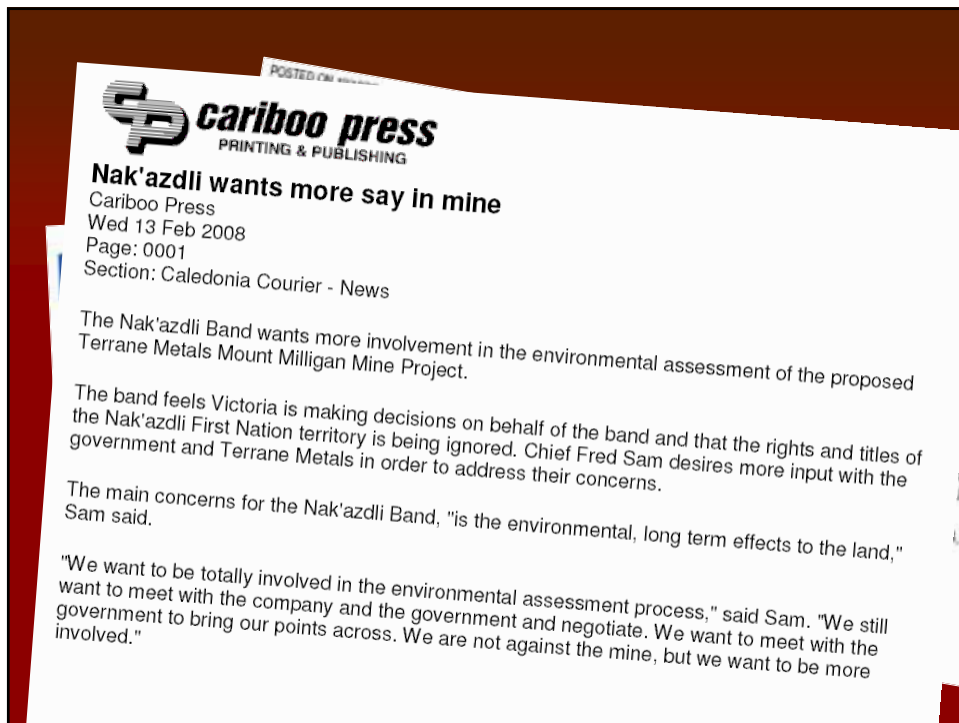


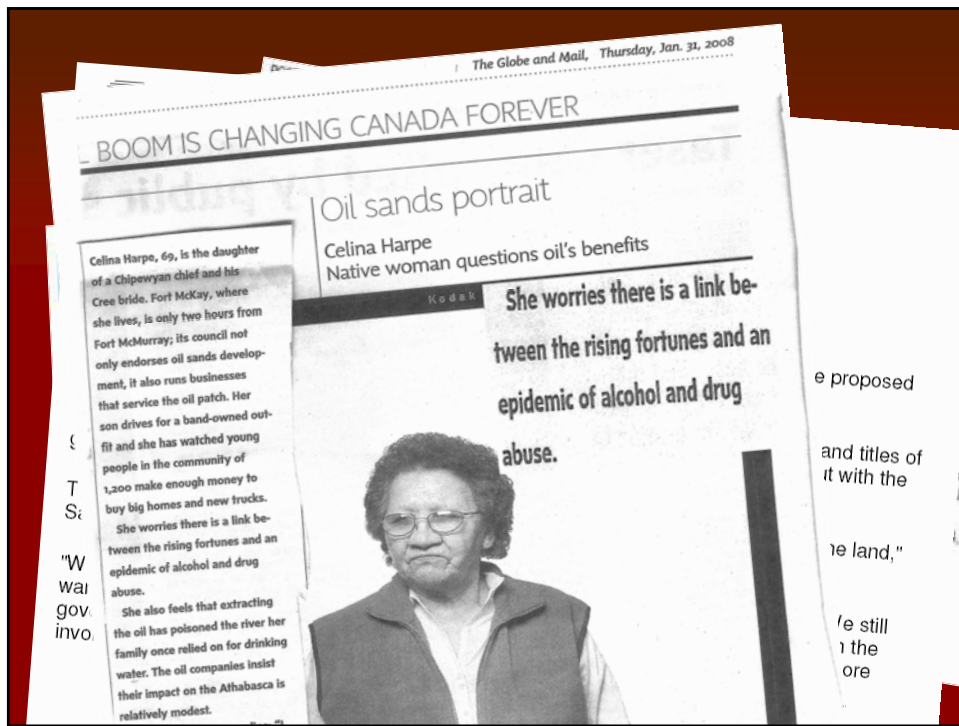
Socio-Cultural Impacts Assessment:

Efforts to Measure the True Effects of Development on Aboriginal People and Culture

Presented by: David Hill & Marc Storms
Good Medicine Group (Storms & Hill Consulting)







What do we mean by “Socio-Cultural Impacts”?

