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CHAIRE DE RECHERCHE SUR LE
DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE DU NORD

NORTHERN SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CHAIR

Measuring Well-Being in the context of Land Claims Agreements

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OBJECTIVES

- Part of a LCAC Research project: Modern Treaties Implementation, Strengthening Our Shared Future, Stephanie Irbalcher-Fox, PI
- Theme 5: Development of tools to measure the impact of treaty implementation on Indigenous well-being trying to assess if modern treaties make a difference in the lives of collectives and individual Indigenous peoples?

LAND CLAIMS **AGREEMENTS COALITION**

Council of Yukon First Nations
Grand Council of the Crees
Gwich'in Tribal Council
Inuvialuit Regional Corp
Kwanlin Dun First Nation
Maa-nulth First Nations
Makivik Corporation
Naskapi Nation
Nisga'a Nation
Nunavut Tunngavik Inc
Tla'amin Nation
The Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated
Tlicho Government
Tsawwassen First Nation
Vuntut Gwitchin

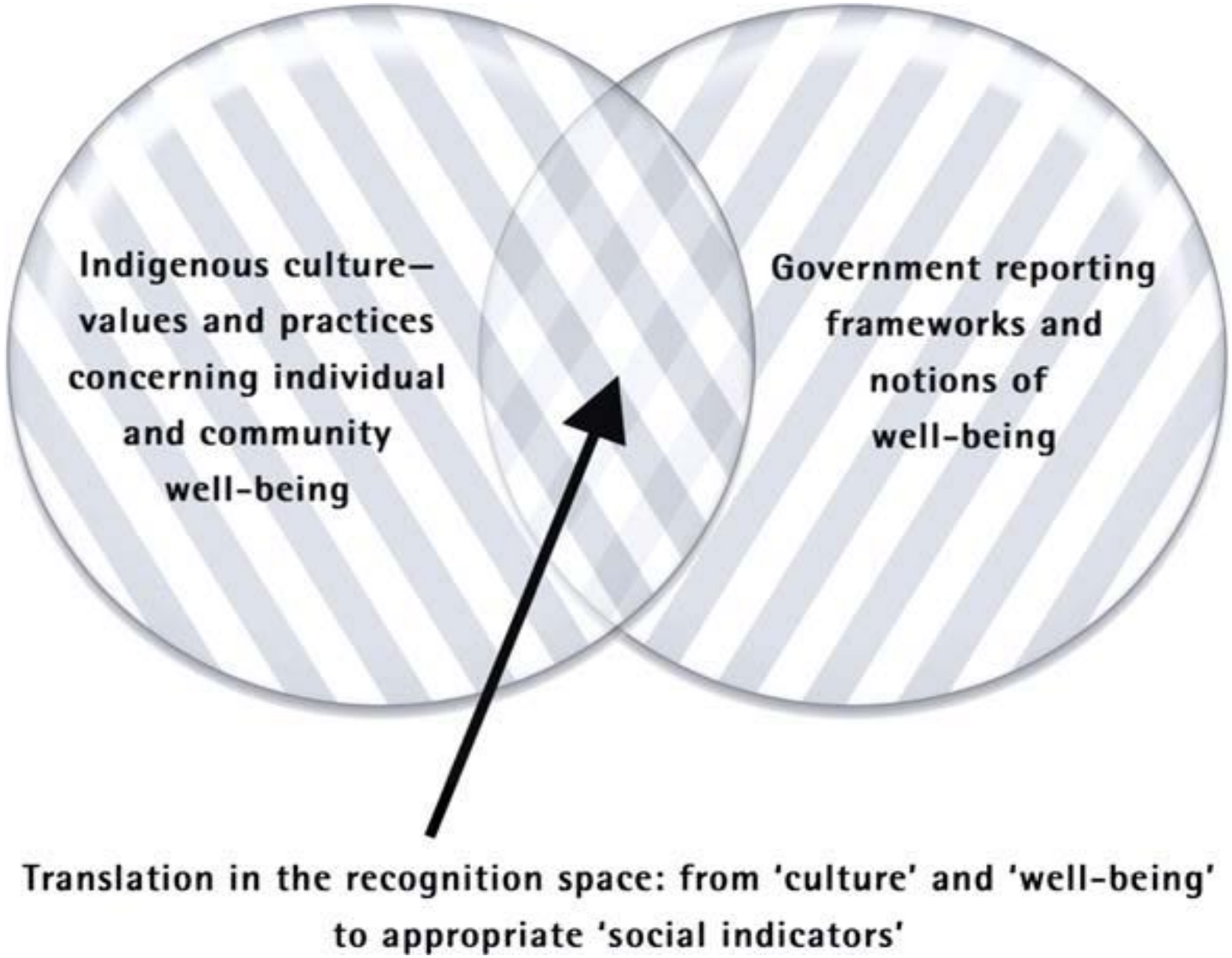
c/o NVision Insight Group Inc., 488 Gladstone Ave., Ottawa, ON, K1R 3N8
Tel: (613) 237-3613 Fax: (613) 237-3845 www.landclaimscoalition.ca

Questions

- Do modern treaties make a difference in the lives of collectives and individual Indigenous peoples?
- What are measures of this success?
  - How do we gather Indigenous perspectives and use Indigenous indices to answer this?
  - Are there qualitative and quantitative approaches that can be brought to bear or developed?
- Can we expect the treaty effect (regaining some fate control?) to offset the long-term negative impacts of colonization (loss of fate control)? Issues of collective vs individual fate control
- Can we control for other impacts (government policies, globalization process, fiscal limitations, climate change etc…)

What to measure?

