

Good Morning, I am Rob Walker from the Development Assessment Branch of the Yukon Government.

I am here to welcome you on behalf of the Yukon Government to this workshop on Socio-economic effects.

The Umbrella Final Agreement negotiated between Yukon First Nations, the Yukon Government and Canada embedded the desire of Yukoners to find better ways of making decisions in the Yukon, for Yukon First Nations and all Yukoners. The Umbrella Final Agreement, chapter 12 calls for a process, the development assessment process, which considers not only the environmental effects of development projects as we do now, but also the socio-economic effects of development projects.

What is Socio-economic effects assessment?

Around the world, governments are searching for ways to provide more complete, more comprehensive ...better information for decision makers.

From South Africa, New Zealand, Australia, Malaysia, Alaska, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, the list goes on, governments are striving to consider the effects of development on people and communities. The name of the process varies from place to place, whether it is environmental

assessment (that includes people), social impact assessment, ESHIA - environmental/social/health impact assessment, socio-economic Impact assessment or socio economic effects assessment, they all seek to consider the effects or impacts of development on people and communities in addition to the environment.

Every place does it a little bit differently. There is no one right way for everywhere.

But there will be a Yukon way for the Yukon!

The workshop is important because it is an opportunity for Yukoners to begin an informed conversation on what Yukoners mean and expect of socioeconomic effects assessment.

My experience with this subject in the Yukon is that different people and groups have different ideas of what socioeconomic effects assessment means. This workshop is an opportunity to express your views and more importantly to hear the views, expectations and underlying values of each other.

There is a pretty wide diversity of participants in the audience. Lets us use this rich diversity to continue to build the made in Yukon process started by the UFA.
Thank you