# Proposed Prosperity Mine: An Assessment of the Economic Impacts on Cariboo Chilcotin First Nations Communities

By

Titi Kunkel BSc, MBA, MNRES, PhD(c)

#### **Content:**

- Introduction
- Conclusions
- Work with communities
- Assessment of mine impacts on Cariboo
   Aboriginal communities: Women and poverty
- Final conclusion

- Lived in 3 continents
- Indigenous heritage
- Education:
  - BSc in Computer Sciences from University of Lagos, Nigeria.
  - Masters Degree in Business Administration from Thames Valley University, England.

- Masters in Natural Resources and Environmental studies at UNBC
- PhD Candidate at UNBC
- Aboriginal Business Development program coordinator at UNBC.

- Taught several courses including
  - First Nations studies,
  - Business Ethics,
  - Operations Management,
  - Entrepreneurship.

- Research areas:
  - Community and economic development
  - Capacity building within marginalized communities
- Current research:
  - Creating sustainable economic development within Aboriginal communities
  - Aboriginal values and resource development

# **Prosperity Mine:**

 Taseko Mines is anticipating that the Prosperity mine will bring direct economic benefits to the Cariboo Chilcotin communities and the region over the next 22 years.

350 jobs will be created.

# Key issues raised by First Nations communities:

- The de-watering of Teztan Biny which has historical, cultural, and spiritual values to the Tsilhqot'in people.
- Potential impacts to fish and wildlife,
- Potential contamination of plants and berries,
- Potential impacts on water quality,
- The development of 125 km of transmission line corridor can not be justified.

- Aboriginal people in the Cariboo area represent about 10% of population
- These people have survived for millennia on their traditional activities such as hunting, fishing, and gathering.
- The Mountain Pine Beetle has had significant impacts on the ability of these people to continue to practice their traditional lifestyle
- Mining without substantial benefits to the communities will be a further blow to their existence.

- Impacts to fish and wildlife, potential contamination of plants and berries, potential impacts on water quality will have significant adverse effects on women within these communities.
- Unless financial structures are in place to provide special compensation for these 991 Aboriginal women within the communities, it is unlikely that the economic benefits of the proposed mine will bring prosperity to these women.

 At best of times, Aboriginal people are least likely to get jobs but studies by the Harvard School of Business showed that Indian culture is an asset.

 With higher than average unemployment in the Cariboo region, Aboriginal people living on Reserves without training or open pit mining experience would face even bleaker prospects of getting jobs at the proposed mine.

 Foundational skills and upgrading courses would be required before the delivery of mining related and trades training as suggested by Taseko.

 Aboriginal communities face challenges in obtaining foundational skills training and upgrading courses.

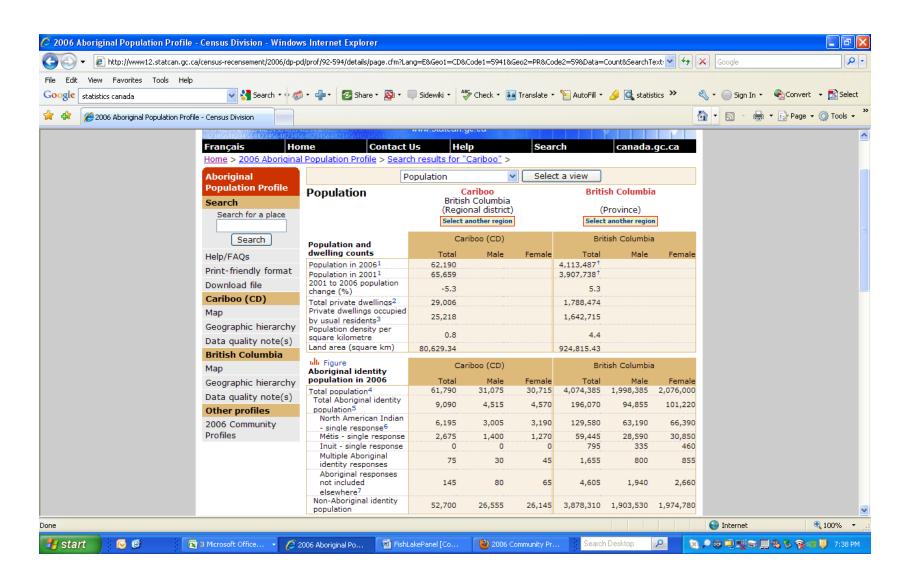
 Power can be produced locally for the mine will create other employment opportunities for First Nations people as demonstrated by the Tsilhqot'in power project in Hanceville.

• This will reduce the justification for 125km of power line and the environmental and social consequences of such.

#### **Cariboo communities:**

- 2 Cities: Quesnel and Williams Lake;
- 2 District municipalities, Wells and 100 Mile House;
- 78 Indian reserves; and
- 12 Electoral areas.

### Population of people in the Cariboo:



# Cariboo Aboriginal labour force:



# Cariboo Aboriginal labour force:

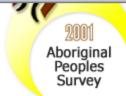
- The 2006 census showed significant inequalities between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations
  - especially in areas such as education,
  - labour force participation,
  - unemployment rate, and
  - employment income

# Cariboo Aboriginal labour force:

- low human capital,
- long term effects of marginalization,
- distance from Service Centres.
  - Aboriginal people still depend on their hunting, fishing, and gathering activities for subsistence and non-market economy.

