



Graduate student employment opportunity

Analytical surveys for the ReSDA Atlas

ReSDA is looking to hire 5 graduate students to work on a part time basis (approximately 20 hours per week) from September to December, 2015. This research involves analytical surveys of existing data and collection of information to provide core data for the ReSDA Atlas project. This work would be done from September to December and the results uploaded onto the web Atlas as it is collected. It would be ideal to have a student who could focus on data collection for Nunavut, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon.

Research Details:

The ReSDA network is developing a web based information site using a map of the Circumpolar North with the locations of major resource development projects. This will serve as a site to locate ReSDA research findings as well as other relevant information about the project, local communities and environments. The objective of the project is to gather and analyze information on conditions, impacts and benefits of resource developments. This one-stop place will provide access to information relating to various resource development conditions across the North. It will include a wide range of information from community stories, videos, audio clips, photographs, and other materials from partners as well as reports, raw data, and other information provided by researchers.

Core data to be collected for the Atlas includes:

1. Conditions: Many of ReSDA's recently completed gap analysis reports noted that it would be useful to have information about how the conditions surrounding resource development varies across the Circumpolar North. The core data for the Atlas would therefore include:
 - a. Regulatory regimes
 - b. Ownership patterns
 - c. Regional economic development policies
 - d. Subsistence economies
 - e. IBA's in Canada and Alaska
2. Impacts: Almost all of the ReSDA gap analyses noted the need to collect and make available existing information on resource development impacts on Arctic communities. A comparative analysis of this information would enable us to identify impacts that need to be avoided and to identify "best case" examples. These analytical surveys will start with the development of a list of all potential community impacts of resource development as identified in previous research. This initial list would not be limited to the Arctic. It would use research carried out in other similar regions. This list could then be applied against Arctic development projects to see if data on these impacts exists or not. The data that exists would be made available through the Atlas. These impacts surveys would deal with many of the issues that were mentioned in the gap analyses such as:
 - a. General social impacts
 - b. Economic impacts
 - c. Cultural and subsistence economy impacts
 - d. Environmental impacts

3. Benefits: The benefits of resource development are often mentioned by industry and governments but as the ReSDA gap analysis reports have indicated, very little systematic analysis has been done on what benefits exist and how these benefits vary by project. A comparative analysis of the benefits flowing to communities from resource developments would be useful to make available to communities so that they could make judgements about likely benefits and about different models that are used to provide benefits.
 - a. Revenue distributions
 - b. Employment benefits
 - c. Education and training
 - d. Support for cultural vitality, the subsistence economy, and the integration of traditional knowledge
4. Baseline data used to measure impacts and change: Previous to the gap analysis work, many of our Northern partners indicated a need for basic reliable baseline data relating to social and economic change. This is necessary in order to evaluate the impact/benefits resulting from resource developments. Partners also noted the need for baseline data that could be collected and analyzed by communities themselves. There are several projects currently underway dealing with baseline data relating to socio-economic considerations. The ReSDA Atlas could be used to assemble the results of these projects so that they are readily available for individuals looking at resource development impacts and benefits. Work to add this data to the Atlas would include:
 - a. A survey of social indicators used in the Environmental/Social and Economic Impact Assessments
 - b. A survey of community-based social and economic monitoring projects in Arctic regions

Students would be hired to do analytical surveys to provide this core data/information that is not already provided by existing ReSDA research. The work would be done from September to December and uploaded onto the web Atlas as it is collected. Students would be paid approximately \$25.00/hour.

Qualifications:

- Must be a current student doing a Masters or PhD
- Preference will be given to students pursuing their research studies in northern regions
- Preference will be given to students studying Sociology, Political Science, Anthropology, Geography or related social science discipline
- Preference will be given to students who are from Nunavut, Yukon and/or Northwest Territories
- Proven organizational skills, research and writing skills, attention to detail, independent
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills

Please send your resume to:

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