

ᑕᑭᑭᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦ ᑕᑭᑭᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦ ᑕᑭᑭᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦ  
ᑕᑭᑭᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦ ᑕᑭᑭᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦ

CHAIRE DE RECHERCHE SUR LE  
DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE DU NORD

NORTHERN SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CHAIR

---

# Mining and Harvesting: Resource Development and the Mixed Economy in Nunavik

---

**Isabel Lemus-Lauzon**

Northern Sustainable Research Chair &  
MinErAL Network

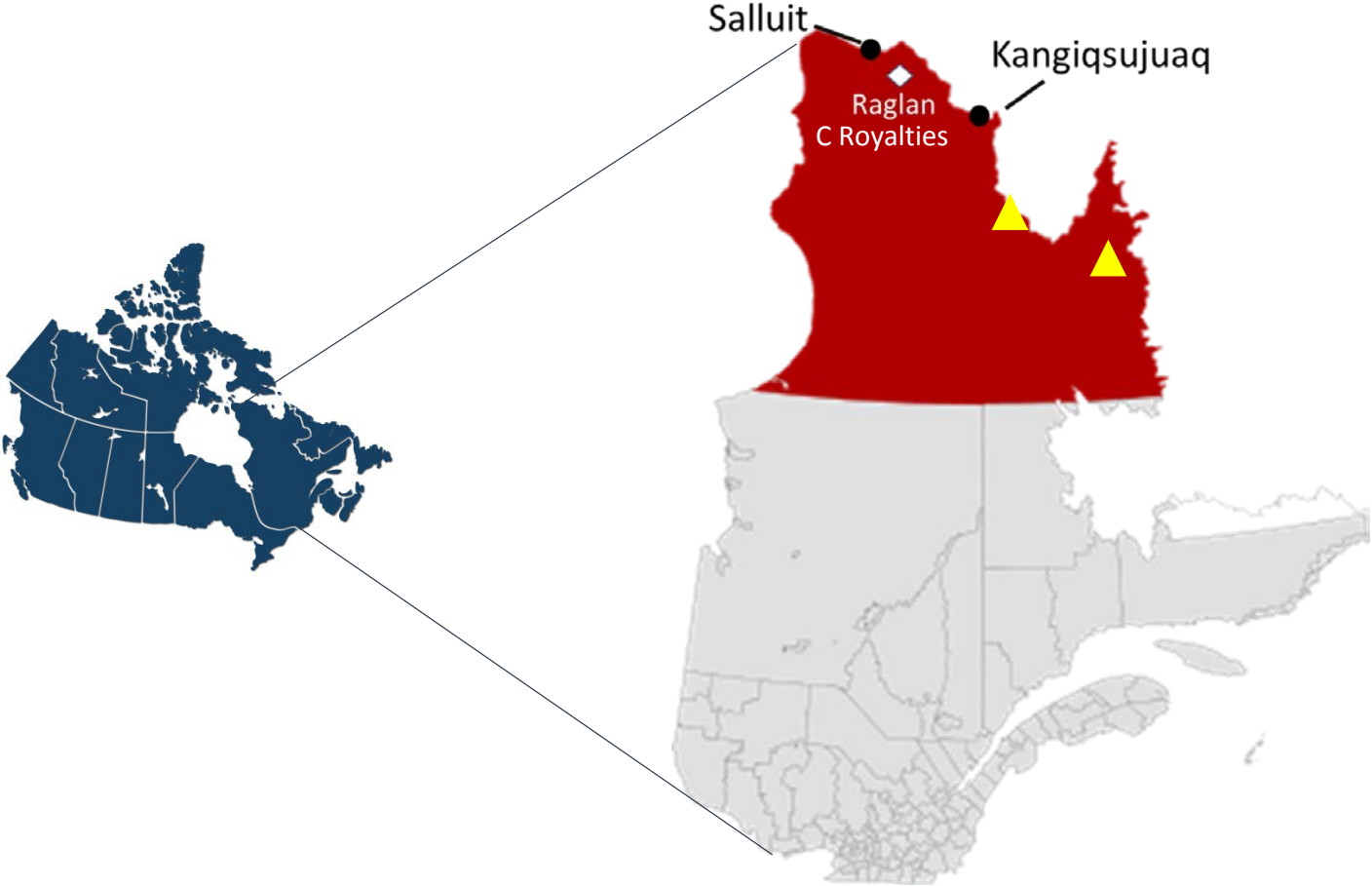
ICASS IX Conference June 8th-12th 2017

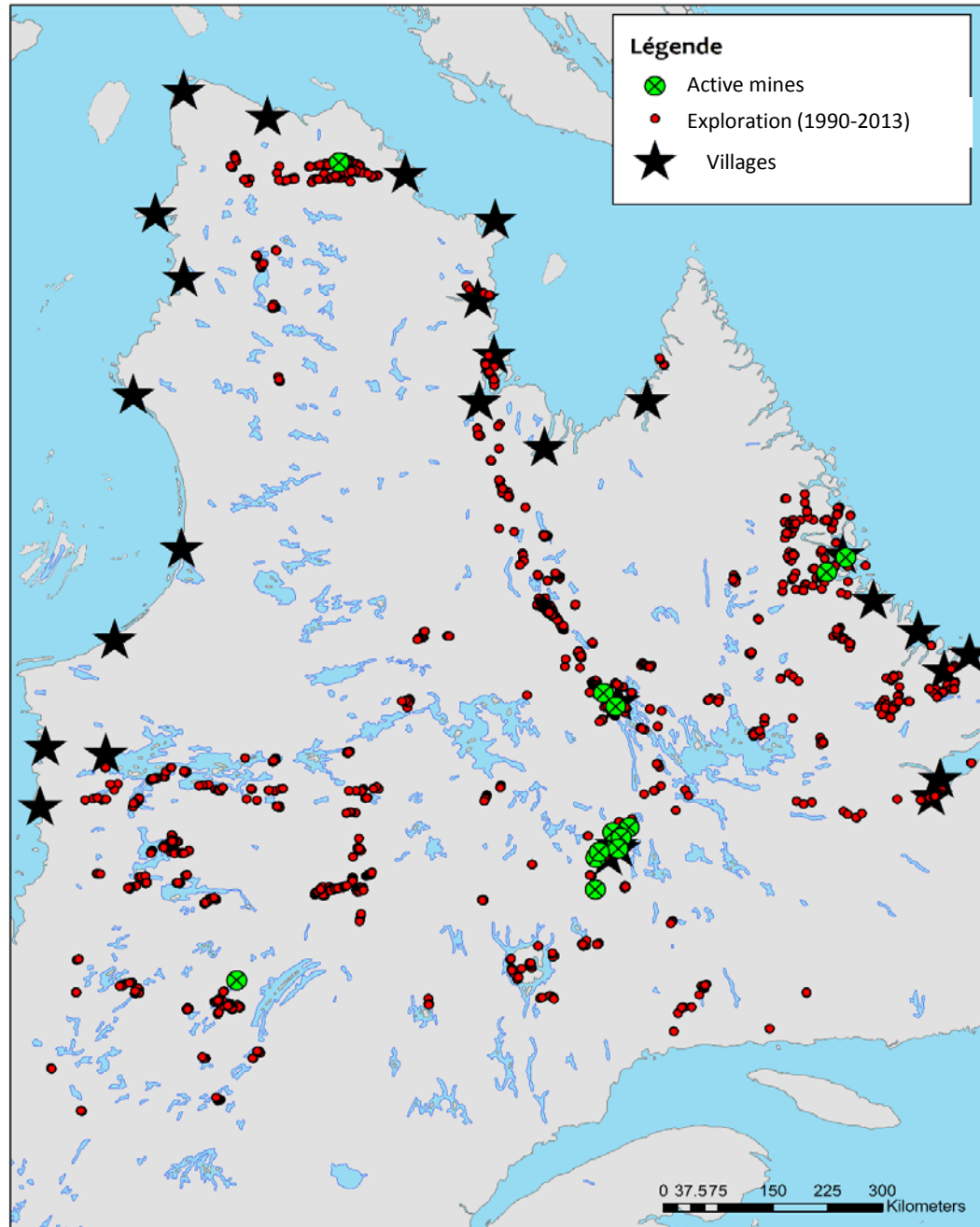
Umeå, Sweden



Knowledge Network on Mining Encounters  
and Indigenous Sustainable Livelihoods

# CONTEXT





S. Plante, unpublished data

# The « Plan Nord », a sustainable development plan ...?



Promote and capitalize on mining development  
Economic opportunities and social impacts

