

Building Together: Community-UNBC Research Partnerships

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Map of Talk

- UNBC's Unique Responsibility
- Research: Changing Models
- Community-University Research Partnerships: Benefits and Challenges
- Building & Sustaining Research Partnerships: Lessons from a Community/UNBC Project
- UNBC Partnerships: Examples, Ideas
- Your Input

UNBC's Unique Role

- UNBC's Creation Story
- UNBC as one of British Columbia's four research-intensive universities

The Knowledge-based Resource Economy

- Future resilience of northern BC based on *knowledge-based resource economy*
- Northern economy will remain based on natural resources - forests, minerals, tourism
- Need for more diverse use of these resources
- Contribution of research to innovation allowing diversification of economy -- and to stable, secure communities

Change in Research Paradigm

- Old model = 'Drive-by', 'take-out' research
- New model = community-based research
 - Communities know their problems, challenges - and priorities
 - Researchers can bring a diverse set of tools to help understand the complexities of these problem and challenges, and work toward solutions.
 - Recognized by funding agencies

Research Partnerships

- Spectrum of engagement levels possible

Research that is done in partnership with communities focuses on identifying community-centred solutions to problems identified by communities

Community-University Partnerships: Benefits

- For Community:
 - Expertise
 - Resources
 - Greater understanding of how universities work
 - Intellectual Culture
 - Contacts with other university researchers
 - Credibility
 - Jobs
- For University:
 - Community knowledge
 - Capacity to organize projects
 - Resources
 - Access to networks of people; non-academic partnerships
 - Credibility
 - 'Real-life opportunities for grad students

Community-University Partnerships: Benefits

- For both:
 - Meaningful questions
 - Innovative approaches
 - Useful products
 - Demystification of other



Community-University Partnerships: Benefits

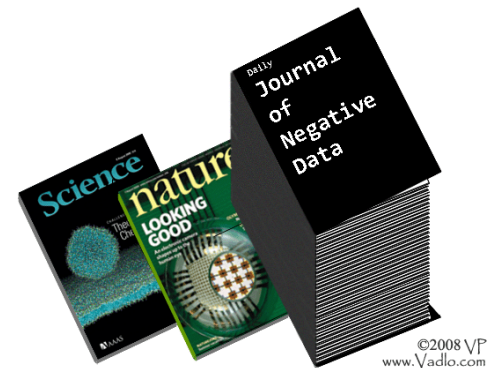
- For non-partners (“externalities”)
 - Social networks
 - Greater trust
 - Broader diffusion of research findings (knowledge)
 - Broader diffusion of skills

Community-University Partnerships: **Challenges**

- Mistrust of researchers (due to historical behavior)
- Lack of understanding by communities of what research entails/ requires
- Time, workload requirements
 - Researcher/community mismatches

Community-University Partnerships: **Challenges**

- Research results may not be what community wants to hear
- Transfer of knowledge in way that is useful to communities
- Reward system for researchers



Tl'azt'en Nation and the University of Northern British Columbia



Community-University Research Alliance
Partnering for Sustainable Resource Management

