

## #2A Impacts of Resource Development on Indigenous Communities in Alaska and Greenland

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Resource development impacts indigenous communities in Alaska and Greenland. Two related topics have not been well researched: subsistence and human mobility. “Subsistence” is the cultural and economic practice of living off the land. Resource development has changed the ways people hunt, fish, and gather. “Human mobility” refers to how people move to and away from communities and regions. The researchers are interested in how resource development has changed how people move. For example, building mining camps brings many new people into remote areas.



### Areas that need further study:

#### *Impacts on Indigenous communities*

- ⇒ What are the cultural values of the community and how are these affected by resource development?
- ⇒ Which cultural traditions will change and how?
- ⇒ How are economy and culture connected?
- ⇒ How can impacts be identified and measured in a way that uses cultural and community knowledge?

### *Subsistence and Cultural Values*

- ⇒ Subsistence is very important to indigenous communities in both Alaska and Greenland. Sharing country foods is important for relationships. Subsistence teaches people about their cultural skills, values and identity. When subsistence is threatened by resource development, whole cultures and economic systems are threatened.
- ⇒ Resource development can threaten the environment and change traditional lifestyles. Community members are worried about the changes resource development causes to the land and animals. They want to protect their livelihoods.

### *Human Mobility*

- ⇒ Resource development often encourages people to move to an area for work, then leave when the work is complete. Today, workers most often fly in for two-to-three week shifts, then fly out again. People are also leaving their villages to seek education or employment in towns or cities. Young people, especially women, are leaving to go to larger communities. These movements of people in and out of communities in Alaska and Greenland need to be studied.



Researchers must learn more about the importance of subsistence and human mobility in communities to know what impact resource development will have on indigenous peoples.

