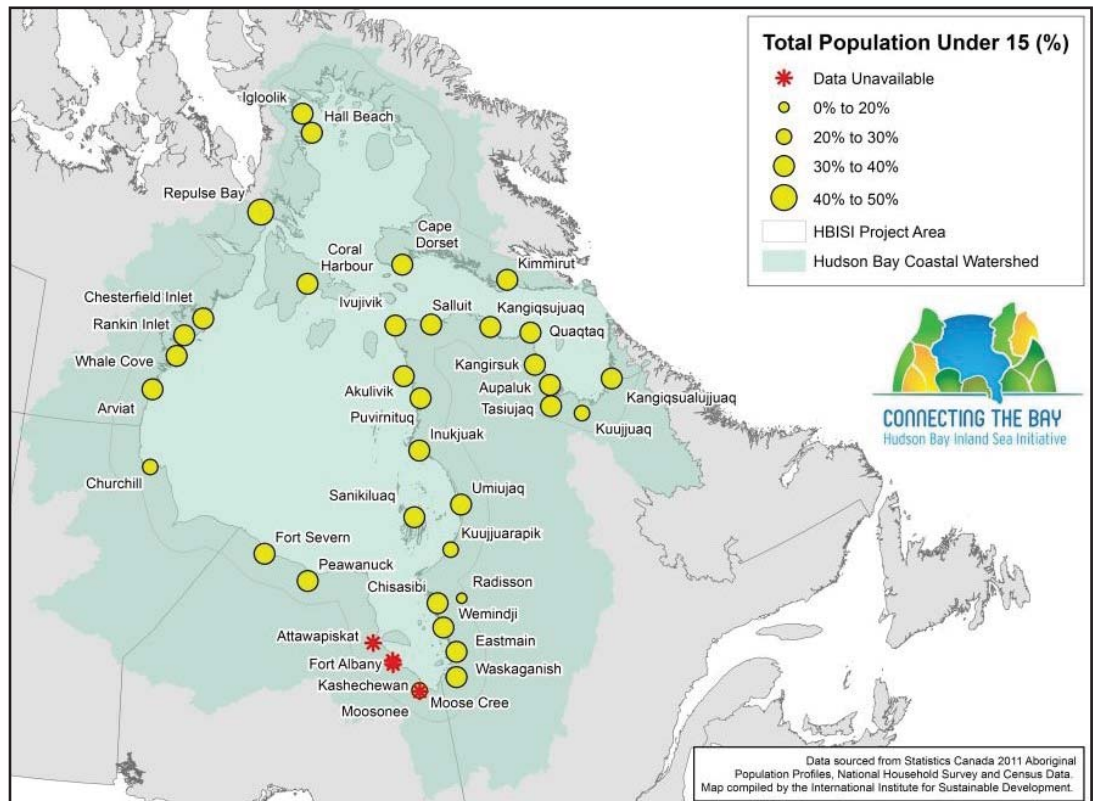


# HUDSON BAY CONSORTIUM



*Planning for the future of environmental stewardship, sustainable development and inter-jurisdictional governance connecting the greater Hudson Bay ecosystem.*

SPRING 2015

PLANNING MEETING REPORT

Report and follow-up from the Hudson Bay Consortium Planning Meeting held December 9, 2014 in Ottawa, ON.



## BACKGROUND

A first meeting to establish and promote the concept of a Hudson Bay Consortium was held in Ottawa on December 9, 2014 towards planning for the future of environmental stewardship, sustainable development and inter-jurisdictional governance connecting the Greater Hudson Bay ecosystem.

100+ participants registered for the meeting representing a broad range of stakeholder groups including communities, Aboriginal organizations, various levels of government, industry, research, non-profit and other non-government organizations – clearly demonstrating broad interest in working together across the Hudson Bay Region.

Background documents were distributed to participants in advance of the meeting outlining the history of efforts towards collaboration and stewardship for Hudson Bay, existing precedents towards establishing a coordinating mechanism for Hudson Bay and a formal analysis and report on stewardship gaps and governance options for the region conducted by the International Institute for Sustainable Development. Presentations outlining this information were made by the four meeting co-chairs and the remainder of the meeting consisted of an active discussion on concerns, priorities, and next steps moving forward.

A detailed outline of discussion and outcomes is provided in this report. Participating stakeholder groups clearly indicated that a Hudson Bay Consortium is needed and that they wished this initiative to move for-

ward. A mandate of networked governance and coordinating communications, research and advocacy for the region were clear priorities for a Consortium. Challenges were identified and discussed with participants agreeing that a Consortium would play an important role in active planning and stewardship across jurisdictional boundaries.