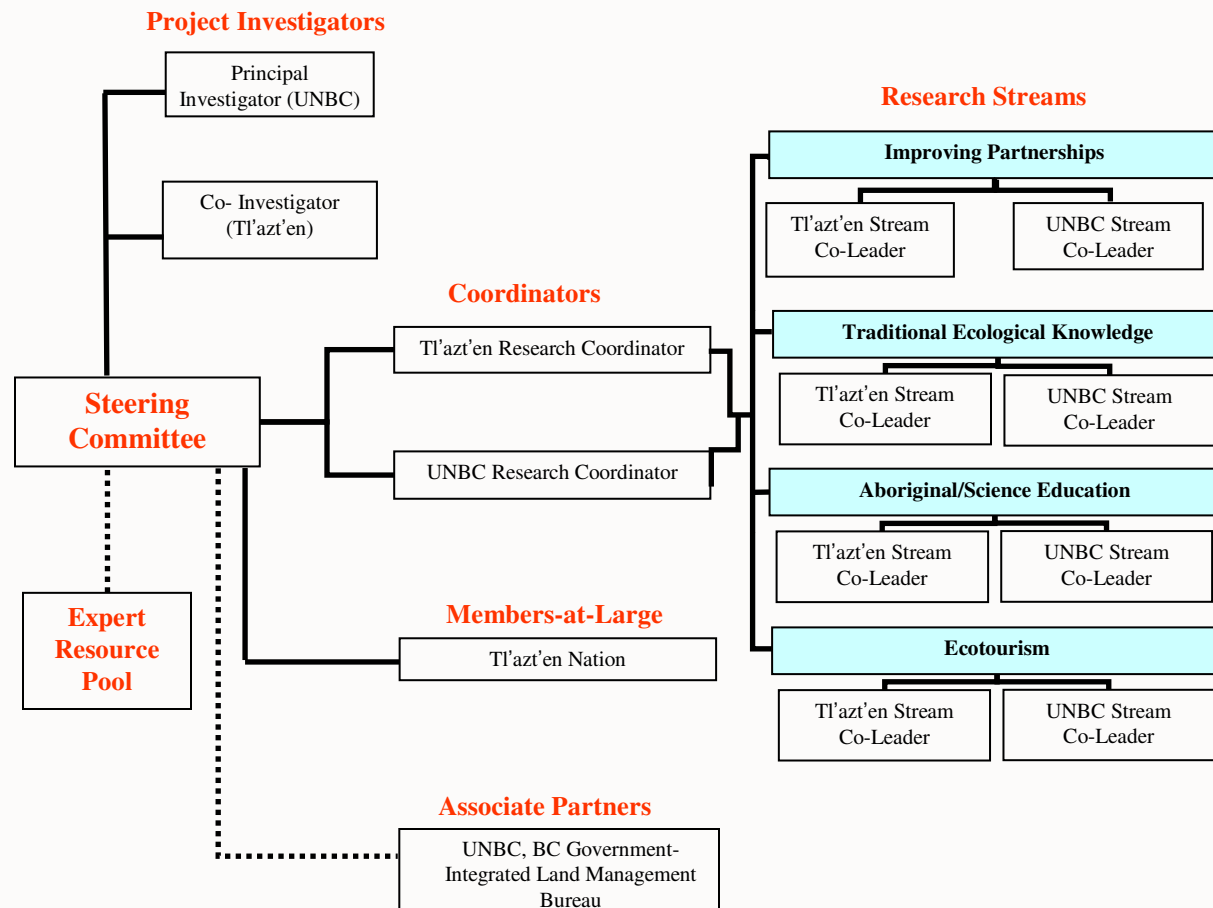
Building Together: Tl'azt'en/UNBC Partnership



“Partnering for Sustainable Development”

- How can we ensure equitable benefits from a TI'azt'en-UNBC co-managed research forest?
- How can we ensure that TI'azt'en Traditional Knowledge is preserved & perpetuated?
- How can science education be made more culturally relevant to TI'azt'en youth?
- Might TI'azt'en Nation successfully develop aboriginal tourism opportunities?

Partnering for Sustainable Development



TI'azt'en-UNBC Partnership: Outcomes

- A set of Criteria & Indicators for forest co-management that incorporate TI'azt'en and UNBC values
- A community-based environmental monitoring strategy
- Science camp curriculum based on traditional knowledge embedded in local place names
- Forest management strategies to protect food and medicinal plant gathering sites
- Paired studies of what tourists want to experience in aboriginal tourism and what TI'azt'enne want to share

TI'azt'en-UNBC Partnership: Products

- Graduate theses
- Peer-reviewed academic papers
- Community workshops
- Research training (2-way)
- Capacity building (e.g. website development, archiving materials)
- DVD & community book on environmental monitoring
- Community Herbarium
- Regional training workshops
- Community Jobs



**Aboriginal Tourism Development in
Northern British Columbia ~
Regional Tourism Development
Workshop**

Tuesday April 21-22, 2009
Conference Center, UNBC, Prince George

At the end of April, aboriginal communities in the north currently involved, or interested in, aboriginal tourism are invited to come together and connect with each other to discuss the state and nature of aboriginal tourism in the north.

