



SLAVE GEOLOGICAL PROVINCE - REGIONAL STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP

SUMMARY REPORT

June 22nd – 23rd, 2022
Tree of Peace Centre/Hybrid Workshop



Executive Summary

On June 22nd and 23rd, 2022, the Mackenzie Valley Review Board (MVEIRB) convened a two-day workshop at the Tree of Peace Center in Yellowknife and online. Participants included representatives of interested Indigenous governments and organizations, regional co-management boards, federal and territorial governments, and industry. A list of participating organizations and individual participants is available in Appendix A.

The Slave Geological Province (SGP) Regional Strategic Environmental Assessment (RSEA) workshop was initiated in response to a letter from the Tłı̨ch̨ Government to the Government of Canada, which expressed a need for a collaborative tool to strengthen knowledge about the future of the Slave Geological Province (SGP) and to find the right balance of economic, social, and environmental benefits for the general wellbeing of people in the region.

The objective of the workshop was to introduce participants to the concept of a RSEA and to start a conversation on what a potential RSEA in the SGP could look like. Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) is seeking written responses from the interested parties to inform a ministerial recommendation on if and how a RSEA in the SGP could move forward. Participants were invited to submit their recommendations and views in writing by July 29th, 2022.

The first day of the workshop focused on learning about RSEA including key terminology, methodologies, challenges, and opportunities of its potential application in the SGP through a series of expert presentations and case studies. The second day of the workshop focused on discussing what an RSEA could look like in the SGP (i.e., geography and context), and how partners could work together on a potential RSEA including guiding principles and roles and responsibilities.

The workshop closed with the facilitator asking participants to reflect on the readiness and willingness of their governments and organizations to participate in a RSEA in the SGP. During the closing roundtable, parties indicated general support for participating in a RSEA with caveats related to timing and avoiding interference and redundancy with other processes. Indigenous governments and groups stated that they needed adequate time for consultation with leadership, Elders and between governments. It was noted that written submissions to CIRNAC from these organizations will inform CIRNAC's recommendation to the Minister about whether or not to proceed with an RSEA in the SGP. In summary, key outcomes that emerged from the workshop include:

Figure 1: Key Outcomes that emerged from the workshop.

- 1 There was a general increase in participants' understanding of RSEA.
- 2 Workshop participants were able to engage in authentic discussions and present their views and valued components for the RSEA.
- 3 Participants agreed that the RSEA must be inclusive, equitable and designed based on Indigenous knowledge and traditional values; they agreed that the process must be Indigenous.
- 4 During the workshop Indigenous groups and First Nations indicated a need to have nation-to-nation discussions before adopting and expressing their positions.
- 5 Participants agreed to submit written positions on the RSEA to CIRNAC by July 29th, 2022.

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Introduction

The two-day hybrid workshop convened by the Mackenzie Valley Review Board (MVEIRB) on June 22nd and 23rd, 2022 at the Tree of Peace Center in Yellowknife was attended by approximately 100 people and 27 participating governments and institutions (active-participants and observers) on each day, both in person and online. A detailed workshop agenda can be found in Appendix B - Workshop Agenda.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

1. Learn about Regional Strategic Environmental Assessment (RSEA) as a tool, including key terminology, challenges, and opportunities of its application in the Slave Geological Province (SGP)
2. Discuss what an RSEA could look like in the SGP (i.e., geography and context)
 - Discuss the potential geographical and contextual scope for the SGP
 - Consolidate participants' concepts around potential key objectives and preferred outcomes
 - Discuss the process for further refining the scale and scope of a RSEA
3. Establish how partners could work together on a potential RSEA
 - Develop guiding principles and roles and responsibilities
 - Establish timelines and milestones for the RSEA

Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) is seeking written responses from interested parties to inform a ministerial recommendation on if and how a RSEA in the SGP could move forward. Participating governments and organizations were invited to submit their recommendations and views in writing by July 29th, 2022 or indicate to CIRNAC if an extension is required.



In-person participants at the Tree of Peace Center in Yellowknife

Opening

The workshop was opened in a good way by Tammy Steinwand of the Tłı̨chǫ Government after the facilitator, Michael van Aanhout, had welcomed everyone, acknowledged participants' territories, and prompted a general self-introduction of organizations including participants online. Michael then reinforced the spirit around which everyone was gathering including respect, openness and creating a learning environment for all parties. He then provided an overview of the workshop objectives and agenda.

Through a Mentimeter exercise, the facilitator asked a question to all participants: "In one word, please share what comes to mind when you think about an RSEA". The word cloud below shows participant responses.



