

A Year in Review
January 2017

Happy New Year from the Cumulative Impacts Research Consortium

For more information:
www.unbc.ca/cumulative-impacts

Looking back at a year of community dialogue and research on the cumulative environmental, community and health impacts of resource development across northern British Columbia



Summary

This report provides an overview of the research and community engagement activities and funding achievements the UNBC Cumulative Impacts Research Consortium (CIRC) accomplished throughout 2016. Over the next year we will continue to build on past successes by reaching out to communities in northern British Columbia to expand our understanding of the cumulative impacts of resource development across northern BC, respond to knowledge and capacity gaps with original research, and build our capacity to act as a regional hub of cumulative impacts information and resources. As we move forward, we will also continue to seek feedback and take leadership from the communities we work with to better understand the ways in which our research and outreach activities can best support local capacity to address the issue of cumulative impacts.

Workshops and Community Events

CIRC staff have been fortunate enough to travel to various communities in northern BC to convene community workshops around the topic of cumulative impacts. These conversations have been invaluable in helping to inform and shape the CIRC's ongoing research priorities. We have immense gratitude to the communities that have hosted us, and for the engaged community members who have shared their experiences around cumulative impacts. Reports and presentations from our 2016 workshops can be found on the [CIRC website](#):

- Vanderhoof—April 6, 2016
- Prince George—September 10, 2016 (as part of Prince George's first Jane's Walk event)
- Fort Nelson—October 26, 2016
- Fort St. John—November 29, 2016

We look forward to continuing these conversations over the next year, and building and strengthening relationships with communities across northern BC.



Research and Reports

We are currently working on a suite of research projects that have emerged in response to concerns and issues voiced by communities in northern BC. Many of the following projects are happening in partnership with various agencies with interest in cumulative impacts in northern BC. More information about these research projects can be found on the [CIRC website](#):

1. Cumulative Impacts Living Library
 2. Examining the 'state of the art' of Cumulative Effects Assessment in BC through interjurisdictional comparative case studies
 3. Examining the community impacts of unconventional natural gas development in BC along the supply chain
- Buse, C., Jackson, J., Nowak, N., Fyfe, T., and Halseth, G. 2016. A scoping review on the community impacts of unconventional natural gas development for northern BC: A

- closer look at policy, regulatory and governance strategies to maximize benefits and mitigate harms. Prepared for the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.
4. Health Impacts of Resource Extraction and Development
 5. Development of socioeconomic and health indicators related to resource development
 6. Analyzing the health equity impacts of unconventional natural gas development
 7. Developing new tools to assist communities in assessing, monitoring and planning for cumulative impacts
 8. Environment, Community, Health Observatory

Public Presentations

CIRC staff have delivered presentations outlining our ongoing research and engagement activities wherever the opportunity exists. This has been a useful mechanism to increase awareness around CIRC's history, mission, research and resources, as well as the various ways to engage with us. A few examples of these venues and audiences include:

- Ecohealth Webalogue Series—Online, February 2016
- Canadian Institute Cumulative Effects Workshop—Vancouver BC, March 2016
- Western Division Canadian Association of Geographers Annual Meeting—Prince George BC, March 2016
- CPAWS Take Back the Wild workshop—Prince Rupert BC, April 2016
- Environmental Studies Association of Canada Annual Conference—Calgary AB, May 2016
- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Knowledge Synthesis Grants Meeting—Calgary AB, June 2016
- CANFOR Prince George Public Advisory Group—Prince George BC, June 2016
- Innovation & Development Commons Brown Bag series—Online, May 2016
- Under Western Skies conference—Calgary AB, September 2016
- Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions Annual Forum—Vancouver BC, October 2016
- Innovation and Development Commons Annual Conference—Prince George BC, November 2016
- OneHealth Ecohealth 2016 Congress—Melbourne VC, December 2016

We are happy to share presentation materials with a broad audience. Please contact us for more information.

Funding

The CIRC was initially established in 2015 with funding from the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions and the UNBC Office of Research. Over the last year, CIRC has been able to more than double initial funding contributions through a combination of external sources and in-kind contributions. These funding successes have allowed our team to expand by hiring an additional employee and multiple student Research Assistants. Importantly, it has allowed the CIRC to respond to knowledge gaps highlighted by communities with original research. Our funders include:

- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

- Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada
- Canadian Institutes for Health Research
- Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia
- Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research
- Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions
- Health Research Institute/Northern Health/Provincial Health Services Authority Seed Grant

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For more information, please contact us:

Madeline Wilson
CIRC Communications Lead
madeline.wilson@unbc.ca
1.250.960.5994

Chris Buse
CIRC Project Lead
chris.buse@unbc.ca
1.250.960.5778
