

Camps Are Only Half the Story: How workforce issues impact the community

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Outline

- Background
- Camps:
 - Benefits for the community
 - Issues for the community
- Discussion



Background

History of Labour Mobility in BC

- Always been labour mobility in BC
 - Gold rush
 - Lumber camps
 - Oil and gas
- Always been 'direct' and 'indirect' labour involved

Why a Rotational Workforce?

- Short-term or seasonal work
- Highly specialized jobs
- Remote location
- Not enough local workers

Project Phases: Workforce Implications

- Construction phase (5-8 years)
- Operations phase (30+ years post-construction)
- Hybrid: continuous and coincident construction and operations
- Next generation workforce (+10-15 years)

Variations in Camp Location

- Remote camps
 - Isolated, self-contained
- Proximate camp
 - Accessible, may not be self-contained
- In town “camps”
 - Integrated into community

Variations in Camp Operations

- Fully serviced
 - Health, counselling, recreation, amenity, and ‘hospitality’ services
 - Highly professional – often ‘dry’
- Partially serviced
 - Recreation, amenity, and ‘hospitality’ services
 - Rely on community for some or all health and social services
 - Usually highly professional
- No services
 - Company rents housing in town
 - Rely on community for all services
 - No regulations or oversight

Camps: Issues for the Community

Camps Do Not Mean Zero Impact

- Workers will arrive for direct, indirect and induced jobs
 - Service, retail, support
- Camps do not accommodate everyone who will arrive for a job
 - Usually only direct and some indirect
- Even self-contained camps have an impact on the community

Construction Camps: Benefits

Direct:

- Leverage sunk infrastructure
- 'Repurpose' capital investments

Indirect:

- Grow and diversify local economy and businesses
- Renew community infrastructure
- Employ local people
- Attract new residents
- Minimize risk of 'over-building'

Construction Camps: Issues

All construction camps:

- Local workforce hired for camp jobs
- Airport facilities and services
- Ground transportation

Proximate and in-town camps:

- Housing
- Poverty
- Social disruption
- Increased service demands
- Statistics
- Lack of service coordination: 'accordion' services

Operations Camps: Benefits

- Employ local people in support and services
- Contract with local businesses for support and services

Operations Camps: Issues

- Forego families moving to town bringing:
 - Economic spending
 - Property tax revenue
 - Community diversification
 - Population growth
 - Community capacity
- Critical for communities due to:
 - Infrastructure replacement needs
 - Critical mass for service provision
 - Job diversity reduces dependence on a single industry

Discussion

Discussion I

- Need to know where we wish to be in the future
 - Our communities, economies, environments
 - Staged: post-construction, into operations
- What we need to get there
 - Our people, institutions, organizations
- What we need to stay there
 - Long-term sustainability and stability
 - Next-generation thinking
- Inclusive of entire community

Discussion II

- Need for relationships for communications, information exchange, and planning
 - Know what is happening
 - Build understanding
 - Foster coordination, collaboration, and partnership
 - Think broadly, 'scale up'
 - Be inclusive of community, industry, and business

Discussion III

- Continuing points of focus:
 - Checking in and evaluating progress
 - Maintaining momentum over the long term
 - Benefit flows
 - Tracking impacts of policy change

Key Messages

- Camps are only half the story
 - Need to consider the those who will not be in camps
- Being prepared is the key
 - If the impacts are well-known, why aren't we prepared
- Information is essential
 - Defines the scope of impact
- Collaboration
 - Community, industry, region

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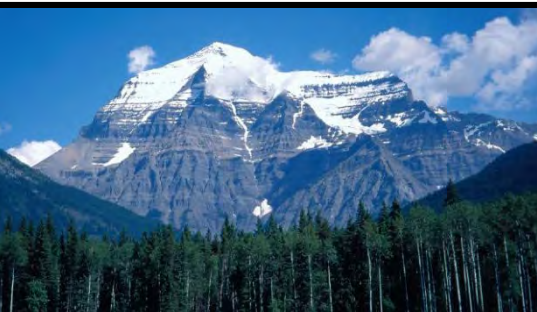
For further information please visit our website at:
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- [*Spring 2013 - Speakers Series - Housing in a Changing Community: Opportunity for Innovation*](#)

The Community Development Institute at UNBC is interested in two fundamental issues for communities in northern BC: community capacity and community development. By undertaking research, sharing information, and supporting education outreach, the Institute is becoming a vital partner to communities interested in making informed decisions about their own futures.

The institute emphasizes the importance of capacity-building, collaboration, learning, and complementarity between UNBC research centres. Research that is undertaken balances academic credibility with practical relevance. Beyond research, the Institute is involved in outreach activities and serves as a conduit to expand and enhance local educational opportunities related to community development.

Major: [*Public Administration and Community Development*](#)

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