Figure 2: Participant responses to Mentimeter opening question

During day one of the workshop, participants experienced a series of informative presentations and case studies from a group of subject matter experts to explain the concept of RSEA and to share lessons learned from previous RSEAs. Presenters for the first day included:

- Dr. Bram Noble, University of Saskatchewan
- Dr. Jill Blakley, University of Saskatchewan
- Heather Rasmussem, Nunavut Impact Review Board
- Rosanne D'Ozario, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
- Dr. Steve Bonnell, Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
- Dr. Robert Gibson, University of Waterloo

Presenter biographies and presentations are available on the [MVEIRB resource page](#).

What is RSEA

Dr. Bram Noble introduced the subject with a presentation on what a [Regional Strategic Environmental Assessment](#) is, focusing on four questions:

1. What can or should RSEA address?
2. Who or what processes are to be informed by RSEA?
3. What type of questions should we be asking in RSEA?
4. What are the enablers and inhibitors of a successful RSEA?

The presentation stressed that issues and problems addressed by RSEAs are context dependent and are based on the characteristics of the location (e.g., what is happening on the landscape). He emphasized that at a strategic level, RSEAs should be focused on the sources or drivers rather than managing the symptoms on the ground.

Dr. Noble also noted that RSEAs cannot function in isolation of other policies and activities. For example, RSEAs should be informed by project level assessments and must also inform upstream policies and planning. He continued that there are three fundamental outputs from an RSEA which provide direction for decisions both at the project and regional level:



Figure 3: Fundamental outputs of an RSEA as recommended by Dr. Noble

Dr. Noble noted that questions typically asked in a RSEA must be relevant to actions and decisions that have to be taken and should be looked at from a strategic point of view including possible tradeoffs and cumulative impacts. He presented the following list of strategic questions to consider:

- What trends or changes are occurring in the region?
- What are the key drivers of past, present and future trends, and changes?
- What are the regional ecological limits and thresholds?
- What are the values, objectives, goals for the region?
- What does business as usual look like?
- What are the different scenarios for change?
- What are the possible future conditions?
- What development is possible or feasible?
- What paths bring us closer to achieving the goals?
- What strategies might exist to drive / achieve the desired path?

Dr. Noble also explored several RSEA best practices including:

- **Timing.** Initiating RSEA early presents opportunities to take advantage of early planning to influence the development trajectory.
- **Values based approach.** It is important the RSEA is driven by core values and opportunities rather than focusing only on available data and modeling.
- **Nested process - part of a larger process.** Results should inform next level actions rather than stand alone studies or reports. Mechanisms should be put in place while designing the RSEA that consider its use and leverage (i.e., who and how will it be used).

- **Supportive mandates.** The RSEA should be supported by a governance structure that considers competing or conflicting mandates.
- **Long term commitment.** RSEA is an ongoing commitment that includes review, monitoring and information management.
- Focus on values and a **values-based approach.** Data and models are not the fundamental components that define success of an RSEA. It is important to take a step back and ask: “Why are we doing this?”, “Who is it to benefit and how?”, “Are the results usable?”

During the Q&A discussion that ensued, a participant asked how to consider changing political landscape / dynamics in RSEAs. Dr. Noble noted that adequate scenario planning and capture, extrapolating how different scenarios might play out is important in planning RSEAs.

RSEA in Practice

Next, Dr. Jill Blakley provided background on RSEA in practice with a presentation [on what works and what does not work in RSEA](#), including sharing several examples and lessons learned. The presentation started with a focus on understanding cumulative change and how anthropogenic effects are driving this change.

Quoting from her research, Dr. Blakley noted that 54 regional assessments have been undertaken in Canada, the majority in BC. Of these, she noted that more than 70% had some strategic element while over 90% considered cumulative effects. She indicated that historically, valued components assessed in RSEAs focused on biophysical components; however more recently, social-cultural aspects are being incorporated, such as:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Land dispossession and tenure | • Wellbeing and health |
| • Community economic diversification | • Traditional activities |
| • Cultural identity | • Community Knowledge |
| • Regional demographics | • Food security |
| • Regional and community change | • Quality of life |

Dr. Blakley then shared eight case studies which elaborated on the functionality and feasibility of a RSEA. The case studies, selected because they were Indigenous led, innovative, and most relevant to Indigenous worldviews and agendas, included the following:

1. Metlakatla Cumulative Effects Management Program (2020)
2. Beaufort Regional Strategic Environmental Assessment (2020)
3. Howe Sound Cumulative Effects Project (2018)
4. Fundy Tidal Energy Strategic Environmental Assessment (2008)
5. Assessing Road Decommissioning in the Adams River Watershed and Kamloops Timber Supply Area to Reduce the Negative Cumulative Effects of Land Use on Wildlife Populations (2020)
6. Elk Valley Cumulative Effects Management Framework (2018)
7. Landscape Disturbance in the Blueberry River First Nations Territory, BC (2016)
8. A regional assessment in practice: Offshore oil and gas exploratory drilling east of Newfoundland and Labrador

