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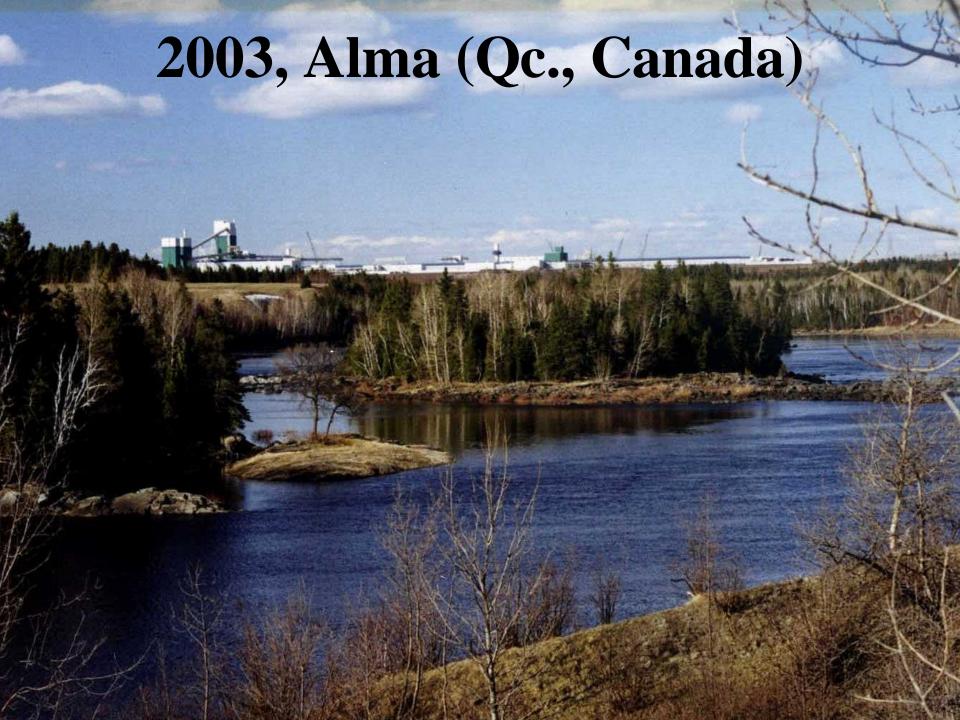
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TATA Vancenver (Canada)

### Research context

Multidisciplinary research program-(www.uqac.ca/msiaa) Landscape approach: social construction, reflexive process (Greider & al., 1994; Stoffle & al. 2000) Hypothesis: Landscape as an indicator of the evolving relationship between heavy industrial site and nearby residents Methodology: two case studies;



## 2001, Dunkerque (North of France)



## Landscape assessment

- Same infrastructure: aluminum smelter
- Why such divergent assessment?
- 3 main factors:
  - -1) historical relationship with heavy industry, production sector (aluminum) and promoter
  - -2) representations of the project during the setting up process
  - -3) social impacts experienced

## 1- Historical relationship with industry, aluminum sector and promoter

#### **Similarities:**

- remote regions;
- economy based on external firms and State;
- heavy industries, modernization, high unemployment rates;
- strong traditions of mobilization;
- sustainable development as framework;
- original mechanisms for dialogue.



# 1- Historical relations with industry, aluminum sector and promoter

#### Alma

- Alcan present for 75 years, strong perceived dependency perceived;
- replacement smelter = consolidation of existing jobs
- Debate on environmental emissions:
  - -1) modern = better technologies, less pollution
  - -2) chimneys, black smoke gone = "beautiful smelter"
  - -3) technological failures experienced

# 1- Historical relations with industry, aluminum sector and promoter

### Dunkerque:

- · First aluminum smelter in the area;
- one among other heavy industries,
- many unknown activities = sources of uncertainty: pollution, health issues;
- paradox: industrial = making a living / creating risks

# 2- Representations of the project during the setting up process

#### **Dunkerque:**

- traditional process;
- environmentalists and local residents worry;
- outside references;
- local committee, environmental follow-up;
- limited trust.

# 2- Representations of the project during the setting up process

#### Alma:

- high involvement of promoter, on a long term basis, prior to and parallel to EA procedure;
- Social consensus progressively built:
  - historical planning phase: political elite = necessary project for the city finances and the local economy;
  - recent planning phase (public hearings): economic stakeholders = necessary project for survival of community;
  - construction phase (promotion activities): public
    - = the beautiful and the good project.

## 3 - Social impacts experienced

#### Alma:

- · Landscape perceived from the home;
- Environmental quality of living area;
- Representation of the neighborhood;
- Social pressure: to accept or to move.

## 3 - Social impacts experienced

## Dunkerque:

- Fatalism: to accept or to move;
- Sense of belonging;
- Perception of risks;
- · Land use conflicts;
- · Feeling of loss of control.

### **Conclusion**

- Relations not fixed;
- Need to follow-up with flexible tools;
- Landscape;
- Sustainable development, empowerment.