LACE - Labour Mobility and Community Participation in the Extractive Industry - Yukon

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Structure

• Introduction
• Community participation in mining – history of mining as part of colonisation
• Cultural changes – the view from Elders
• Cultural revitalisation as one consequence of decolonisation (spin-off study by Susa Gartler)
• Labour Mobility and specifics of employment in mining
• Future developments – supplementary economic sectors to mining
• Booms and busts – dependency from mining and coping strategies of workers
• Concluding remarks:
  Scientific outreach, documentary film, the Mobile Workers Guide
Canadian – Austrian Project

FUNDING

• SSHRC – Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council
• Yukon Government – Department for Economic Development
• University of Vienna

LOCATION

Mayo / First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun
impressions from Pelly Crossing and Ross River
Mines: Wolverine, Victoria Gold, Minto, Alexco

Research Program: ReSDA – Resources and Sustainable Development in the Arctic

PARTNERS

• Yukon College
• Lakehead Universtiy/Thunderbay Ontario
• University of Vienna/ Austria
Community Participation in Mining – history of mining as part of colonisation

- NND background
- History of Mayo /Keno Hill Silver Mine
- History of Relocations
Cultural changes (through mining) – the view from Elders

- Elders highlight the environmental factor: stewardship and importance of ‘responsible mining’ as well as access to land and animals/plants

Themes included:
- the influx of people (men or ‘displaced persons’)
- First memories of the mine: Steamboats, Apples and Oranges
- new foods and alcohol
- working for money
- income spending
- Life in Elsa
- ACCESS AND POLLUTION
Cultural revitalisation as one consequence of decolonisation (spin-off study by Susa Gartler)

- What is cultural revitalization?
- The Living Culture House
- Archives & Collections, Handicrafts and Elders & Stories
- Participative planning Process
- Culture and healing
Labour Mobility and specifics of employment in mining

• Employment – entering the mining sector and variety of jobs
• Living in camps
• Families
• Income management
• Drugs/alcohol – how camp life and FIFO/DIDO can support to tackle the problems
• Subsistence and wage work – how both work well together
• Worldview on mining and living off the land – stewards of the land
Future developments & supplementary economic sectors to mining

• Food security – agricultural turn
• Keno Hill reclamation – business opportunities
• Social businesses – training for leadership and qualified employment
• Challenges of tourism – a meaningful way for economic development?
• Living off the land as essential cultural continuity
• The Peel Watershed generations – keeping deposits for future generations
• How to invest benefits/royalties – problem: the “claw back clause”

“We are not anti-mining if it is done in the right way”
Booms and busts – dependency from mining and coping strategies of workers

- Communities and workers: avoiding dependency from mining
- Workers: diversification of skills and trades
- Workers: ready to be mobile – mining: FIFO/DIDO as inherent characteristics
- Differences in construction period and operational period – regarding numbers of employment
- Training of local people – challenges – training in bust times (attractive?)
- Royalties or own entrepreneurial activities
Conclusion

• Mining as part of the history – fair benefits as part of decolonisation

• Unpredictable nature of the mining sector and global entanglements

• Training in bust times – long term aim to have First Nation people in all ranks / jobs levels

• FIFO as a sustainable strategy for employment – enlarged labour market

• Knowledge about coping strategies and experience necessary – not everyone will stay in the sector --- „learning to FIFO“

• Mix of trades and skills – being ready for bust times and other sectors
Concluding remarks
knowledge transfer

• Mobile Workers Guide
copublishers: ReSDA, NND, YC

• Documentary film with/ for NND „Mining on First Nation Land“

• Scientific articles: e.g.
relation of (mobile) wage-work in mining and living off the land – cultural sustainability
Mobility coping strategies
The living culture house