

The Canadian Business Ethics Research Network (CBERN) began working in collaboration with the Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach (NNK) in early 2007. This relationship was initiated by former NNK Chief Phil Einish. The goal was to ensure that the Naskapi people benefited from mining on their traditional territories and avoided the negative impacts caused by previous mining activity by the Iron Ore Company of Canada.

The results of our ten-year partnership:

Completed:

[Knowledge Needs Assessment](#)

[E-Library](#)

[School Curriculum Development](#)

[Community Well-being Baseline Study](#)

KNOWLEDGE NEEDS ASSESSMENT PROJECT

In 2011, CBERN's Study Team, in collaboration with the "Naskapi Working Committee" in the village of Kawawachikamach, Quebec, conducted a series of interviews with community members to answer the question "How will future mining on traditional territory impact the Naskapi people?"

Through these encounters, residents of the Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach engaged in open discussions with the CBERN researchers, sharing their values, hopes, fears, concerns, and expectations about the renewed mineral exploration and extraction operations on their traditional lands in the Canadian North.

Residents were asked to identify what they needed to know in order for their community to benefit from mining activities. The interviews revealed four key elements necessary for the development of meaningful partnerships between First Nations communities and industry, which were subsequently adopted and included in the CBERN-NNK Knowledge Needs Research Report:

1. Expanding dialogue, and building connections between and among northern individuals and communities;
2. Mobilizing the knowledge and experience of northern communities among the communities themselves and with the companies whose resources are needed if sustainable economic development is to occur;
3. Increasing access to tools and resources being developed by leaders in the private sector, NGO's, governments, and academic researchers with the goal of setting and implementing standards designed to help ensure ethically grounded economic development; and,
4. The development of, and access to, resources and tools that will allow actual and potential investors and northern First Nations and non-Aboriginal communities to better understand each other with a view to accessing investment that will contribute to long term community well-being.

The top 20 items identified by the Naskapi respondents which were deemed to be most important to the well-being of their community can be found in the full [CBERN-NNK Knowledge Needs Research Summary](#).

The resulting recommendation of the CBERN Study Team to develop an 'E-Library' was proposed as a way to bridge the knowledge gap of the Naskapi Nation with respect to mining activities on their lands by providing complimentary access to educational information and resources that would allow Naskapi residents to learn about the impacts and benefits of resource development in their region.

In sum, we hope that the Knowledge Mobilization Needs Assessment and the resulting E-Library will allow the Naskapi people to make more informed decisions about their partnerships and agreements with the mining industry in the future.

E-Library

E-LIBRARY

Welcome to CBERN's Naskapi Knowledge Library! Wachiya, and thank you for visiting. We have prepared this collection of resources for the Naskapi community, as well as for teachers, students, and researchers.

The Naskapi/CBERN Knowledge Needs Project focuses on the challenges and opportunities that mining poses particularly for Aboriginal communities in the northern areas of Canada's provinces and for the companies interested in mining the North's mineral resources.

Based on a [Knowledge Needs Study](#) undertaken in the Naskapi community in 2011, the Knowledge Library contains resources relevant for community members of the Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach to enable greater understanding of current knowledge and tools with respect to mining and Aboriginal community development. The long term objective is to develop this library for wider application to other Aboriginal communities in the Canadian North.

To participate and contribute to the development of this resource library, please contact Professor Wesley Cragg at wcragg@schulich.yorku.ca.

Naskapi Knowledge Library Navigation:

- [Curriculum Resources](#)
 - [Culture and Language Protection](#)
 - [Environmental Impact of Mining](#)
 - [Environmental Monitoring](#)
 - [Impact and Benefit Agreements \(IBAs\)](#)
 - [Mining Company Information and Plans](#)
 - [Mining Education](#)
 - [Mining Jobs and Opportunities](#)
 - [Websites](#)
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Well-Being Study

Mapping a Naskapi Well-being Baseline

Values mapping, community visioning, community well-being and the identification of well-being indicators is central to CBERN's mandate and vision.

For example, CBERN is currently engaged in a research project in cooperation with the Naskapi Nation, a CBERN Partner in Northern Quebec. Its purpose is to provide *knowledge needs tools* that will enable the Naskapi Nation to evaluate for themselves the effect that new mining development in the Schefferville area on their traditional territory is having on community well-being.

Equally important is the capacity of the Naskapi to measure the impact of mining development on community well-being. Under the leadership of Dr. Ben Bradshaw and in partnership with the Naskapi Nation, CBERN has provided the community with a multi-layered map of their self-assessment of their current well-being status measured against their own values. The map includes:

- The values that the Naskapi Nation wishes to guide development
- A snapshot of Naskapi Nation's well-being measured against those values as development begins

The study also includes guidance on the use and development of well-being measurement tools so that the Naskapi Nation can determine where mining development is meeting community goals on an on-going basis, and where changes are required to maximize benefits and minimize harms and costs to the community from on-going mining operations.

The map was developed for the Naskapi Nation and the Naskapi Council has agreed to make an [overview](#) of the baseline study public.

