

# ***Community Vitality Monitoring Partnership Process***



## **Review of 2013**

Community Vitality Steering Committee  
January 2014

# ***Community Vitality Monitoring Partnership Process (CVMPP)***

## **Steering Committee**

**Tammy Van Lambalgen**  
**Carolanne Inglis-McQuay**  
**Sean Willy**  
**Darrel Burnouf**  
**Scott Boyes**  
**Darren Thomas**  
**James Andrews**  
**Dr. James Irvine (Chair)**

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

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**Thomas Sierzycki**

Community Vitality Coordinator



## CVMPP Committee at Work



From Left to Right: Carolanne Inglis-McQay, Tammy Van Lambalgen, Sean Willy, Darrel Burnouf, Dr. James Irvine, James Andrews and Darren Thomas at a strategic planning session.



CVMPP Coordinator Thomas Sierzycki looks on as CVMPP Chair Dr. James Irvine does a presentation to Cameco on the “Socio-Economic Impacts of the Modern Era of Uranium Mining on Northern Saskatchewan.”

# A Message from Chairperson Dr. Irvine

The 2013 Annual Review of the Community Vitality Partnership Process (CVMPP) is one way in which the Steering Committee can provide an overview of some of the activities of this program over the past year. We value the input and ideas from our many northern Saskatchewan partners as individuals or organizations and, in turn, we are committed to sharing the information from the various activities and reports of the CVMPP Process.

The major activity for this past year has been the release and dissemination of the report on “The Socio-economic impacts of the modern era of uranium mining on northern Saskatchewan”. Socio-economic conditions are some of the factors that determine the vitality of our communities and of the well-being of our population. This report summarizes some of the conditions within northern Saskatchewan some of which are influenced by uranium developments. Throughout the year we had an opportunity to share this information with many individuals, community groups, organizations, industry, and governments. We have received valuable feedback from many. The information received from community members, leaders and organizations will be used to determine our next activities of the CVMPP.

As we look to 2014, we have a number of projects planned or that are being assessed as potential projects, all of which fit within the areas of study that northerners had recommended for the CVMPP to undertake. We look forward to ongoing work with our northern partners.

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 mine 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 both diverse and resilient. Self-sufficiency is also an important part of the definition of community vitality.

There are, however, many alternative approaches to assessing a community’s vitality, including approaches that assess community health (physical, mental/emotional, spiritual/cultural, and social), community quality of life, community 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 presenting in the community of Buffalo Narrows on the Cameco Northern Tour 2013.**

## 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](http://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..." 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
14. The Socio-Economic Impacts of the Modern Era of Uranium Mining on Northern Saskatchewan.
15. Industry Investment into Early Childhood Development
16. Supervisory Positions in the Uranium Industry: Opportunities and Challenges for Residents of Saskatchewan's North.

## Major Activities – 2013

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

"The Socio-Economic Impacts of the Modern Era of Uranium Mining on Northern Saskatchewan" study was successfully completed in March 2013. Since then, CVMPP has been busy disseminating the report to northern stakeholders which include First Nations, Metis, municipalities, academia and government. The study continues to be a great asset as northerners are using it for lobbying and for its uranium industry data. Partnership building continues as the CVMPP hopes that many of the report's recommendations will be acted upon. To request a presentation of the study or for a copy, please visit the CVMPP website [www.cvmpp.ca](http://www.cvmpp.ca) or contact the CVMPP Coordinator Thomas Sierzycki at 306-425-6883 or via e-mail [thomas.sierzycki@areva.ca](mailto:thomas.sierzycki@areva.ca)

## **CVMPP Website**

The CVMPP website plays a vital role in information sharing and communication between the CVMPP, its various stake holders and the 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](http://www.cvmpp.ca) for all your Community Vitality updates!

## **Industry Investment into Early Childhood Development**

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. Completed in 2013, the CVMPP portion was used to do a scan of "Industry Investment into Early Childhood Development." The results of the study were disseminated to the CVMPP steering committee and will be used for future projects.

## **Northern Saskatchewan Symposium for Healthier and Safer Communities**

CVMPP Coordinator Thomas Sierzycki was part of the 2013 Northern Saskatchewan Symposium for Healthier and Safer Communities 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 community well-being and related issues. For more information visit New North's website at [www.newnorthsask.ca](http://www.newnorthsask.ca).



**Northern Leaders Roundtable representatives listen to a presentation on the CVMPP in Prince Albert, Sask. on December 19<sup>th</sup>/2013.**

## **Supervisory Positions in the Uranium Industry: Opportunities and Challenges for Residents of Saskatchewan's North**

This report examines the "Supervisory Positions in the Uranium Industry: Opportunities and Challenges for Residents of Saskatchewan's North," and stems from a recommendation in the 2013 "The Socio-Economic Impacts of the Modern Era of Uranium Mining on Northern Saskatchewan." The research focuses on current human resource policies of AREVA Resources Canada Inc. (AREVA) and Cameco Corporation's (Cameco) as they pertain to Residents of Saskatchewan North growth in supervisory positions in the uranium industry. The report examines the organizational factors and touches on the societal and cultural factors that have an influence on RSN supervisory level acquisition rates. Minimal RSN specific data and research was found and therefore a broader research of aboriginal employment was conducted. Evaluation of best practices in other industries (Alberta-oil sands and Northwest Territories-diamonds) provided some information on the enhancement of hiring Aboriginal people.

The full-report is available at [www.cvmpp.ca](http://www.cvmpp.ca)



**CVMPMP Chairperson Dr. Irvine, Coordinator Thomas Sierzycki and University of Saskatchewan Professor Dr. Ken Coates engage in a question and answer session with faculty and students at the University of Saskatchewan.**

# Plans for 2014

2014 promises to be an exciting year for the Community Vitality Monitoring Partnership Process. A few things to look forward include:

- Report card of what actions have been undertaken by various partners as they relate to the recommendations from “The Socio-Economic Impacts of the Modern Era of Uranium Mining on Northern Saskatchewan.”

-A project feasibility study on the “Cost of Poverty” on Northern Saskatchewan.

- A study on the “Uranium Mine Worker Health and Wellness Programs in Northern Saskatchewan.”

- An analysis of “Media Monitoring on Northern Saskatchewan.”

And;

-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 as 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.

Because CVMPP research design, implementation and follow-up involve extensive stakeholder communication, results obtained often appear to be delayed and simplified. However, this type of research has very high credibility in the north and elsewhere. One of the challenges that the Community Vitality Monitoring Partnership Process faces is the ongoing sharing of gathered information from projects with relevant stakeholders and northern communities. Sharing of information is critical to maximize the usefulness of each project.

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](mailto:thomas.sierzycki@areva.ca) with any questions or ideas regarding CVMPP.**



**CVMPP Coordinator Thomas Sierzycki and Cameco's Colleen Durocher cook burgers at the Pine Channel Retreat in the Athabasca Basin.**