It was agreed that a Steering Committee be established with broad representation from stakeholders across the region and that funding be identified for a Secretariat to coordinate meetings, planning and implementing the consortium. A number of participants volunteered to join the Steering committee and/or contribute resources, while others committed to approaching their respective organizations about their ability to provide representation on the Steering Committee and/or contribute funding during the start-up phase of the Secretariat and Consortium.

The goal of this report is to provide a detailed synopsis of the meeting discussion and outcomes, and to follow-up from the Consortium Planning Meeting to finalize commitments to the Steering Committee, funding and other forms of participation. Our objective is to form the Steering Committee during Summer 2015 and begin planning for meetings in Fall 2015.

The Hudson Bay Consortium Planning Meeting was co-organized by the Arctic Eider Society, Hudson Bay Inland Sea Initiative, and the Hudson Bay Inter-Agency Working Group (NTK) with funding to the Arctic Eider Society by donors, Tides Canada and the Walter Duncan and Gordon Foundation.



# HUDSON BAY CONSORTIUM

## PLANNING MEETING REPORT

### Meeting Objectives

The aim of this planning meeting was to gather interested individuals, organizations and stakeholders together to plan for the future of environmental stewardship, sustainable development, and inter-jurisdictional governance connecting the greater Hudson Bay ecosystem.

...the governance of the Hudson Bay as a separate, integral biosphere has yet to be effectively addressed and today, appears nowhere on the national agenda.

L.Benoit "On Thin Ice" 2011, IISD

### Necessity of a Consortium

Stewardship and integrated management in Hudson Bay has been drifting due in part to inter-jurisdictional challenges of research, governance and assessing cumulative impacts of development projects that cross jurisdictional boundaries in the greater Hudson Bay region. Despite being critical habitat for coastal Aboriginal communities and wildlife, and having huge importance for economic development, Hudson Bay remains one of the least funded and understudied regions of Canada and one of the few still lacking an integrated governance structure.

The necessity of forming an inter-jurisdictional consortium for coordinating advocacy, research and environmental governance in Hudson Bay has arisen many times but has yet to be addressed. Most recently, this was outlined by both Provincial and Federal review panels in Condition 8.1 of the Certificate of Authorization for the Rupert River Eastmain 1-A Hydroelectric project in northern Quebec. This Condition and series of Recommendations indicated that a consortium for Hudson Bay be formed based on a structure akin to the International Joint Commission (IJC); that primary responsibilities fall to the various government agencies involved (i.e., Federal, Québec, Ontario, Manitoba, and Nunavut, as well as Nunavik and the Eeyou Marine Region); that industry would be obliged to participate; and that

it would include significant participation by academic researchers and communities, with an emphasis on including Traditional Knowledge in the process. Several calls have also been made to implement the Oceans Act for the Hudson Bay region.

Concerns by local communities reflecting the necessity of forming a stewardship body for Hudson Bay have been extensively documented. Notably this includes *Voices from the Bay*<sup>1</sup>, a compilation of Inuit and Cree knowledge from communities across the greater Hudson Bay Region. Articles published in the primary literature have also documented concerns about drifting stewardship in the Hudson Bay region<sup>2</sup>. More recently, the International Institute for Sustainable Development has delivered detailed reports assessing the future of Hudson Bay<sup>3</sup>, and identifying stewardship gaps and governance options for the region<sup>4</sup>. Substantial efforts to date have clearly indicated the necessity of forming a Consortium for Hudson Bay and the intent of the Planning Meeting was to bring together stakeholders from the region to begin the process of planning for and implementing a Hudson Bay Consortium.

### Selected References

<sup>1</sup> McDonald, M., Arragutainaq, L., and Novalinga, Z. 1997. *Voices from the Bay: traditional ecological knowledge of Inuit and Cree in the Hudson Bay bioregion*. Canadian Arctic Resources Committee; Environmental Committee of Municipality of Sanikiluaq, Ottawa, ON. xiii + 98 p.

<sup>2</sup> Nunavuummi Tasiujarjuamiuguqatigiit Katutjiqatigiingit (NTK). 2008. *A life vest for Hudson Bay's Drifting Stewardship*. *Arctic*. Vol 61, Suppl.1 P.35-47

<sup>3</sup> Hamilton, AL. 2013. *The Hudson Bay Complex in Flux*. Report published by the International Institute for Sustainable Development. 38p.

