



# **Mining and Benefits to Arctic Communities: Initial results of the ReSDA Project**

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# Are resources an answer to Northern challenges?



*“Resource production often represents a threat to the Northern environment upon which the traditional economy of the region’s indigenous population still depend...”*

*“Resource development has often been linked to an increase in the disruption of these communities leading to a variety of social and health challenges...”*

# Community Voices



- “Can we find ways to use the land so that our sons can find jobs, stay here, and have hope for the future”
- “We don’t have much else to build a healthy community on other than natural resources. It is difficult to say no to mining –but can we do it in a way that it helps us continue to exist rather than kill us?”
- “Climate change research money can’t keep our communities alive forever – we need to have a serious look again at what we can do with our natural resources”

# Has the world changed enough so that resource development can help communities become sustainable?

*“...there is some indication that the worst aspects of the resource dependence can be countered through the introduction of new policies and models of development that increase local control of development and ensure a higher share of resource rents are passed on to northern communities...”*

What is different?

- New land claim and self government agreements
- New co-management systems
- New global ethics surrounding resource extraction
- Better social, economic, and environmental impact assessments (both science and rules)
- World respect for indigenous rights

# ReSDA?



- Currently involves 51 researchers at 29 universities in 9 countries.
- Core funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Resource Council of Canada – 2011 to 2018.
- The main focus of ReSDA's research will be on finding ways to ensure that a larger share of the benefits of resource development stay in the region with fewer costs to communities.
- Main coordination office in Whitehorse Yukon with regional coordinators in Labrador, Nunavut, and NWT

# First Projects – Gap Analyses



Gap Analysis Theme	Lead Researcher
History of Resource Development	Ken Coates, University of Saskatchewan
Impacts of Resource Development	Peter Schweitzer, University of Vienna; Thierry Rodon, Université Laval
Measuring Impacts	Andrey Petrov, University of Northern Iowa
Resource Revenue Regimes	Lee Huskey, University of Alaska Anchorage
Social, Economic and Environmental Impact Assessment	Bram Noble, University of Saskatchewan
Regional Economic Development	Frances Abele, Carleton University
Social Dimensions of Resource Development	Brenda Parlee, University of Alberta
Community – Industry Relations	Ken Caine, University of Alberta
Impact Benefit Agreements	Ben Bradshaw, University of Guelph
Resources and the Subsistence Economy	David Natcher, University of Saskatchewan
Traditional knowledge and resource development	Henry Huntington, PEW Environment Group
Resources and Environmental Issues	Arn Keeling, Memorial University
Climate Change	Chris Southcott, Lakehead University
Cross Cutting Theme research: Gender and Resource Development	Suzanne Mills, McMaster University; Martha Dowsley, Lakehead University

# Initial Findings



- Communities have an increasing confidence in their ability to control resource development to meet their needs
- They want to know the best ways to do this
- They want to know what are the likely impacts of resource development, how these impacts can be best measured, and what is the best way of dealing with these impacts
- They want to know how other communities have dealt with resource development so that they can maximize benefits
- The Gap Analyses have done an initial survey of what exists already and what needs to be researched further

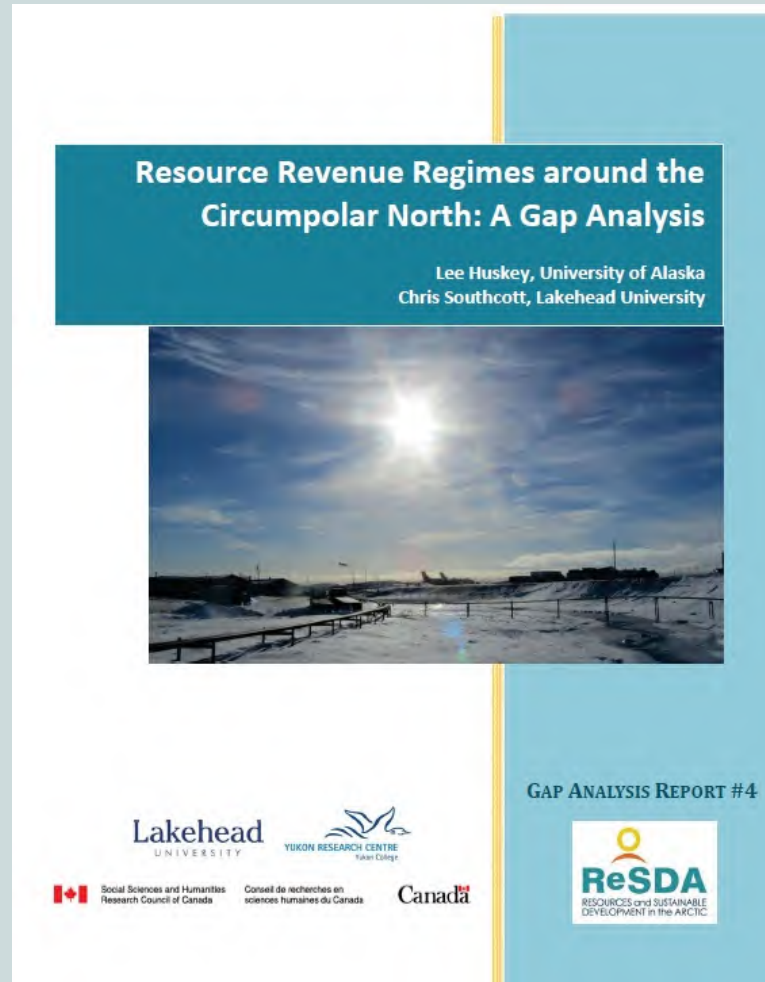
# New Possibilities (and new dangers)