In summary, Dr. Blakely stressed that there is significant potential for RSEAs to meaningfully address sustainability goals, cumulative effects and inform project impact assessments. To maximize their utility, she recommended that RSEA practitioners make efforts to:

- Define a clear vision, objectives, and goals for an RSEA
- Ensure the strategic “value-add” to regional planning and project level assessments is clearly defined
- Design the assessment process to advance reconciliation efforts, such that it can also be a vehicle for Indigenous Nation building
- Prioritize assessment of subregions that are (or will be) stressed by cumulative effects of intensive natural resource extraction, anthropogenic development, and / or climate change

After the presentation, an online participant asked how the state of the environment study and report fits in a RSEA. Dr. Blakely answered that environmental studies are part of environmental baseline, important for understanding the trends and directions of change.

RSEA Lessons Learned

Heather Rasmussen from the Nunavut Impact Review Board and Rosanne D’Orazio from the Qikiqtani Inuit Association presented jointly on lessons learned through the [Baffin Bay and Davis Strait Strategic Environmental assessment](#). Some of the key considerations that they shared that enabled the success of the project included:

- Establishing a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) working group (composed of NIRB, INAC, NTI, QIA, GN) with each organization having clear roles and responsibilities was integral to the success of the SEA.
- Adopting a “Made in Nunavut” approach, including both Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit and scientific knowledge as well as social and cultural considerations.
- Considering perceptions and language e.g., the word “assessment” translated to ‘thing that will happen’, which some took to mean that development would happen. This led to changing from ‘assessment’ to ‘study’.
- Conducting public engagement, informed by communities, included going into schools, having tables at the grocery store, etc.
- Prioritizing the ongoing building and supporting of relationships (e.g., try to keep the same people in the working group).

Some of the specific lessons learned that were shared during this presentation, as it relates to this RSEA example, included:

- Clear terms of reference with appropriate signoff
- Indigenous led, informed by, and based on both Indigenous world view and scientific knowledge with appropriate consideration to perceptions, language, translation, and interpretation of reports and working documents
- Adaptive, transparent process
- Consider participant funding and honoraria policies
- Develop scenario concepts early
- Include potentially affected communities early in the process
- Consider a smaller and more focused scope
- Use only publicly and freely available documents

During the Q&A session following the presentation, a participant asked about the length of a RSEA and at what point a moratorium is typically established in a RSEA. Ms. Rasmussen indicated that in the discussed case study, it was determined at the start of the project. She stressed that the main recommendation is to allow enough time to review a decision down the road.

A participant then asked the presenter to elaborate more on timeframes for scenario planning. To this Ms. Rasmussen replied that timeframes are context specific but that it is important to think about your timeline and make sure that you get feedback and public input on the different scenarios.

Impact Assessment Agency Canada (IAAC) Overview

Dr. Stephen Bonnell, Manager, Strategic and Regional Assessments with the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC), provided an overview of the IAAC’s regional assessment program, and suggested to the group that there is “no such thing as a typical regional assessment (RA).” Below is a list of regional assessment case studies discussed during this session:

1. **Eastern Newfoundland regional assessment:** This was the first assessment executed under the new *Impact Assessment Act* and it focused on offshore exploratory drilling and associated activities. The study was started spring 2019 and a final report was submitted in May 2020. The assessment led to a ministerial regulation surrounding drilling projects.
2. **Ring of Fire regional assessment:** This regional assessment was initiated in February 2020.
3. **St. Lawrence regional assessment:** This regional assessment was requested by the Mohawk council in July 2020. There has been a rigorous consultation and engagement process for this assessment that has resulted in a positive Minister's decision to accept the regional assessment. Currently the terms of reference for this project are under development.
4. **Offshore wind:** The Minister announced a decision to undertake a study for a regional assessment on offshore wind in April 2022. This study is to be executed in parallel with the new offshore wind regulatory exercise.

Dr. Bonnell then provided objectives for undertaking a RSEA including:

- Defining and/or steering future development, contributing information and analysis for future projects in the region such as objectives, alternatives, sensitivities, and preferred scenarios.
- Providing regional context for evaluating future developments and effects in subsequent impact assessments.
- Identifying general non project specific measures to address regional issues.
- Contributing information and analysis for subsequent regulatory planning processes and defining mitigation and follow-up needs for future projects.

