

#2B Mining Development in Northern Canada

by **Thierry Rodon, Université Laval**

Mining in Northern Canada has many impacts on local communities. The economic, environmental, and health impacts have been studied, but the social impacts still need more studies.

This report explores reports on mining (environmental impact assessments, impact benefits agreements, and monitoring reports) to see what gaps exist. These types of reports can tell us what researchers already know about the effects of mining development. But, these reports can be difficult to use, especially for community members and non-scientists, because they are long and use technical language that most people don't understand.



Areas that need further study:

Impacts on Indigenous communities

- ⇒ What is the impact of resource development on hunting and fishing, the amount of country food gathered, the number of hunters, etc.?
- ⇒ What is the impact of resource development on community long-term well-being?
- ⇒ How are women impacted either by working in the mine or by being in relationships with miners?
- ⇒ What are the impacts of fly-in/fly-out shiftwork on Indigenous communities
 - ⇒ What about Indigenous employment at the mines, including turnover and promotion?

⇒ What happens in Northern communities when a mine closes?

Some areas need more research because researchers do not agree or existing reports contradict each other. For example, some reports say that mining development increases the amount of people able to go hunting, because their increased wages mean that they have more money to spend on equipment and gas, etc. Others say that working at the mines mean that people have less time and interest in going on the land.

Finally, researchers need to find ways to accurately measure how resource development impacts community life. Their social and economic impacts are not often measured at the community level, so we cannot know what is changing and how much. Often the only information available is people's opinions about what has changed, with no numbers as support. This doesn't allow for evidence-based decision.



We need to find ways to accurately measure how resource development impacts community well-being.