<sup>4</sup> Benoit, L.E. 2013. *On Thin Ice: An Overview of the Governance of Hudson Bay*. Report published by the International Institute for Sustainable Development. 87p.



## Meeting Participants

Over 100 individuals registered for the Hudson Bay Consortium Planning Meeting, with approximately 70 people attending in person in Ottawa with additional individuals participating by teleconference and web-streaming of presentations. Representation by participants included:

### ***Inuit Organizations and Communities***

Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, Nunavut Impact Review Board, Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board and Planning Commission, Kivalliq Inuit Organization, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Makivik Corporation, KRG, as well as Chesterfield Inlet, Sanikiluaq, Whale Cove, Inukjuaq, Kujjuaraapik.

### ***Cree Organizations and Communities***

Eeyou Marine Region Planning Commission and Impact Review Board, Cree Nation Government, as well as Waskaganish, Chisasibi, and Whapmagoostui.

### ***University Students and Faculty***

McGill, Concordia, Carleton, Saskatchewan, Laval, Alberta, Queen's, Manitoba and Québec à Rimouski.

### ***Research Organizations***

TAKUVIK lab, Centre for Earth Observation Science (CEOS), Churchill Northern Studies Centre, Centre d'Études Nordiques, ArcticNet, Arctic Institute of North America (AINA).

### ***Federal Government Departments:***

Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Parks Canada, Environment Canada, Canadian High Arctic Research Station, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development.

### ***Provinces, Territories other Municipalities***

Manitoba, Nunavut, Churchill

### ***NGOs and Other Organizations***

Arctic Eider Society, Strata360, Tides Canada, Ocean Network Canada, IRBUkowsky Ltd., Mushkegowuk Environmental Research Centre, Boreal Canada, AMEC, Oceans North, Polar Bears International, Centre for International Sustainable Development Law, International Institute for Sustainable Development, CARC, South Consultants.

A full list of participants is available on the Hudson Bay Consortium website:

[www.hudsonbayconsortium.com](http://www.hudsonbayconsortium.com)

## Meeting Outcomes

### **BENEFITS OF A HUDSON BAY CONSORTIUM**

Several key benefits of a Consortium identified by meeting participants included:

- Improving communications
- Coordinating research, education & outreach
- Networking among Stakeholders
- Creating a long term vision for Hudson Bay
- Avoiding duplication of efforts
- Advocacy and working together to improve leverage by providing a voice for communities and issues
- Facilitating review of cumulative impacts and health of the greater Hudson Bay ecosystem
- Better environmental protection and stewardship

### **ROLES OF A HUDSON BAY CONSORTIUM**

There was productive discussion at the Planning Meeting about what roles and functions the Consortium would fulfill. This discussion will be ongoing as the Steering Committee forms and develops these details in future meetings. A structure that recognizes and promotes recognition of the greater Hudson Bay Ecosystem as a unique and important entity is necessary. A detailed outline of the concepts discussed at the meeting is provided in the attached appendix, which included the following main points:

- A Consortium could be designed to be mutually beneficial to the national and sub-national governments, as well as to communities. This would be primarily facilitated by networking, sharing of information and a central place for coordination and planning.
- There seemed to be a consensus among participants that a key and necessary role for the Consortium would be facilitating communication among stakeholders, communities, national and sub-national governments, and Canadians at large towards stewardship for Hudson Bay. The Consortium could provide a central place for data archiving and access, in conjunction with existing initiatives such as the Polar Data Catalogue and online data management and access infrastructure such as those being developed for east Hudson Bay by the Arctic Eider Society.
- Monitoring of research and/or a research protocol to address large scale cumulative impacts and to make sure that research is done consistently and properly and that



the information is shared. Can the Hudson Bay Consortium help bring together different research protocols and make them consistent?

- Is the Consortium an inter-jurisdictional body that the various regional regulatory bodies can deal with on a number of different issues?
- Coordinate with regional meetings to minimize travel to multiple meetings by stakeholders and facilitate interaction and communications among regional organizations. A larger Stakeholder Conference could also be held for the entire Hudson Bay Region on a periodic basis (e.g. every three years).
- There is an opportunity for a Consortium that has a broader policy role, in addition to an advisory one, and also provides advocacy.
- A Consortium could take an ecosystem approach and help to integrate local knowledge with science to inform decision-making, at the federal level on down.
- Coordinate the review and study of cumulative impacts among stakeholders, researchers, government and industry, plan for priority areas for future research and monitoring.