Dr. Bonnell suggested two key outcomes that may result from a RSEA namely:

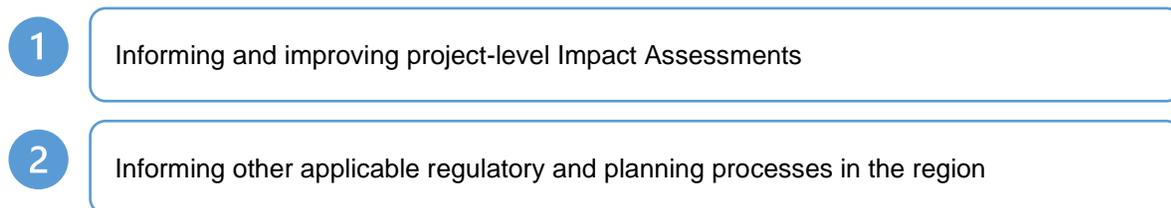


Figure 4: Key outcomes of an RSEA as recommended by Dr. Bonnell

At the end of the presentation a participant asked what the typical timeframe for a RA is. Dr. Bonnell echoed the previous presenter that timeframes are context dependent. He added that timeframes are negotiated and that there is no guidance provided in the legislation. Once the terms of reference are finalized, the RA can begin. He noted that a RA doesn't affect active project specific EAs, but when it is completed, it can guide the EAs that follow.

A participant asked how we could ensure balance of scientific and Traditional Knowledge during a RSEA. To this Dr. Bonnell responded that terms of reference should outline clear principles and requirements.

RSEA and Sustainability

To close off the first day of the workshop, Dr. Bob Gibson provided a presentation on [RSEA and sustainability](#). Using case studies, he elaborated on the complexities of RSEAs, including developing assessment criteria and frameworks, and suggested that RSEA practitioners consider the following factors when undertaking RSEAs:

- Community well-being improvement
- Healthy environment and relationships
- Wisdom and equity for generations
- Open and responsible governance
- Walking together with respect and precaution
- Combining action learning and planning

While presenting a case study from Eabametoong (a First Nation community in Ontario), Dr. Gibson noted that they developed their own sustainability framework for assessing regional development pathways based on a community well-being study that focused on long-term effects. He emphasized that RSEA needs to be based on firmly established relationships, adding that building capacity for co-governance is crucial for building the trust required to advance a RSEA.

He elaborated that in the Eabametoong case study, the above factors were further broken down into subtopics of assessment. For example, under 'Community well-being improvement' he listed the following.

1. Livelihood sufficiency and opportunity
2. Economic stratification and equity
3. Economic diversification
4. Small business/ Indigenous owned business expansion

In assessing 'healthy environment and relationships', he discussed focusing on people-ecology relationships, setting community stewardship values and principles, clearly defining socio-ecological systems and stewardship relationships and to consider cumulative environmental effects and conditions

Dr. Gibson pointed out that RSEA can be a useful tool for promoting lasting wellbeing by:

- Strengthening the regional basis for moving to desirable futures
- Identifying and assessing development options
- Guiding development and application of land use plans
- Guiding planning and assessment of individual projects

On the potential for applying a RSEA in the NWT, he made four recommendations:

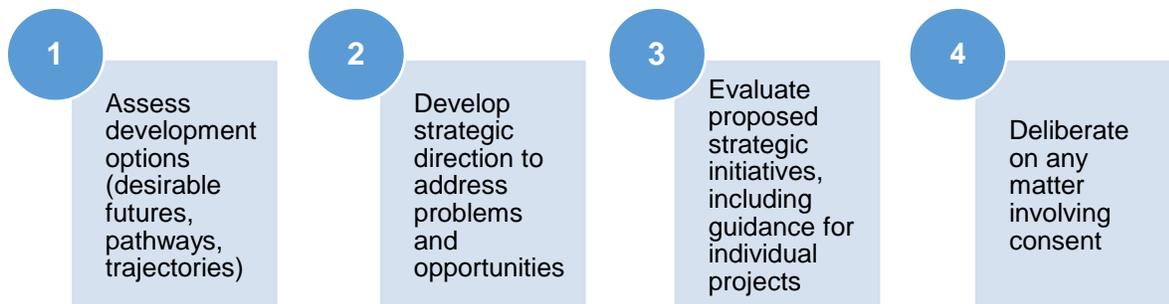


Figure 5: Dr. Gibson's recommendations for undertaking an RSEA in NWT

At the end of his presentation a participant asked about the SGP geographic scope and nomenclature, since the Slave Geologic Province is in both NWT and Nunavut: "Can you provide clarity on how a RSEA will work across borders and in a collaborative way that respects the different groups and jurisdictions?" Dr. Gibson responded that with modern land claims and structures for co-governance in both the NWT and Nunavut, there should be more capacity for collaboration.

