

## Annual ReSDA Research Workshop Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre Whitehorse, YT October 18-20, 2017

### *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.

Throughout the past six years of this project a number of priority research areas were identified by the communities, ReSDA researchers and our northern partners. As a result, research has been done that examines 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. A number of the projects have been or will soon be completed and the final results, policy directions and tools and resources are now available from the network activities.

### *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 industries with the view to understand the perspectives from community members, researchers, regional governments and other organizations. In 2016 a workshop held in Ottawa was designed to include the policy voice in the discussions of this research. Many representatives from various government sectors attended and shared perspectives and directions from the policy side. There were also a number of research presentations for ReSDA projects that have been completed or were near completion. Finally this workshop also allowed for the start of discussions on future directions of this research. This included input from some of the new and existing networks that are focused on similar issues in other circumpolar countries such as the REXSAC and ArcticFROST.

All these past workshop discussions and recommendations are summarized in a series of reports, presentations and videos available through the ReSDA website at [www.resda.ca](http://www.resda.ca)

### *This Workshop*

This year the ReSDA workshop in Whitehorse will be a culmination of the results of our research, the tools and resources created from this research, ways to include in policy development and some of techniques that have made this a successful model of social science research. The information from the subprojects will 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 and panels dealing with subproject research areas as well as breakout sessions on some of the designated areas of the network. Where possible this will include the lead investigator, a representative from the partner organization and any students involved in the research. It is hoped that the workshop will be a dynamic interaction of researchers, partners, community members, government and industry representatives who will contribute to discussions on the results, their impacts and innovative directions for the future requirements on 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 and what policy changes might increase the ability of northern communities to build their capacity and improvement their involvement in the sector. 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 the last 6 years of ReSDA research results, the tools and resources created by this research, the partnerships developed and what this all means for communities and policy makers. We will hear from ReSDA researchers, students, community partners and other partner networks. The event starts with some targeted meetings for planning and development of the ReSDA network on the afternoon of October 18<sup>th</sup>. This includes a technical session on the ReSDA Atlas that will review the comments provided on the design and content by those surveyed. This meeting is intended to determine what is still needed, and recommendations on what changes or additions will improve this knowledge sharing tool. What is still needed for the content, format, search criteria and what other improvements can be made to this site. There will be an opening session the evening of Wednesday October 18<sup>th</sup> with an official launch of the ReSDA Atlas tool. This is a resource created as a one stop location for all the information that has been identified by the researchers and other sources. This online map allows users to search for information using various themes and categories that are modeled on the research priorities and themes of the ReSDA network.

# ReSDA Workshop 2017

Networks, Partnerships and Innovation:  
Building Capacity in Northern Resource Development



The workshop sessions and presentations on Thursday October 19<sup>th</sup> and Friday October 20<sup>th</sup> include:

1. ReSDA Research Results
  - (a) Overview of projects
  - (b) Theme summaries
  - (c) Subproject highlights and new projects
2. Breakout sessions (these focus on specific ReSDA research areas, some of the key considerations of the ReSDA network including knowledge sharing and policy influence and community partner involvement). This allows participants an opportunity to discuss issues of particular interest in more depth.
  - Wellbeing and healthy communities
  - Indicators, economics and environmental considerations
  - Policy makers and research linkages
  - Communicating research
  - Northern Colleges and Institutes – building research capacity
  - Social Science graduate students in the North
  - Partnerships and indigenous involvement in research
  - Future research directions and priorities
3. Training sessions (tools, tips and resources available to support social science research in the North)
  - Social science methods and tools and training available to support researchers
  - Northern research ethics – who, when and how – knowing who to contact and ensuring that ethical requirements are met for research involving human participants
  - Using film and video in research
  - Community engagement – the best ways for ensuring success.

On Thursday evening there will be a public showing of two films produced through supports provided by ReSDA. This includes 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/>. There will also be a showing of the film “The Bishop who ate his boots”.