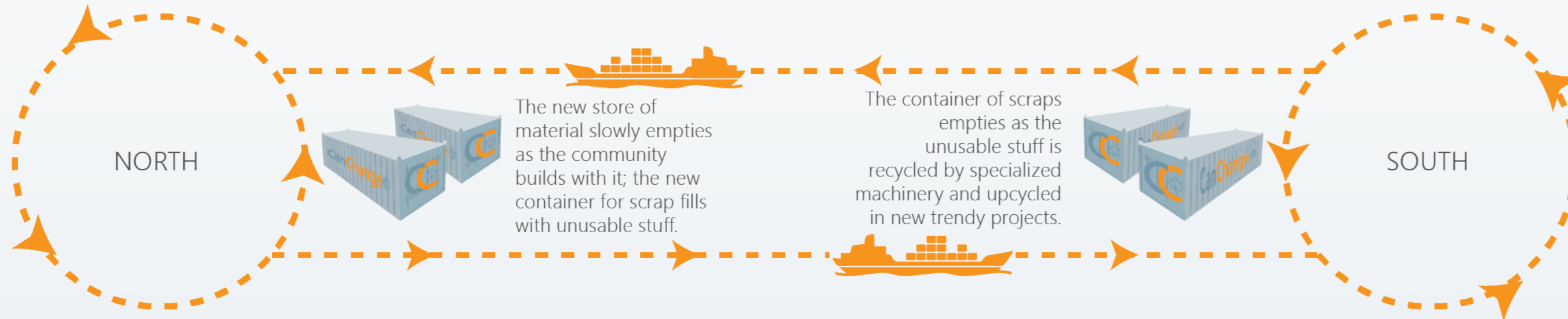
START



A new container with quality material arrives and replaces the now empty store of material.



A container is filled with new quality materials and is sent to the 14 communities in Nunavik.



NORTH

The new store of material slowly empties as the community builds with it; the new container for scrap fills with unusable stuff.

The container of scraps empties as the unusable stuff is recycled by specialized machinery and upcycled in new trendy projects.

SOUTH

The container of unusable scraps is unloaded. Artworks and creations are exhibited and sold and the proceeds go towards more/better materials.

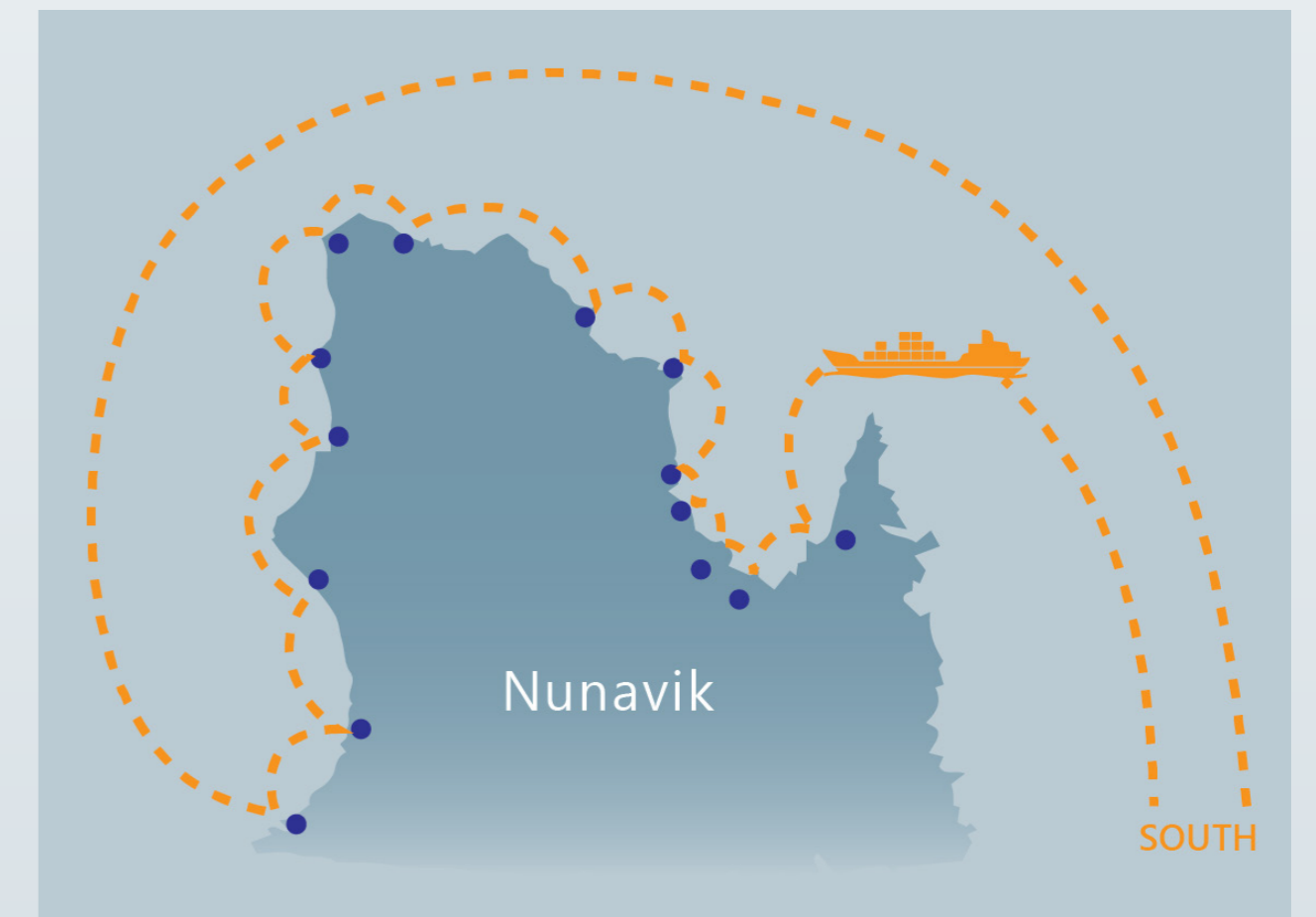
The now full container of unusable/hazardous scraps is sent back south along with any artworks or creations made by the community. The empty store of material becomes the new container to fill with more scraps.