A representative from NIRB further added that MVEIRB and NIRB are working on updating the memorandum of understanding, which should help support good collaboration.

End of Day 1 Reflections

At the close of the day, participants were asked to share their reflections on what had been presented. Below are the responses.

- A representative of the Tłı̨chǫ Government (TG) shared that TG leadership strongly believe in the benefits of a RSEA in the SGP and encouraged others to support proceeding. A representative of TG stressed that an RSEA is not intended to stall any type of development, but it is intended to be used as a tool to inform decisions in the region.
- A representative from MVEIRB reflected how in Manitoba every single river except for one is dammed, despite there not being a public discussion around the bigger-picture impact and implication of those decisions, as Dr. Blakely has noted. An RSEA can help identify and address such cumulative issues. This individual also emphasized that the “strategic” aspect of an RSEA is important in helping to uncover hidden root causes, which is invaluable to all decision makers. He emphasized that RSEAs provide a tool to help decision makers, but do not make the actual decisions for them.
- A representative from Deninu Kue First Nation (DKFN) reflected on how the federal government should use lessons learned from RSEAs completed elsewhere in Canada to inform the strategy for working together in the SGP. He also emphasized that the Indigenous world view has always guided balancing the relationships with the land and the environment.
- An industry representative reflected on the fact that NWT’s mineral and mining investment has flatlined in the last few years. He asked whether a discussion around a potential RSEA will in turn create more uncertainty for industry. This participant also encouraged a discussion on the geographical scope of the RSEA given the SGP includes Nunavut.
- A representative from Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA) shared that he was concerned with the distinction and potential redundancy between land use planning and RSEA (i.e., understanding how the two fit together, and considering current governance and ongoing processes including the Nunavut Land Use Plan). He noted that in some of the presentations made during the workshop, most of the “RSEA” examples presented were land use plans.
- A representative from the Northwest Territory Metis Nation (NWTMN) expressed concern around the representation of Indigenous people’s role in the mining lifecycle. He noted that quite often opposition to projects is vocalized but at the same time these projects provide a source of income and jobs for many Indigenous people in the North.
- A representative from Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) provided some suggestions for the following day. For instance, it was suggested that each group represented in the workshop should be prepared to share their ideas on how the governance of an RSEA could look. He also requested participants to consider what, if any, duties to consult may be being deferred by governments by following this process.



In-person participants sharing their end of day reflections

Day Two Opening Comments

Discussions on the second day focused on a framework for a potential RSEA in the SGP. The facilitator opened the session with a request for opening comments and considerations following the first day's discussions.

Mark Cliffe-Phillips from MVEIRB reflected on the nature of RSEA, as a multifaceted and complex process with a very broad spectrum of application. He stated that in the SGP, there is an opportunity to build or tailor the study to specific needs and that a strategic approach and collaboration in developing a common vision can enable the region to avoid tradeoffs.

In response to the question of what specific problem the RSEA meant to address, he stated that a RSEA enables a broader perspective in planning for the future (e.g., setting thresholds that can feed into project EA). It also allows for strategic question formulation in terms of trends and key drivers, limits, and values for a particular region. He noted that there could be multiple problems that a RSEA could address, adding that when the region/scope of the assessment is scaled to be larger, it becomes challenging due to overlapping interests and other factors. He cautioned that MVEIRB has expressed concerns about cumulative effects that cannot be mitigated at a project level.

CIRNAC provided additional context to their requirements on seeking views of interested parties, indicating that parties will need to submit these in writing by July 19th 2022, or indicate to CIRNAC if an extension to the end of July is required.¹ In the responses, CIRNAC is looking for more detail beyond simply a "proceed/don't proceed" viewpoint including details on what kind of outcomes could come from an RSEA, what kind of structure could it take, and what kind of steps would be next if we were to move forward.

Tammy Steinwand from the Tłıchǫ Government (TG) walked participants through their logic for requesting a RSEA in the SGP. First recognizing that collaboration will be difficult, she expressed TG's readiness to work with Indigenous neighbors and government to be part of this effort. She walked through additional contextual components, noting that in June 2021, TG Chief Executive Council drafted and presented a letter requesting an EA (Environmental Assessment) for the region. She stated that TG recognizes that the SGP includes parts of NWT, Nunavut, and other lands, and when requesting the RSEA, TG did not specify if Nunavut should be included. She also noted that TG respects the self-determination of other Indigenous people to make their decision but also recognizes the interconnectedness of issues.

