

Public Engagement:

An Innovative Approach to
Contextually Appropriate Community
Planning in Aboriginal Communities

Outline

- Acknowledgments
- Project/research
- Theory
- Project setting
- Internship
 - Community economic development projects
- Master's degree project

Acknowledgements

- Manitoba Professional Planners Institute (MPPI)
 - Support for research on community based planning practice
 - Provided funding to attend the CAPS conference
 - Mentorship
 - Dedication and commitment to the University of Manitoba's Department of City Planning
- Department of City Planning and Faculty of Architecture at the University of Manitoba

Overview

- Project: *Engagement and Community Economic Development in Nunavut*
- Community planning
 - Engagement: Capacity building and empowerment
- Planning/CED
 - Southern construct / Northern context



Northern Planning

- Conventional approaches do not work
- Holistic planning focus
 - Based on equitable relationships
 - Relates to community economic development and Aboriginal world-views
- Engagement in planning as a tool for community economic development



Planning Theory

- Transactive Planning and Social Learning
 - Develop a context for planning
 - Inform the community
 - Knowledge from experience - Re-articulation of knowledge
- Communicative Action
 - Planning is “interactive and communicative”
 - Inclusionary Argumentation
- Empowerment
 - Develop competence and confidence
 - Occurs in stages
- Theory and practice

Kivalliq Community Planning Project

- Community planning advisor
- Promote involvement and ownership in community based planning
- A planning/ced resource for the community
 - Support for planning/ced



Whale Cove, Nunavut

- Kivalliq region
- Population of 305
- Remote/isolated
- Decentralization
- Limited development
- Variety of economic and social issues
- Potential for community economic development



Planning in Whale Cove

- Community engagement
 - Generate different approaches to problems
- 4 step process to engagement
 - Collective learning
 - Visioning
 - Strategize
 - Use social capital for implementation
- Constant re-evaluation of the process and outcomes



Community Based Support

- Community economic development officer
 - Provide planning information
 - Strengthen background in CED
 - Received insight into community dynamics
- Community planning committee
 - Planning support/capacity
 - Public meeting
 - Context for planning and CED projects
 - Initial stage of empowerment

Issatik Fishery

- Enhance the operation
 - Value-added and secondary processing
 - Inter-settlement trade
 - Market expansion
 - Strategize for community ownership of the fishery
 - CFIA certification



Tourism Development

- Tourism potential
 - Spectacular land
 - Abundant wildlife
 - Traditional community
 - Relates to cottage industry
 - Capacity
- Limitations
 - No “image” of Whale Cove
 - Lack of physical infrastructure
 - Isolation/Inaccessibility



Tourism Development

- Guide/Outfitting Society
- Community Website and Brochure
- Holistic benefits to the community
- Tourism to be developed with the support of the community



Marine Plant Resources

- Harvesting of *Laminaria Longicruris* (Kelp)
- Potential for economic development
- Short-falls
 - Economically unfeasible
 - Environmentally suspect
 - Lacking infrastructure and capacity
- More research and support is needed
- Look into other marine resources

Akulliriit Daycare

- Priority
- Create a daycare board of directors
- Work in collaboration with the board of directors
- Incorporated as a non-profit Society
- Obtain daycare program license
- Pursue funding
- Partner for ongoing support



Whale Cove CDC

- Community Development Corporation
 - Business and legal framework for CED
 - Retain local assets
 - Support, training, information
- Support for the CDC
 - volunteerism

Master's Degree Project

- How effective is community planning in building capacity and empowerment for CED?
- Did the Kivalliq Community Planning Project make a contribution?
- What lessons can be learned?

Master's Degree Project

- Case study
 - Kivalliq Community Planning Project
 - 1 to 4 communities
- Assessment
 - Participatory
 - Qualitative analysis
 - reflecting the perspectives of the community
 - Quantitative analysis
 - survey

Evaluation

- Fourth generation evaluation
 - Constructivist method of inquiry vs. conventional or positivist inquiry
- Construction based upon consensus and negotiation
- Contextually appropriate
 - What is important to the community?
- Analysis and conclusions
 - Southern construct / Different settings

Significance to Planning

- Assessment of community planning in Nunavut
- Provide insight into future planning programs
- Build further support for community planning
 - Continue process of capacity building and empowerment
 - Cyclical and not linear in time
- Applicable to other Aboriginal and northern communities

Questions and Comments