**Examine the relationships between mining and land-based (subsistence) practices**

Semi-directed interviews with community members and representatives (8 in Salluit and 13 in Kangiqsujuaq)

## SUBSISTENCE ECONOMY AND THE MIXED ECONOMY

*Subsistence is a highly complex notion that includes vital **economics, social, cultural and spiritual dimensions**. The harvesting of renewable resources provide Inuit with food, nutrition, clothing, fuel, harvesting equipment and income. **Subsistence means much more than mere survival or minimum living standards**. It is a way of life that requires special skills, knowledge and resourcefulness. **It enriches and sustains Inuit communities in a manner that promotes cohesiveness, pride and sharing.** (Inuit Circumpolar Conference, 1992)*



# SUBSISTENCE ECONOMY AND THE MIXED ECONOMY

## Subsistence is an economic system

In Nunavik, results from a recent study (Rodon et al, unpublished data) on land-based economy showed that the financial value of harvest products was between 10 000\$ and 15 000\$/year by household



# RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

## 1. Mining economy provides financial support to harvesting activities

*Once the rotation is off then when they go to their home then they go hunting. They're still able to provide cause they're making an income and then with that income once they're back home they're able to go buy a ATV, buy a snowmobile, buy a canoe or a boat ... hunting so. Michael Cameron, Salluit*



Photo: Thierry Rodon





## Many obstacles prevent Nunavimmiut from fully benefiting from economic opportunities

- Low Inuit employment rate
- Economic leakage

➡ Increase training and recruitment opportunities for Inuit employees  
Tamatumani program

➡ Promote and support local and social entrepreneurship



Glencore

## 2. Mining can impact social and subsistence networks

*It [the mine] has really helped the community, the people, but the way of life, it has changed. Qiallak Qumaaluk, Kangiqsujuaq*

Indigenous economies rely on a complex social organisation that tie families and generations together in a wide social network.

➔ fly-in fly out schedules



## Country food is increasingly being sold in the communities

*They started to selling the food.[...] Even the caribou, caribou meat, 20\$ Ziploc. Beluga meat, 20\$ Ziploc, the dry meat. They're selling food! That, it was not our culture. Qiallak Qumaaluk, Kangiqsujuaq*

*It's not traditional, did not happen 10 years ago. Today, meat is being sold, some people want to buy. More people want to buy. Jaani Arnaituq, Kangiqsujuaq*

*Inuit people who are working up there [at the mine], they just look at geese, they just watch caribou, they just see ptarmigan, they're not allowed to kill them while working there. It's not easy looking at your own food and not eating it! Molly Tayara, Salluit*

- Implement mitigation measures to alleviate the impacts of FIFO: family support programs, flexible schedules etc.

### 3. Mining can alter resource base

*We are concerned for the animals [...] Are they gonna be endangered where we can't harvest them for our families? [This would lead to] lots more store bought food and with the price of food in the stores they'll be a lot more people that are in poverty and hungry. Michael Cameron, Salluit*

*Yeah., the fishing over there in Deception Bay is very bad now, it's contaminated from the dust from the trucks coming through the lake area. I don't need that, I don't need that stuff anymore, I don't need that fish.*

*They pushed us...don't come here. That's where we used to go fishing and they're blasting explosives in that lake and those fish are great and now popping up you know?  
Adamie Alaku, Kangiqsujaq*

- Ungoing communication with the communities
- **Implement an ungoing and transparent monitoring program**

