

Facilitating Dialogue:

A Community Consultation Guide For the mineral exploration and mining sector

Prepared for the 2010 Nunavut Mining Symposium

Doug Brubacher



Why A Guide?

Action 2-1 of Parnautit states:

'the GN will develop Community Consultation Guidelines to promote and facilitate dialogue and understanding between communities, Inuit organizations, government and the minerals industry.'



Intent Of The Guide

Intended for companies seeking to engage and consult with communities.

Voluntary—provide useful suggestions

Meet GN interests in generating benefits from community engagement.

Build on the pioneering experience of communities and companies to create good practice through the entire mining cycle.

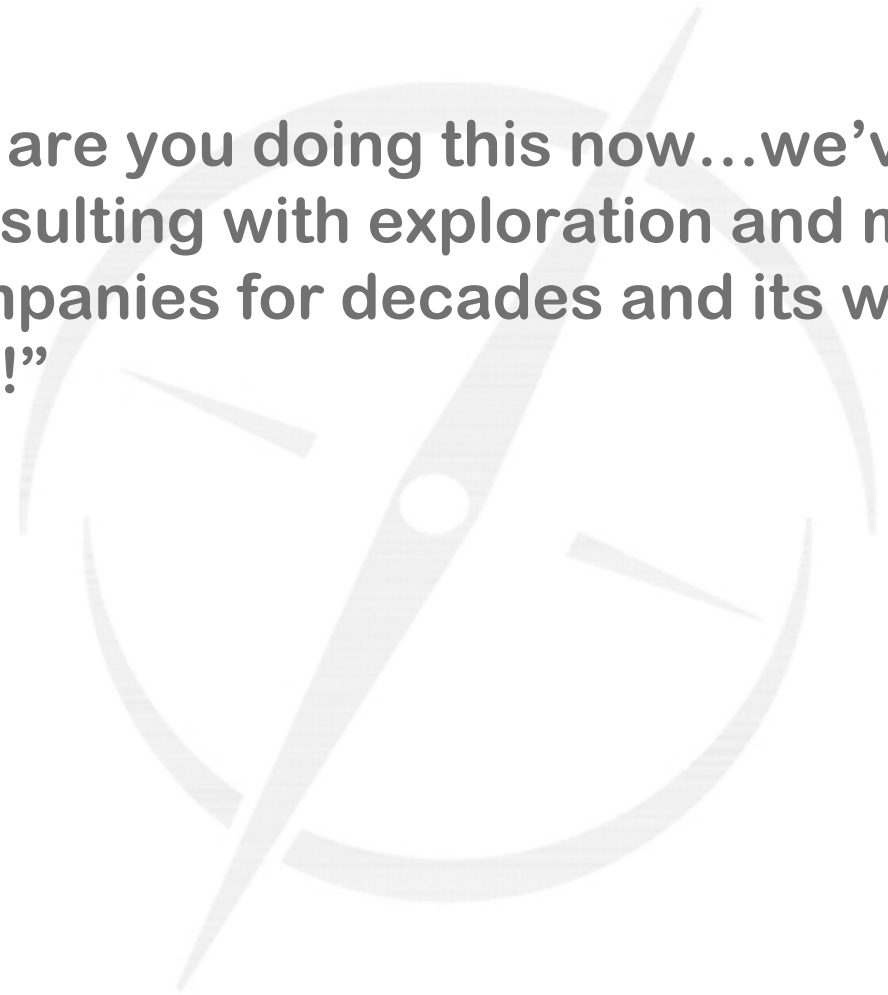
What We Have Done

- Workshop in April, 2009
- Review of other consultation and community engagement initiatives
- Community research in winter, 2010

An aerial photograph of a small, snow-covered village. The houses are colorful, including shades of green, yellow, and red. A large satellite dish is visible on the roof of one of the buildings. The surrounding landscape is a vast, flat expanse of snow, with some rocky patches visible in the distance.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COMMUNITY RESEARCH

- **What we did...**
- **...and a small taste of what we heard...**



“Why are you doing this now...we’ve been consulting with exploration and mining companies for decades and its working just fine!”

“Years ago, we at HTO used to be more involved ...now we seem to be out of the loop...”

“Thanks for including me...I’ve never been asked about mining before—and it affects us.”

“Participation in public meetings used to be very good—recently, though, people don’t show up like they used to...”

“We noticed activity going on out there,
but no-one met with us...”