- Dependence on fishing, hunting, and gathering:
  - can be compared to the wider communities' dependence on the economy.

#### 



Community Profiles

Protecting Confidentiality

Help \ FAQ

Census

2001 Aboriginal Population Profile

2001 Community Profiles

1996 Community Profiles

#### Adult Labour Activity Statistics for:

Alkali Lake 1 (Indian Reserve), British Columbia

Characteristics	Alkali Lake 1
% of adults who hunted in the past 12 months	46
% of those who hunted for food	100
% of adults who fished in the past 12 months	61
% of those who fished for food	94
% of adults who gathered wild plants (berries, sweet grass, etc.) in the past 12 months	61
% of those who gathered wild plants for food	71
% of adults who trapped in the past 12 months	<u>x</u>
Persons working part-time:	
% of employed adults working part-time <sup>(7)</sup>	13.8
Persons with more than one job:	
% of employed adults currently working at more than one job	<u>x</u>
% of adults who worked at other job(s) since January 1st 2000 (8)	25 €
Persons not working:	
% of adults not working for pay or in self-employment 7	61.8
Unemployment rate (9)	36.4
Selected reasons for not working (%):	
Going to school	43
No full-time jobs available	21 <sup>E</sup>
Health problems	<u>x</u>
Family responsibilities	<u>x</u>
Not qualified for available jobs	21 <sup>E</sup>
Retired	21 <sup>E</sup>

Band	Major reserve	Total on- Reserve populati	On- Reserve female populati	Unemploy ment rate - female %3	Nearest Service Centre and distance <sup>4</sup>	wellbeing index- non Aboriginal
		on <sup>1</sup>	on <sup>2</sup>			95 <sup>5</sup>
?Esdilagh	Alexandria 1A	51	13	Not available	Quesnel: 33.5 Km	Not available
Tl'etinqox	Anahim's Flat 1	561	249	33.3	Williams Lake: 102 Km	61
Tsi Del Del	Redstone Flat 1	322	156	33.3	Williams Lake: 112 Km	53
Yunesit'in	Stone 1	223	107	37.5	Williams Lake: 111Km	61
Tl'esqox	Toosey 1	148	82	50	Williams Lake: 47 Km	59
Xeni Gwet'in	Xeni Gwet'in	206	192	28.6	Williams Lake: 233 Km	61
Esketemc	Alkali Lake 1	417	202	28.6	Williams Lake: 50 Km	68
Total		1928	991			

2001 Figures (INAC 2010)

INAC 2010

Distance using Google maps

**INAC 2010** 

- Differential impacts of mining operations on women can be classified as:
  - Health and well-being;
  - Women's work and traditional roles; and
  - Gender inequalities in the economic benefits of mining activities.

(Whiteman and Blacklock 2000)

# Taseko jobs:

Job type	Qualification	Compensation		
Certified	• Inter-provincial Trade Qualification;	Gibraltar offers an excellent		
Journeyman	• Preferred open pit mining experience	benefit package which includes		
Electrician	relating to:	competitive salary and relocation		
	<ul> <li>G.E. Diesel/electric drive systems</li> </ul>	assistance to Williams Lake.		
	<ul> <li>Electric mining shovels</li> </ul>			
	<ul> <li>Power distribution systems and,</li> </ul>			
	<ul> <li>PLC control systems</li> </ul>			
Certified	• Inter-provincial Trade Qualification,	Gibraltar offers an excellent		
Journeyman Heavy	• Open pit mining experience relating to:	benefit package which includes		
<b>Duty Mechanic</b>	<ul> <li>Detroit Diesel 4000 Series Engines,</li> </ul>	competitive salary and relocation		
	<ul> <li>Caterpillar Equipment,</li> </ul>	assistance to Williams Lake.		
	<ul> <li>P &amp; H Shovels,</li> </ul>			
	<ul> <li>Marion &amp; Gardner Denver Drills and,</li> </ul>			
	<ul> <li>Terex/Unit Rig Haul Trucks</li> </ul>			
Certified	• Class 'A' Level with BC or Inter-provincial	Gibraltar offers an excellent		
Journeyman 'A'	Trade Qualification.	benefit package which includes		
Class Welder	• Preference will be given to candidates with	competitive salary and relocation		
	open pit mining equipment experience.	assistance to Williams Lake.		

Source: http://www.mining.bc.ca/mabc\_job\_board\_trades.htm accessed on April 4, 2010

- Significant challenges in building community capacity
  - Childcare issues
  - Emotional wellness
  - Major care givers
  - Transportation from Reserves to attend classes
  - Legacy of residential school

(UNBC Aboriginal Business Development Program 2010)

- Dependence on non-market economy
  - Berry picking
  - Making moccasins, gloves, small craft items from deer and moose hide
  - Meat and fish as staple food

(Economic development work with communities 2006 - 2008)

- Impacts to fish and wildlife, potential contamination of plants and berries, potential impacts on water quality will have significant adverse effects on women within these communities.
- The mine is unlikely to bring prosperity to these women or change their circumstances.

#### Final conclusion:

 Failure to address all the issues and concerns raised by the Tsilhqot'in people before the mine proceed will continue to keep these people on the margins of Euro-Canadian societies which is synonymous to abandoning them in the margins.

## Thank you