Naskapi Documentary Project
(Celia Haig-Brown)

NASKAPI DOCUMENTARY PROJECT

Listening to the Land: The Naskapi Nation Invests in Mining

Principal Investigator: [Dr. Celia Haig-Brown](#)

Co-Investigator: [Dr. Wesley Cragg](#)

Funding Program: SSHRC Insight Grant

Funding Amount: \$469,230

Website: <http://www.listeningtotheland.org/>

This research addresses the question: What is the role of the school as a First Nation community works to reconcile participation in economic development with commitment to traditional language and culture? The Naskapi nation of what is now called northern Quebec lives within the tensions and contradictions of this question. They have chosen to take on the complex demands of what it means to maximize benefits and minimize detriments of open pit mining in close proximity to their community whose traditional lifestyle and values arise from their relationship to the land where the mines are located. The Naskapis, whose territory extends across a wide expanse of Northern Quebec, have invested in New Millennium Iron Corporation. At the same time, many community members depend on caribou hunting, goose hunting, fishing and other natural resources or what they might call gifts from the land and want their children to do the same. Investment in the mine supplements their traditional livelihood.

In 2007, the Canadian Business Ethics Research Network conducted an extensive Knowledge Needs Assessment in Kawawachikamach, the Naskapis' home community. The focus of the study was an enumeration of their perceived needs in relation to investment in one of the mines re-opening in the area. Clearly expressed concerns include increasing youth involvement in community affairs, the protection of language and culture, the potential for youth to become involved at all levels of employment in the mine and ultimately, the creation of a sustainable community.

The current research focuses on the school where a curriculum project that addresses these needs is in development. Using Indigenous methodologies, critical ethnographic approaches and video ethnography, the research will involve documentation, analysis and critique of the project as a way to address the identified community needs. Interviews with community leaders, teachers and students, and other forms of documentation including film, observations and photography will be the specific approaches taken. The curriculum itself will continue to be designed by teachers in consultation with community members. It is intended to address the traditional understandings of respect for the land, language and culture within the tensions that lie with major resource development. Research methods will also include circle work and story-telling with those directly involved and those implicitly affected by the development. Both contemporary and historical contextualization will be integral to the work. Bourdieu's notion of habitus and Ermine's Aboriginal epistemology are anticipated to be useful in regards to a deeper analysis of the findings.

The major outcome of this research, which will include print and photographic resources for the school and a professional quality HD video for wider distribution, will be a model for other First Nation and

northern community schools incorporating a critical approach as they work to find a balance between resource extraction and community health. The results have the potential to inform Ontario's Ring of Fire, British Columbia's Tsilhqot'in Nation and a range of others who are working to reconcile the impacts of mining with maintenance of traditional cultural ways down the generations.

Background on the Naskapi First Nation and the Project

The Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach (the "Nation") (originally known as the Naskapis de Schefferville Indian Band and later as the Naskapi Band of Quebec) is a First Nation with a population of approximately 850 registered Indians, who are also beneficiaries of the Northeastern Québec Agreement ("NEQA"). The majority reside in Kawawachikamach, Québec, located approximately 16 kilometres northeast of Schefferville. The village covers an area of approximately 40 acres and is situated on 16 square miles of Category IA-N land. There is ample room for expansion, whether for residential, commercial, or industrial purposes.

The traditional lands of the Naskapi Nation are located in northern Quebec and lie in a mineral-rich area north of the limit of commercial forestry. There is no potential for hydroelectric development in this area. The only possibility for a sustainable economy lies with mining. The Naskapi Nation is fearful that, if they are not able to develop economic opportunities in mining, their youth will be forced to leave their community to search for employment elsewhere. The consequence would be the rapid disappearance of a unique culture, forged in the environment of northern Quebec over a period of 400 years. The Iron Ore Company of Canada operated in this region in the town of Schefferville between 1954 and 1982. The Naskapi Nation was essentially excluded from any benefits associated with the operation of the Schefferville mine. Moreover, the mining activities during the operation created serious environmental damage, which was compounded by the lack of investment and information for mine site restoration and remediation.

The People

The vast majority of the residents of Kawawachikamach are Naskapi. Naskapi is their principal language. It is spoken by all of them and written by many. English is their second language, although many younger persons also speak some French. The Naskapis still preserve many aspects of their traditional way of life and culture. Like many northern communities, the Naskapis rely on subsistence hunting, fishing, and trapping for a large part of their food supply and for many raw materials. Harvesting is at the heart of Naskapi spirituality.

The Location

Kawawachikamach is linked to Schefferville by a gravel-surfaced all-season road. Rail transportation is available on a weekly basis between Schefferville, Wabush and Labrador City, and Sept-Iles. The train is equipped to transport passengers and freight, including large vehicles, gasoline and fuel oil, and refrigerated goods. Schefferville, which has a 5 000-foot paved landing strip, is connected to points south by means of year-round, five-day-per-week service.

The Need for this Project

In order to move forward, the Naskapi Nation must forge relationships with potential mining partners. However, they currently lack knowledge of, or even access to, research and information, regarding the experiences of other northern communities and the evolving standards of corporate social responsibility. Further, they lack the tools and skills required to forge agreements (e.g. Impact and Benefit Agreements) that will ensure that development contributes to the long term well being of their community. Even where tools and other resources exist, they are often invisible or inaccessible. The Naskapi Nation's plight illustrates the need:

- for expanding dialogue and building connections between and among individuals and communities in the North;
- for mobilizing the knowledge and experience of Northern communities among the communities themselves and with the companies whose resources are needed if sustainable economic development is to occur;
- for access to tools and resources being developed by leaders in the private sector, NGO's, governments, and academic researchers with the goal of setting and implementing standards designed to help ensure ethically grounded economic development; and
- to facilitate communication that will allow actual and potential investors and northern First Nations and non Aboriginal communities to better understand each other with a view to accessing investment that will contribute to long term community well being.