

10. *Planning with People in Mind. Speaker: Bob Couchman*

What important aspects of "community" does socio-economic effects assessment need to consider in the Yukon?

- Does it "make sense" to / for the community?
- This is a quantitative question pertaining to a qualitative circumstance.
- What are the project benefits and negative impacts?
- Involvement in the project development and scoping
- Patt Larcombe referred to not assuming relationships and dynamics are same in every community
- "Scale" / size of community
- Economic basis and diversity (or lack there of)
- Sustainability
- Leave something "good" behind – helping a community become more self sufficient
- What binds people together?
- Processes have to guarantee community benefits
- Early in process the "important aspects" need to be determined for each community – each community has unique needs and values
- The "voiceless" members of community must be considered
- Recognition of new community members - rights of all Canadians to move and have their voices heard within a new community
- Wage economy vs. subsistence economy, balancing the net benefit for communities
- Translating effects in an empathetic fashion
- Maintaining and, if possible, improve the social fabric of the community
- Finding a way to keep things on a time scale that allows for communities to adjust
- Don't search for consensus, seek out a diversity of views to find a balance
- Provide communities a sense of ownership by involving them through the planning
- Need to recognize that "consultation" through workshops, media, etc. is NOT always the best way to determine what members of a community will value
- Dependence on past projects
- Traditional economy
- Non monetary traditional values
- Family, individual (physical / psychological) health
- Identify patterns of social interaction for communities
- Look for sources of community pride
- Huge numbers of volunteerism – reciprocal obligations
- Inclusive involvement
- Quality of relationships, lifestyles, family structure, health, economics, education, demographics, environment, government services, children, crime/justice, infrastructure/community services, recreation facilities, volunteerism, ethnic diversity – the integration and inter-relationships of many of these elements.
- Unexpected, unintended linkages/effects
- Disaster planning / risk assessment
- Global risks from large scale projects
- Ability to stay and work or return
- Ability / willingness to adapt to change
- Fairness and equity
- Value of the community perception – "a good place to raise a family"
- Community accountability and responsibility (standards of acceptable behaviour), mutual respect
- Links between community and land resources
- "Turn-over" is difficult for small communities, disrupts family support network as people move away
- All too often the word "community" is used to frequently instead of "family" or "business" which puts a different slant to the equation.

- Difficult to define what the community really is and also communities have many different aspects within that community. Target representatives of organizations who address special needs of segments of the population (i.e. social workers).
- Develop indicators of local community priorities in conjunction with planning already in progress.
- Determine areas in the community that are critical for information gathering and critical communication links. (local gathering places that are vital for communications).
- Make sure assessment process maintains community cohesion rather than division of community.
- Recognition of the cohesion of community's social and economic features.
- Get outside of the box.
- Ask the community – they will tell you.
- Long term impacts vs. short term benefits
- Consider communities inside communities
- Look at the community's history
- Identify communities at risk, capacity, issues, demographics
- What are the negative impacts on the community by the project
- Understanding the economic base of the community – formal and informal economy.
- Social cohesion
- Levels of organization – family, community groups, etc.
- Different generations
- Educational curriculum to teach customers – importance of land
- Recreation options – non mechanized for collective/team low environmental impact
- Gathering places
- Consideration of counter emigration measures
- Acceptance to people returning from south/big cities where they went to work/learn.
- Pace, scale and timing of development – due to capacity limitations
- Recognize diversions in communities
- Duration or durability, net benefit (precautionary principle).
- Planning must also balance choice, to preserve long term opportunities, as well as focus on achieving maximum benefits on every development project. Project assessments should strive to NOT divide communities
- Allocation of intervener funding can affect cohesiveness of decision of communities
- Reciprocal obligation element in communities
- People are turning to individuals
- Lack of respect to the community and elders and mother earth
- Everyone's brain is washed with today's lifestyle (no one goes out on the land to trap).
- Aging population
- Communities, goals and aspirations and dynamics
- Identify what skills are there and provide opportunities for training
- Nuclear formula
- Largest population of alcohol abuse
- Relationships between cultures, people and specific communities
- Social problems and issues, violence (increase with influx of projects)
- GDP – seasonal employment or enforcement characteristics
- Resilience or self-sufficiency of community