



Mitigating, Managing, Leveraging? Community Impacts of Labour Mobility in British Columbia

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on the move
partnership

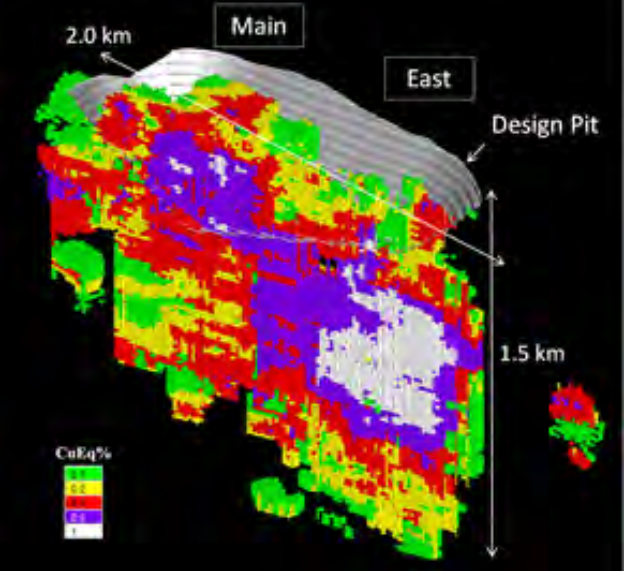
SFU

ENGAGING THE WORLD

Our OTM Community-related Research Program

- Impacts and implications of LDLC on home and host communities
- Worker perspectives
- Immobility and community development
- Local government
- Work camp operations
- Managerialism to entrepreneurialism

Northern BC OTM Setting



Cumulative Impact...Methods

- Collective research conducted over 7 years
- BC case studies: communities in Peace River and Central Interior Regions
 - Extended to Australia, Canada, Scotland, US
- Document review; literature reviews (academic, grey)
- 100 key informant interviews
 - Local government, small business, industry, work camp operators, labour, community services, consultants, provincial government staff
- Latent and manifest content analysis

Space Restructuring and Drivers of Uncertainty

- Neoliberal policy response
- Shift in Fordist compromise: flexibility
- Rural restructuring
- Removal of spatial commitment to equity



A) LDLC Community Impacts

- Stress on services
- Affordability
- Social disruption

- Being “away”
 - Volunteerism
 - Family pressures
- \$\$\$
- Ability to stay in “place”

“HOST”

“HOME”

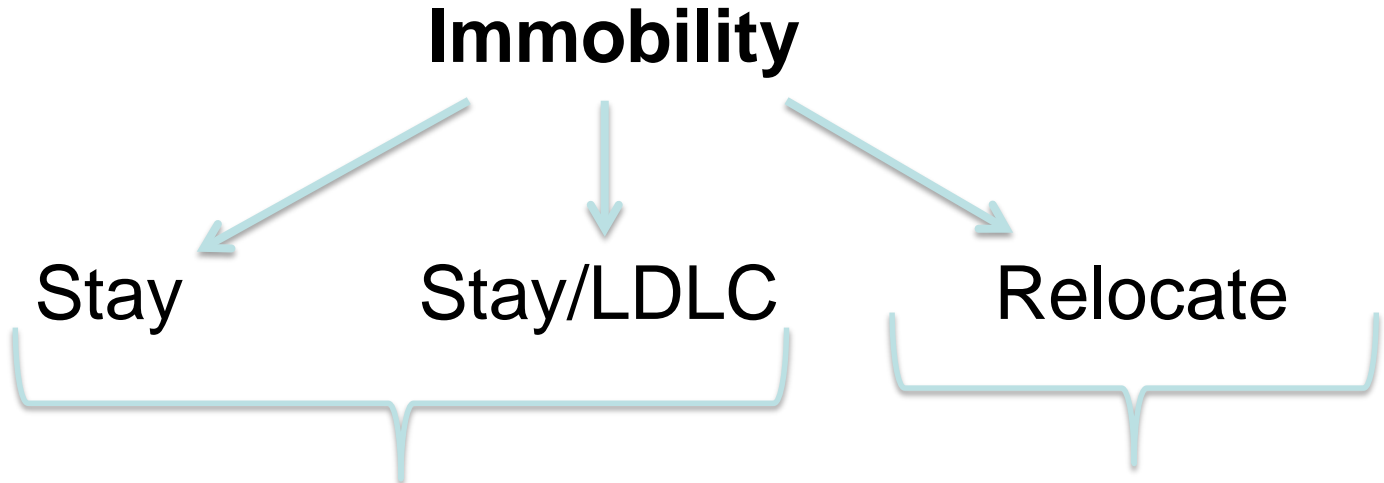
Implications for Research

- Flexible community responses to labour mobility and how these are initiated
- Community events and community building efforts – targeted strategies
- Deployment of family supports
- Voluntary sector responses and community monitoring

