



Knowledge Network on Mining Encounters
and Indigenous Sustainable Livelihoods

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WELCOME!

Tungasugisi – Watchya – Kwei – Buoris – Bienvenue

Dear MinErAL members,
Welcome to the very first issue of the network's Newsletter! A lot has happened since we were awarded the funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada last September. Regional teams met and discussed their research objectives, new partners got involved, steering committees were established and collaborative work is now underway! MinErAL director, Thierry Rodon, kept busy while attending several national and international events and meetings with network members at the Inuit Studies

Conference at Memorial University, at the UArctic Congress in St-Petersburg and at the ReSDA workshop in Ottawa, to name a few. We are now preparing for our common session and panel at ICASS IX, where the first international meeting of the network will also happen.

We hope that you'll enjoy this first issue and look forward to work together!

Photo: Thierry Rodon

WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear MinErAL Researchers, Partners and Students

As you will see in this newsletter, these have been a busy few months to get MinErAL off the ground. This is not surprising with such an ambitious project that strives to establish a comparative and multidisciplinary research agenda. We will, however, be able to start some subprojects soon, first the gap analysis but also some international projects. We have also been busy preparing the Umeå meeting where many of you will be present. I'm also very glad that we have been able to develop a partnership agreement with REXSAC and I have to thank Peter Sköld for contacting the REXSAC researchers and preparing this partnership. Finally, as some of you know, I will be in sabbatical in 2017-18. It will give me chance to travel to

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most of the research sites and hopefully strengthen the links between the MinErAL teams. I'm looking forward to working with you in the next 6 years!

Thierry Rodon
MinErAL Director



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OUR IDENTITY

OUR LOGO !

Well let's admit it, designing a logo is no easy task! We wanted the image to embody the diversity of our team and the solidity of our partnership, while of course illustrating our research focus. The other stones arranged into an "M" are a reference to Inuit art, while also representing the strength of team work. Their color is a reminder of the copper deposits that are being mined in Nunavik, an Inuit region of Canada. The multicolor banner illustrates the partnership, in which people from multiple horizons and backgrounds are working together to create new action-oriented knowledge. The pattern can also remind us of Australian aboriginal art, and perhaps of the Eastern Woodlands tribes' wampum, the latter symbolizing new alliances and friendships. To sum up, we tried to create a logo that was meaningful, respectful and inclusive. We hope you like it! (We thank Céline Létourneau and Geneviève Halle for the conception of the logo).

WHAT DOES MINERAL STAND FOR?

Many have asked this question. The acronym was constructed with the letters from the full name of the project, which is the Knowledge Network on **M**ining **E**ncounters **a**nd **I**ndigenous **S**ustainable **L**ivelihoods. We hear you, it might be a bit far-fetched...but how easy to remember!

WHAT ARE SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS?

As the Sustainable Livelihoods concept is key in this project, it might be worth exploring its meaning. A livelihood relates to the assets, capabilities and activities needed for securing the necessities of living, which can include for example income, food security and access to the land and traditional activities. A livelihood is considered sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stress and shock, and maintain or better itself now and for future generations (Chambers & Conway 1991).

The Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA) is centered on people and focuses on capabilities and strengths of individuals, families and communities. It is thus a positive approach that allows the identification of priorities for actions, based on the needs and views of those concerned. In other words, it is a bottom-up approach that is flexible enough to encompass the distinct and interrelated historical, socio-cultural, spiritual and political dimensions that tie indigenous peoples to their lands and that are crucial to their identity and well-being (Horsley 2015). MinErAL will thus draw on SLA to produce new knowledge on the consequences of mining activities on indigenous livelihoods, identify best practices and share information and experiences between network members. However, we are not limited to this approach, and MinErAL team should explore alternative frameworks.

References: **Chambers, R., & Conway, G.**, 1991. Sustainable Rural Livelihoods: Practical Concepts for the 21st Century; **Horsley et al.**, 2015. Sustainable livelihoods and indicators for regional development in mining economies. *The Extractive Industries and Society*, Vol 2 pp. 368-380.

KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION

A report on the Social License to operate by Zahara, Keeling and Bell has been released this fall and provides general background to key issues related to SLO in the particular context of extractive industries in Canada. Zahara, Keeling & Bell 2016. *Social Licence to Operate: Background and State of Knowledge Report*. Department of Geography, Memorial University

This report was prepared for the **Memorial University Dialogue on SLO** public event that took place in St Johns in October 2016 and that brought together several researchers and Inuit partners of MinErAL.

Thierry Rodon presented the MinErAL network at several gatherings, including the **ReSDA workshop** held in Ottawa in October 2016. Along with MinErAL partner Jean-Marc Séguin (Makivik Corporation) and Isabel Lemus-Lauzon (Northern Sustainable Development Research Chair), he also presented on the **mining revenues distribution modes** and their economic and social impacts on indigenous communities.

T. Rodon also attended the **UArctic 2016 Congress** in St Petersburg where he co-organized a session on extractive industries with two other networks: ReSDA, directed by Chris Southcott and ArcticFROST directed by Andrey Petrov.

