

**BEAUFORT REGIONAL
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

Social, Cultural and Economic
Indicators Project – Final Report

Canada 

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Beaufort Regional Environmental Assessment – Final Report

Social, Cultural and Economic Indicators Project (Inuvialuit Indicators Project)

Summary

Beaufort Delta Leadership has identified over the past 20 years concerns with effects of government programs and services and resource development on the Inuvialuit social, cultural and economic conditions. In some cases, government policies attempted to assimilate the Inuvialuit into main stream society (residential schools); in other cases, policies have created cultural changes and erosion of the Inuvialuit identity (education); as well, the lack of economic opportunities have created a dependency on government supports. Similarly, past resource development has had substantial impacts on the Inuvialuit. Subsistence harvesting is still a major contributor to food security for the Inuvialuit although there are indicators that harvesting is declining because of the lack of skills among youth, decline in species and increased cost of harvesting.

The intent of this project was to identify measurable social, cultural and economic indicators (Inuvialuit Indicators Project) and develop enhanced monitoring of social and economic impacts which would allow for an examination of the impact of government policies, programs and services and resource development on the Inuvialuit society, social determinates to Inuvialuit health and well-being, determine gaps or misguided policy approaches and develop constructive approaches that meet Inuvialuit objectives for the future. In addition, the traditional economy and other social and economic efforts by Inuvialuit institutions were examined with a view to strengthen the traditional economic sector of the Inuvialuit households and communities. Inuvialuit Indicators Project not only uses statistical data (www.inuvialuitindicators.com) but also established new ways of collecting baseline data using community monitoring, household surveys and other methods which will allow Inuvialuit and other northern communities to better understand: impacts from resource development, the social determinants of health and the value of the traditional economy.

This work is instrumental in assisting the Inuvialuit leaders in addressing impacts from resource development and means to improve positive social and economic values of development. In addition, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation is assuming greater jurisdiction and policy control over the development and delivery of programs that serve Inuvialuit and influence other government policies as they apply to the sustainability of Inuvialuit society in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. Strategies, mitigation measures and change of social, cultural and economic policies are being developed and delivered to meet Inuvialuit sustainable development objectives using the analysis of research results, statistical and other base line data.

The Inuvialuit Indicators Project and other research has also greatly assisted the Inuvialuit in strengthening relations between ecosystem and social sciences and between academic and government research. Inuvialuit Regional Corporation is currently working with research

networks and government to establish an in-house capacity to maintain the research momentum. Using the lessons learned from this project will be useful for other regions of the Canadian Arctic that are experiencing similar situations.

1. Objective:

- 1) Build on current statistical and administrative base line data of Inuvialuit indicators that are used for planning and developing adaptive strategies and effectively monitor to measure the success of adaptive strategies to address: i) resource development impacts; and ii) achievement of Inuvialuit sustainable development objectives.
- 2) Fill socio-economic monitoring gaps of change in Inuvialuit communities that can then be applied elsewhere;
- 3) Enhance community-based monitoring of social, cultural and economic change by Inuvialuit communities; and
- 4) Enhance existing research and monitoring partnerships between Inuvialuit communities, regional researchers and university-based researchers.

2. Progress:

The Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC) Indicators Project began with a review of the goals of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement and expanded to monitor and measure impacts of the Mackenzie Gas Project. This work was further refined through the Beaufort Regional Environmental Assessment (BREA). The resulting statistical data base has also been used for the Beaufort Sea Integrated Ocean Management Plan (IOMP) to plan and prepare Inuvialuit, governments for any changes to the Beaufort Sea. Through these various forum and processes a Social, Cultural and Economic Indicators Working Group(s) was used to identify the impacts of oil and gas development on communities in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR), by gathering and assessing baseline data and developing indicators of key social, cultural and economic conditions. This will support the achievement of economic benefits and mitigate negative impacts of oil and gas projects in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region.

The Working Group was to oversee the implementation of the social, cultural and economic base line data component of BREA and IOMP, in collaboration with the partners carrying out the IRC's Indicator Project, which developed a set of measurable indicators for monitoring socio-economic conditions in the ISR, with an emphasis on tracing the impacts of resource development. This work was led by the IRC in partnership with ReSDA (Resource and Sustainable Development in the Arctic), and the Arctic Council's Arctic Social Indicators Working Group (ACSIWG). The development of indicators required the collection and assessment of base line data on social, cultural and economic conditions in the ISR through a formal working relationship between the IRC and the NWT Bureau of Statistics to collect statistical and departmental administrative data from which to measure social, cultural and economic indicators, see www.inuvialuitindicators.com.