Ms. Steinwand explained some of the key factors considered by the TG when requesting the RSEA, including:

- The value and potential for development in the region
- Permanent infrastructure, and the potential for irreversible changes
- Avoiding tradeoffs in the region through strategic thinking and collaboration towards a common vision
- Considering cumulative effects in regional largescale development

"Without land we have nothing, by protecting the land we protect the water and whole environment"

"Take care, go gently, don't rush, take the time to do it right"

Tłıchǫ Elders

In the discussion, TG identified its key valued components for consideration including caribou movement and population health, cultural wellbeing and way of life, and employment benefits.

Jeff Clark from the Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA) introduced the KIA team, their mandate, and designated responsibilities from the Nunavut Agreement including lands management. He elaborated on KIA's economic relevance for the SGP both in Nunavut and in the NWT (e.g., one-fifth of all mineral rights in Nunavut are within the KIA's 5% land claim, 66% of KIA's mineral rights are in the SGP, and KIA owns

¹ Deadline was extended to July 29th, 2022

land in the NWT). He expressed concerns about the RSEA's overlap with the existing Land Use Plan in Nunavut and noted that clarity on the two processes is required. He also highlighted the importance of Inuit sovereignty while recognizing that collaboration with the Government of Canada is of utmost importance. It was further noted that KIA was undecided if they would endorse Nunavut inclusion in the RSEA since they were yet to hear a compelling rationale for a problem identification that would warrant the need for the RSEA. He encouraged a distinction of technical issues that may be addressed by RSEA versus political problems that the RSEA cannot solve. He concluded his statements indicating that KIA is concerned with the balance of development and conservation in the region, also noting that the NWT is an important partner. Key identified valued components for KIA are road development and caribou.

Patrick Simon from DKFN shared that DKFN is also concerned about Caribou. He recognized the importance of diversity and importance of good relationships as "Indigenous people have collaborated for thousands of years". He highlighted that Indigenous world view is critical in all aspects of an RSEA and expressed DKFN's support for sustainable industry in balance with other activities within their territory. He encouraged participants to think about these key relationships and how to be mindful, respectful, and supportive of relationships of older and ancient times.

How Do We Work Together on A Potential RSEA?

The facilitator led participants through a series of interactive exercises on what a potential RSEA in the SGP could look like. This involved establishing common objectives, a purpose, and outputs for the RSEA as well as determining the project scope and guiding principles.

Potential RSEA Objectives and Purpose

Through a Mentimeter exercise, participants were prompted with this question: Imagine a Regional Strategic Environmental Assessment is undertaken for the Slave Geological Province. In one word how would you describe the objective or purpose of this RSEA? The goal of the exercise was to determine if there is alignment on what the RSEA could serve to accomplish. Some of the participants responses are presented below.

- Future Planning
- Provide clarity for investment, future expectations, positive future
- Cumulative effects, regional thresholds, goals, sustainable development
- Definitive and effective process leading to efficient project EAs
- How to maximize benefits from development opportunities and minimize impacts in the SGP
- Establish thresholds for Caribou habitat in light of proposed development
- Strategic decisions about development that consider resilience of the environment and wellbeing of people.
- Finding acceptable change
- To reduce cumulative negative impacts
- Building relationships
- To understand the health of the land and its people as it currently is and to determine if and how future development should go forward as to have as minimal negative impacts as possible.
- How to build stronger relationships and understanding in this region so that everyone can work together more meaningfully in resource management (caribou, self-determination, reconciliation, critical minerals)
- We want positive outcomes environmentally economically and socially.
- Decisions about the future that consider the boundaries that climate change will impose
- Identification of issues and knowledge gaps
- Determine cumulative impacts in the area
- Finally, being proactive in wildlife conservation, land management, resource development, infrastructure, getting a better handle on cumulative effects.

RSEA Outputs

To establish expectations for the RSEA, participants were assigned to breakout groups and through a future visioning exercise, were prompted to develop “headlines” for different stages of the RSEA (i.e., at kickoff, completion, and implementation). Following this exercise, discussions ensued that considered how to ensure the RSEA in the SGP was not just another “shelved report”. Additionally, there was discussion around key performance indicators for efficiency and performance measurement such as changes in policy. Results of this exercise and discussion showed a degree of alignment of outcomes and priorities with recurring themes being “shared vision”, “collaborate”, “work together”, “balance” and “future planning”.

Examples of headlines generated by the group are presented below.

