

Program Evaluation in a Northern, Aboriginal Setting: Assessing Impact and Benefit Agreements

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Content (for the benefit of the Aboriginal Signatories)

- royalty/equity provisions
- employment provisions
- economic development provisions
- environmental provisions beyond EA requirements
- societal/cultural provisions beyond EA requirements

In exchange for...

in consideration for [the company] entering into this agreement, the [group in question] will not object to the issuance of any licenses, permits, authorisations or approvals to construct or operate the project required by any regulatory body having jurisdiction over the project

Impact and Benefit Agreements: Past research and opportunities

- **General content**
(e.g. Sosa and Keenan, 2001, Public Policy Forum, 2005)
- **Legal Basis**
(e.g. Keeping, 1997; Kennett, 1999; Klein *et al.*, 2004)
- **Development and Negotiation**
(e.g. Couch 2002; O'Faircheallaigh and Corbett, 2005)
- **Rationale**
(e.g. O'Faircheallaigh, 1999; Galbraith and Bradshaw, 2005)
- **Effectiveness**
(e.g. Dreyer and Myers, 2004; Hitch, 2006; North-South Institute, 2006)

Are they working?

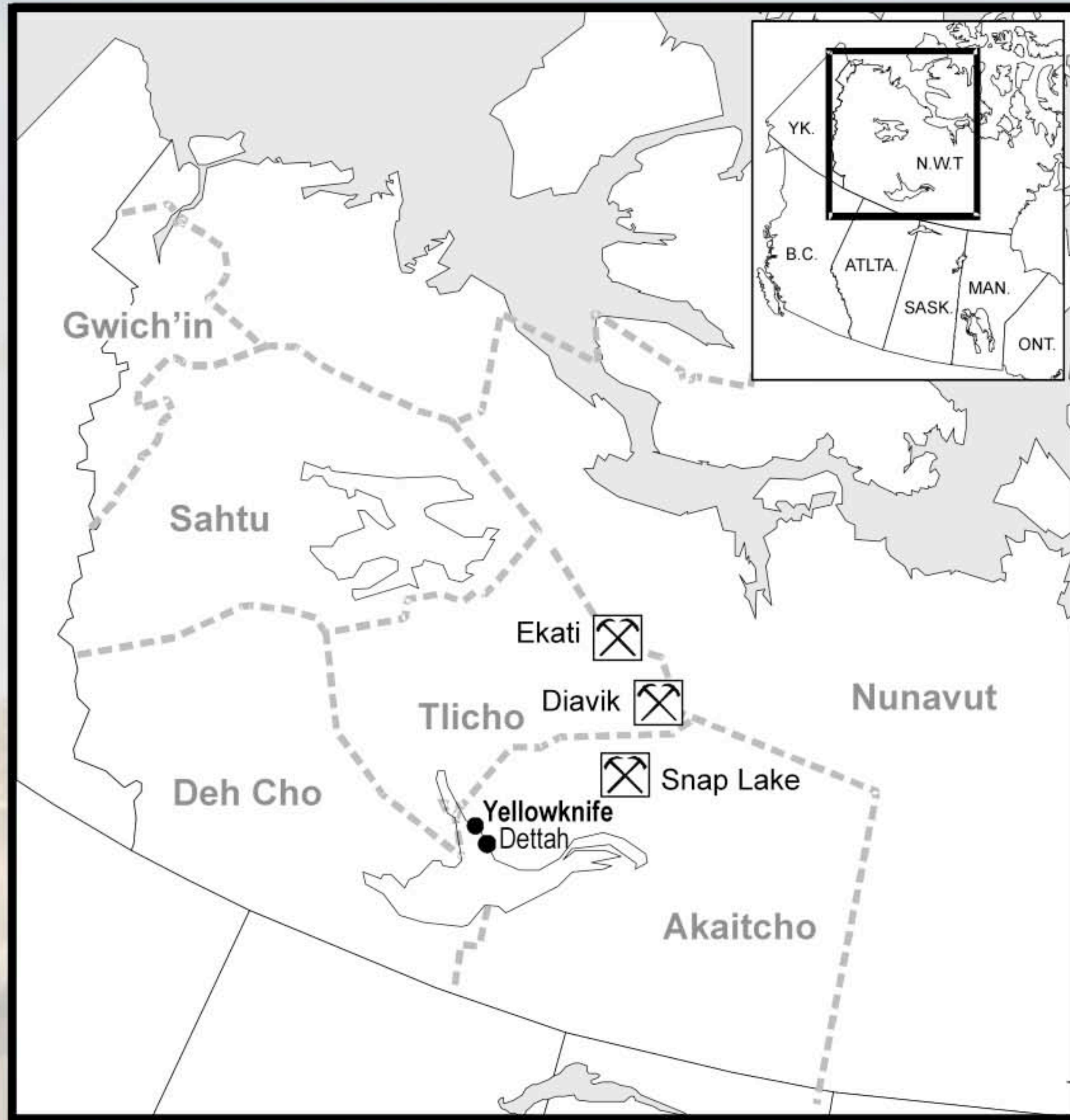
- Why Steven Kennett, an IBA researcher, calls this the 1\$M question:
 - this knowledge is of vital interest to many; and
 - its uncovering is methodologically complex.
- Direction from the program evaluation lit...