See the attached Appendix for a more detailed treatment of the discussion at the Hudson Bay Consortium Planning Meeting.

*There is stewardship and governance for almost every other major watershed across Canada. This is Canada's biggest watershed and there is still no structure in place. In order to address this, we need to build support, cross-regional funding and commitments from stakeholders towards forming a Consortium for the benefit of the greater Hudson Bay region.*

## Next Steps

### STEERING COMMITTEE

It was clear from our meeting that a planning phase with many stakeholders involved is necessary to move forward.

We asked that each participant consider if their organization could play a role on the Hudson Bay Consortium Steering Committee. This group would ideally be representative of the various stakeholders around the Hudson Bay Inland Sea. The Steering Committee would be responsible for:

- Guiding the direction the Consortium would take in terms of next steps and governance structure,
- Leveraging startup funding and ongoing fundraising,
- Drafting a statement of intent which can further be developed into a terms of reference
- Planning for future meetings
- Guiding communications, outreach and activities of the Secretariat

Since the planning meeting in December, several organizations have committed to providing representation on the Steering Committee. Additional commitments are anticipated following delivery of this report.

The Steering Committee will be formalized during Summer 2015 and we encourage interested organizations and individuals to contact us indicating your intent to participate on the Steering Committee by June 15, 2015.

## Next Steps (con't)

### SECRETARIAT

In order to coordinate the steering committee, provide administration and planning, a dedicated secretariat is required. Three initial positions have been proposed, including an Executive Director, Administrative Assistant and Communications Director.

The Arctic Eider Society (AES), a federally registered Canadian charity working in the Hudson Bay region has begun raising funding and developing communications infrastructure to facilitate the Consortium including the December 2014 planning meeting. The goals of a Consortium align with their existing registered charitable purposes providing the ability to accept and manage funding from grants and charitable sources for the Consortium. AES has committed to contribute to additional fundraising, communications and administration in partnership with stakeholder organizations to host the Secretariat until such a time as the Hudson Bay Consortium is founded as a separate institutional entity.

### FUNDING

Securing funding will be critical to establishing the Hudson Bay Consortium. During the initial phase, this will be necessary to cover costs of administration, communications, future meetings and secretariat staff. Funding commitments from governments in each jurisdiction will be necessary for the long term success of the Consortium and a precedent for governments to contribute to the Consortium exists through the Oceans Act and Federal and Provincial review panel recommendations and resulting Condition 8.1 of the Eastmain 1-A and Rupert Diversion project. In the short term, initial funding from charities, grants and foundations will be necessary to establish the secretariat, to kick start the Consortium and leverage additional commitments from government and regional stakeholders. All organizations, agencies and governments are asked to help solicit and/or contribute funding towards a Secretariat.

The idea of a “Champion” could also be a key to advancing funding and buy-in from government and the Canadian public.

## Additional Progress

Since the December 2014 meeting, the start-up planning committee has also been working to further raise

awareness about the Hudson Bay Consortium with key stakeholders. Presentations were made at the February *Symposium on Northern Development* in Quebec City and the April *Hudson Bay Neighbors Regional Round-table* meeting in Winnipeg. One-on-one meetings were also made to present the Hudson Bay Consortium to Senator Charlie Watt, Minister Leona Aglukkaq and Robert Sauvé of the Société du Plan Nord this winter. Additional follow-up is ongoing.

## Action Items

- **Establish Steering Committee Participation** - Please contact us by **June 15th 2015** to indicate your intention to join the Steering Committee.
- **Establish Funding Commitments** - Please present this report to your respective organizations to determine if you may be able to commit to soliciting or contributing funding towards a Secretariat during the start-up phase of the Consortium. Additional commitments of in-kind contributions to support Secretariat staff and Consortium activities are also appreciated.
- **Establish a Secretariat to Administer the Steering Committee, Plan Future Meetings and run the Consortium** - Once funding has been identified, a Secretariat will be formed to begin the start-up phase of the Consortium and coordinate activities of the Steering Committee.
- **Future Meetings** - Our goal is to hold a preliminary Steering Committee meeting by teleconference in September 2015 and follow-up with an in-person meeting during the ArcticNet conference in December 2015.