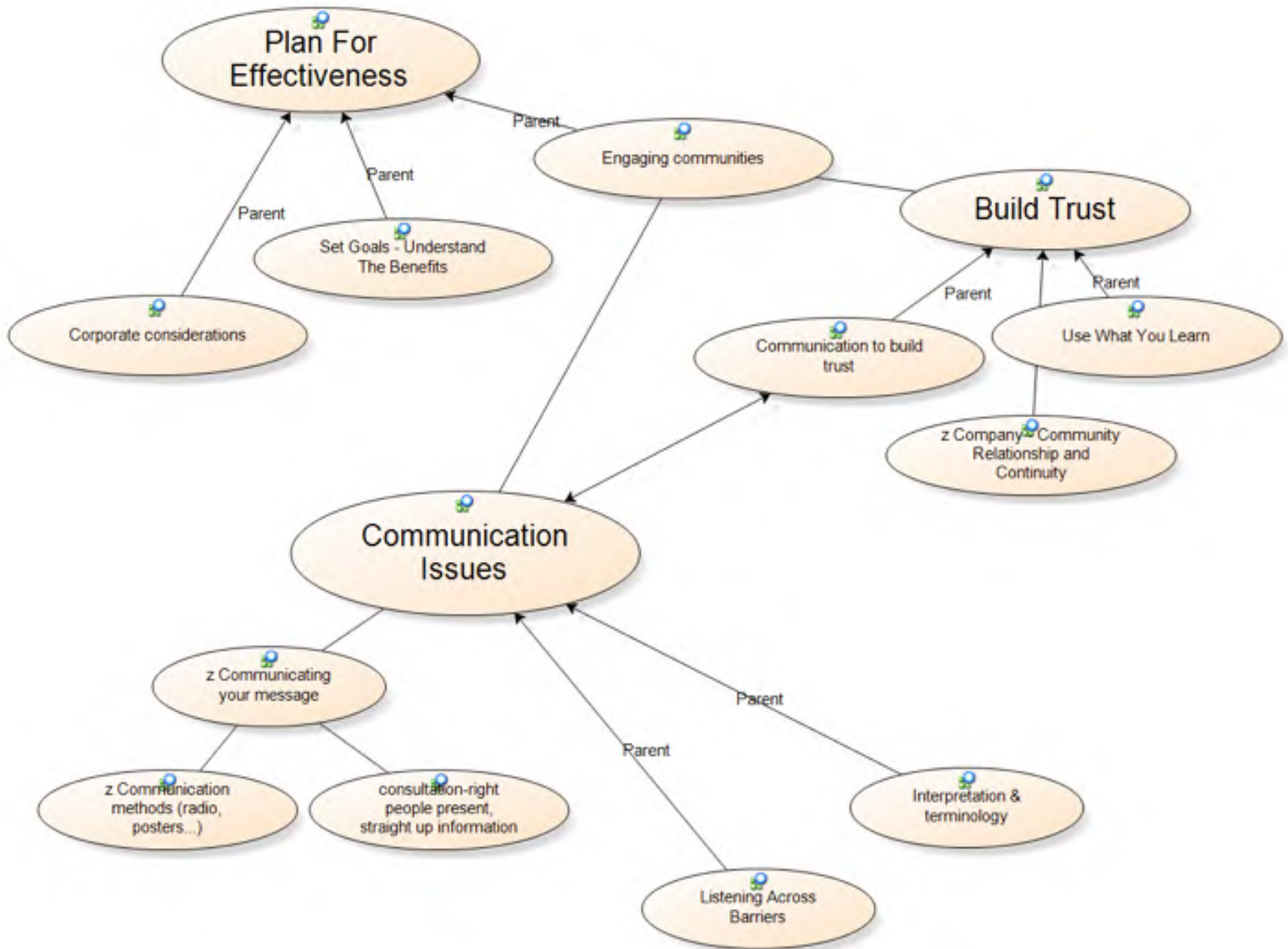
“...now they don't seem to be around anymore.

“It would have been nice to hear about what
they were looking for and what they found.”

“We were consulted and we agreed that our community did not want exploration in that area...

“...but they got permission and went ahead anyway...what’s the point of participating?”

**“Its hard to voice concerns at public meetings—
some questions are interpreted as opposition
to the project...I just want answers!”**



What People Want

- We Want Information
- We Want to Be Able to Trust You
- We Want to Participate in Decisions
 - What's going on out there?
 - Want our concerns to be "heard."
 - How might this change our future?
 - Want our knowledge understood and recognized
 - Want our questions to be understood and responded to.
 - Want to know how our input gets used
 - What are the risks to the environment and wildlife?
 - Confidence that information will not withheld.
 - Trust that promises will be honoured as project evolves.

TRUST AND RELATIONSHIP

- Start when the stakes are low
- Respect and understanding
- Know what has been said and done before
- Consistency over time
- Work on communication

COMMUNICATION

- Presenting information—don't bury the lead
- Language and Interpretation
- Time to reflect and respond
- Repetition to allow for participation
- Reporting (internal, external and back to community)

“LISTENING” ACROSS BOUNDARIES

- Challenges to listening and hearing
- Listening through your emotional response
- An “essential skill”
- “Key note listener”

PLANNING FOR ENGAGEMENT


- **Organized plan**
 - **How much is enough**
 - ... Setting goals and knowing when they've been met
 - **Tools for engaging different groups**
 - **Individual discussions**
 - Social events, kitchen-table chats, family meals...
 - Public meetings, “meet the public,” radio, posters...
 - Focus groups, workshops...
 - **Site visits**
 - **On-the-land field trips**



CHALLENGES

- Communicating risk and uncertainty
- Talking about benefits
- Difficult conversations
- Occasional need for “neutral” parties



An aerial photograph of a vast desert landscape, showing numerous sand dunes with distinct, rhythmic ripples across their surfaces. The lighting creates soft shadows, emphasizing the texture and undulating nature of the terrain. The overall color palette is a range of light to medium blues and greys, giving it a monochromatic, ethereal appearance.

