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

Katerina Kwon & Erin Mutrie
PhD Candidate (Simon Fraser University)
EA Manager (Metlakatla First Nation)
British Columbia, Canada
katerina_kwon@sfu.ca / emutrie@metlakatla.ca
www.metlakatlacem.ca

We respectfully acknowledge SFU is on unceded Coast Salish Territory, on the traditional territories of the Squamish, Musqueam, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.
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
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)**
- 11+ Major Projects
  - Majority related to LNG industry

**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
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’WALAAAMS 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
CEM PROGRAM PRESENTED BY KATERINA KWON

- Starting Out
- CEM Framework
- Values Foundation
- CEM in Action
- Future Direction
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.
VALUES - FOCUSED
IMPLEMENTABLE
INTERDISCIPLINARY
EMBRACES UNCERTAINTY

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

- 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

1. Take time to develop framework and process
   - Community buy-in is slow but necessary

2. Start small with a few values and build from there
   - Building long-term capacity is challenging

3. Make use of valuable CEM data and information
   - Concerns about data sharing and confidentiality
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
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.

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