- Changes on any of the cultural components, as defined by that “group”, which make up the fabric of that culture.
- Like an ecosystem, the various components of any culture are woven together in a complex relationship that defines the “socio-cultural system”, or society.



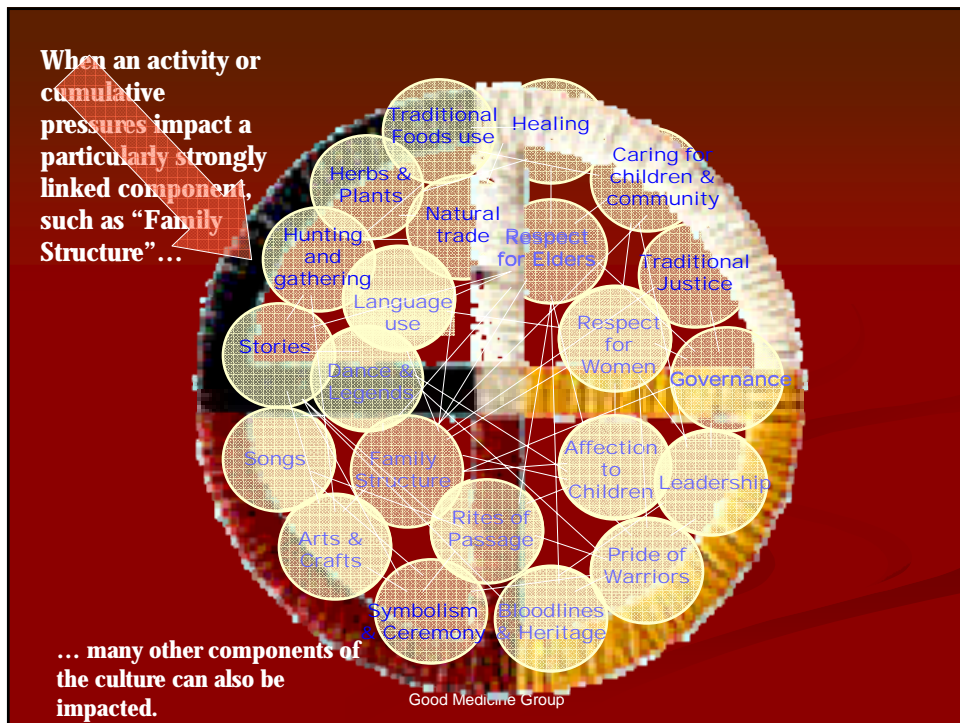
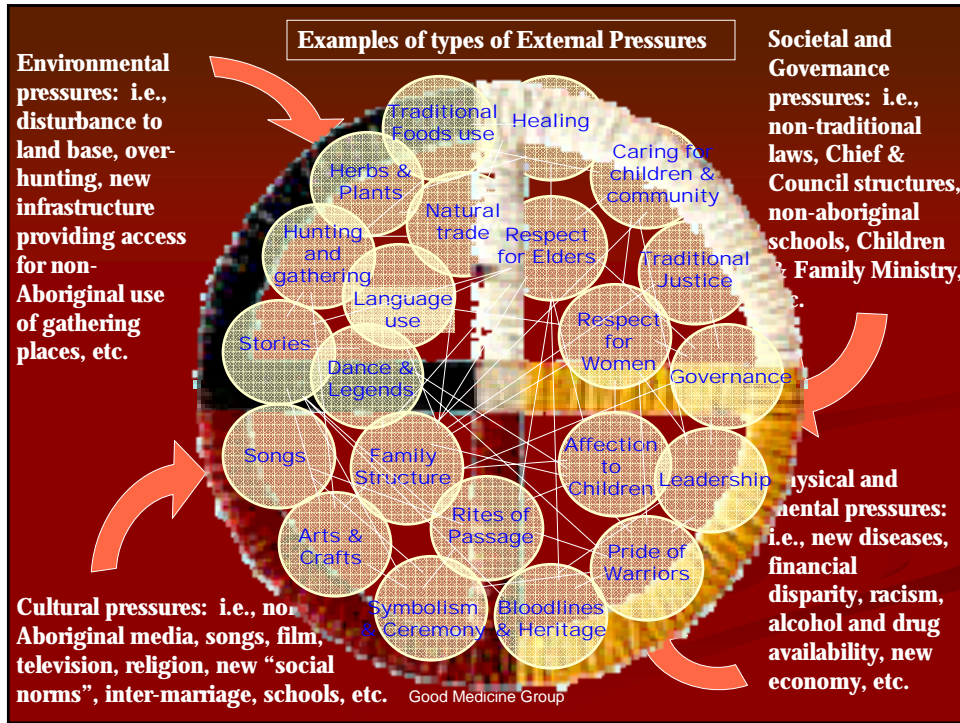
Example of the Interconnectedness of socio-cultural components.



