

Summary Report for ReSDA Newsletter August 2016

Labour Mobility & Community participation in the Extractive Industries: case studies in the Canadian North—Yukon (LACE)

Theme 2 - Sustainable Communities

Research Team

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Extractive industry operations have always been connected to labour mobility. For some decades, long distance commute work (fly-in/fly-out, drive-in/drive-out: FIFO/DIDO) has emerged as a key model of labour force provision for mining activities in remote regions. The LACE project tries to understand how a mobile life impacts individuals, families and communities involved. We also look at ways of collaboration between First Nation communities and the industry in order to achieve benefits and a sustainable local development in the broader context of employment.

A crucial aim of the LACE project is to establish effective partnerships and community collaboration with meaningful involvement in the research and creating materials that can be effectively used by communities to support their needs. This project has engaged for the most part with the community of Mayo in the Yukon Territory and has created several partnerships such as with the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun (FN NND). We work together with chief and council as well as with the heritage and mining/reclamation managers and other stakeholders – such as the Village of Mayo and the J.V Clark School. At the request of the FN NND chief and council and in light of a broader research angle, topics such as Elders' experience with previously incoming miners and their view about the communities' future development as well as contemporary cultural revival activities became part of the investigation. Invited by the principal, the project activities were introduced in the school in Mayo, in order to transfer knowledge to the next generation of potential mining employees and to discuss the youth's ideas about mining and community development. Currently Susa is doing participant observation, collecting stories and interviews on the topic of cultural revival activities in regions impacted by cultural changes through mining. Gertie and Susa will present the final results – in particular the Mobility Companion Guide – in numerous (mining related) communities throughout the Yukon Territory in February 2016. In the long-term the Mobility Companion Guide should outreach to regions outside the Yukon Territory. The findings can be applied to a broad range of cases in Canada and elsewhere.

Applied and scientific results are:

- 1) "Mobility Companion Guide"- a low threshold handbook for young mining employees and those who are interested in the variety of jobs in the sector. It supports coping with mobile shift-work and other effects of being employed in the extractive industry. Forthcoming 2017

- 2) Booklet “Behind the Scenes in Mayo and Mining: Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Elders’ Opinions on Mining and Community History” [\[SET LINK\]](#). Stories collected between June 2015 and March 2016. Camp-Fire-Presentation given by Susa Gartler to the community of Mayo in July 2016. (25 pages)
- 3) Booklet “Behind the Scenes in Yukon Mining: Work, camp and family life in Yukon mining today”. [\[SET LINK\]](#). Stories collected in 2014/15. Full text with pictures from the presentation given by Gertie Saxinger in the Mayo Community Hall in October 2015. (26 pages)
- 4) Collection of Elders’ interviews will be made available to the NND Government; other research material of interest to the community will be made available in comprehensive forms.
- 5) Scientific papers, presentations, invitations of community representatives to international meetings (e.g. NND-Heritage Manager Joella Hogan will present joint LACE findings together with Gertie and Susa at the Annual Arctic Frost Meeting in Vienna/Austria in 2016)