If you or your community are involved in tourism — or thinking about tourism as a potential activity — this workshop is for you.

Tentative workshop themes include:

- Who's doing what in aboriginal tourism in the north?
- Best practices, tips and techniques for aboriginal tourism development
- Findings from the latest research on the aboriginal tourism market in the north
- Joint marketing or other kinds of partnering activities
- Tourism training, development, and capacity building needs and opportunities

This workshop is sponsored in part by the TI'azt'en Nation/University of Northern BC CURA research partnership. There is no registration fee for this conference—some travel subsidies may be available. Advance registration is required.

TI'azt'en Nation and the University of Northern British Columbia



Details on this workshop — including registration info will be available by mid-February on this web-site:
<http://www.unbc.ca/ortm/research/atworkshop.html>

For additional inquiries please contact
Diana Kutzner at kutznerd@unbc.ca



Lessons Learned:

Building & Sustaining Partnerships

- Real sharing of power, decision-making
- Co-establishment of research questions, methods, outcomes
- Confirming community support
- Recognizing capabilities, building capacity
- Creating a governance structure
- Establishing ethics expectations
- Building & maintaining Trust



A Few Other Examples of Community-UNBC Research Partnerships

'Namgis Resource Management

- UNBC - 'Namgis partnership
- Assisting with the development of a 'Namgis near-shore marine management plan



Applying Terahertz Technology

- UNBC-Industry Partnership
- Detecting Wood Strength
- Evaluating Emissions

ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM



Archeological Field School

- Teaching-Research partnership
- Site identified by Nak'azdli Nation
- Dig by UNBC students & locals



Community Development Institute

- **Development of Economic Emergency Transition Toolkit** (District of Mackenzie)
- **5 year Human Resources Strategic Plan** (Old Masset Village Council)
- **Tumbler Ridge Community Transition Study**
(District of Tumbler Ridge, Tumbler Ridge Employment Development Services Committee, Community Transition Branch)
- **McBride and Area Skills Inventory Assessment Survey** (McBride and Area Industrial Adjustment Committee)
- **Quesnel 2020 Project** (Quesnel Community Economic Development Corp)
- **Role of the Peace River Women's Institutes**
(Northern Lights College, libraries, archives)
- **And many more...**



UNBC: Strategic Directions

New North Foundation

Bioenergy

Wood Innovation & Design

Environmental Health

UNBC: Strategic Directions New North Foundation

- Connect northern communities and northern resource economy to knowledge power of UNBC and other PSE institutions, research organizations
- Mobilize university research to serve northern communities
- Act as a ‘knowledge portal’

‘Guided by needs and aspirations of communities’

UNBC: Strategic Directions

Bioenergy

- Phase 1: Heating Plant & Pellet Furnace
- Phase 2: On-site Research Facilities
 - Potential partnerships with industry
- Phase 3: Community Pilot Projects
 - Greenhouses?

UNBC: Strategic Directions Wood Innovation & Design

- Structural products
- Value-added designs
- Wood-derived bio-chemicals
- Wood-derived bio-fuels
- Other products (e.g. biochar)

