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
Building Together:
Tl’azt’en/UNBC Partnership

photo by: Rob van Addichem
“Partnering for Sustainable Development”

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

Project Investigators
- Principal Investigator (UNBC)
- Co-Investigator (Tl'azt'en)

Coordinators
- Tl'azt'en Research Coordinator
- UNBC Research Coordinator

Steering Committee

Expert Resource Pool

Members-at-Large
- Tl'azt'en Nation

Associate Partners
- UNBC, BC Government-Integrated Land Management Bureau

Research Streams
- Improving Partnerships
  - Tl'azt'en Stream Co-Leader
  - UNBC Stream Co-Leader
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge
  - Tl'azt'en Stream Co-Leader
  - UNBC Stream Co-Leader
- Aboriginal/Science Education
  - Tl'azt'en Stream Co-Leader
  - UNBC Stream Co-Leader
- Ecotourism
  - Tl'azt'en Stream Co-Leader
  - UNBC Stream Co-Leader

http://cura.unbc.ca
TL’AZT’EN-UNBC PARTNERSHIP: OUTCOMES

- A set of Criteria & Indicators for forest co-management that incorporate TL’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 TL’AZT’ENNE want to share
TL’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
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
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
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)
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YOUR INPUT?