A POVERTY REDUCTION APPROACH TO IMPROVING THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF FIRST NATION COMMUNITIES
Presentation outline

- Background
- The Project
- Some Interesting Features and Issues
- The Action + Research Components
- A Community Perspective
- Questions and Discussion
Background

- Assembly of First Nations
  - Mandates and Chiefs in Assembly
  - New work relationships
  - Innovative look at bringing together considerations related to the economy and health
  - Establishing an academic team in 2008 to help advise the AFN on key strategic research pieces
  - Looking forward
What is this about?

- A five year project
- Funding is from CIHR (IAPH, IPPH)
- Working with five volunteer First Nation communities across the country
- Idea is to assist communities on strategies to strengthen the economic base, reduce poverty and improve community health and well-being
The central question

- Some First Nation communities in each region of Canada have made a critical transition from poverty and dependence to self-sustaining growth. Others are working hard toward the same goal but facing challenges.

- Can this kind of an action project make a difference, recognizing that each community is at a different stage, has unique historical and cultural dimensions, particular challenges and opportunities?
Location of communities

[Map of Canada with various locations marked, including legend:
- Triangle: Provincial/Territorial Capital
- Circle: Remote (>350km from significant urban area)
- Square: Rural
- Diamond: Close to Urban (<100km from significant urban area)]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who is Involved? The Project Team</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Charlotte Reading, Human and Social Development, University of Victoria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. John Loxley, Economics, University of Manitoba</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof. David Newhouse, Business Admin and Native Studies, Trent University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Lars Osberg, Economist, Dalhousie University</td>
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## Who is involved (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Warren Weir, Dean of Instruction</th>
<th>Dr. Jeff Reading, Centre for Aboriginal Health Research, University of Victoria</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nicola Valley Institute of Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Gérard Duhaime, Sociologie, Université Laval</td>
<td>Dr. Stephen Cornell, Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development, University of Arizona</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jonathan Thompson, Health and Social Programs, AFN</td>
<td>Carla Moore (Project Coordinator), Dalhousie University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Fred Wien (Project Lead), Social Work, Dalhousie University</td>
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Who is Involved: Some Other Partners

- Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
- First Nations Inuit Health Branch, Health Canada
- National Centre for First Nations Governance
- Aboriginal Health Research Network (AHRNETS)
- Successful Societies Program, Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (Clyde Hertzman, UBC)
- Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs
Some interesting features

- Bridging the economic and social/health realm
- Focus on community-level action and community-level indicators of health and well-being
- Providing a framework for knowledge transfer from one First Nation community to another
Some interesting challenges

- Finding common ground (community and academic)
- Incorporating community participation
- Community division
- Community diversity
- Importance of communication, trust, flexibility
Where are we now?

- Communities selected
- Community-based coordinators hired
- Community agreements developed
- Initial research and draft community profiles nearing completion
- Advisory committees formed
- Work beginning on the development of strategic plans
- First national meeting held this past summer
The Action Component

- Hire half-time community-based coordinators
- Form an Advisory Committee for each community with academic, government and FN representation
- Undertake a needs assessment of each community and feed information into the development of a community profile
- Develop a strategic plan for sustainable economic development and poverty reduction
- Assist in the implementation of the strategic plan and monitor outcomes for health and well-being
The Research Contribution

- Initial community assessment and environmental scan leading to a community profile
- Qualitative research monitoring the process of community change, including issues that arise, lessons learned, and interaction among economic, social, health and political factors
- A formative or process evaluation of the project as it unfolds
- An impact or outcome evaluation at the end of the project to determine change in baseline indicators
A community perspective

The project at the Shubenacadie First Nation
Profile of the Shubenacadie Band of Indians
The project at Shubenacadie First Nation

- Background to the community
- Opportunities and challenges
- The role of the project
- Advisory Committee
Location
## Land Holdings

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Land parcel</th>
<th>Hectares</th>
<th>Inhabitants</th>
<th>Year acquired</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indian Brook</td>
<td>1234</td>
<td>1084</td>
<td>1820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shubenacadie (Grand Lake)</td>
<td>412</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Ross</td>
<td>408</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pennal</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wallace Hills</td>
<td>55</td>
<td></td>
<td>2010</td>
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The new school
Poverty is an issue
WHEREAS the Indian Brook Band Council has had the opportunity to discuss the Poverty Action Research Project with regard to reducing poverty and increasing the well being of the Indian Brook Community commencing July 1, 2011 with an end date of June 30, 2016.

AND WHEREAS the Indian Brook Band Council has agreed to support and endorse the project

AND WHEREAS Indian Brook Band Council has agreed there is a need to cooperate and make available its infrastructure data to the Poverty Action Research Project regarding Indian Brook demographics (Housing, Education, Population, etc) in order to develop strategic and implementation action plans for Indian Brook Community

AND WHEREAS the research planned by the project will provide valuable information for strategic planning and decision-making by the Indian Brook Band Council

AND WHEREAS Indian Brook Band Council has agreed to participate on the Advisory Committee for the project

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Indian Brook Band Council supports all aspects of the Poverty Action Research Project.
Composition of the Advisory Committee

- An elder and a youth representative
- The Chief and two councillors
- Community health and addictions resource persons
- Senior government representatives (province, FNIHB and AANDC)
- Atlantic Policy Congress, Membertou FN and Millbrook FN
- Dalhousie University faculty
Thank you