

Community Vitality Monitoring Partnership Process



Review of 2012

Community Vitality Steering Committee
February 2013

Community Vitality Monitoring Partnership Process (CVMPP)

Steering Committee

Richard Gladue
Glenn Lafleur
Gary Merasty
Darwin Roy
Scott Boyes
Warren Kelly
Dr. James Irvine (Chair)

AREVA Resources Canada Inc.
AREVA Resources Canada Inc.
Cameco Corporation
Cameco Corporation
Ministry of Government Relations
Ministry of Government Relations
Population Health Unit (Northern Health Authorities)

Thomas Sierzycki

Community Vitality Coordinator



CVMPF Committee



From Left to Right: Scott Boyes, Warren Kelly, Glenn Lafleur, Darwin Roy, Dr. James Irvine and CVMPF Coordinator Thomas Sierzycki.



Gary Merasty



Richard Gladue

A Message from Chairperson Dr. Irvine

On behalf of the Community Vitality Monitoring Partnership Process (CVMPP) Steering Committee, we are pleased to provide this review of our major activities for 2012. The types of projects that the CVMP has undertaken have evolved since the early years of the program. One of the 2012 major activities has been the study of socio-economic impacts of the modern era of uranium mining in Northern Saskatchewan. This has involved the review of information from a variety of sources including community member interviews. The project report will be available early in 2013 and we look forward to comments and feedback on this report.

The CVMPP program is meant to support the assessment of the impact of the uranium industry and other factors affecting the overall well-being of northern communities in a way that supports the vitality of these communities. Projects have been determined through consultation with various community and northern organization representatives which assists in making this initiative relevant to northerners. Community members have also assisted with providing direction and expertise in the implementation of recommendations for some of the studies. We would like to thank the community and organization representatives who have assisted with these projects over the years. Their insights add significant value to each of the projects. The committee would also wish to thank Thomas Sierzycki, the coordinator of the program, for his organization skills and energy he provides to the process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Irvine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

James Irvine, MD, MSc, CCFP, FCFP, FRCPC
CVMPP Chairperson

What is “Community Vitality (CVMPP)”?

The present community vitality monitoring initiative arises directly out of the recommendations of a joint Federal-Provincial Panel on Uranium Mining Developments in Northern Saskatchewan. As a result of the Panel review and reports, the revised surface lease agreements for northern uranium mining projects require the companies to participate in a community vitality monitoring program.

The original idea of community vitality focused on the social well-being and quality of life experienced by community residents and how a community could respond to changes such as those that may be caused by an industrial project. In general, “community vitality” requires adequate formal services, a strong network of social supports, effective political leadership, and a viable local economy that is diverse and resilient. Self-sufficiency is an important part of the definition of community vitality.

There are many alternative approaches to assessing a community’s vitality, including approaches that assess health (physical, mental/emotional, spiritual/cultural, and social), quality of life, sustainable development, and community wellness. In the case of the CVMPP, northerners helped to define community vitality and to outline the related issues.

The vision of the Community Vitality Monitoring Partnership Process is to “show that monitoring information related to uranium mining impacts and other community influences can be used to address and act upon issues of priority to northern communities.”



CVMPP Coordinator Thomas Sierzycki discussing important community vitality issues with residents in Fond-du-Lac during the AREVA/Cameco Northern Tour 2012.

Past Completed Projects

The following list includes all past completed projects by the CVMPP (Community Vitality Monitoring Partnership Process). Please note that details about the projects may be found on the CVMPP website at www.cvmpp.ca.

1. Migration
2. Healthy Foods Assessment
3. Youth Initiatives Conference
4. Northern Saskatchewan Community Vitality Youth Workshop
5. Reviewing the Past-Five Years-Planning the Future
6. Youth Focus Groups
7. "We say 2..." Second Youth Initiatives Workshop
8. Project Review and Evaluation
9. Impact on Families and Communities of the Fly In/Out Work Rotation System n Uranium Mines in Northern Saskatchewan
10. "Learning through Leadership" Conference
11. Challenges to Post-Secondary Education for the Residents of the Athabasca Basin
12. "Growing the Spirit of Our Youth" Planning Workshop
13. Northern Saskatchewan Awards of Excellence

Major Activities – 2012

Study of Socio-Economic (Community Vitality) Impacts of the Modern Era of Uranium Mining in Northern Saskatchewan

Northern socio-economic conditions play a vital role in the health and vitality of our people and communities. In August of 2011, the CVMPP called for proposals to be submitted to conduct a review of the socio-economic (Community Vitality) impacts of the modern era of uranium industry in Northern Saskatchewan. After much deliberation, CVMPP was pleased to announce that InterGroup Consultants Ltd. of Winnipeg, Manitoba was selected. To help direct the project, an "Expanded Steering Committee" of knowledgeable Northerners was pulled together. Individuals were selected to represent the unique demographics and geography of the north.

