

Annual ReSDA Workshop

New Relationships and Possibilities

October 26-28, 2016 Ottawa, ON



Sixth Annual ReSDA Research Workshop

Resources and Sustainable Development in the Arctic: New Relationships and Possibilities

Pearson Room, Lord Elgin Hotel, Ottawa, ON
October 26-28, 2016

Background

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada announced funding through their Major Collaborative Research Initiative grants in February 2011 for a new Northern research project called Resources and Sustainable Development in the Arctic (ReSDA). The main focus of ReSDA's research is on finding ways to ensure that a larger share of the benefits of resource development stay in the region with fewer negative impacts on communities. The Network has been mobilizing community partners and researchers around the questions that will help determine how to maximize benefits of resource development to northern regions and communities and how to minimize the social, economic, cultural, and environmental costs. The primary objective of the research is to cultivate innovative approaches to the best ways of natural resource developments to improve the well-being of northern communities while preserving the region's unique environment. This issue is all the more pressing given the increased demand for natural resources globally, with many of these resources existing in Arctic locations.

A number of current issues have been identified as priority areas by the communities, ReSDA researchers and our northern partners. Research is looking into past and present resource developments, the flow of revenues from these developments, how economic benefits have been secured by communities as well as the social, cultural and environmental impacts that are often connected to these.

History of ReSDA Workshops

Each year ReSDA has organized an annual research workshop based on a central theme. The workshop brings together researchers and northern partners representing communities, government, the private sector and non-profit organizations that are involved with issues and research relating to sustainable Arctic natural resource development. Discussions with community partners about research priorities began in 2010 as the proposal for this program was developed. In 2011 an initial workshop was held in Yellowknife with researchers reflecting on initial recommendations from communities and discussing how these suggestions could be translated into formal research questions. From these discussions, the ReSDA committee drafted a research plan to guide their work for the next year. The emphasis was on isolating the main areas for a gap analysis to determine research needs and priorities. The second workshop held in Whitehorse provided the results of the gap analysis and further recommendations from community partners to establish a research plan and directions for the network with 14 priority areas identified. The third workshop in Iqaluit in 2013 focused on the best mechanisms for knowledge sharing in the ReSDA network. Various mechanisms were examined that are used in the northern context to help in the creation of a ReSDA communication strategy and toolbox. Face to face discussions were one of the top ways to share information between communities and researchers so the workshops provide one avenue to do this. In 2014 we hosted a workshop in Labrador that focused on resource developments and community wellbeing. This is a key area identified for research. The understanding of how resource development contributes to or adversely affects community well-being is increasingly required by government and industry. Finally in 2015 a workshop was held in Kuujuaq, QC to discuss issues relevant to the theme of sustainable cultures. This included issues of subsistence based economies and engagement with extractive

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industries with the view to understand the perspectives from community members, researchers, regional governments and other organizations. The workshop discussions are summarized in a series of reports and videos available through the ReSDA website at www.resda.ca

This Workshop

This year the ReSDA workshop in Ottawa will highlight the findings of our research, the research interconnections and policy implications of these findings. The information from the subprojects will also show how the research has addressed the central objective of ReSDA – How can Northern communities benefit most directly from resource development? There will be one day involving presentations of the subproject research. Where possible this will include the main investigator, a representative from the partner organization and any students that have been involved in the research. It is hoped that the workshop will be a dynamic interaction of researchers, partners and policy developers that will contribute to discussions on more innovative policy approaches to resource development in the north. Using ReSDA's basic research question regarding the potential to increase benefits from resource development flowing to northern communities we hope to determine whether new innovative social and economic mechanisms can be developed through policy changes that would increase the ability of northern communities to enhance their sustainability. We will look at what has been done for research and what the future directions might include.

Themes and structure

The workshop focus is on ReSDA research results, partnerships and policy implications for resource development. We will hear from ReSDA researchers, students, community partners and other partner networks. There will be an opening session the evening of Wednesday October 26th with the showing of the film "Guardians of Eternity" that was developed by the Toxic Legacies project in partnership with ReSDA. This is a documentary film about the toxic legacy of an abandoned gold mine in northern Canada (Giant mine). It is presented from the point of view of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation who are on the front line as the mine is located on their land. For more information visit the home site for the film at <https://guardiansofeternity.wordpress.com/>

The workshop sessions and presentations on Thursday October 27th and Friday October 28th include:

ReSDA Research Results

- Well-being and Sustainable Environments
- Community Sustainability
- Sustainable Cultures
- What Works
- What does this mean for the North?

ReSDA research partners and Linkages

- Partner Projects
- International Linkages

Policy implications and considerations.

ReSDA and future planning