

Alaska Highway Gas Pipeline

First Nations' Capacity Issues and Needs for Participation in Environmental Assessment

Capacity Requirements for Environmental Assessment

What does the EA for this project need from First Nation people and governments?

What do First Nation people and governments want this project to do for them?

What capacity do First Nation people and governments require so they can address these needs?

What can be done so that First Nations can develop the necessary capacity?



What does the EA for this project need from First Nation people and governments?

Project EA Needs



- FN Input for development of Impact Statement/Project Proposal
 - Traditional and local knowledge
 - Identification of values
 - Cultural, Environmental, Socio-economic issues, concerns, mitigation, etc.
 - Socio-Economic Expectations
 - Environmental Expectations
 - Socio-Economic Baseline
- FN Participation in Environmental Assessment
 - Technical Review
 - Traditional and local knowledge
 - Identification of values
 - Cultural, Environmental, Socio-economic issues, concerns, mitigation, etc.
 - Public hearings and meetings

What do First Nation people and governments want this project to do for them?

First Nation Expectations



- Substantial role in environmental assessment process
 - Define how process will work
 - Representation on decision-making bodies
 - Opportunities to be heard
 - Consideration and incorporation of views and concerns
- Economic and community benefits – short-term and long-term
 - Jobs
 - Training
 - Business opportunities
 - Long-term view

Challenges

- Large, complex project using technology that is unfamiliar in Yukon
- Complicated EA process
 - YESAA, CEAA, NEB
- Many governments involved
 - FN, federal, territorial, provincial
- Land claims not finalized
- Cooperation among FNs
- Resources
 - Human, financial



What capacity do First Nation people and governments require so they can address these needs?

Capacity Categories

- FN Government Capacity
 - Internal Capacity
 - External Capacity
- Community Capacity
 - Community readiness
 - Business opportunities
 - Employment
- Coordination Capacity



FN Governments

Internal Capacity

- New government structures
- Internal government priorities
- Technical understanding of project
- Development and articulation of First Nation objectives – social, economic, environmental
- Administrative re: effective participation in EA process
- Ability to identify when additional expertise is required
- Ability to evaluate input from independent advisors
- Human and financial resources
 - Substantial time and resource commitments for large projects
 - FN governments don't have resources to address these needs – will need dedicated staff and resources





FN Governments

External Capacity Needs

- Need for independent advisors to support effective First Nation participation in environmental assessment
- “Technical” Capacity
 - Scientific and engineering advisors
 - Socio-Economic advisors
- Process Capacity
 - Process advisors – CEAA/YESAA/NEB
- Availability of advisors and cost often limiting

Community Capacity

- Community willingness and readiness to participate
 - Priority of project in individuals' lives
 - Resolution of other immediate issues and concerns
 - Land claims
 - Concerns about past projects
 - Social issues
 - “Ownership” of the project and the process
 - Real opportunity and value for local people and communities
 - Seeking, hearing and addressing peoples' issues and concerns
 - Communication and honesty