The Great Canadian Exchange (CanChange) program is a response to the lack of whole and **quality materials** in the communities of Nunavik in northern Quebec. Hand in hand with this is notion that designing for the north should be done by those **living in the north**; those who know the landscape, climate and the people's needs well. By shipping quality materials like good lumber, plywood, insulation, steel components, etc., the communities of Nunavik can **design and create** their own artifacts with quality materials.



At the same time, discarded materials from old projects and shipping packaging would be packed and sent back south where specialized machinery can **recycle**, or **upcycle**, them. Analysis of current residual management demonstrates that the 14 northern villages generate close to 12 000 tones or 122 000 m3 of residual materials annually. Almost all of the cut-off materials are deposited in the northern landfills where they are burned, buried or stored. No concrete recycling system exists. CanChange, **improves the management** of northern landfills to all measures and is pursued in every northern village.

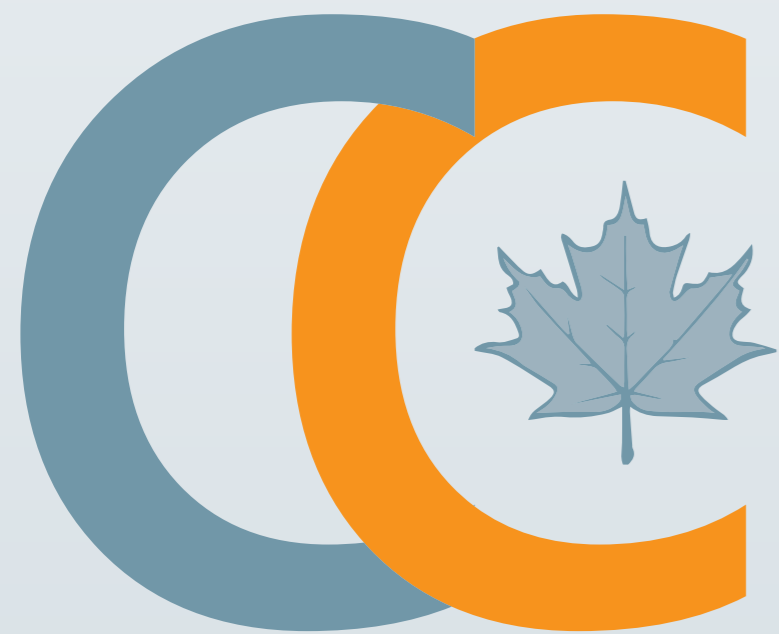




The start of the CanChange program would be broad; the **materials sent and received** would be rather general. But with time, and with a **crucial dialogue**, the 14 communities in Nunavik would receive the materials that they need and want most. This **could be anything** from construction lumber to fine paintbrushes, from insulation and steel to oil pastels and charcoal. Anything needed to **design, build, craft and make** would be shipped to north, each container tailored to individual communities.

Many in Canada's north are **artists!** Most, however, are hidden gems. If the talents in northern communities could **gain exposure** to well-paying southern clients, the profits could go towards the buying and sending of more materials or **better quality materials** for continued **innovative building** and constructing by the same northern communities. With the southerners helping the artists in Nunavik, the northern artists are helping the city-dwellers come back to **Canada's roots** in its beautiful landscape.

## Northern Empowerment Upcycling the Discarded Quality with Independence



Various hazardous materials are found in Nunavik and pose risks to human **health** and the **environment**. The mismanagement, or non-management, of hazardous materials may be harmful for the residents of **northern territories**, whether that be human, plant or animal. Old batteries, for example, which contain heavy metals and corrosive properties, could crack in the harsh weather conditions and leak into the ground and water. Used oil,

fuel and antifreeze bottles and barrels could spill highly flammable and toxic liquids into the delicate **ecosystems of the north**. Even dead light bulbs pose a threat with the glass' potential to break and expose mercury hidden inside. To reduce these risks, CanChange proposes to cart the unhealthy left-overs down south. Canadians have a **responsibility**, an **obligation**, to fellow Canadians to **help** one another manage these health concerns.