NETWORK GOVERNANCE

The four regional hubs of MinErAL all met in the fall to discuss their research agenda and priorities, and to select representatives to sit on the regional and international committees. These committees will work together to ensure an effective and transparent governance of the network over the next 6 years.

A scientific advisory committee will also assure the scientific supervision of the network, and will be made of the Principal Investigators of 5 networks on extractive industries: ReSDA, ArcticFrost, MinErAL, REXSAC and UArctic Extractive Industry Thematic Network. This will allow a synergy between the existent networks and foster collaboration between the different research efforts.

REGIONAL COMMITTEES

NAMES IN WHITE ARE ALSO PART OF THE INTERNATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE



CANADIAN COMMITTEE

Thierry Rodon (U. Laval)
Rosa Galvez (U. Laval)
Jean-Marc Séguin (Makivik Corp.)
Jean-Sébastien Boutet (Nunatsiavut Gov.)
Christopher Fletcher (U. Laval)
Jean-Jacques Morrisset (Salluit Landholding Corporation)
Stéphane Cossette (MDDELCC)
Doug Olthuis (United Steel Workers)
Julie Fortin (PhD student, U. Laval)



NORDIC COUNTRIES COMMITTEE

Thierry Rodon (U. Laval)
REXSAC representatives
Peter Sköld (Umeå U.)

MELANESIAN COMMITTEE

Thierry Rodon (U. Laval)
Leah Horowitz (U of Wisconsin-Madison)
France Bailly (CRNT Nickel et son environnement)
Christine Demmer (CNRS)
Séverine Bouard (IAC)
Pierre-Yves Lemeur (IRD)



AUSTRALIAN COMMITTEE

Thierry Rodon (U. Laval)
Allan Dale (RDA FNQTS)
Sharon Harwood / Dean Carson (James Cook U.)
Jeanie Govan (PhD student, Charles Darwin U.)



NEW PARTNERS JOIN MINERAL



We are very pleased to announce that the REXSAC network (Resource Extraction and Sustainable Arctic Communities) decided to join forces with MinErAL. REXSAC (www.rexsac.org) brings together 30 researchers based in Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Greenland, Iceland, Finland and Canada, who are looking at the extractive industry in the Arctic as a cultural, social, economic, and ecological phenomena. Collaboration between MinErAL and REXSAC will focus on the mobility of students and postdocs who wish to do comparative studies.

We are also welcoming the "Commission régionale "Femmes" de la Côte-Nord » (Quebec North Shore Women Regional Association) who joined the network as a partner, and who will certainly bring a very valuable input regarding mining and gender issues in north-eastern Quebec and Nitassinan territory. More collaborations are being discussed, namely with Russian researchers.

MEET THE COORDINATION TEAM



THIERRY RODON, NETWORK DIRECTOR

Thierry Rodon is an associate professor in the Political Science Department at Université Laval and chairholder of the Northern Sustainable Development Research Chair. He is also the Director of the Interuniversity Centre for Aboriginal Studies and Research (CIÉRA) and the journal *Études Inuit Studies*. He specializes in northern politics and community development and has extensive experience working with Aboriginal communities and northern institutions on a broad range of issues, including the social and economic impacts of development projects, renewable resource management, adapting to climate change, access to higher education in the Arctic, policy development and evaluation, as well as community participation in environmental impact assessments.



AUDE THERRIEN, COORDINATOR

Aude Therrien holds a master in political science from Université Laval. Her masters dealt with the social politics in Nunavik. She is interested in aboriginal and northern policies and in the participation of aboriginal communities in public management. She has worked for the Quebec housing corporation where she was involved in the evaluation of the social housing programs in Nunavik.



ISABEL LEMUS-LAUZON, COORDINATOR

Isabel Lemus-Lauzon holds a PhD in geography from Université Laval and currently works as a research coordinator at the Northern Sustainable Development Research Chair. Isabel is particularly interested in the interactions of northern residents with their environment, the cumulated impacts of development, environmental and social change and in the development of collaborative research with indigenous communities.

COMING SOON

SAVE THE DATE: ICASS IX IN UMEA

As you all know, the ICASS IX meeting will take place June 8-12 2017 in Umea, Sweden. MinErAL will host a session titled Mining Industries and Indigenous sustainable livelihoods: Cross-perspectives from the Arctic and Melanesia/Australia. The network will also participate to the joint plenary panel "What do we need to know about the impacts of extractive industries on Arctic communities"?

PROJECT FUNDING

We thank the several teams that submitted projects proposals and we will soon inform you about the outcomes. We look forward to promising innovative and collaborative research!

A FREE ACCESS ONLINE COURSE ON NORTHERN QUÉBEC

The Northern Sustainable Development Research Chair is launching a MOOC, Massive Online Open Course, on Northern Québec. This course offers an introduction to social and political issues of northern Quebec, while 2 modules specifically focus on mining development.

We invite our Canadian and international colleagues to take advantage of this great opportunity to learn more about northern Quebec peoples and realities!

The course will be available between:

February 13th - April 10th 2017 in French

April 24th - June 17th 2017 in English

You can register at: <https://www.ulaval.ca/les-etudes/mooc-formation-en-ligne-ouverte-a-tous/le-quebec-nordique-enjeux-espaces-et-cultures.html>



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