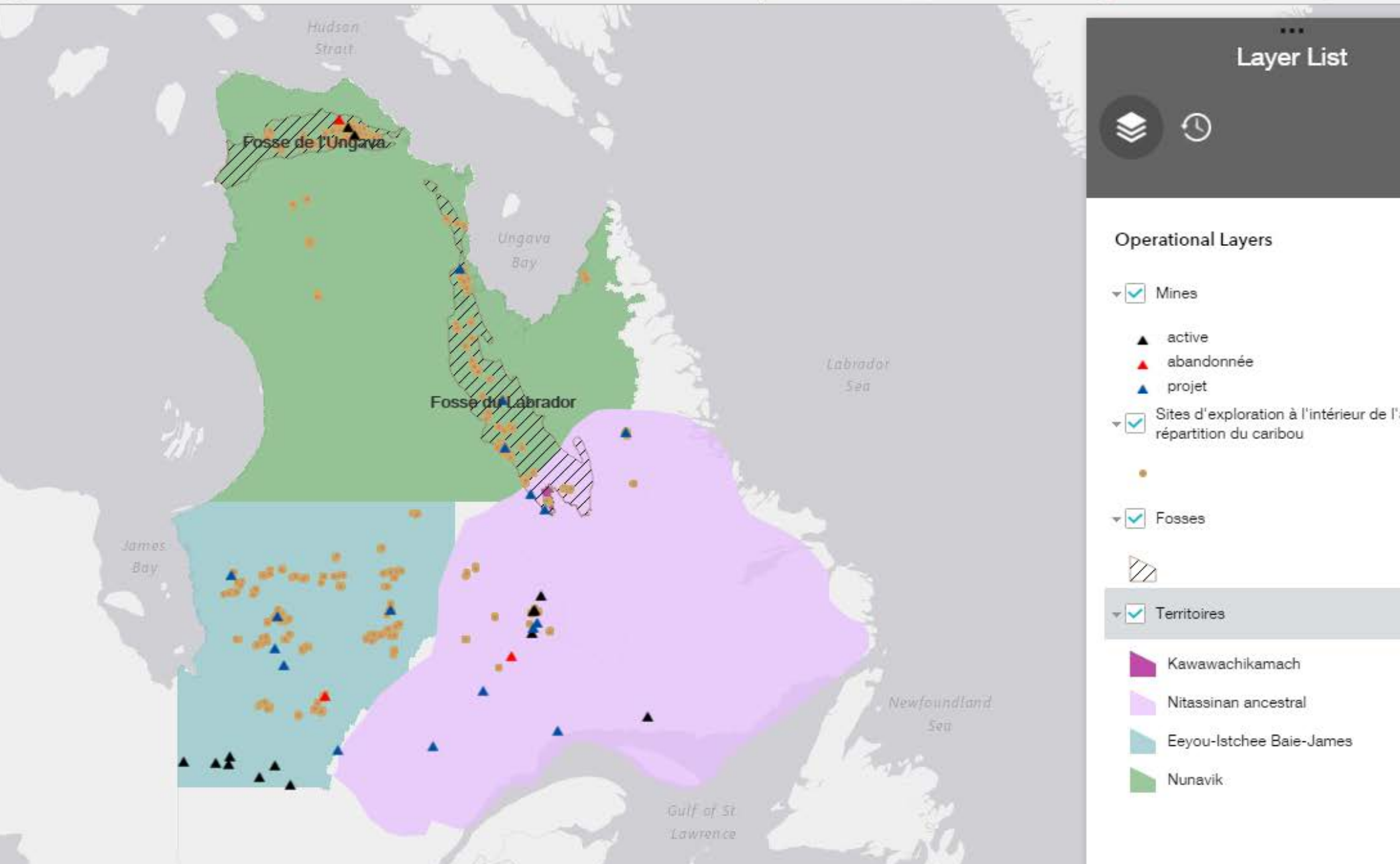
## CONCLUSION

*I think, you know, one day the mine is going to close, and then what is going to be left for the people? Yaaka Yaaka, Kangiqsujuaq*



# KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION

Interactive map + podcast





**TACK!**

Nakurmik to the communities and research participants that made this research possible  
We wish to acknowledge the support from the FRQNT and ARCTICenter