The Social, Cultural and Economic Indicators (SCE) Working Group(s) were chaired by the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC) and over the past two years merged as one Working Group. Several components of the work was conducted in partnership with, or with the assistance of, other organizations, such as the ReSDA (Resource and Sustainable Development in the Arctic) and Lakehead University. Specific objectives for Inuvialuit Indicators Project were to:

- Develop base line data and indicators of social, cultural and economic conditions in the ISR to assist in identifying potential and actual impacts of offshore oil and gas activities;
- Produce base line data to enable monitoring and measuring of long-term effects of oil and gas development, in order to develop and implement measures to mitigate negative impacts and reinforce positive impacts of development;
- Carry out further data mining by collecting and organizing administrative data to fill indicator gaps with data;
- Assess data collected to identify impacts and associated vulnerabilities that may result from resource development and to identify appropriate mitigation measures; and
- Undertake further research to inform social, cultural and economic assessments and identify any additional efforts required from industry and government to mitigate negative impacts of development.

The working group was strongly aligned with BREA's goals of engaging communities and advancing their priorities for oil and gas preparedness and producing socio-economic information to simplify project-level assessments. The working group contributes to the Indicators Project and several research partnerships developed by the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC), and as such responds directly to community needs.

Key Findings

The SCE Working Group completed projects related to all of its stated objectives, all of which are relevant to ISR communities' ability to assess and manage the impacts of oil and gas activity in the Beaufort Sea and can be used for project or cumulative effects assessment in the future.

With respect to the development of indicators, a study by ReSDA provided recommendations on key indicators, based on the Arctic Social Indicators developed by the Arctic Council Social Indicators Working Group that could be used by industry and by government regulators. The Arctic Social Indicators were examined as a potential means of measuring impacts; however, the indicators were found to be more useful to measure overall human development in the Arctic. To focus more on the resource development impacts IRC produced a report "*Measuring the Effects of Major Projects in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region*" and reviewed the methodology that should be used to develop and assess indicators for social, cultural and economic impacts of oil and gas development activities in the Beaufort Sea. A main finding was that the indicators used were not suitable, and that additional indicators were needed to capture both the direct impacts of oil and gas activities, and the more complex secondary and tertiary effects that result from community responses to those activities. A set of suggested

indicators was validated through application to a previous development cycle that was experienced in the ISR.

Progress was made on each of the objectives related to the collection, organization and assessment of base line data. First, existing and new data were gathered by the NWT Bureau of Statistics and from education administration data, and all updated data were imported to the IRC's Inuvialuit Indicators project website (www.inuvialuitindicators.com). Second, maintenance of data on education was transferred to the Beaufort Delta Education Council, making these data more accessible and improving the assessment of students in ISR region schools. Third, an Environmental Scan was completed that serves as the basis for an assessment of gaps in data on the impacts of resource development needed for monitoring indicators.

Finally, additional research was initiated on several topics of interest to stakeholders. The IRC completed household surveys to gather the perspective of Inuvialuit in the communities and more detailed data on their social, cultural and economic conditions. These surveys resulted in reports on: Addictions and Mental Health (2010), Social Housing and Income Support (2011), and "Economics of an Inuvialuit Household," which was completed in the community of Paulatuk in 2012, with the completion of the other five Inuvialuit communities expected by April 2015. This identifies household income and expenses, and will help define the value of the traditional economy, such as harvesting and country foods. IRC in partnership with ReDSA (Andrey Petrov a member of the Arctic Council Social Indicators Working Group) followed up on a workshop with the Working Group and used their indicators as a means to measure impacts from resource development. Finally, an Education Research Project was completed by the IRC in partnership with Lakehead University in 2014, which will inform the development of measures to improve education outcomes, Inuvialuit employment and economic opportunities.

Contribution to State of Knowledge

The gathering and monitoring of data on social, cultural and economic conditions of ISR communities from a range of diverse sources is important in measuring the results of Inuvialuit sustainable development objectives and impacts of resource development and other changes and hence the identification of measures to meet Inuvialuit objectives and support beneficial employment and economic opportunities for the Inuvialuit and mitigate adverse impacts. The collection and analysis of base line data already provides an improved understanding of the trends in a set of social domains in the ISR, and a comparison of these trends with those in other northern regions. The holding of these data in ISR databases enables regional and community offices, individual, and project partners to interpret the data and evaluate the effectiveness of response measures.

This work provides a potential model for use in other communities and regions that are facing challenges relating to resource and other developments in their specific locations. The type of data collected and monitored and methods for collecting, maintaining and analyzing information may prove to be a mechanism that can be adapted for other northern locations,

3. Project Status:

The Inuvialuit have a strong interest in identifying social, cultural and economic conditions and impacts from resource development in the region and will be making ongoing contributions to monitor conditions and impacts in the future. It is recognized that industry, government and Inuvialuit should formalize the indicators identified in the report *Measuring the Effects of Major Projects in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region*. The report also left room for the identification of indicators for the complex indirect effects of resource development, which interact with broader social, economic and cultural contexts. Additional factors that could be measured and used as indicators that are relevant to social and cultural conditions in the ISR have been suggested, and could be incorporated into subsequent data collection exercises. In addition, work will continue on the collection and analysis of base line data, and on the development of a system for monitoring the indicators. Finally, recommendations will need to be developed on measures to mitigate negative impacts of oil and gas activity.

