Reclaiming Indigenous Planning

College of Agriculture and Bioresources and the National Aboriginal Lands Managers Association
10th National Conference!

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University of Saskatchewan
“Aboriginal Involvement in state-sponsored land use planning processes serves only to undermine Aboriginal peoples’ territorial claims, and their quest for economic self-sufficiency and political self-determination, while entrenching the state’s authority and control over Aboriginal peoples, their lands and cultural resources.”

General Criticisms

1. The power of ‘developmentalism’ as a planning ideology has marginalized Indigenous perspectives in planning and decision-making.

2. By depoliticizing planning, Indigenous rights and cultural values continue to be marginalized.

3. The belief that Aboriginal peoples simply lack the ‘capacity’ to participate in planning and require external assistance.
The Power of Developmentalism

- Developmentalism, with its uncritical emphasis on the benefits of resource development and capital accumulation affects all aspects of the planning agenda.
- In indigenous communities throughout the world planning is being used as a strategic tool for achieving social, political, and economic goals as defined by the West (Howitt 2002).
- What is being planned, why is it being planned, and who is going to really benefit? Rarely has the epistemological or political foundations of planning been challenged.

“Mining and other major resource development projects serve as the cornerstones of sustained economic activity and the key to building prosperous Aboriginal communities.” (AAND, 2009, Our North, Our Heritage, Our Future).
Depoliticizing Planning and Development

- The exercise of ‘planning’ is often cast as apolitical and based on scientific rationality.
- While planning processes may appear to offer Aboriginal peoples an opportunity to influence decision-making, in reality only certain voices (knowledge systems) are heard and visions of the future considered.
- Aboriginal participation in planning processes is then framed as endorsement of the planning and development process.
- The development of Indigenous territories then become normalized through the discourse we use - Site C Clean Energy Project, the Teck Site, and others.
‘Capacity’ Deficits

- Forced to participate in a system other than their own, Aboriginal communities are often criticized for lacking the necessary capacity to carryout planning requirements.

“Indigenous voices need no translation. Too often, unwitting outsiders – which many planners are – make the wrong judgments by imposing their own cultural values on others” (Ted Jojola, 2013: 466).
International Roundtable on Indigenous Planning and Land Use Management
Outcome

Reclaiming Indigenous Planning calls for a more critical understanding of what ‘planning’ entails and how the ideas and visions of Indigenous communities can best be captured in future planning processes.
Why Reclaim Planning?

- Reclaiming Indigenous Planning is necessary for the protection of cultural, social, political and economic rights and interests; securing self-determined goals related to those rights and interests; and developing and maintaining supportive and productive relations with non-indigenous communities.

- Indigenous planning is, at its core, a political strategy that is committed to making political, social and economic change.
Indigenous Planning Traditions

- Classic Tradition (Pre-Contact)
- Resistance Tradition (Post-contact to the late 1970s)
- Resurgence Tradition (1980s to present)
Indigenous Planning as Process

People (tribe, clan, nation)

Practice (application, actions, activities)

Place (land, sea, community)

Knowledge (TEK and WS)

Decision-Making (process, institutions)

Values/Worldviews (beliefs, ethics)

Hirini Matunga, 2013
Indigenous Planning as Outcome

- Political Autonomy
- Environmental Quality
- Social Cohesion & Well-being
- Economic Growth and Distribution
- Cultural Protection and Enhancement

Hirini Matunga, 2013
Central Tenets of Indigenous Planning

“The central tenets of Indigenous Planning are community, kinship, and place-based. Indigenous planning is done by Indigenous communities for the places they call their own” (Mutanga 2013: 5).
SO WHAT DOES INDIGENOUS PLANNING LOOK LIKE IN PRACTICE?
Economic Leakage Studies provide evidence of First Nation spending and identify opportunities for business development and job creation in order to capture and recirculate on-reserve revenues.

By understanding the spending characteristics of households, First Nation owned businesses, and First Nation Administration (total leakage), BO and OA First Nations will be in a better position to identify local business opportunities.
What has been learned?

- On-reserve households contribute over $12 million annually in regional spending.
- 11% of household spending occurs on reserve (11 cents of every dollar spent).
- 77%, or $9,350,881 is spent in the regional centers of Saskatoon and Prince Albert.
- BOFN and OAFN spending supports the economies of 12 other regional communities.
Why this type of Study?

- The revenues that leave the BOFN and OAFN reserves are captured by regional businesses and urban centers (i.e., Prince Albert), whose business owners employ workers, pay wages, and expand businesses opportunities – revenues and opportunities that are lost to the BOFN and OAFN.