An RSEA has just kicked off

- “Government and Indigenous partners launch a strategic and collaborative approach to develop a shared vision for the responsible management of the SGP”
- “Indigenous coalition to give guidance to federal and territorial governments for the RSEA in the SGP”

A few years after the RSEA has been complete

- “RSEA sets path forward for balanced approach to the economy and environment”
- “Review of RSEA highlights successful implementation and benefits to making collaborative decisions in the SGP”

Many years (20+) down the road and the RSEA is implemented

- “Indigenous, territorial, and Federal governments celebrate successful case study of a RSEA, and development done right as others follow and build on this model”
- “The world has taken notice of the successful collaborative management of the SGP which respects the vision for people, wildlife, and sustainable development”

Scope and Scale of a RSEA

Through a Mentimeter exercise participants were prompted to think about how they could potentially work together to achieve a shared vision and outcomes of a RSEA in the SGP. First, they were asked to consider, what key activities, and actions are necessary for effective collaboration. The following bullets summarize the responses.

- Establish consensus on goals and purpose
- Commitment to meaningful participation and community engagement
- Clearly defined timeline with milestones, accounting for consultation and decision making
- Define principles and establish guidelines to strengthen collaboration, dialogue, relationships, and wellness.
- A governance model and steering committee, Indigenous led process
- Ensure information is available to all, awareness building especially for potentially affected grassroots communities
- Capacity building, appropriate participants, and their level of participation
- Building trust through supporting private avenues for nation-to-nation dialogue
- Define current baseline, existing policies and rights, infrastructure projects, traditional land use, and factors of historical context
- Inherent controls and project evaluation i.e., reviews
- Clearly defined next steps
- Budget and financing

Next, to stimulate strategic thinking, participants were asked to consider collaboration from a broader perspective on issues such as scale, scope, governance, engagement, Indigenous knowledge, and timing. Below is a summary list of the responses shared via Mentimeter.

- Systems thinking and climate change consideration
- Based on indigenous knowledge and world view
- Wellbeing and human development index valued components
- Geographic scale and scope – dictated by participants, final objective
- Clear governance structure, roles, and responsibilities proposed, subject specific working groups
- Continuous community engagement, capacity building and Interpretation and translation needs
- Equal participation
- Temporal scope, phasing, and milestones
- Budget and financing
- Data and information sharing framework

Guiding Principles

At the close of the workshop, participants were asked to identify the principles by which they would like to work together and to share them via Mentimeter. The following Word Cloud was generated:



Figure 6: MVERIB RSEA workshop, Mentimeter word cloud – Guiding principles

This input from the participants was synthesized and summarized into the following initial principles to guide how parties could potentially work together:

**Indigenous led**

Primarily designed, implemented and or executed based on Indigenous Knowledge and world view, considering future generations and to inform future decisions.

**Partnership**

Equal participation of all parties, awareness, and consultation. Built on trust, transparency, and openness. Working together as partners towards a common goal.

**Inclusive**

Active engagement and capacity building. Meeting people where they're at and ensuring no one gets left behind.

**Respect**

Mutual respect among parties, recognising the self-determination of all Indigenous people and their ability to make independent decisions.

**Collaboration**

Common vision, shared outcomes. Braiding Traditional Knowledge with western science

Closing

The workshop closed with the facilitator asking participants to reflect on the readiness and willingness of their governments and organizations to participate in a RSEA in the SGP. During the closing roundtable, parties indicated general support for participating in a RSEA with caveats related to timing and avoiding interference and redundancy with other processes. Indigenous governments and groups stated that they needed adequate time for consultation with leadership, Elders and between governments.

The workshop was closed with a prayer from Elder Henry of Deninu Kue First Nation.

Appendix A – Participating organizations (Alphabetical)

1. Arctic Canadian Diamond Company
2. Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
3. Deninu Kue First Nation
4. Department of National Defence
5. Environment and Climate Change Canada
6. Fortune Minerals Limited
7. Government of the Northwest Territories
8. Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
9. Kitikmeot Inuit Association
10. LGL Limited
11. Łutsël K'édé Dene First Nation
12. Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
13. Natural Resources Canada
14. North Slave Metis Alliance
15. Northern Projects Management Office
16. Northwest Territory Metis Nation
17. NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines
18. Parks Canada
19. Qikiqtani Inuit Association
20. Rio Tinto
21. Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated
22. Sharleen Hamm Consulting Ltd.
23. Tłı̨chǫ Government
24. Transport Canada
25. Yellowknives Dene First Nation
26. Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board

Appendix A - List of Participants (Alphabetical)

