



Resources, Arctic Communities, and Sustainability: Towards a New Relationship

Presentation to Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB)

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Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada



ReSDA?



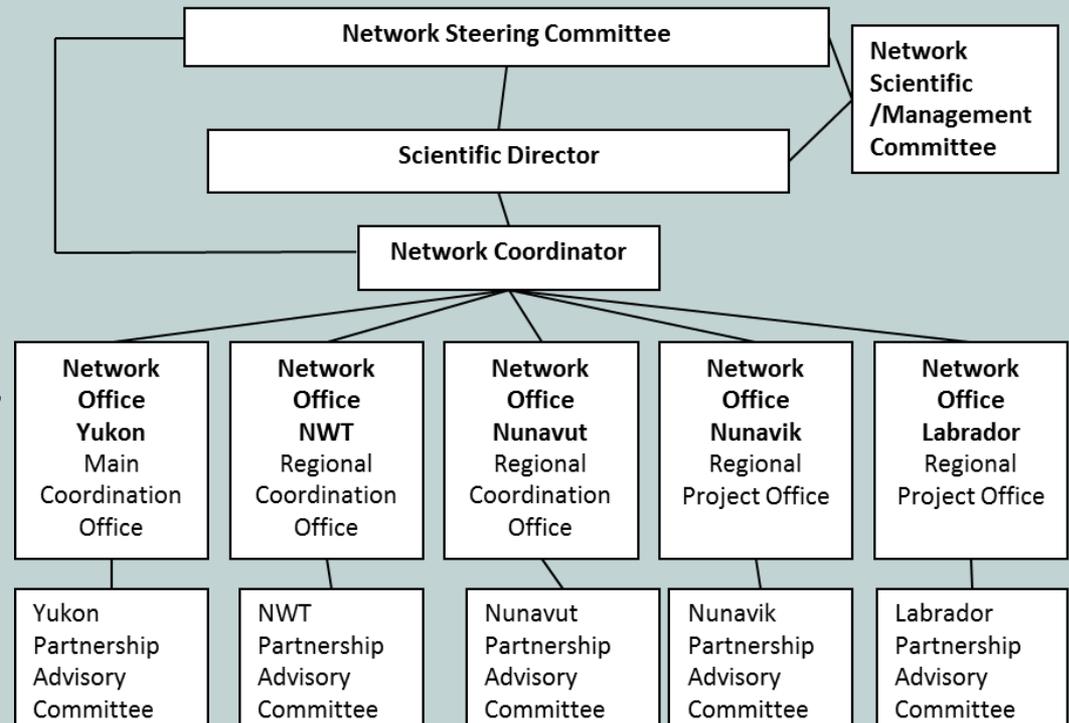
- Largest social science research project ever funded for the Circumpolar North currently involves 51 researchers at 29 universities in 9 countries.
- Core funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Resource Council of Canada – 2011 to 2018.
- The main focus of ReSDA's research will be on finding ways to ensure that a larger share of the benefits of resource development stay in the region with fewer costs to communities.
- The primary objective of the research will be to cultivate innovative approaches to the best ways of using natural resources to improve the well-being of northern communities while preserving the region's unique ecosystem.

The Structure of ReSDA

Members of the Steering Committee:

4 theme coordinators, with partner institutions including:

- Yukon Research Centre,
- Aurora Research Institute,
- Nunavut Research Institute,
- Makivik Inc.,
- the Labrador Institute,
- Arctic Co-ops, and
- an international representative



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

A Key Project for 2013/2014: The ReSDA Atlas of Arctic Resource Development



- A main research priority for 2014 would be to provide the initial data and analysis for a web-based “Atlas” to provide “one-stop” info to partners
- A series of “analytical surveys” based on conditions/impacts/benefits



14 Key Research Questions



- **Resource Development Impacts Indicators**
- **Measuring the fiscal linkages**
- **Distribution of financial benefits within communities**
- **Social Impacts and Mitigation in Northern Communities**
- **Long Distance Commuting and Arctic Communities**
- **Impact Benefit Agreements and Beyond**
- **Resource Development and Subsistence Activities**
- **Social and Economic Impact Assessment**
- **Educational and Training Benefits**
- **Community Well-being and Resource Development**
- **Traditional Knowledge and Resource Development**
- **Best practices in Industry/Government/Community relationships**
- **Gender and Resource Development in the North**
- **Environmental Impacts of Resource Development**

YESAB and ReSDA



- YESAB is unique among Impact Assessment bodies
 - Interesting to compare YESAB to regimes in other northern regions
- Common issues of concern
 - Baseline impact indicators for northern regions
 - Effectiveness of outreach strategies
 - Degree of community satisfaction

NORTHERN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT: A GAP ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH AGENDA

Bram Noble, Ph.D. University of Saskatchewan

Kevin Hanna, Ph.D. Wilfrid Laurier University

Jill Gunn, Ph.D. University of Saskatchewan

Research theme	Research questions or objectives
1. Community and stakeholder expectations about EA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. What do northern communities and stakeholders expect of EA? b. Is EA the right process to deliver on these expectations?
2. Efficiency and responsiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Is the EA process sufficiently expeditious, flexible and responsive to communities and proponent's needs in the context of a rapidly changing Arctic economic and biophysical environment? b. What reforms are needed to ensure EA processes are sufficiently expeditious, flexible and responsive to communities' and proponent's needs without compromising its effectiveness?
3. Impact and influence of EA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. What influence has EA had on development decisions across the North? b. What lessons can be learned, the good, the bad and the ugly, from the decades of EA application to resource-mega projects across the North?
4. Capacity for meaningful engagement in EA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. How has past engagement in EA facilitated learning and capacity building in northern communities? b. What is current capacity of northern communities and Aboriginal organizations to be meaningfully engaged in EA? c. What are the capacity building requirements to ensure sustained and meaningful engagement in EA given the expected increase in development applications in an 'ice free' Arctic? d. What institutional or process reforms are needed to ensure more effective engagement in EA in the face of limited resources and under the time constraints of EA processes?
5. Strengthening EA through land use planning and science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Are current regional planning, science, and monitoring programs in the Arctic responsive to the regulatory needs of EA? b. What are the opportunities and mechanisms to improve EA practice through better coordination with regional planning? c. How can current Arctic science and monitoring programs be better integrated to EA practices?
6. Applied regional and strategic EA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Pilot a regional strategic EA at the community or sub-regional scale, as a futures-oriented planning and assessment process. b. Identify the lessons, opportunities and institutional requirements to scale-up regional strategic EA to Arctic planning regions and transboundary eco-regions.
7. Climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. What are the implications of climate change for current EA systems and processes? b. How can, or should, climate change adaptation be addressed through EA processes?
8. Socioeconomic indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. What indicators are best suited for monitoring socio-economic conditions at the regional scale, but also useful for predicting and evaluating the specific impacts of local resource development projects?
9. Relationship between EA and negotiated agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. In what ways do private agreements, negotiated between communities and proponents, support or threaten the regulatory EA process?
10. Implications of the new Canadian EA Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. What are the implications of federal EA changes for northern EA systems and requirements? b. Is CEAA (2012) likely to place additional demands on northern EA systems and, if so, is there capacity to meet these additional demands?