B) Immobility

- Creswell 2010: 18, *Any study of mobility runs the risk of suggesting that the (allegedly) immobile notions such as boundaries and borders, place, territory, and landscape are of the past and no longer relevant to the dynamic world of the 21st century. This would be wrong and, to be fair, does not seem to be the point of advocates of the new mobilities paradigm where **`moorings' are often as important as `mobilities'**.*

Dimensions of Immobility



Choice Preference or Economic Trap

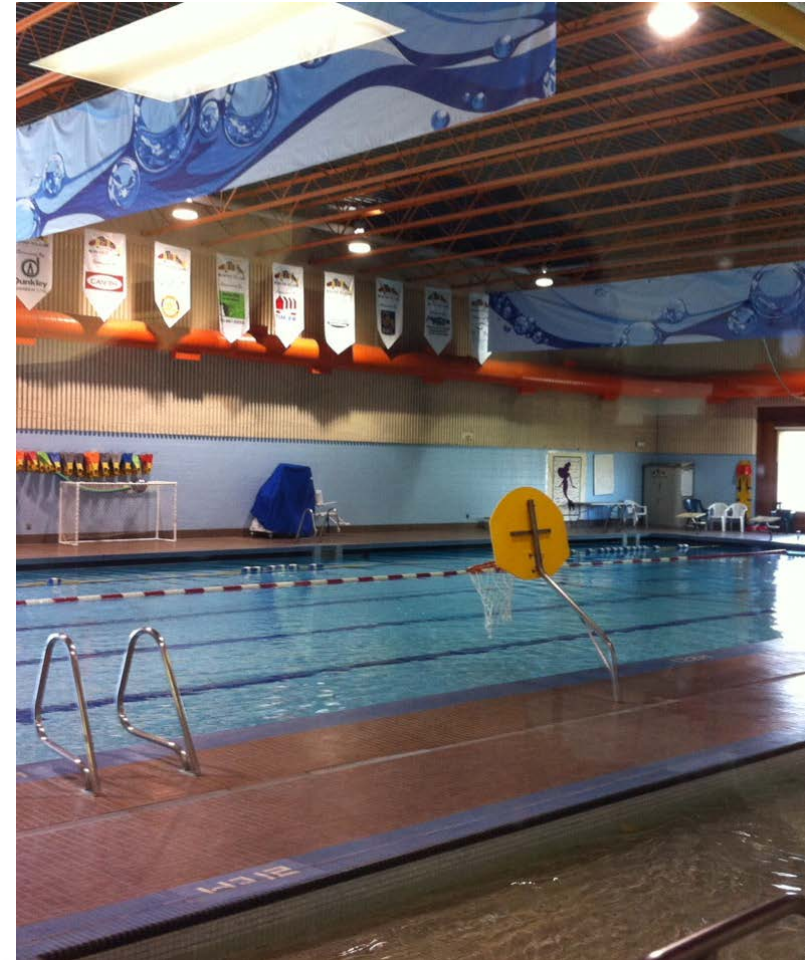
Place Attraction
or Forced
Migration

Pathways that Entrench Mobility

- Aging Housing Assets
- Limited Jurisdiction
- Services Not Strategically Used to Support Immobility Strategy
- Aging Commercial Infrastructure
- Difficulty Leveraging Policy / Planning tools

Pathways that Strengthen Immobility

- Investment in Research and Marketing
- Strategic Use of Policies / Planning



C) Local Governments

- I. Factors shaping pressures with work camps
- II. Zoning / development permit processes
- III. Code of conduct agreements
- IV. Decommissioning of work camps

LG Discussion I

- Local gov't pressure to avoid camps
- Resource projects mobilized / withdrawn quickly
- Policies and information structures have not been retooled
- Rural zoning / permit processes based on traditional settlement patterns

LG Discussion II

- Calls for local gov't transition from managerialism to entrepreneurialism
- Work camps can be emerging economic sector
- Requires resources to monitor camp operations
- Need formalized responsibilities to maintain work camp / industry relationships
- Political maneuvering to determine who's responsible for infrastructure / program investments

Big Picture: Complexity

- Issue is multi-faceted and fast changing
- Lack of regulatory concern, oversight
- Lack of jurisdictional control: e.g. health, housing, education
- Scale unknown – intentional ignorance
- Turnkey operations
- Need for flexible responses

Thank You!

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