Program evaluation: a spectrum of approaches



Our Research Strategy

- What others have done (Dreyer and Myers, 2004; Hitch, 2006; North-South Institute, 2006)
- What we sought to do
 - assess the impact of IBAs relative to:
 - a historical baseline (i.e. the time before IBAs); and
 - their objectives (see Galbraith *et al.* 2007)
 - build positive relationships and trust;
 - ensure adequate follow-up;
 - relieve capacity strains; and
 - secure local benefits.



Multi-Method Approach

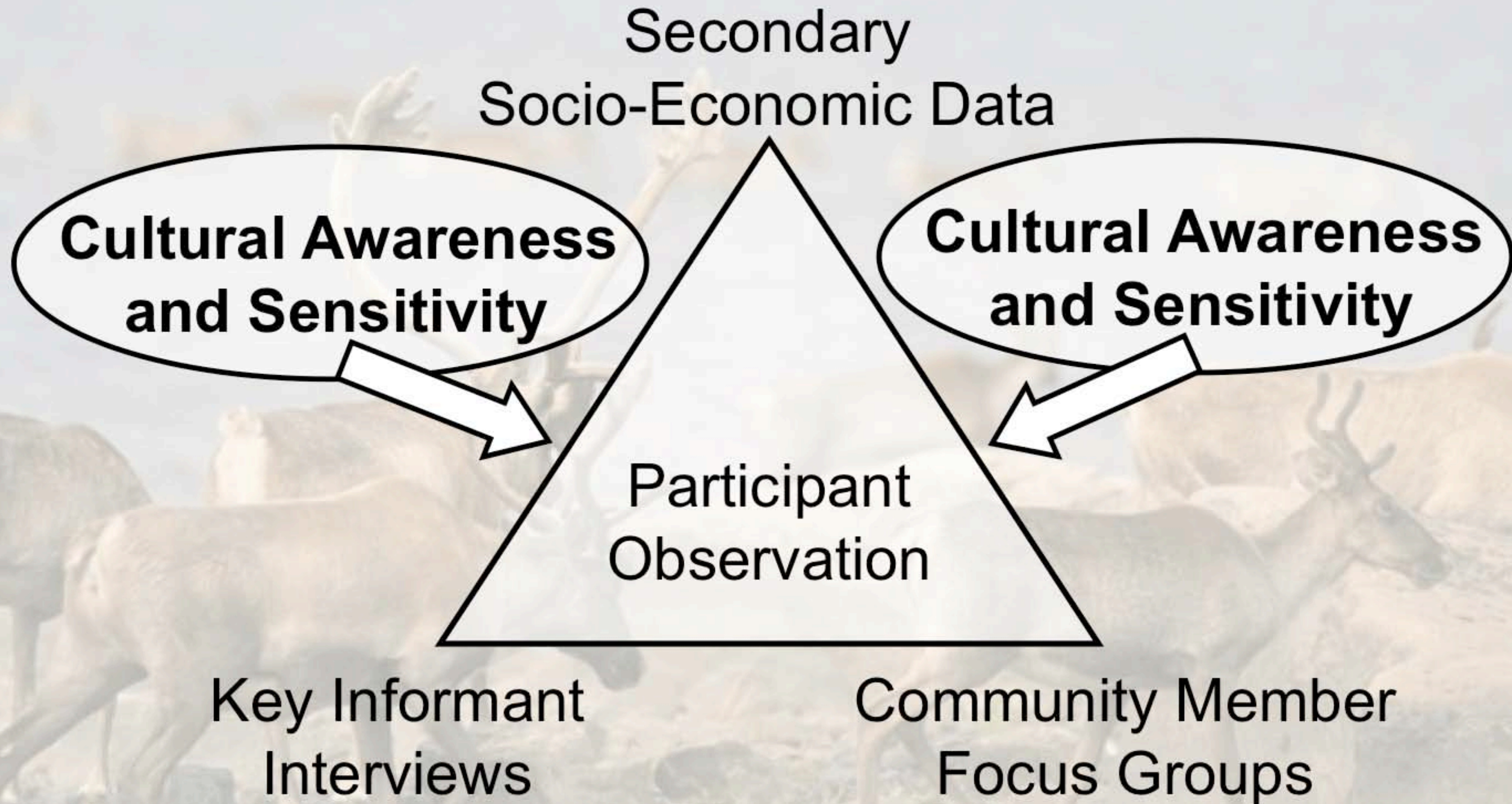
Secondary
Socio-Economic Data

Participant
Observation

Key Informant
Interviews

Community Member
Focus Groups

Multi-Method Approach



Research in an Aboriginal Context

A number of considerations exist:

- Culture
- Language
- Legacy of past research
- Community approval of research
- Benefits accruing to community