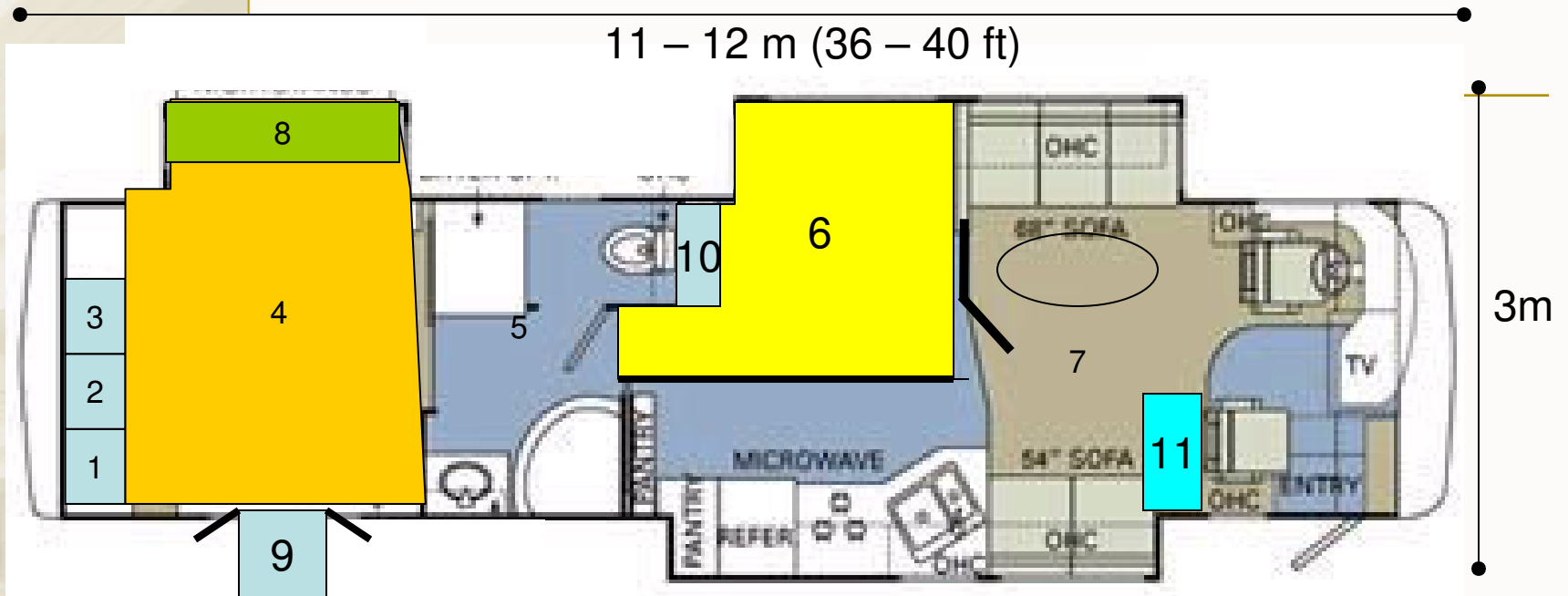
UNBC: Strategic Directions

Environmental Health

Mobile Environmental Lab (MEL)

- Modified motor home to support clinical and environmental research in northern communities
- Focus: health disparities - social, environmental, biological contexts
- Opportunity: on-site training, demonstration

MEL Prototype Vehicle Floor plan – main motorhome unit



- 1 = - 70 degree freezer
- 2 = - 20 degree freezer
- 3 = laboratory refrigerator
- 4 = special procedure room (houses roll/roll off modules)
- 5 = patient/ staff washroom and shower
- 6 = clinical examination room/secondary procedure room (extra bulkhead required for privacy)
- 7 = patient interview room/staff living area
- 8 = laboratory bench area (also over fridges and freezers) with sink
- 9 = wheelchair accessible side door with lift/ramp
- 10 = data systems locker
- 11 = data station

Measurements are approximate as final layout will be subject to results of final tender for vehicle

Concluding Observations

- Potential for Community-University Partnerships - Unlimited!
- Partnerships increase the 'reality' of research, its applicability
- Need to
 - Ensure community benefits from research
 - Build capacity on both sides

Concluding Observations

- The real evidence of UNBC's success will be how the research it carries out makes a difference to life in the North

***'Research having an impact,
People making a difference'***

(CDI Website)

Acknowledgements

- Community Development Institute
Greg Halseth, Don Manson
- CURA - UNBC and TI'azt'en
colleagues
- Hosts for CDI Speaker Series
- Community members willing to listen
and to consider partnerships

YOUR INPUT?