

# From fracking conflicts to innovation generation? A case study in Northeastern BC

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# Introduction

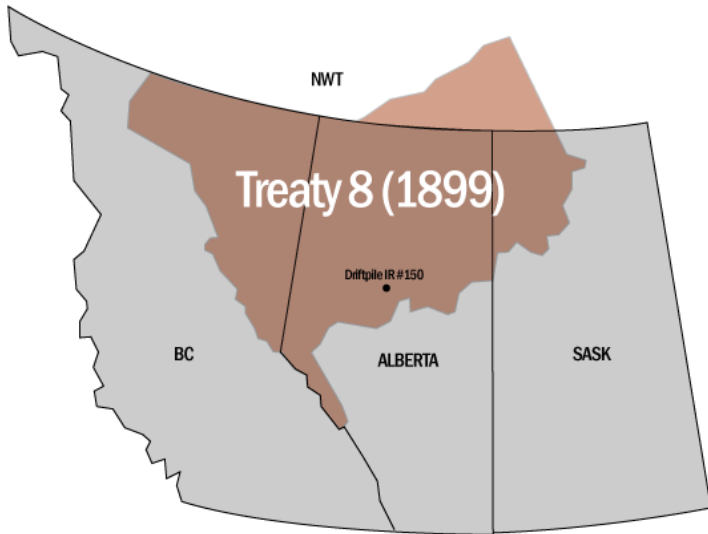
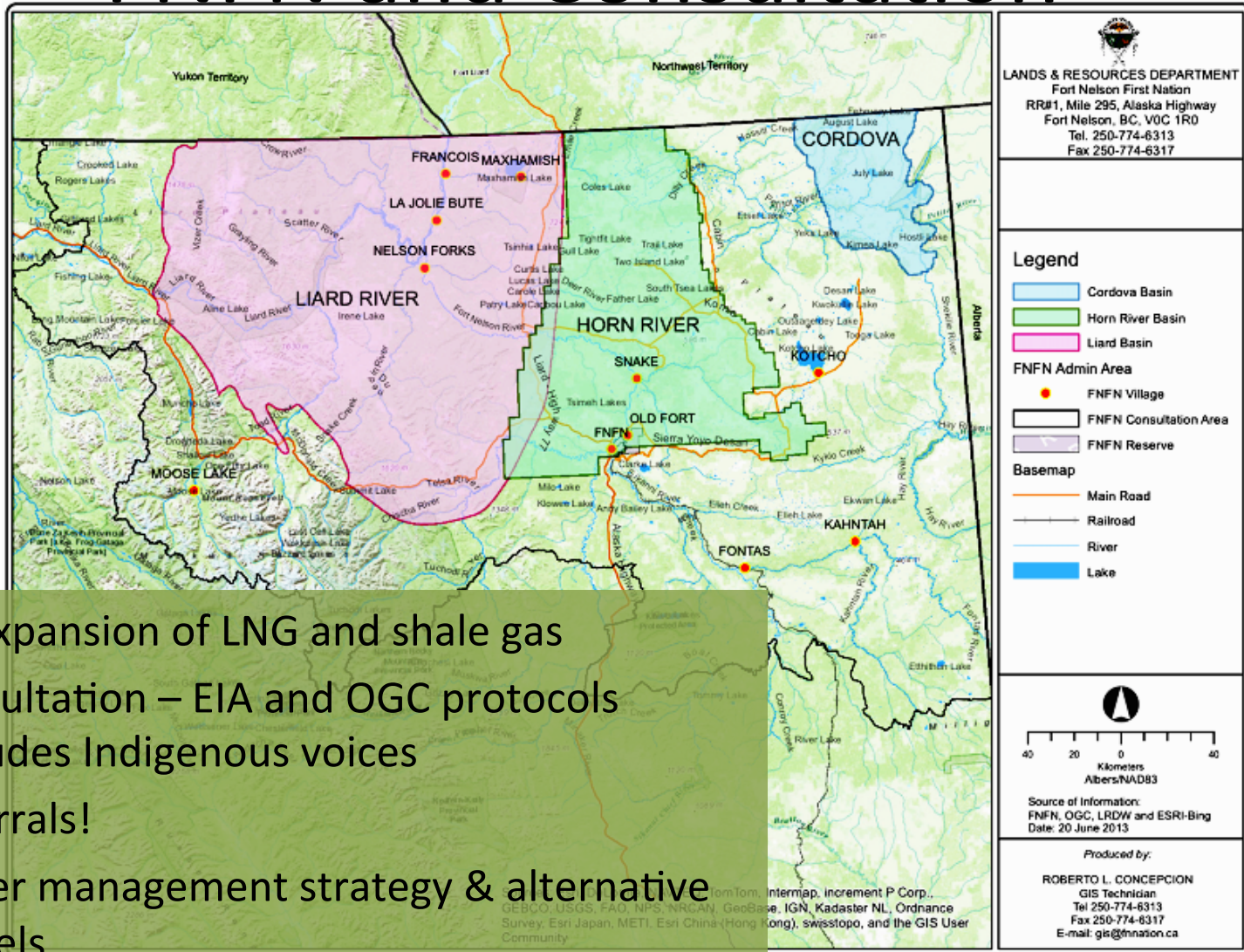