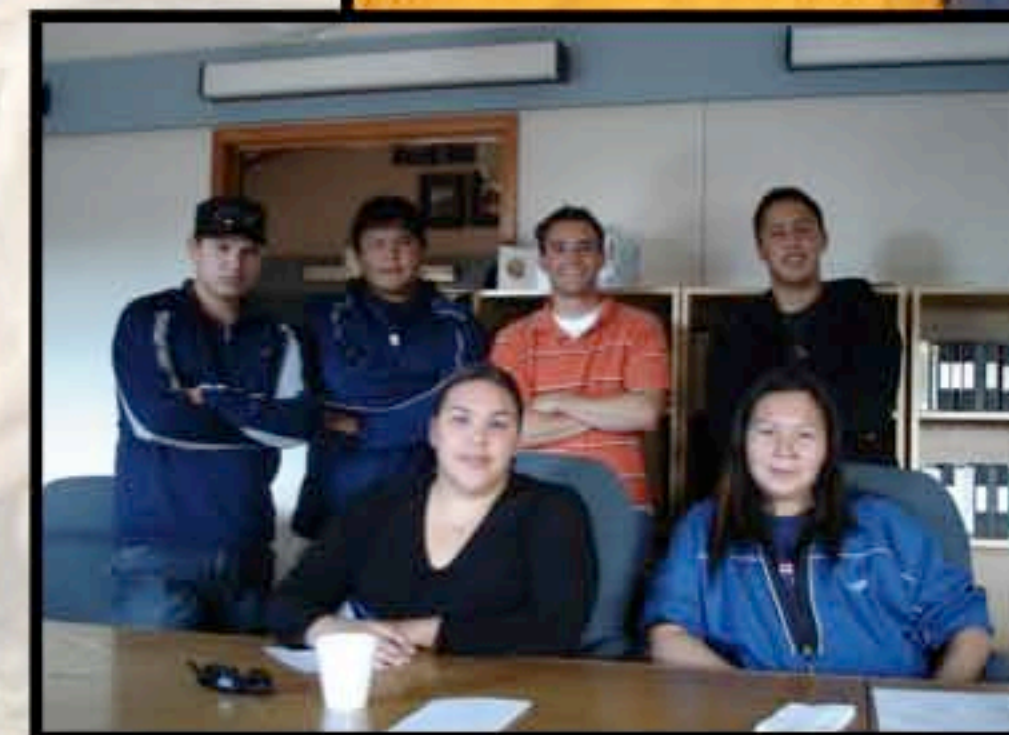
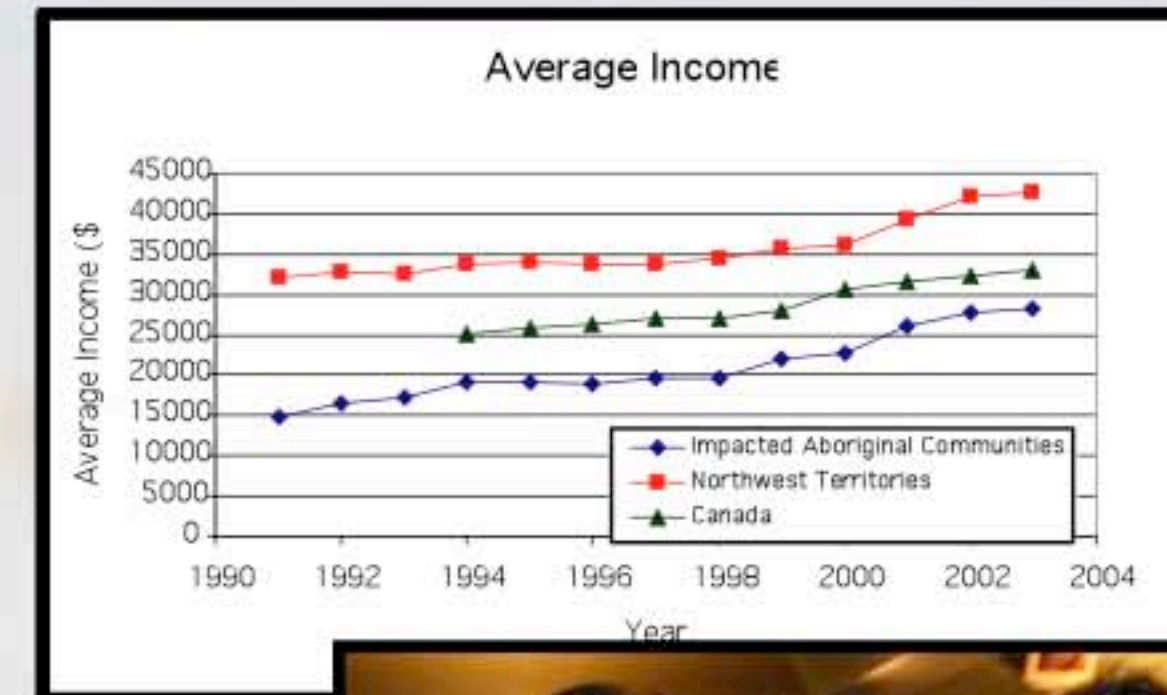
Aboriginal Involvement

- Dene (Tlicho Government, Yellowknives Dene First Nation, Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation)
- Inuit (Kitikmeot Inuit Association)
- Métis (North Slave Métis Alliance)



Research Logistics and Challenges

- Socio-Economic Data
- Key Informants
- Focus Groups
- Participant Observation



Doing it better

- Community selected indicators
- Focus groups that better represent community demographics
- Increased time spent in communities
- Refinement & replication in other locales

