

# Cultural Cumulative Impact Assessment in Canada's Far North

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# Broadening CEA

- Cumulative effects now a standard part of EIA in the North
- Broadening scope of factors considered- biophysical, social, economic and cultural
- Movement from VECs to VCs

# Case Study: Drybones Bay and Wool Bay EIAs

- Four diamond exploration referrals at same time
- Small developments- Exploratory drill holes
- Area has little existing industrial activity
- No land use plans
- Land claim negotiations underway

# Assessment Issues

- Reasonably foreseeable future developments-scoped to exclude full mine
- Independent regional CE study commissioned by Review Board as decision making tool
  - Better CEA
  - Less burden on junior developers
  - Improved dialogue led to better issue scoping
- Assessments run in parallel, joint hearings

# Assessment Issues (cont)

- Baseline info on culture
  - Mostly oral, largely qualitative
  - Culture is complex and naturally dynamic
  - Changes incrementally
- Traditional Knowledge Compilation
  - Original field study by party to the EIA
  - Confidential handling of TK info

# Recommendations for Mitigation of Cultural Cumulative Impacts

Recommendations include

- Rejection of one program- first in North
- Pre-drilling field surveys by archaeologist w. Aboriginal elder
- Large setback from heritage sites
- Suggestions include
  - No new permits for area until plan is made for area
  - New prospecting permit approach for government

# Conclusions

- Size and complexity of EA driven by scale of issues, not scale of development
- EIA is no substitute for land use planning
- Single regional study by reviewing body and improve cumulative effects assessment
- Traditional Knowledge can provide a sufficient basis for decision making
- Traditional knowledge can contribute to effective mitigation, to deal with cultural concerns.