

Overview

ReSDA is a circumpolar research network focusing on sustainable approaches to resource development for Northern people, communities and regions. We are looking at ways to secure more benefits from resource development with fewer costs. This Major Collaborative Research Initiative Project funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council is led by [Chris Southcott](#) at Lakehead University. The network involves researchers from a range of disciplines and organizations representing communities, government, the private sector and non-profit organizations.



“ The potential exists for finding new ways of developing resources that will ensure greater benefits for and build capacity in these northern communities. Rather than being something that threatens their vitality, the development of natural resources can be done in a way that will ensure the long-term sustainability of northern communities and the surrounding environment.”

Dr. Chris Southcott,
Principal Investigator

This 7 year research program began in April 2011 and has evolved with continuing dialogue between partners and communities across the North. Our workshops, meetings and northern offices support the networks understanding of needs and interests that are relevant as situations evolve and change in the North. Research is organized into four main themes of sustainable regions, communities, cultures and environments with many interconnections between these areas. The work began with a gap analysis to evaluate what is already known and determine the priority research areas for the next 5 years. A number of projects are now completed, some are currently happening and there are still new projects beginning. The following table is a list of the priority research topics and some of the projects for these. Details of these projects and the gap analysis results are available on the ReSDA website at www.resda.ca/research-projects/. A primary objective of ReSDA is to share knowledge in many ways including our website, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. We hold annual workshops focusing on themes important in the North to provide an opportunity to share information, network and plan for future activities. Reports and details of these events can be found on the ReSDA webpage.

Summary table of research

[Resource Development Impacts Indicators.](#) How can we develop better, community controlled, indicators of change linked to resource development?

[Measuring the fiscal linkages](#) How can we maximize the amount of money that stays in a region?

[Resource Royalties Distribution and community development.](#) What are the various ways that funding is distributed within communities and what are the impacts of these?

Social Impacts and Mitigation in Northern Communities. What are the best ways to mitigate the main social impacts of resource development on communities? TBD

[Labour mobility and community participation in the extractive industries \(LACE\).](#) What are the best options for communities in dealing with long distance commuting?

[Augmenting the utility of Impact Benefit Agreements for Northern Aboriginal Communities](#)
What are the best ways to deal with negative impacts from current Impact Benefit Agreements?

[Resource Development and Subsistence Harvesting: Impact mitigation and best practices.](#) What can be done to ensure that resource development does not negatively impact the subsistence economy of northern communities?

Social and Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA) What are the different forms of socio-economic impact assessment used in the north and what forms are communities most comfortable with? TBD

[Local Benefits of Education, Training and Employment with Resource Industries.](#) What are the best examples of employment, training, and education programs associated with resource development in the north?

Community Well-being and Resource Development. What are the best measures of well-being for northern communities and what how are these impacted by resource development?

Project 1. [Measuring well-being to understand resource impacts.](#)

Project 2. [Wellbeing and the impacts of resource development](#)

Traditional Knowledge and Resource Development. What are the best examples of the use of traditional knowledge in the planning and monitoring of resource development?

[Traditional knowledge on the impacts of diamond mining on caribou and communities in the Western Arctic](#)

[Best practices in Industry/Government/Community relationships.](#) What are the best practices in developing relationships and how do these relationships influence success?

Gender and Resource Development in the North. What are the gendered dimensions of northern resource extraction, and what are meaningful, practical tools to address gender in decision-making, implementation, and monitoring.

Project 1. [Gender and decision making in natural resource management in the Yukon](#)

Project 2. [Gender relations and gender based analysis at the resource development/traditional economy interface.](#)

[Environmental Legacies, resource development and remediation in the North.](#) How have environmental changes from resource developments impacted Arctic Communities?

[Creating Sovereign Wealth Funds for Aboriginal and Northern local communities](#)