It is the intent of this project to examine the impacts on the Inuvialuit and their sustainable development objectives and develop constructive approaches. This work will be instrumental in assisting the Inuvialuit as they assume greater authorities, there will be a need to plan and develop strategies and plans to adapt to changing circumstances, with the conclusion of Devolution and future negotiations of an off-shore agreement and a final self-government agreement.

Changes of Inuvialuit social, cultural and economic conditions should also be monitored in relation to climate change and subsistence harvesting. As a starting point the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation has undertaken an in-depth census of the Economics of Inuvialuit Households and will identify with our partners reliable indicators that can measure the change in subsistence harvesting and the traditional economy.

4.) Future Work:

Further work is needed on several of the tasks to build a social, cultural and economic data/indicators system to meet IRC's strong interest in continuing monitoring of social, cultural and economic conditions in the region and make ongoing contributions to many of these related monitoring projects. First, the indicators must be formalized, as the methodological framework that was developed (in *Measuring the Effects of Major Projects in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region*). Additional factors that could be measured and used as indicators that are relevant to social, cultural and economic conditions in the ISR, in particular for the traditional and subsistence harvesting of the Inuvialuit. This work will include the collection and analysis of base line data, and on the development of a system for monitoring the indicators. Building on community-monitoring of environmental factors and wildlife harvesting, the research will enhance our understanding of the best methods for the community-monitoring of social, cultural and economic impacts and conditions.

Utilizing comparative case studies between communities within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region will assist in illuminating the extent that resource development and social programs

impacts the abilities of individuals and communities to engage in sustainable economic and subsistence initiatives. Data will continue to be gathered through a combination of individual and group interviews, statistical and documentary analysis, and ethnographic documentation of experiences of:

- individuals who are clients of social programs and members of communities engaged in economic and cultural activities;
- business and non-renewable resource activity stakeholders;
- individuals engaged in cultural and subsistence harvesting activities;
- government officials; and,
- community members and stakeholders.

An important aspect of the analysis of social, cultural and economic data will be to identify key social determinants to health. This will assist the IRC and government in identifying program gaps and potential for program improvements.

4. a) Maintaining Base Line Data:

Critical to the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation to carry out data collection, analysis and establishing a social, cultural and economic monitoring capacity will be the recruitment of a Research Analyser who will work with other academic researchers and Statistic Bureaus to maintain administrative and statistical data relevant to the Inuvialuit. Current data on the IRC website www.inuvialuitindicators.com has been repatriated to IRC and the Inuvialuit Research Analyser will update the current data with the latest statistics and administrative data.

4. b) Conduct and Analyze Social Policy Research Projects:

Government program and service reviews and Inuvialuit research on Mental Health and Addictions, Social Housing and Income Support, household income and expenses, and education studies will be analysed with a view to develop plans, programs and mitigation measures to improve the well-being of Inuvialuit and address any impacts as a result of climate, environmental, health, social, cultural and economic change throughout the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR). Other research programs will be undertaken, especially with respect to subsistence harvesting and the traditional economy.

4. c) Capacity Building and Training:

IRC will facilitate and support Inuvialuit participation in research; and identify training, educational, and project-specific opportunities to build research capacity within the ISR. IRC will also promote research within community schools and the use of Inuvialuit in research projects within the region.

5. Recommendations

The Inuvialuit Regional Corporation is committed to follow up on BREAs with respect to social, cultural and economic impacts by:

- Providing information and data on impacts to environmental (project) reviews and recommendations to address those impacts;
- Continuing to monitor social cultural and economic conditions for other changes that are occurring within the region, for example: climate change and adaptation; implementation of increasing government responsibilities by the Inuvialuit and the communities.
- Strengthening research and monitoring capabilities within the region through other research networks and government.

The following are some of the more immediate deliverables that IRC and possibly other partners can undertake:

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS:

- Update collection of statistical data
- Identification formalize key social, economic and cultural indicators – relevant to Inuvialuit objectives and useful for Arctic comparative analysis
- Production of a social, cultural and economic scan of Inuvialuit communities

SUSTAINABILITY GOALS AND MEASURES:

- Review of conditions and measures to achieve sustainability goals for communities, including – statistical analysis and government and IRC program area research and reviews
- Production of Report including social, cultural and economic community sustainability measures.

MONITORING:

- Build Permanent Monitoring Capacity within the ISR which can serve as an example or model to other regions of the Canadian North
- Develop more effective community monitoring of social and economic trends in Inuvialuit and other Arctic communities
- Assist the IRC to better understand cumulative social, cultural and economic impacts on Inuvialuit communities.