

## **A scoping review on the community impacts of unconventional natural gas development in northern British Columbia**

**Funder(s):** The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

**Project Duration:** December 2015 – December 2016

**Project status:** Complete; several publications and research outputs in-preparation

**Project Description:** While the political discourse around the rapid expansion of British Columbia's natural gas industry has focused on job creation and economic benefits, the socio-economic and socio-cultural impacts for rural and remote northern communities directly affected by this expansion remain largely unexplored. This project seeks to understand and document the community impacts of unconventional natural gas (UNG) extraction, production, and transportation, informing local governments and communities grappling with both realized and anticipated changes. UNG refers to new processes of extraction (i.e. directional drilling, hydraulic fracturing), pipeline development and liquefied natural gas projects enabling trans-ocean shipping. This project takes a 'supply chain' focus to consider the ways in which community impacts are differentially experienced across 'upstream' gas producing regions, 'midstream' transportation (i.e. pipeline) corridors, and 'downstream' processing and shipping communities. This project uses a scoping review methodology to surface areas of impact, contextualize those impacts across the supply chain, and identify knowledge gaps and areas for future study. We anticipate research findings will assist local and provincial decision-makers to inform long term planning and decision-making processes that sustainably anticipate regional waves of resource development.

**Role of the CIRC:** CIRC staff led the development and implementation of the scoping review and knowledge mobilization process. The CIRC will serve as a platform to disseminate research results.

**Key deliverables:** Through the scoping review and knowledge mobilization process, this project will increase our understanding of the community impacts of unconventional natural gas development for rural and remote communities located along the supply chain, and help identify areas for future research. Of particular importance, we will ensure that project results are broadly disseminated to communities experiencing different forms of unconventional natural gas development.

### **Publications:**

Buse CG, Sax, M, Nowak N, Jackson J, Fresco T, Halseth G, Fyfe T. (in preparation). Community impacts of unconventional natural gas across the supply chain: A scoping review. *Canadian Geographer*.