



Preparing for the Next Field Season: Methodology Lessons for Engaging in Labour Mobility Research in Mining and Tourism

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Outline

- Community-based research
- Outline fieldwork completed
- Lessons learned
 - Training
 - Developing relationships
 - Recruitment of participants
 - Safety
 - Challenges with work sites
- Building capacity of community partners & researchers



Community-Based Research I

- Partnership of students, faculty, and community members to collaboratively engage in research to solve a community problem (Strand et al. 2003)
- Building relationships and capacity amongst researchers / stakeholders
- Level of engagement will vary throughout research process



Community-Based Research II

Before the field

- Getting to know one another
- Identifying projects & communities
- Research design
 - Selecting appropriate research tools
- Budgets and logistics
- Framework for collaboration & maintaining relationships
- Context matters!



Community-Based Research III

In the field

- It's a people process
- Respect, patience, & flexibility
- Safety for researchers & participants
- Rhythms of the community
- Mutual learning



Community-Based Research IV

After the field

- Staying in touch
- Member checking
- Continuation of mutual learning during analysis
- Brokering relationships, resources, & expertise
- Mobilizing new knowledge into action

Field Work: BC Team

- **Mining sector**
- **Tourism sector**



Mining Sector Study

- Preliminary investigations to set stage for multi-year study
- Key informant interviews
 - 25 community stakeholders in Williams Lake
 - 25 local workers in Williams Lake
 - 9 LDLC workers in Williams Lake
 - 23 stakeholders in Mackenzie
 - Impacts on community
 - Key pressures and responses
 - Initiatives with industry / governments
 - Barriers / gaps



Lessons Learned I

- Mining sector



Training

- Background information
 - Literature / community information
- Interview questions
 - Review and test interview tools
 - Meaning of question
 - How information could be used
 - Significance of question for participant
- To develop rapport with different stakeholders / workers
 - Body language
 - Tone / approach to conversation
 - Impacts responses



Monitoring Field Work

- Early debriefing
- Review interview notes / transcripts early to provide feedback
- Trouble shoot questions
- Continue to educate researchers about how LDLC impacts “different” stakeholders



Safety

- Safety orientation
 - Gender and safety
 - Exit strategies
 - Vehicle safety
- Conducting interviews
 - At worksite, offices, restaurants
 - Conduct home interviews in teams
- Routine check-ins
 - Skype meetings, text messages, e-mail, phone calls, site visits
 - Check-in especially key after evening interviews



Recruiting Workers

- Recruiting strategies
- Student researchers' networks
- Facebook / Linked-in
- Snowball sampling
- Taseko staff
 - Access to industry site for 2-3 hours
 - Access to meeting room onsite
 - Provided staff with list of characteristics of potential interviewees
 - Representation across genders, age, length of time at mine, job type, etc.



Additional Challenges

- Closed worksites
 - Mount Milligan under construction
- Nature of labour force
 - Gibraltar mostly local workers
 - Resulted in small sample of LDLC workers
 - But...relationship in place if new Prosperity mine is approved



Strengthening Foundation for CBR I

- Communicated year one results to stakeholders / participants
- Presentation to Williams Lake Social Planning Council
- Issues now on radar
- Community stakeholders more prepared to engage as equal partners moving forward
- Planned presentations for Mackenzie

Field Work: BC Team

- Mining sector
- **Tourism sector**



Tourism Sector Study

1. Interviews with key stakeholders:

- 6 Service Providers (Town Community Workers)
- 3 Tourism Business Operators (2 small businesses, 1 large international)
- 8 Young Adult Mobile Workers
- 2 Community Leaders (Town Council)
- 3 Residents (2 long term)
 - (i.e. services / reps of Banff)



Tourism Sector Study

2. Door-to-door Household Survey:

- Delivered to >660 households in residential areas known to have a higher population of migrant workers (Town Census 2011)
- Questions: background of residents, their time in and reasons for coming to Banff; their work; housing; and perceptions of the community.



Tourism Sector Study

3. Focus Groups:

- Four focus groups
- Posters around Banff at key areas
 - Gas stations, Restaurants, information centers, YWCA, Hostels
- Total number of participants: 26



Tourism Sector Study

4. Housing & community sustainability

- Housing Forums – including with:
- Advocate leaders
- Business leaders
- Young adults
- Temporary foreign workers

Lessons Learned II

- Tourism sector



Developing Relationships

- Participated in housing forums to get involved with stakeholders
 - Young adults / temporary foreign workers
- Challenges to develop working relationship with Fairmont / Banff Springs Hotel
- One family owns most of tourism infrastructure
- Next steps:
 - Contact hotel / motel business association
 - Reconnaissance trip to Canmore, Lake Louise, Fields, BC



Reaching Participants I

- Door-to-door household survey
- Most houses have 5 doors
- No mail boxes
 - Assumption people won't live in Banff long enough
- Conducted 3 visits to obtain completed surveys
- Survey provided option for people to participate in interviews / focus groups



Reaching Participants II

- Focus groups
- Two conducted at YWCA
 - YWCA staff provided support to recruit their workers / residents for the project
- Two at the public library



Strengthening Foundation for CBR II

- Connections made with Town of Banff & BanffLIFE (policy makers & targeted service providers)
- Website and FB page to raise questions make issues known
- Planning presentations of initial findings to community stakeholders
- Planning to develop small comparative studies with Lake Louise, Canmore and Field, BC
- Academic presentation & publication of initial findings

Closing

- Next steps
- Moving forward

The logo for UNBC Community Development Institute is located in the top left corner. It features a teal circle containing three images: a modern building with a curved facade, a glass-walled structure, and a close-up of a building's facade. To the right of the circle, the text 'UNBC Community Development Institute' is displayed in a teal, sans-serif font.

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