

## **Comparative Experience with Localized Negotiations Between Communities and Companies**

Ken Caine, University of Alberta

### **Overview**

In this gap analysis comparative experiences with localized negotiations between communities and resource companies will be explored. Specifically, this analysis will examine the research comparing existing relations between communities and resource development industries in the different jurisdictions of the Circumpolar North, outside Canada. Because of the broad scale, language differences, varying business cultures and legal frameworks, and generally a recognized paucity of published research across the circumpolar world, the analysis also incorporates unpublished research and reports with key personal communications. This analysis takes into account the identified gaps as well as less-explicit gaps in research within the literature.

### **Gaps in Research on Localized Negotiations Between Communities and Industry**

1. Evolution of models and mechanisms for decision-making between community groups/leadership and extractive industries. Case study and comparative analysis of emerging community-industry relations (trends and challenges) in circumpolar autonomous and land claim regions and autonomous countries.
2. Historical forms of engagement between local communities and industry: examination of constructive and effective dialogue in contemporary relations (towards collective agency)
3. Contextualization of social license to operate: what forms of participation are in use and developing within agreement making models? What variants and forms of 'Corporate Social Responsibility' (CSR) are emerging in northern regions? Are resulting agreements and processes transferable across countries and northern regions?
4. Engagement strategies: what strategies are used to engage in negotiations; from community to multi-level engagement strategies?
5. Levels of community participation and degrees of agency considering community populations, scale of development, and multi/transnational industry proponents
6. Gender: What are the gendered dimensions of existing and evolving practices in community-industry relations?
7. Legal/quasi-legal dimensions of negotiations: understanding legal and property rights (legislative frameworks - such as land claims versus state strategic security assets), and industry obligations in regions (as basis for requirements for negotiated agreements)

8. What are the political implications of agreements resulting from community-industry relations? What is the impact of such agreements at local/municipal, regional and national levels?
9. How do indigenous joint venture/joint stock companies influence the evolution and development of community-industry relations? What is their nature and what are their forms of operations?
10. Understanding the place and application of environmental assessment (including social impact assessment tools) in localized negotiations
11. Hybrid economies: understanding the intersection (and subsequent adaptation) of subsistence based activities and economies and market economies
12. Self-determination: how do community-industry relations develop in the context of indigenous self-government and autonomy?
13. What is the nature of so-called 'northern relationships' in community-industry relations? How can we understand 'local' in the context of perceived homogeneity and/or multiple/conflicting layers of interests in communities.
14. Diversity of understandings and definitions of sustainable development that inform community-industry negotiations (epistemological/ontological conflicts)
15. Methodological gaps: A need exists for increased ethnographic research into community-industry negotiation processes. This includes examining the development and application of ethno-cultural assessments of negotiations, and socio-cultural impacts on local communities (in the context of lack of legislation)
16. Non-Governmental action: What is the role and impact of activist groups and NGO involvement (including methods/techniques used, and success in accessing closed-door negotiations)
17. Non-extractive industries (reindeer herding, hydroelectric, etc) as part of less-exploitive forms and strategies for community development. With respect to these industries, examination of related government policies that may be insensitive to unique culture and circumstances of indigenous peoples.