1. Adam Downing
2. Adrian Boyd
3. Alan Ehrlich
4. Alison Law
5. Allison Stoddart
6. Amanda Bulmer
7. Angela Plautz
8. Anica Madzarevic
9. Annie Cyr-Parent
10. Aswathy Varghese
11. Benjamin Bey
12. Bill Pain
13. Bram Noble
14. Brett Wheler
15. Catherine Fairbairn
16. Cherish Winsor
17. Christopher Rose
18. Chuck Hubert
19. Danielle Thompson
20. Danny Wright
21. David Krutko
22. Dinah Elliott
23. Don McPhee
24. Dustin Chaffee
25. Eleanor Berryman
26. Emily Boone
27. Geoff Clark
28. Gina Ridgely
29. Giselle Marion
30. Hap Stelling
31. Hayley Tait
32. Heather Friday
33. James A Heron
34. Janice Traynor
35. Jeremy Freeman
36. Jessica Smart
37. Jill Blakley
38. Jody Small
39. Joelle Crook
40. Johanne Black
41. Joseph Ndawula
42. Julian Kanigan
43. Justin Adams
44. Katy Dimmer
45. Kendra McGreish
46. Laurie McGregor
47. Lorena Gracia
48. Lorraine Seale
49. Malorey Nirlungayuk
50. Marc d'Entremont
51. Mark Bell
52. Mark Cliffe-Phillips
53. Michael Van Aanhout
54. Melissa Pink
55. Mike Tollis
56. Patrick Simon
57. Peter Fast
58. Rebecca Lafontaine
59. Robert Gibson
60. Ron Yaworsky
61. Rosanne D'Orazio
62. Rox-Ann Duchesne
63. Rukiya Abdulle
64. Ryan Fequet
65. Ryan Miller
66. Sarah Samms
67. Sarah Sheridan
68. Scott Trusler
69. Sharleen Hamm
70. Sheila Chernys
71. Simon Toogood
72. Stacey Menzies
73. Stephanie Lajoie
74. Stephanie Poole
75. Steve Bonnell
76. Sylwia Knapczyk
77. Tammy Steinwand-Deschambeault
78. Valerie Gordon
79. Wenjun Chen

Appendix B - Workshop Agenda

Day 1- June 22, 2022

Timing	Agenda Item
9:00 - 9:15	Meeting Opening
9:15 – 9:30	Welcome & Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round table introductions • Warm up exercise / ice breaker (Mentimeter) • Housekeeping
9:30 – 9:45	Agenda and Workshop Objectives
9:45 – 10:45	What is an RSEA? – Dr. Bram Noble (virtual) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition of terminologies • What can or should an RSEA address? • Who or what processes are to be informed by RSEA? • What are the enablers and inhibitors of a successful RSEA? • What types of questions do we need to be asking in an RSEA?
10:45 - 11:00	Health Break
11:00 – 12:00	What works and does not work with RSEAs - – Dr. Jill Blakley (virtual) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of RSEA examples and lessons learned.
12:00 – 12:45	Lunch
12:45 – 1:30	Case Study: Nunavut Impact Review Board – Baffin Bay and Davis Strait Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) – Heather Rasmussen and Rosanne D’Orazio
1:30 – 2:15	Overview of the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada’s Regional Assessment Program – Dr. Stephen Bonnell (virtual)
2:15 – 2:30	Health Break
2:30 – 3:15	RSEA and Sustainability – Dr. Bob Gibson (virtual) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability in regional context • Guidance and pitfalls based on experience (ring of fire example)
3:15 – 3:45	Day 1 Participant Reflections
3:45 – 4:00	Wrap up for the Day / Next Steps

Day 2 – June 23rd, 2022

Timing	Agenda Item
9:00 – 9:30	Welcome Back <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round table introductions • Recap of day 1 • Agenda and objectives for Day 2 • Opening remarks, background and drivers for an RSEA in the Slave Geological Province
9:30 – 10:45	RSEA Objectives and Purpose – <i>Why are we considering doing this</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakout groups and plenary discussion on RSEA objectives and outcomes
10:45 – 11:00	Health Break
11:00 – 12:00	RSEA Outputs – <i>If we proceed, how do we ensure this is not just another study</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakout groups and plenary discussion on vision for an RSEA in the SGP
12:00 – 12:45	Lunch (provided)
12:45 – 2:15	RSEA Scope and Scale – <i>How are we going to achieve the outcomes and visions for an RSEA?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakout groups and plenary discussion on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Achieving the outcomes and vision for an RSEA (including key activities, actions needed to get there) ○ RSEA scale, scope, governance, engagement, Indigenous knowledge and timing ○ Benefits and challenges
2:15 – 3:00	How are we going to work together on an RSEA? Plenary Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing guiding principles – How could we potentially work together? • Roles and Responsibilities – How would you like your organization to participate in an RSEA, and how do you see your organization contributing to the process?
3:00 – 3:20	Next Steps and Closing Reflections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timeline and short-term path forward • Closing Round table – “key takeaways” from the workshop
3:20 – 3:30	Meeting Closing