How are Socio-Cultural Components Impacted?

- Different activities place different pressures on social and cultural components.
- The level of impacts can be related to a variety of factors, including:
 - Relative strength of the “fabric” as a whole
 - Priority or critical nature of the component
 - Amount or level of pressure (compounding factor)
 - Severity of the activity (i.e., mild to devastating)





What Has Been Done to Date?

- Little has been done to date by industry or regulators to measure or mitigate socio-cultural impacts.
- The usual approach is to focus on socio-economic impacts – mitigation = jobs, cash, facilities.
- Industry may negotiate IBA's or give money to compensate for social impacts
- Government provides specific funds to compensate for known or anticipated social impacts (i.e., \$500 million funding for Mackenzie Valley Pipeline)



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Socio-Cultural Impacts Assessment: A Powerful Tool

- Like socio-economic or environmental impact assessments, SCIA considers the impacts on socio-cultural components.
- Provides a powerful planning tool and meaningful engagement process.
- Can be used on its own or integrated into existing assessment processes.



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Our Story - Putting the Socio-Cultural Impacts Assessment in Action



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The Background...

- In 2003, there were more than 12 major projects under consideration in the Tahltan territory.
- The Tahltan demanded recognition that development is impacting their culture.
- “If left unchecked, the Nation faced extinction.”
- They requested that they should be given the same consideration “as the goats and grizzly bears.”



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“Out of Respect”

- The Out of Respect document documented that:

“Tahltan leaders have expressed concern that large disposable incomes from mining may be a significant contributor to drug and alcohol problems. This concern is part of a larger issue of effectively managing a community and culture in transition—in a way that maintains the best of past practices while taking on the best of new ways.”



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Building the Process

- In 2004, we began working with the Tahltan to ensure social and cultural interests would be considered in all these developments.
- Work was undertaken to include recognition of social and cultural impacts as a requirement within the Environmental Assessment process.
- The BC Government agreed, and provided a window of opportunity and funding to conduct the process.
- Tahltan Central Council established a Socio-Cultural Working Group to oversee the entire process.



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The Socio-Cultural Assessment Process

Engagement,
Relationship
Building and
Cultural Orientation



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The Socio-Cultural Assessment Process

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Collection and
Establishment of
Baseline Data (may
include a Census)

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The Socio-Cultural Assessment Process

**Engagement,
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**Community Visioning
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**Ongoing Monitoring
and Evaluation Plans**

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Next Steps

- Apply our knowledge to predict impacts
- Work to propose and design effective mitigation strategies on individual projects.
- Establish a “Nation Strategic Plan” for future development activities.
- Link into a computer-based model to predict cumulative impacts based on site-specific activities into the long-term future.



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Summary - Benefits of SCIA

- Better identification of community needs, social issues/landscape, and desired outcomes
- Greater local influence towards positive impacts
- Improves relationships, leads to better development planning, and enhances certainty for industry
- Ensures community members, and other stakeholders clearly understand the full impacts
- Built on comprehensive community consultation
- Assists in long-term planning and improved relationships

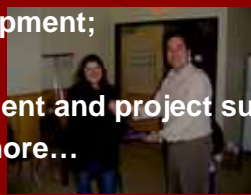
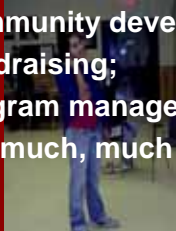


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A collective of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal associates, providing service in:

- Socio-cultural impacts assessment;
- Culturally relevant health, wellness and family development capacity building programs;
- Aboriginal / industry / government engagement strategies and support;
- Community development;
- Fundraising;
- Program management and project support;
- and much, much more...



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