Photo credit: K. Capot-Blanc

- The Fort Nelson First Nation –  
A Treaty 8 Nation
- Hydraulic Fracturing

# FNFN and Consultation



- BC expansion of LNG and shale gas
- Consultation – EIA and OGC protocols excludes Indigenous voices
- Referrals!
- Water management strategy & alternative models

# Literature Review

## Alternatives to status quo:

Collaborative Governance	Impact Benefit Sharing Agreements	Co-Management
Relationship building, diverse knowledge, social learning	More social/economic benefits	Integration of government-government ways of knowing
More inclusion in decisions	Increased opportunity to mitigate future impacts during negotiation	More authority in decision-making
Principle of equality, but in BC context FN ≠ equal stakeholders	Agree to infringe on rights for a period of time	Models for nonrenewable resources limited (temporal nature of relationships matters)
Privileges powerful actors, TEK integration difficult	Non-disclosure, no contest	Cannot diffuse in top-down manner



# Literature Review – Social Learning

- Fosters collaborative skills in actors
- Social learning is a “change in understanding that goes beyond the individual to become situated within wider social units or communities of practice through social interactions between actors” (Reed et al., 2010)
- Applied research in the EU



# Research Questions

- How does the current approach to implementing the Province's legal constitutional, "duty to consult" affect social learning processes and the inclusion of Indigenous people in water governance?
- Are shifts in water governance structures or processes occurring from changes to the Fort Nelson First Nation's relationship with the Oil and Gas industry, and if so do they create new opportunities for First Nations' to realize their goal of self-determination?



# Methodology and Method

Indigenous Methodologies

Grounded Theory

Semi-structured interviews

Participant observation

Document analysis



# Barriers to Social Learning

The Duty to Consult constrains social learning	
Barrier 1	Problem framing: no shared meaning of Treaty
Barrier 2	Not seen as legitimate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• exclusion from key development decisions</li><li>• lack of empowerment: insufficient data quantity/quality, no transparency</li></ul>
Barrier 3	Facilitation: Not neutral
=	Consultation is a checkbox





# The New Approach

	Status Quo	New Approach
<b>Authority</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Industry/government inform FNFN</li> <li>-consultation</li> <li>-statutory decision maker</li> <li>-consultants accountable to industry</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-FNFN in central role</li> <li>-involved early in development plans</li> <li>-shared project management</li> <li>-FNFN creating standards, protocols</li> <li>-consultants accountable to FNFN</li> </ul>
<b>Norms, beliefs, knowledge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Knowledge collected and interpreted by industry/government</li> <li>-“meaningful engagement” vague, varied, not meaningful</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Designs research</li> <li>-FNFN values drive research</li> <li>-Implements and collects data</li> <li>-or hires consultants</li> <li>-provides example of “meaningful engagement”</li> </ul>
<b>Financial flows</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Impact Benefit Sharing Agreements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Revenue</li> <li>-Fee-per-service consultant work</li> </ul>
Other outcomes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Increased self-determination</li> <li>-Increased capacity</li> </ul>

# Conclusions

- Duty to Consult supposed to protect
- Duty to Consult → 3 barriers to social learning among industry/FNFN/government
- Circumventing government = innovation?

More questions...





Thank You!

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