- Quantitative vs qualitative measures
- Objective vs subjective measures
- Differing views of well-being
  - Between individuals
  - Between Indigenous views and Western views



Translation in the recognition space: from 'culture' and 'well-being' to appropriate 'social indicators'

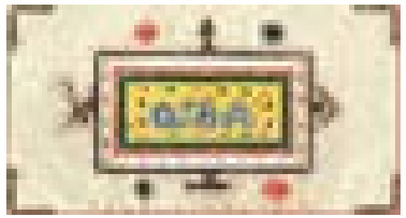
Source: Taylor, J. (2008). Indigenous Peoples and Indicators of Well-being: Australian Perspectives on United Nations Global Frameworks. *Social Indicators Research*, *87*(1), 111-126.

Defining Indigenous Well-Being (research perspectives)

- Participation in traditional activities (Land-based activities, cultural events, food sharing (Richmond, 2009)
- Quality of life; ‘good life’, Healthy land = healthy being (Parlee and Furgal, 2012)
- Speaking one’s language, having social support (Kral et al., 2011)
- Acknowledging complex relationship between social, spiritual, economic, political and culture determinants (Kwiatkowski, 2009)
- Buen Vivir: harmonious collective development that conceives of the individual within the context of the social and cultural communities and his or her natural environment.

Community based indicators

- **Participatory approach (inclusive) :** Focus groups to discuss about the values and concern of the community, to let themselves create their own indicators (Klinck, & al., 2015; QIA, 2016).
- **Non-participatory approach, but inclusive :** Through interviews, members of a community are questioned about their values and concerns. Indicators are determined with their answer (Hammell, 2013)
- Allows to capture Indigenous perspective but are specific to a community concerns so difficult to compare but allow to evaluate change in a specific context over a long period of time (baseline)

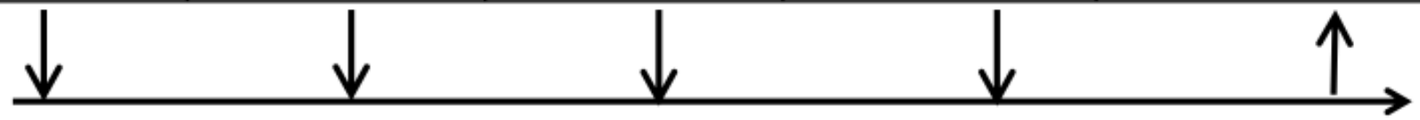


Naskapi Study on Well-Being (Kinck et al. 2015)

- Research steering committee
- community values and concerns were identified and documented by focus groups
- Using these indicators, a survey was conduced
- Allows for a baseline

Culture

Values	Hopes	Concerns	Indicator	Survey Question
The love and use of Caribou	One week to go Caribou hunting	Too expensive to reach and hunt Caribou	Adult participation in hunting and fishing	During the past 12 months, how many adults from this household participated in hunting or fishing?
Fishing and ice fishing together	Sharing game and traditional foods	Change in diet, fewer traditional foods	Frequency of eating traditional foods	During the last week, how many meals did members of your household consume traditional foods?
See our children learn and practice traditional activities	Promotion of traditional activities	Influx of money affecting culture	Youth participation in traditional activities	During the past 12 months, how many youth from this household participated in traditional activities?



National and international quantitative indicators

- Socioeconomic approach : Based on national and international databases about social; health; economic (HDI, UNPD, etc.) (Petrov & al., 2013)
- Data collected: survey; scale with ordinal measure; (short questions; answered with a database or distributed in a large sample)
- Existing data source: Inuvialuit Regional Corporation's Arctic Social Indicators Project (Southcott, 2011), Community well-being index (AANDC, 2016)
- Allow for comparison between IP and non-IP at the national level, or between IP at the national international level but lacks indigenous perspective

Community Well-Being Index

UNPFII

Income

Housing

Average CWB scores for First Nations, Inuit and non-Aboriginal communities increased slowly but steadily between 1981 and 2011.

Developing common indicators for Indigenous People

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)

UNPFII : Identity, Land, and Ways of Living

- The number of language speakers, children learning language, language transmission programs, language in state documents and media;
- Size of the Indigenous estate, participation in subsistence activities, economic value of subsistence;
- Existence of programs to reduce violence against women and families, measures of the quality of health care access;
- Measures of biodiversity

  number of endangered species linked to subsistence and cultural practice, climate change data and impacts, employment in ecosystem management, regulations protecting ecosystems, no. of environmental protection violations, levels of toxic contamination, and the existence and nature of legal frameworks for veto over land use;
- Proportion of population in urban areas and rate of urban migration.

UNFPII: Indigenous Rights to and Perspectives on Development

- Recognition of Indigenous governance and laws, support for Indigenous capacity building, leadership, policy and program development, number of Indigenous people engaged in government programs;
- Recognition of Indigenous rights in State laws, no. and effectiveness of consultations implementing free, prior and informed consent, percent of Indigenous peoples in public service, state elections, and parliaments, accountability of governments in meeting legal obligations and responsibilities, number of Indigenous rights complaints filed;
- Number and content of nation to nation agreements between governments and Indigenous peoples;
- Government expenditures relative to Indigenous need, existence of targeted budgetary, legal and policy measure to address discrimination.

Source United Nations (UN) (2006). Report of the meeting on Indigenous peoples and indicators of well-being. New York: United Nations Economic and Social Council, E/C.19/2006/CRP.3.

Conclusion

- Community based indicators are best for baseline purpose allowing comparison over time but not for comparison over space
- Quantitative socioeconomic indicators don’t capture indigenous views of well-being
- Importance of developing indicators that allow both a comparison with the general population but also between different Indigenous groups/communities
- Need to develop specific indicators related to land claims agreements
- Need to control for factors outside land claims (global economic conditions, climate change etc.)

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