Following-up Cree Health Determinants in James Bay

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9 Cree communities
16,350 inhabitants
(2011 census data)
Hydroelectric Development Following *Paix des Braves*

- In 2002, Hydro-Québec and the Crees signed the Boumhouan agreement respecting the Eastmain-1-A/Sarcelle/Rupert diversion project:
  - Spirit of collaboration between Hydro-Québec and the Crees
  - Environmental studies carried out in cooperation with the Crees:
  - Environmental Follow-up Program (2007–2023)
A Specific Follow-up on Cree Health Determinant

- One of the conditions of authorization issued by Québec’s environment department:
  - Do a follow-up on Cree health determinants
  - Work with the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay (CBHSSJB)

- **A first for Hydro-Québec and CBHSSJB!**
- And probably a first in Canada!?
Selection of Determinants

- HQ-CBHSSJB Joint Committee established in 2008
- Approach: Broad determinants but precise indicators
- Focus on indicators available and constant over the 12 years covered by the study
  - Social and health data gathered during the EIA
  - Other data available from Statistics Canada, CBHSSJB or other institutions
  - Data collected through other social impacts follow-up carried out by Hydro-Québec for this project
9 determinants and 50 indicators chosen

- Income and social status
- Individual health habits
- Social environment
- Employment working conditions and occupation
- Cultural continuity, language and identity
- Self-determination
- Education and training
- Income and social status
- Individual health habits
- Satisfaction and well-being

Figure 1 - Conceptual framework of health and its determinants
Data Analysis

- Challenge: Distinguish between project’s specific effects and effects linked to other changes occurring at the same time in Cree population

- Approach taken:
  - Analysis distinguishing subpopulations more directly affected by the project versus general Cree population
  - Where possible, statistical analysis of data carried out to identify significant changes
  - Workshops with Cree participants:
    - Present data collected and statistical analysis done
    - Discuss various hypothesis about the changes observed
Results

- Positive effects
  - Income and social status
  - Employment, working conditions and occupation
  - Education and training

- No negative effects or effects limited by mitigation measures
  - Cultural continuity, language and identity
  - Social environment
  - Individual health habits
  - Health services

- Difficult to draw conclusions, owing to the wide range of factors that could explain changes
  - Self-determination
  - Satisfaction and well-being

But barely perceptible in prevailing overall positive context of economic development
Conclusion

• Challenge: Hard to find regularly compiled data (especially on social issues)

• Participation of a local health agency and Cree stakeholders enable better interpretation of changes in the health determinants