

# From Reactive to Proactive: Metlakatla's Indigenous-led Cumulative Effects Management Program



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# Presentation Outline

**1**

## BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Presented by Erin Mutrie

**2**

## METLAKATLA CEM PROGRAM

Presented by Katerina Kwon

**3**

## REFLECTIONS AND LESSONS

Presented Jointly



*CEM Synopsis Report at  
[www.metlakatlacem.ca](http://www.metlakatlacem.ca)*

# 1 INTRODUCTION

PRESENTED BY ERIN MUTRIE

- Metlakatla First Nation
- Development Context
- Issues and Challenges
- New Solutions

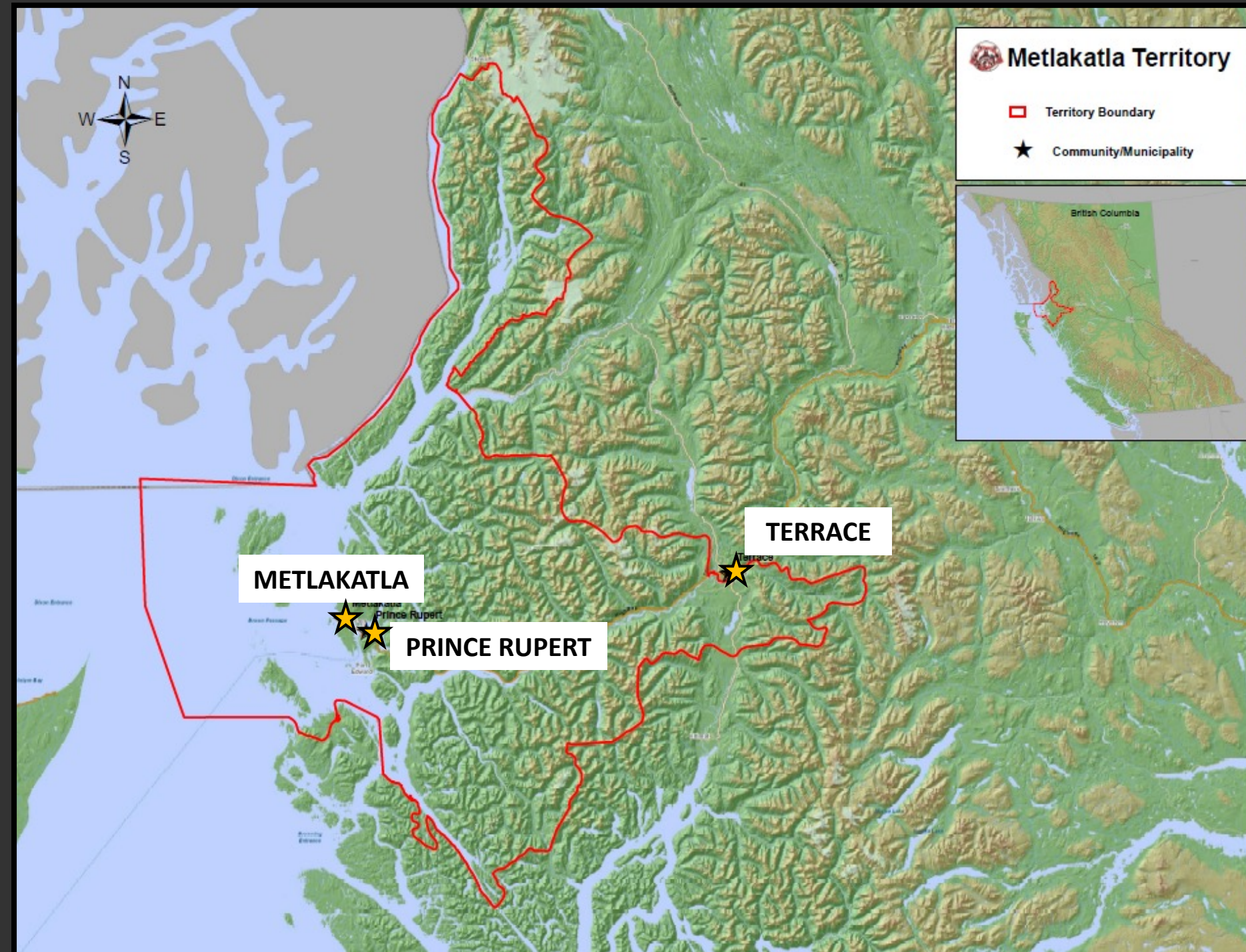


# Metlakatla First Nation

- Progressive Tsimshian community located in a biologically rich area on British Columbia's North Coast
- Metlakatla people have inhabited area for thousands of years
- Members continue to enjoy their inherent rights and freedom to harvest traditional food



