

#14 Gender in Research on Northern Resource Development

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The effects of resource development in the north are complex. These effects are also gendered - that is, experienced differently by men and women. Resource development also changes gender relations – that is, the relationships between men and women, and between paid and unpaid work. Most research about gender is on women and suggests that women experience barriers that prevent them from benefiting from the good aspects of resource development. They also suffer more from some of the problems of development. There is a need for more research about the effects of resource development on men, and on gender relations more broadly.



Gendered distribution of resource benefits

- ⇒ Wages from jobs in the natural resource sector are one of the main ways that communities benefit from resource development. However, most of these jobs go to men. Indigenous women, if they work in the resource industry, are more likely to work in low-paid, unstable positions that are not full time or year-round. They are also more likely to need to stay home caring for children. Women in jobs often held by men, face barriers to getting hired and promoted and women are also more likely to have hostile workplace experiences, such as sexism, racism, and harassment than men.
- ⇒ Another economic benefit of resource development is direct cash transfers to indigenous

governments and better hiring included in impact-benefit agreements (IBAs). There is little research that looks at how direct cash flows benefit men and women differently. Research suggests that IBA hiring goals tend to benefit men, but women may also get employment benefits indirectly through new government positions or business spin-offs.

Socio-cultural perspectives of resource development on gender relations

- ⇒ Living in a community near a resource extraction site has many negative health outcomes: more alcohol consumption, gambling, sexual exploitation, teen pregnancy, single parenthood, sexually transmitted infections, spousal assaults and family violence.
- ⇒ The families of resource extraction workers are reported to experience more family violence. The partner who stays home (usually the woman) has an increased burden of family care when their spouse is away for long shifts. This also changes gender relations.
- ⇒ Resource development can also harm harvesting and traditional ways of life. This can be due to paid work that changes how people are able to carry out subsistence work. Resource developments can also have negative effects on wildlife.

The role of women in resource governance

- ⇒ The participation of indigenous women in environmental review processes has increased in recent years, however, they are often still excluded. Work needs to be done to ensure that women are included in a meaningful way in the assessment of proposed mines and other development projects.
- ⇒ Women are under-represented in hunters and trappers organizations, land claims organizations, and other key decision-making structures. These groups often favor the traditional knowledge of men over women's knowledge.
- ⇒ Women in the north are often more educated than men, yet less likely to be employed. They are still underrepresented in government.



Resource development impacts
women and men differently, and
changes gender relations over time.