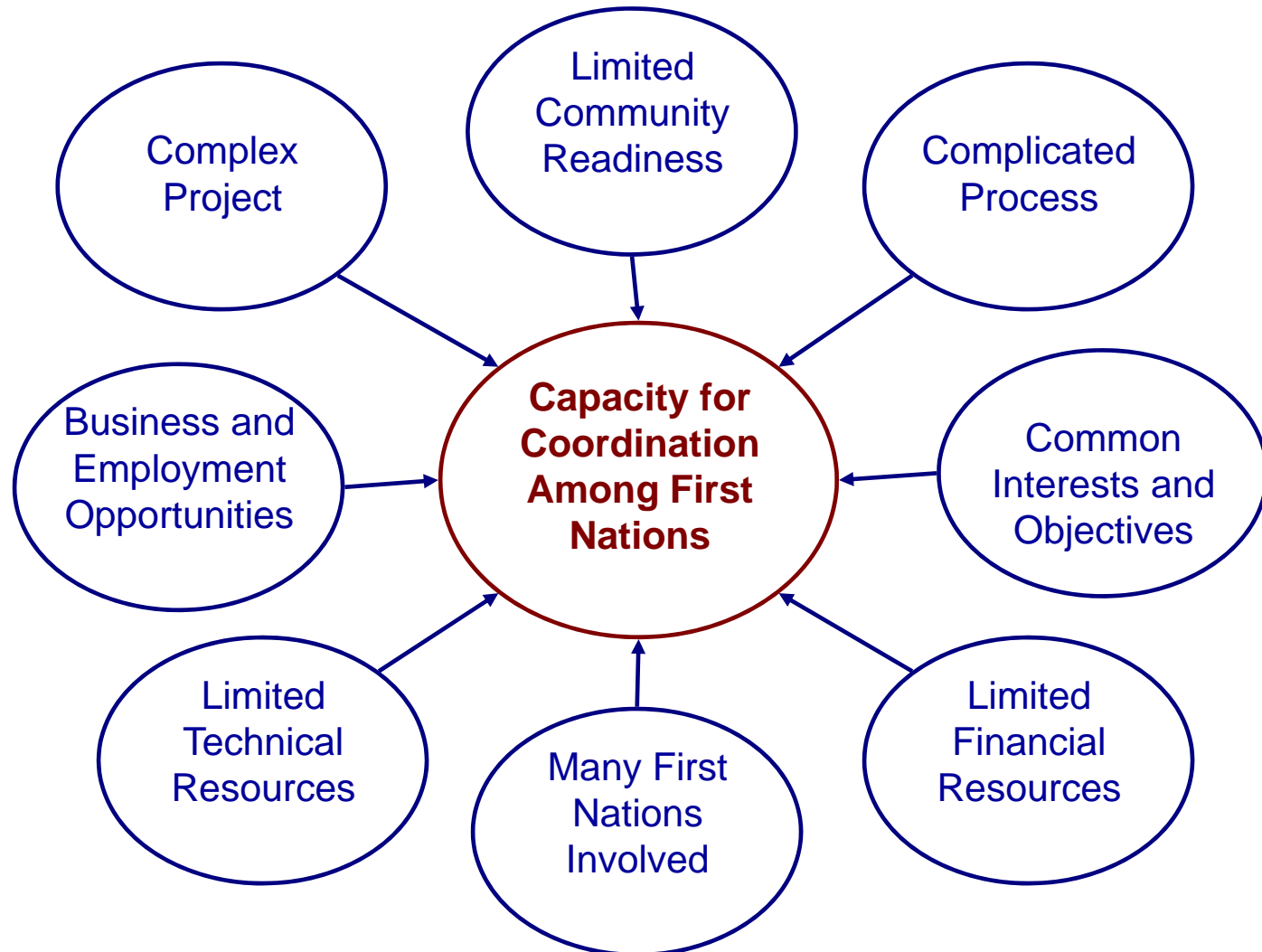


Community Capacity

- Business opportunities
 - Need businesses that are capable of taking advantage
 - Business development, training
 - Businesses that provide services that can be used after the project is complete
- Employment opportunities
 - People need to have the skills and ability to take advantage of employment opportunities
 - Training, education
 - Skills that can be used after the project is complete
 - Long-term job opportunities with the project or industry



Coordination Capacity



What can be done so that First Nations can develop the necessary capacity?

Developing Capacity



- Community Readiness
 - Coordinated approach to find and allocate resources for socio-economic issues
 - Resolve existing issues
 - Avoid and address issues arising from planning and construction of pipeline
 - Mackenzie Valley Gas Pipeline – federal government created \$500 million fund to address socio-economic issues
 - Understand common objectives
 - Capability for FNs to participate on a level playing field
 - Make FNs part of the process

What can be done so that First Nations can develop the necessary capacity?

Developing Capacity

- Making FNs part of the Process
 - Environmental Assessment Cooperation Agreement
 - First Nation governments, other governments, assessment agencies
 - Agreement on how environmental assessment will be done and on the role of First Nation governments



What can be done so that First Nations can develop the necessary capacity?

Developing Capacity

- Community Capacity
 - Coordinated and cooperative approach to preparing for business and employment opportunities
 - Impact-Benefit Agreements
 - Negotiation between peers
 - Shared economic objectives
 - Training, business development
 - Key component of mitigation for environmental assessment



What can be done so that First Nations can develop the necessary capacity?

Developing Capacity



- Capacity to Participate in the Environmental Assessment
 - Participation agreements
 - Participant funding
 - Create level playing field for First Nation participation
 - Coordinated approach to share the “best and the brightest”
 - FN government internal resources
 - External expertise