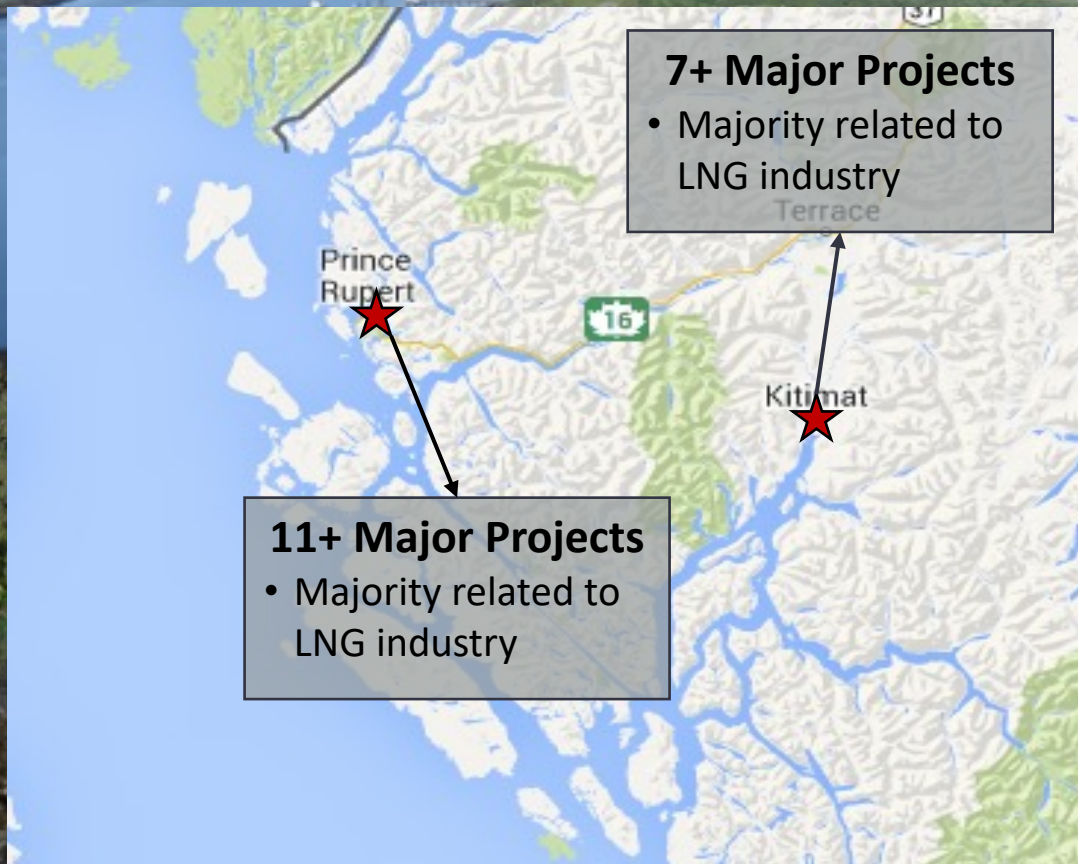






# Changing Development Context on BC's North Coast

## LNG Gold Rush (2012 to 2017)



## Port Expansion (2017+)

- Several LNG facilities at numerous stages of assessment, one being constructed
- Port undergoing expansion (propane, bulk liquids and cargo)
- CN rail expansion near Prince Rupert to accommodate growth
- Marine bunkering service

# Metlakatla's Experience in EA

Are **Metlakatla's objectives** being met through EA process? Are they being **meaningfully engaged**?



**Proponent-driven** and **reactive** EA process where Metlakatla's role is **participant rather than decision-maker**

What are the **combined impacts** of all these developments? What are we doing to **manage those impacts**?



**Cumulative effects** are not being addressed in **narrowly scoped project-specific EA**



# **COLLABORATIVE EA AGREEMENT WITH BC EAO AND LAX K'WALAAMS NATION**



# Metlakatla's Collaborative EA Experience



## BENEFITS REALIZED

- Recognition and respect for First Nation decision making process
- Relationship strengthened
- Dedicated space to work through issues

## REMAINING CHALLENGES

- Timing is everything
- Consensus not guaranteed
- Different approaches to CEA = different conclusions

**NEED FOR:**

- Indigenous-led program and processes
- Innovative, proactive and practical solutions



Metlakatla  
**CEM**

**COMMUNITY PARTNER**

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS MANAGEMENT



**EXPERTISE**

**RESEARCH CAPACITY**



# 2 CEM PROGRAM PRESENTED BY KATERINA KWON

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- **Starting Out**
- **CEM Framework**
- **Values Foundation**
- **CEM in Action**
- **Future Direction**