- Social impacts – better understanding of social impacts over the past 30 years – new possibilities of mitigation (and we now know how severe some of these impacts are)
- Indicators – new realization of the importance of measuring change – new relevant indicators - increased understanding of the politics of data collection and management – need for community-based monitoring of social and economic change (and knowledge that community monitoring often benefits outside researchers more than communities)
- Resource revenues - new mechanisms exist to slow leakages and increase linkages – royalties now recognized as belonging to regions – new sovereign wealth funds etc. (resource curse – corruption)
- IBAs (IBAs are often secret – divide communities)
- New corporate-community relations – corporate social responsibility (possibility of CSR green wash and only to assure community agreement)



# Initial findings about mining in Norway



- “The Norwegian state is highly centralized and while recent changes concerning Finnmark have eased this centralized control, the resource regime is almost entirely controlled by the national government...”
- “Unlike the oil and gas industry, the mining industry in Norway is not subject to any special taxes and pay normal corporate tax rates. Certain municipalities in northern Norway that are close to mining operation would like to see a new mining tax. It is hoped that proceeds from such a tax could go to local communities to mitigate increased demands on these communities (Karlsbakk, 2012). “

***Project 1: Resource Development Impacts Indicators (Andrey Petrov)***

How can we develop better, community controlled, indicators of change linked to resource development?

***Project 2: Measuring the fiscal linkages (Lee Huskey)***

How can we maximize the amount of money that stays in a region?

***Project 3: Distribution of financial benefits within communities (Thierry Rodon)***

What are the various ways that funding is distributed within communities and what are the impacts of these?

***Project 4: Social Impacts and Mitigation in Northern Communities***

What are the best ways to mitigate the main social impacts of resource development on communities?

***Project 5: Long Distance Commuting and Arctic Communities (Gerti Elmsteiner-Saxinger)***

What are the best options for Arctic communities in dealing with long distance commuting?

***Project 6: Impact Benefit Agreements and Beyond (Ben Bradshaw)***

What are the best ways to deal with negative impacts arising from current Impact Benefit Agreements?

***Project 7: Resource Development and Subsistence Activities (Harvey Lemelin)***

How can resource development enhances impact the subsistence economy of northern communities?

***Project 8: Social and Economic Impact Assessment***

Which forms of socio-economic impact are communities most comfortable with?

***Project 9: Educational and Training Benefits***

What are the best examples of resource-related employment, training, and education programs?

***Project 10: Community Well-being and Resource Development (Brenda Parlee)***

What are the best measures of well-being for northern communities impacted by resource development?

***Project 11: Traditional Knowledge and Resource Development***

What are the best examples of the use of traditional knowledge in resource development?

***Project 12: Best practices in Industry/Government/Community relationships (Frances Abele)***

What are the best practices in developing relationships and how do these relationships influence success?

***Project 13: Gender and Resource Development in the North (Emilie Cameron and Suzanne Mills)***

How can resource development enhance gender equality?

***Project 14: Environmental Impacts of Resource Development (John Sandlos and Arn Keeling)***

How can environmental impacts be best mitigated to the benefit of communities?

# Thank you



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