

## Building Northern Capacity through Entrepreneurship



International Centre for Northern  
Governance and Development



EDWARDS  
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS  
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

## BNCE Research Update: Community Visits and Data Analysis

The Building Northern Capacity through Entrepreneurship (BNCE) team worked hard in late 2015 and early 2016 to connect and work with seven communities in Northern Saskatchewan.

It has been an exciting time for our researchers to visit communities and hear their opinions on concepts like prosperity, entrepreneurship, and what constitutes the good life. Through research methods like focus groups and interviews, as well as visual methods like Photovoice and OurVoice, we've collected information that helps us understand the Northern economy. This data

can also be used by communities to shape future action plans for their development.

The BNCE team has now conducted workshops in the following communities:

*Pinehouse* – April, 2015

*Ile-a-la-Crosse* – September, 2015

*La Ronge* – November, 2015

*Lac La Ronge Indian Band* –  
November, 2015

*Stanley Mission* – November, 2015

*Hatchet Lake* – January, 2016

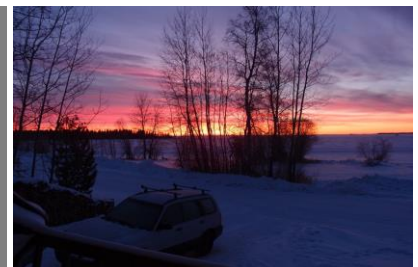
*Cumberland House* – March, 2016

Participants have given us a vivid picture of life in their individual communities.

Our team has been warmly received across the North, and we're grateful for the hospitality, openness, and cooperation of everyone who has participated.

Since completing our last community visit, we've added new team members who have started the process of analyzing all of the information we've collected. We're pleased not only to be gaining insights into the rich culture and economy of these communities, but to soon have data to share with everyone who has worked with us during this project.

Visit our website at <http://northerncapacity.com/> to see our past newsletters and to get the most up-to-date information on our project. Please also connect with us on Facebook at [BNCEproject](#) and on Twitter at [@BNCEproject](#). You can also email us at [northern.research@usask.ca](mailto:northern.research@usask.ca).





Members of the research team analyzed themes that emerged from community discussions

## Research Team Summer Activity Highlights

During the summer of 2016, the BNCE team has focused on analyzing the data we've collected during visits to the seven participant Northern communities. After conducting focus groups, interviews, and other discussions, the next step was to look closely at the transcripts and notes, and identify over-arching themes that came up. Though each community is unique and has its own concerns, many common ideas were expressed as well.

Across the North, our researchers heard about the integral relationships people have with the land. Many participants said the best thing about living in their communities is the ability it gives them to hunt, fish, trap, enjoy outdoor sports and activities, and to enjoy beautiful scenery in their daily lives. People in each community also expressed a desire for economic development in their communities, but in a way that respects and preserves traditional ways of life.

These are only a few of the many themes that have emerged from our data so far. Over the coming months, we will continue to explore the data, share it with communities across the North, and check in with our participants to add more to what we already know.

### What's coming up?

- Future newsletter editions will feature details about community visits.
- In the fall of 2016, the BNCE team will release community-specific reports that outline the preliminary findings of the study.
- The youth videos from each community will be posted on our website.
- BNCE researchers will return to participant communities to verify and add to the data we've collected so far.

## Congress, 2016



In June, 2016, members of the BNCE team attended Congress – a national academic conference held in Calgary. Team members like Dazawray and Joelena (above) gave presentations that explained the BNCE project to researchers from across the country.

## BNCE Project: Important stats and definitions

**Communities visited:** 7

**Research Participants:**

- More than 350
  - ~200 high school students
  - ~150 community members
  - 24 participated in PhotoVoice

**Photovoice:** a research method wherein participants take photographs that capture their perspectives, and talk about them with researchers.

**OurVoice:** a research method where participants interview each other about their perspectives on camera.