# CEM DECISION CONTEXT

  
LNG PROJECTS

  
PORT ACTIVITY

  
FISHING

POTENTIAL  
SOURCES  
OF PAST,  
PRESENT  
AND FUTURE  
IMPACT

METLAKATLA  
VALUES

ENVIRONMENTAL

SOCIAL/HEALTH

ECONOMIC  
PROSPERITY

CULTURAL  
IDENTITY

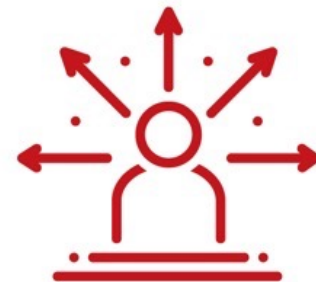
GOVERNANCE



CEM PROGRAM  
Tracks condition of  
values and manages  
impacts over time



INFORMS  
DECISION-MAKING



- Treaty Strategy
- Impact and Benefits Agreements
- Land/Marine Planning
- Community Services
- Environmental Assessment Response
- Regional Planning







**Metlakatla CEM** is guided by Metlakatla worldview, principles and traditional knowledge.



**Metlakatla CEM** is rooted in Metlakatla values. Community members, staff and leadership are involved in every step.



**Metlakatla CEM** is informed by best practices in planning, impact assessment and Indigenous governance.



# CEM Framework

PHASE

1

Develop CEM Framework and Identify Priority Values and Indicators

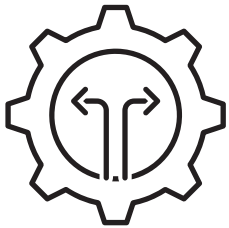
PHASE

2

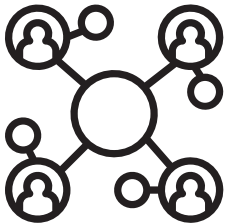
Assess Current Condition of Priority Values



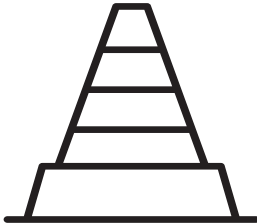
VALUES-FOCUSED



IMPLEMENTABLE



INTERDISCIPLINARY



EMBRACES UNCERTAINTY

PHASE

4

Monitoring, Management and Mitigation

PHASE

3

Establish Management Triggers

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. CEM must be culturally relevant
2. CEM is a program not a project
3. Collaboration is necessary

# Metlakatla Priority Values

PILOT VALUE



**FOOD, SOCIAL,  
CEREMONIAL (FSC)  
ACTIVITY**

PILOT VALUE



**BUTTER CLAM**

PILOT VALUE



**HOUSING**

PILOT VALUE



**EMPLOYMENT**



**ACCESS TO HEALTH  
SERVICES**



**PERSONAL SAFETY**



**CHRONIC HEALTH  
CONDITIONS**



**WEALTH  
DISTRIBUTION**



**CHINOOK SALMON**



**ABILITY TO STEWARD**

# Tiered Management Triggers and Actions

*Series of progressive, quantitative markers that reflect increasing degrees of concern about the condition of a value*





# Metlakatla CEM Program in Action



## PHASE 1

- Housing selected as priority value
- Focus on Metlakatla renters in PR
- Measured by core housing need (condition, affordability & crowdedness)

## PHASE 2

- Housing data collected through Metlakatla Membership Census (2015-2020)
- 42-50% of renters in PR are in core housing need

## PHASE 3

- Management triggers set
- 15% renters in PR in core housing need = worried, need to start acting
- 30% renters in PR in core housing need = no go zone

## PHASE 4

- To develop long-term strategy:
  - Held housing workshop with City
  - Advocated for hiring of new staff
  - Conducted housing assessment

