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EA EXPERT PANEL
PRESENTATION
SUDBURY
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We are preparing to make changes to Environmental Assessment legislation at the same time that Canada is embarking on a new relationship with Indigenous Peoples.

The opportunity is to re-think how we share resource development decisions with all Canadians, while benefiting from the Knowledge of Indigenous Canadians regarding caring for our environment.

CAPACITY BUILDING

TO ALLOW MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT

We all realize that

- First Nation administrations are overworked, underfunded and stressed due to the number of projects and proponents
- Consultation methods within communities are poor
- Funding to support Lands and Resources staff is inadequate and insecure

As well

- Proponents are capable of capitalizing on lack of capacity and chaotic conditions in communities
- “Lack of engagement” has background issues that include need for healing, fear of government and government processes, effects of poverty, etc
- All Canadians need new competencies; Indigenous Peoples are moving beyond the relationship of being ‘wards of the Crown’

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TO BUILDING CAPACITY

CEAA requires an office for Indigenous Engagement Strategies

- to model decolonization at the national level
- to encourage strategies at local and regional levels that rebuild & respect Indigenous connection to the land and water, knowledge of resource development projects, participation in the economy, effective participation in project design, construction, operations and closure of brown fields

Regional/Treaty participation in EA processes, including ongoing monitoring

- to decrease competition between FN's and to increase more effective use of limited human resources in land use planning
- "Enormous Pressure" from proponents on individual FN's lifted

TK/TEK/IK

TO SUPPORT BETTER RESOURCE DECISIONS

We can all accept

- The Land and water is the connection between Indigenous Peoples and resource development projects
- Indigenous Peoples continue to be separated from the Land and water
- Indigenous Knowledges are misunderstood and marginalized
- Science is still being discovered; IK is being re-discovered. They are two distinct pillars of knowledge
- Even when TEK is invited into resource development projects, it is not given authority by regulators (Timmins example)
- Net Environmental Impact of any project can be positive or negative, and depends on broader indicators than purely Science

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WORKING TOWARDS +NET ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Include TEK/TK/IK as well as local knowledge in all EA processes

- Local and regional people understand the Land, Water and all related beings. The spiritual aspect of our relationship to Creation must be respected.
- On-going monitoring increases engagement, trust, stewardship

TEK/TK/IK during EA and supplementary stages of project implementation must have authority

- Yes, No not How
- Unique and diverse solutions to real and potential issues increases project and community sustainability

SUMMARY

THE VALUE OF DIVERSITY

- Issues are simmering nationally and internationally
- Current climate of reconciliation is a window to increased competencies for both Canada and Indigenous Peoples
- Changes to the ways Canada assesses resource projects will lead to changes in the way Indigenous Peoples participate in the economy
- Positive Net Environmental Impact will be more possible through recognition of Indigenous Knowledges and establishing new mechanisms for inclusion