The Expanded CVMPP Steering committee included:

Annie Robillard (Hatchet Lake)
Clifford Ray (Sandy Bay)
Dr. Rose Roberts (Stanley Mission)
Georgina Jolibois (La Loche)
Rosalena Smith (Pinehouse)
Sandra Hansen (Stony Rapids)
Scott Robertson (La Ronge)

The study has been divided into two parts. Phase one developed the study parameters and was completed in January 2012. Phase two undertook the actual collection and analysis of information, development and documentation of findings and conclusions. Phase two was completed in January 2013 and will be shared with many stakeholders and northern communities throughout the next year.

The study and recommendations can be found on the CVMPP website www.cvmpp.ca or by contacting the CVMPP Coordinator Thomas Sierzycki at 306-425-6883 or via e-mail thomas.sierzycki@areva.ca.



The CVMPP Committee and Expanded Steering Committee listen to InterGroup's Janet Kinley present draft results from the socio-economic study in December 2012 in La Ronge.

CVMPP Website

The CVMPP website plays a vital role in information sharing and communication between the CVMPP, its various stake holders and public as a whole. The website contains updates, information, media and links to numerous industry and community vitality related sites. The site also holds the numerous reports completed by CVMPP in PDF format for download.

Visit the site regularly at www.cvmpp.ca for all your Community Vitality updates!

Career Ambassador

The Enhanced Career counselling initiative from the Growing the Spirit of Our Youth Workshop was named the Career Ambassador project. This project is designed to increase the awareness among northern youth of the employment opportunities in the mining and health fields.

The interactive website, www.careerambassador.ca, contains a 24-question test that directs students via their answers to careers in mining and health that relate to their interests. Information sheets provide information on careers in the mining and health fields and assist students in learning about the duties of the job, where the person could work, what characteristics they need to excel in the position and pre-requisites needed for their post-secondary education. The highlight of the website is a variety of videos by northerners discussing their jobs, life experiences and education required to obtain their positions.



CVMPP Coordinator Thomas Sierzycki receiving youth input.

In 2012, CVMPP and the Keewatin Career Development Corporation (KCDC) partnered on continued awareness and distribution of Career Ambassador. The goal is that all northerners seeking information on the mining and health fields have an additional resource to use.

Knowledge Mobilization Partnership

In 2012, CVMPP partnered with the University of Waterloo and University of Saskatchewan in the study "Building a System for Sustained Knowledge Mobilization.". The study was awarded a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), Partnership Development Grant worth \$176,000. The grant will be used to find better ways of bringing information and research findings to policy and program development. CVMPP has posed several questions regarding potential projects, which will be answered by the study in early 2013.

Northern Saskatchewan Justice Symposium

CVMPP Coordinator Thomas Sierzycki was part of the 2012 Northern Saskatchewan Justice Symposium organizing committee. This symposium, held by New North in conjunction with other organizations (RCMP, Government of Saskatchewan, etc.) provides an opportunity for northerners to collaborate on justice-related issues. Sierzycki will continue to serve the committee for the 2013 symposium, which will be held in the fall. For more information visit New North's website at www.newnorthsask.ca.



Left to right: Government Relations and CVMPP Committee member Scott Boyes, CVMPP Coordinator Thomas Sierzycki and Cameco's Colleen Durocher, Angus Mckay, Trevor Gonzales and Charissa Innes take a tour of Stony Rapids, in the beautiful Athabasca Basin.

Plans for 2013

2013 promises to be an exciting year for the Community Vitality Monitoring Partnership Process. A few things to look forward include:

-Dissemination and sharing of the study “The Socio-Economic (Community Vitality) Impacts of the Modern Era of Uranium Industry in Northern Saskatchewan” to various stakeholders across Northern Saskatchewan.

-Work towards additional study and implementation of recommendations from “The Socio-Economic (Community Vitality) Impacts of the Modern Era of Uranium Industry in Northern Saskatchewan.”

-Continue building developing partnerships that benefit Northern Saskatchewan and are related to assessing the vitality of Northern Saskatchewan communities.

Conclusion

As can be seen by the past and present activities, the CVMPP has been working in a methodical manner, bringing northern stakeholders into the planning and implementation processes. Youth issues are common and of significant interest to northern communities. As such, they are developing into a major focus of this program.

The concept of community vitality as raised by the Federal-Provincial Panel has gone through much discussion with stakeholders in the north as well as in the uranium mining industry. It is apparent that:

- community vitality should be monitored;
- the monitoring should be a collaborative partnership of stakeholders (industry, northern communities, northern agencies, etc.);
- monitoring is a developing process of addressing issues of concern rather than simply collecting data; and
- this process can help build research capacity in the north.

By assisting, coordinating, financially supporting and/or implementing (depending on the project) various projects, the Community Vitality Monitoring Partnership Process can use the approach that best suits the needs and circumstances of northern Saskatchewan communities.

The Community Vitality Coordinating Committee would like to thank all of those who have helped make this project creative, effective and, most of all, relevant to northern communities.

Please contact Thomas Sierzycki, CVMPP Coordinator at 306-425-6883 or via e-mail to thomas.sierzycki@areva.ca with any questions or ideas regarding Community Vitality.



Snowmobiling in Northern Saskatchewan on a beautiful winter day.