Benefits Of Effective Engagement

- a few examples -

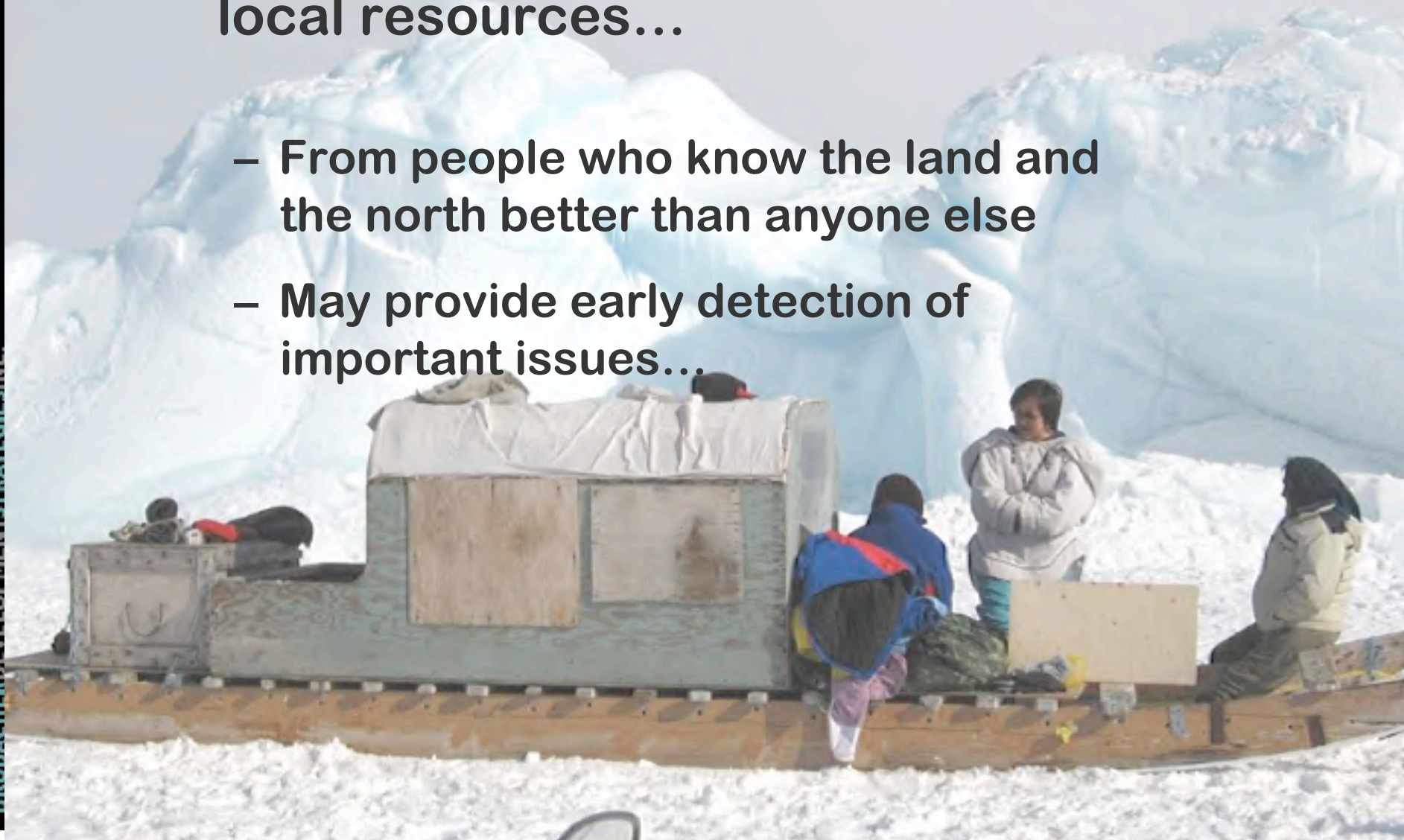


Creates a productive relationship where serious discussion of important issues can take place

- Engages “many hands” in mutual problem-solving**
- Builds trust**
- Reduces fear and speculation**
- Creates patterns of productive behaviour**

You gain access to good advice and local resources...

- From people who know the land and the north better than anyone else**
- May provide early detection of important issues...**





Local participation in design of research, monitoring and assessment methods

- helps to ensure the results are perceived to be valid

What's Left To Do

- Workshop on Friday
- Prepare and distribute a draft for comments
- Final document in time for late fall, 2010

Thank You

Doug Brubacher

dougbrubacher@gmail.com