

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

By

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Content:

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

Introduction:

- 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.

Introduction:

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

Introduction:

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

Introduction:

- 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.

Conclusions:

- 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.

Conclusions:

- 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.

Conclusions:

- 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.

Conclusions:

- 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.

Conclusions:

- 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:

2006 Aboriginal Population Profile - Census Division - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/prof/92-594/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CD&Code1=5941&Geo2=PR&Code2=59&Data=Count&SearchText=

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2006 Aboriginal Population Profile - Census Division

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Cariboo (CD)

Map Geographic hierarchy Data quality note(s)

British Columbia

Map Geographic hierarchy Data quality note(s)

Other profiles

2006 Community Profiles

Population

Population and dwelling counts

	Cariboo (CD)			British Columbia		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Population in 2006 ¹	62,190			4,113,487 [†]		
Population in 2001 ¹	65,659			3,907,738 [†]		
2001 to 2006 population change (%)	-5.3			5.3		
Total private dwellings ²	29,006			1,788,474		
Private dwellings occupied by usual residents ³	25,218			1,642,715		
Population density per square kilometre	0.8			4.4		
Land area (square km)	80,629.34			924,815.43		

Figure

Aboriginal identity population in 2006

	Cariboo (CD)			British Columbia		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total population ⁴	61,790	31,075	30,715	4,074,385	1,998,385	2,076,000
Total Aboriginal identity population ⁵	9,090	4,515	4,570	196,070	94,855	101,220
North American Indian - single response ⁶	6,195	3,005	3,190	129,580	63,190	66,390
Métis - single response	2,675	1,400	1,270	59,445	28,590	30,850
Inuit - single response	0	0	0	795	335	460
Multiple Aboriginal identity responses	75	30	45	1,655	800	855
Aboriginal responses not included elsewhere ⁷	145	80	65	4,605	1,940	2,660
Non-Aboriginal identity population	52,700	26,555	26,145	3,878,310	1,903,530	1,974,780

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Cariboo Aboriginal labour force:

2006 Aboriginal Population Profile - Census Division - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/prof/92-594/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CD&Code1=5941&Geo2=PR&Code2=59&Data=Count&SearchText=

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Cariboo (CD)

Map

Geographic hierarchy

Data quality note(s)

British Columbia

Map

Geographic hierarchy

Labour

Cariboo British Columbia (Regional district)

British Columbia (Province)

Select another region

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Figure
Labour force activity characteristics of the Aboriginal identity population

	Cariboo (CD)			British Columbia		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total Aboriginal identity population 15 years and over ⁴⁸	6,415	3,170	3,240	140,820	66,615	74,210
In the labour force ⁴⁹	3,805	2,015	1,790	91,535	46,320	45,215
Employed ⁵⁰	3,075	1,640	1,435	77,850	38,880	38,970
Unemployed ⁵¹	730	370	355	13,685	7,440	6,245
Not in the labour force ⁵²	2,605	1,155	1,450	49,290	20,295	28,995
Participation rate ⁵³	59.3	63.6	55.2	65.0	69.5	60.9
Employment rate ⁵⁴	47.9	51.7	44.3	55.3	58.4	52.5
Unemployment rate ⁵⁵	19.2	18.4	19.8	15.0	16.1	13.8

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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.

Women and poverty:

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

[←](#) [→](#) http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/english/profil01aps/statistics.cfm?component=1&community=RES_101&theme=3&lang=E

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Adult Labour Activity Statistics for: Alkali Lake 1 (Indian Reserve), British Columbia

- Community Profiles
- Protecting Confidentiality
- Help \ FAQ
- Census
 - 2001 Aboriginal Population Profile
 - 2001 Community Profiles
 - 1996 Community Profiles

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	X
Persons working part-time:	
% of employed adults working part-time (7)	13.8
Persons with more than one job:	
% of employed adults currently working at more than one job	X
% of adults who worked at other job(s) since January 1st 2000 (8)	25 E
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 E
Health problems	X
Family responsibilities	X
Not qualified for available jobs	21 E
Retired	21 E



Women and poverty:

Band	Major reserve	Total on-Reserve population¹	On-Reserve female population²	Unemployment rate - female %³	Nearest Service Centre and distance⁴	Community wellbeing index- non Aboriginal 95⁵
?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			

[\[1\]](#) Population as of March 2010 (INAC 2010)
[\[2\]](#) 2001 Figures (INAC 2010)
[\[3\]](#) INAC 2010
[\[4\]](#) Distance using Google maps
[\[5\]](#) INAC 2010

Women and poverty:

- 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 Journeyman Electrician	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inter-provincial Trade Qualification; • Preferred open pit mining experience relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ G.E. Diesel/electric drive systems ○ Electric mining shovels ○ Power distribution systems and, ○ PLC control systems 	Gibraltar offers an excellent benefit package which includes competitive salary and relocation assistance to Williams Lake.
Certified Journeyman Heavy Duty Mechanic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inter-provincial Trade Qualification, • Open pit mining experience relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Detroit Diesel 4000 Series Engines, ○ Caterpillar Equipment, ○ P & H Shovels, ○ Marion & Gardner Denver Drills and, ○ Terex/Unit Rig Haul Trucks 	Gibraltar offers an excellent benefit package which includes competitive salary and relocation assistance to Williams Lake.
Certified Journeyman 'A' Class Welder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class 'A' Level with BC or Inter-provincial Trade Qualification. • Preference will be given to candidates with open pit mining equipment experience. 	Gibraltar offers an excellent benefit package which includes competitive salary and relocation assistance to Williams Lake.

Source: http://www.mining.bc.ca/mabc_job_board_trades.htm accessed on April 4, 2010

Women and poverty:

- 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)

Women and poverty:

- 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)

Women and poverty:

- 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