- The results of this research will help to ‘plug’ economic leakage through strategic on-reserve economic development and investment - thereby creating jobs, revenue and opportunities for First Nation members.
North Peace Tribal Council Environmental Livelihoods Study

- This research is part of a cooperative planning process that was established between the North Peace Tribal Council (NPTC) and the Government of Alberta (GoA).
- It is being used to help internalize a process of territorial planning within the NPTC.
## NPTC Wildfood Harvest (2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>BFN (N=113)</th>
<th>TFN (N=100)</th>
<th>LRRCN (N=588)</th>
<th>Totals (N=801)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>Food Wgt</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>Food Wgt</td>
<td>#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Moose</strong></td>
<td>58</td>
<td>31,320</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>68,040 lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Large</strong></td>
<td>32</td>
<td>9,164</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>8,347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mammals</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Small</strong></td>
<td>380</td>
<td>2,098</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mammals</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Birds</strong></td>
<td>1,379</td>
<td>1,688</td>
<td>571</td>
<td>701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fish</strong></td>
<td>1,149</td>
<td>1,768</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>--</td>
<td>46,038</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>77,722</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Moose harvest equates to .8 moose/per household.
- Average harvest of 743 lbs./household or 117 lbs./person/year (BFN=115 lbs./person; TFN = 158 lbs./person; LRRCN = 111 lbs./person). Canadian average consumption of meat and poultry is 137 lbs./person/year.

(Large mammals include bison, deer, elk, bear, caribou; Small mammals include beaver, muskrat, lynx, squirrels, rabbits; Fish include pike, walleye, whitefish, goldeye, ling cod, grayling; Birds include ducks, geese, upland birds, eggs)
## Household Harvest Variability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quintile</th>
<th>HHs</th>
<th>Harvest (lbs.)</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>HHs</th>
<th>Harvest (lbs.)</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>HHs</th>
<th>Harvest (lbs.)</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>HHs</th>
<th>Harvest (lbs.)</th>
<th>%</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5th Quintile</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>39,530</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>71,209</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>352,342</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>463,081</td>
<td>90</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th Quintile</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>6,418</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6,441</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>36,277</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>49,136</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Quintile</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>&lt;1</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>&lt;1</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>4,085</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>4,247</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Quintile</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>46,038</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>77,722</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>588</td>
<td>392,704</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>801</td>
<td>516,464</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
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</table>

A quintile is the statistical value of a data set that represents 20% of a given population. The first quintile represents the lowest fifth of the data (1-20%); the second quintile represents the second fifth (21% - 40%), etc.
Moose account for 75% of total harvest.
Social Organization of Hunting Camps

- One Cabin
- Eight households
- 27 people.
- 7,475 lbs. of meat.
- 36 ties or food exchanges.
Food Sharing Measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Ave. Degree</th>
<th>Max. OutDegree</th>
<th>Max InDegree</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BFN</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TFN</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GR</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average Degree represents the # of direct ties that each HH has with other HHs. OutDegree represents the # of HHs that food was GIVEN to. InDegree represents the # of HHs that food was RECEIVED from.
Regional Food Sharing – Beaver FN
Why this type of Study?

- The results derived from this study provide a baseline of livelihood data that can be used by the NPTC to assess how various land uses, be they industrial and conservationist in intent, might affect the rights environmental livelihoods of NPTC citizens.

- These data, if accounted for in the planning and assessment process, can assist the NPTC in making informed decisions regarding the cultural and economic impacts stemming from competing land uses.

- These results can help protect vital aspects of NPTC’s land-based culture and can help the NPTC and GoA engage in a more meaningful and informed manner concerning future planning decisions.
Indigenous Planning as Tradition and Method

Focus
• Indigenous peoples, communities, and the land.

Knowledge
• TEK; New IK; WS

Goals
• Economic, Political and Territorial Autonomy.

Objectives
• Improved Environmental quality; Political autonomy; Social cohesion and well-being; Economic growth and distribution; Cultural protection and enhancement.

Framework
• Tribal management plans; cultural impact assessments; traditional forms of decision-making; adapted/adopted management tools, economic development strategies.
Reclaiming Indigenous Planning

“The ultimate aim of Indigenous planning must be to improve the lives and conditions of Indigenous peoples and refuse ongoing exploitation and oppression. The challenge for Indigenous planning is to frame itself against the backdrop of colonialism but avoid getting consumed by it. To do this requires a high degree of creativity, innovation and reflexivity” (Matunga, 2013: 3).
THANK YOU!