# 3 CONCLUSION

PRESENTED BY ERIN MUTRIE & KATERINA KWON

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- Reflections
- Lessons



# How to Effectively Address Cumulative Effects

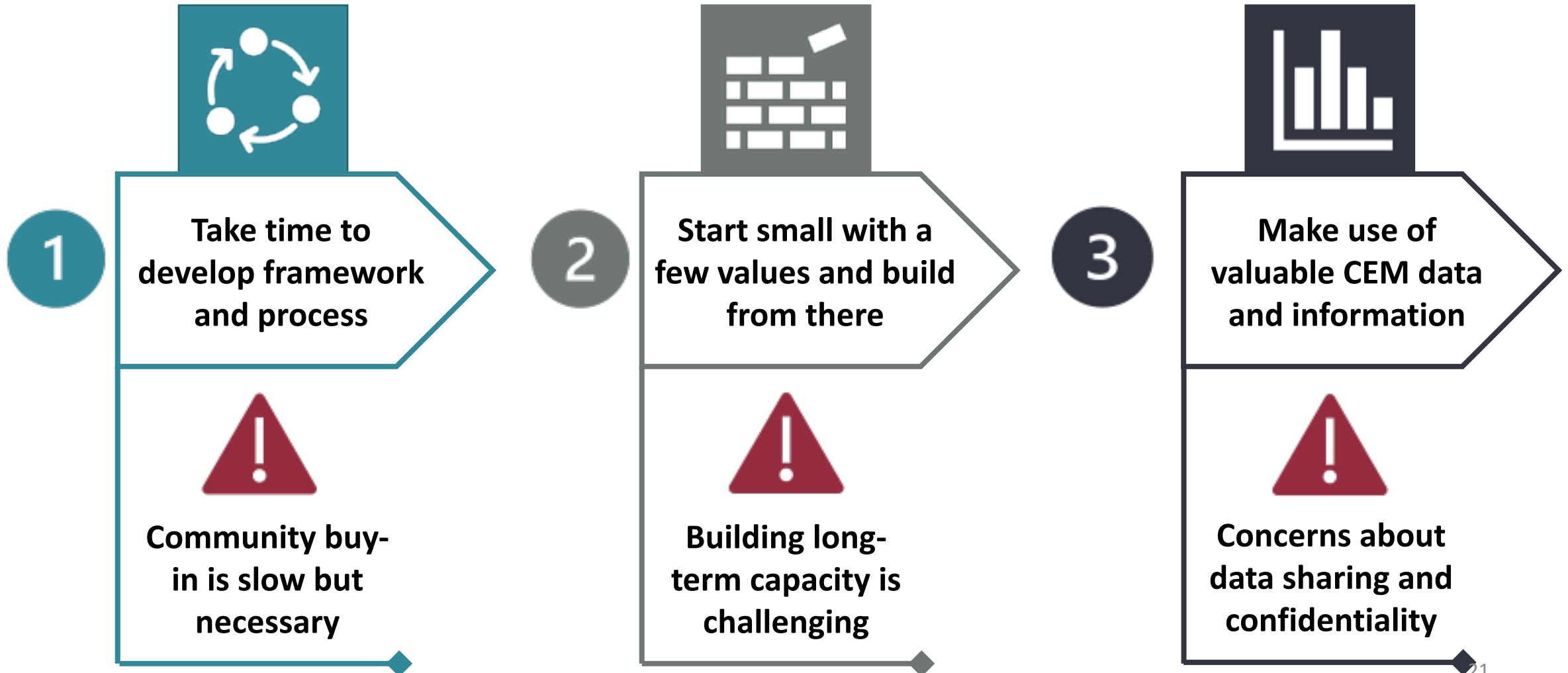
## IMPACT ASSESSMENT APPROACH

- Reactive
- Project-specific and narrowly scoped
- Data driven
- Stressor focused
- Linear, siloed approach

## INDIGENOUS PLANNING APPROACH

- Proactive
- Regional and broadly scoped
- Decision driven
- Values focused
- Holistic approach – “everything is connected”

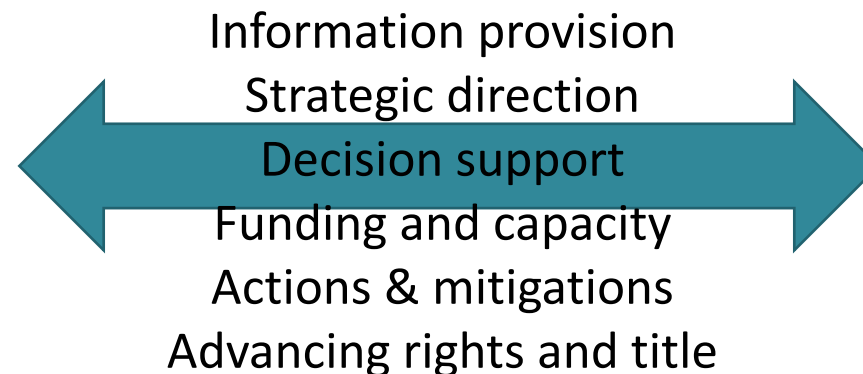
# Lessons for Other Indigenous Communities





# Connecting CEM and IA

- How should Indigenous-led CEM and IA be linked or connected to better:
  1. Support Indigenous participation and decision-making in IA
  2. Address issue of cumulative effects from industrial development



**Metlakatla's EA  
Department**



# Thank you!

- Metlakatla First Nation (All photo credits)
- Metlakatla community members
- Compass Resource Management Ltd. and content experts
- SFU School of Resource and Environmental Management
- Mitacs Accelerate and SSHRC
- Indigenous Centre for Cumulative Effects

# Let's continue the conversation!

Post questions and comments via chat in the IAIA22 platform.



## #iaia22

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