## Contact

To indicate your intention to join the Steering Committee, contribute funding for the Secretariat or for any questions, concerns or further details, please contact us at: [info@hudsonbayconsortium.com](mailto:info@hudsonbayconsortium.com)

Dr. Joel Heath  
2014-15 Canada Fulbright Chair in Arctic Studies  
Executive Director, Arctic Eider Society  
☎ 604-813-5635

Susan Woodley  
Government of Nunavut  
☎ 613-233-9890



## APPENDIX

### DETAILED SUMMARY OF PLANNING MEETING DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS

- What are the specific roles and functions for a Consortium that would improve things for the Bay?
- The Consortium would help recognize the Hudson Bay Complex as an entity. That might sound simplistic, but I don't think that it is.
- One of the important roles would be information exchange, so that everybody is working on the same page.
- Monitoring of research or a research protocol to make sure that research is coordinated and that information is shared and presented properly. How can the consortium help bring together different research protocols and make them consistent among the regions?
- Wouldn't it be productive to have the different impact review boards come together to coordinate the review of cumulative impacts? Developing protocol to share information.
- The Consortium could plan what that research and monitoring would be all about, research and monitoring related to cumulative impacts is directly tied to many other things including sustainable development and environmental stewardship.
- There is a need to connect James Bay with Hudson Bay and other regions including Foxe Basin, Hudson Strait and Ungava; Within James Bay this includes Eeyou Istchee, but also the Mushkegowuk on the western side to get a full James Bay picture. There is a lot of work to do here that the Consortium could facilitate.
- The Consortium could facilitate better environmental protection for the Greater Hudson Bay region.
- There are plans for development within the provinces, for very large developments in transportation, mining, deep water seaports; a large transformation of the Hudson Bay is happening now and will continue.
- The Consortium would provide a key role in assessing cumulative impacts, as well as communications, education and outreach and raising Hudson Bay concerns on

the political agenda.

- Canadian Boreal Initiative, Arctic Council, IJC and other groups provide useful examples of successful governance; however, we need something tailored for Hudson Bay.
- It is important to have communities play a top role; then the secretariat is basically there to deal with the interests and what they feel is important from the community level.

### *Jurisdictional Collaboration and Governance*

- There are a lot of jurisdictions and regulatory bodies dealing with a number of different issues in each jurisdiction. Is this an inter-jurisdictional coordination process that these regulatory bodies, for instance, would work with?
- A lot of the decisions are still going to remain within the jurisdictions. The strength of the consortium is that everybody is coming together and making recommendations to facilitate making decisions and better decision-making, and to have a coordinated approach in terms of decision-making for the whole of Hudson Bay in the long term
- Bringing organizations together, through a memorandum of understanding or charter, where there is a formal commitment. That's key. You need a formal commitment to the overall concept.
- The Biosphere Reserve Model is a good example, which has this networking function, bringing organizations together. I don't think there is any jurisdictional relinquishing of authority, but there is a role here for linking organizations together.
- To my mind, governance isn't necessarily government having specific decision-making power. A body that does nothing but gather information, in support of activities of the various jurisdictions, and is purely advisory. It reports, it plans.
- If we try to work towards something eventually that has major decision-making power, like the Helsinki commission, is probably a non-starter. On the other hand, something that was designed to try to be mutually beneficial to the national and sub-national govern-

ments and to the communities, clearly that means the kind of networking of information and the access to a central place to look at things we've been up to.

- One of the benefits of a group like this is simply coordination. Impact review boards look at cumulative impacts, and potential trans-boundary impacts. Part of that work means we need to communicate with adjacent jurisdictions. So we meet with adjacent boards, and sometimes have to do consultations in neighboring jurisdictions.

- One of the benefits of having linkage around Hudson Bay, for example, is just better environmental assessment for project specific assessments, by ensuring there's awareness, by getting notifications back and forth, it's a huge thing that's just missed quite a lot.

- The consortium would facilitate better decisions, more informed decisions, as part of project specific Environmental Assessments.

- The Consortium would help ensure the decisions we're making are in the best interest of the region and the whole of Canada. This is where the legislative mandates really are.

- I'm trying to understand ultimately what exactly the consortium would be able to do to avoid duplication of initiatives that are already in place to define other land claim agreements, or are under institutions and public government and things of that nature. And in terms of its authority and from where it derives that, other than it being something recognized by the stakeholders

- It is mutually beneficial to be able to know what's happening out there, without taking away jurisdiction from the regions, but having a commitment that they are going to take that information into account

- We've been struggling with this for years. This is really needed and there are a lot of people in this room have been involved. What do we do with this thing? There are a lot of people in this room and it means that they care about this, they care about Hudson Bay, they care about participating in this somehow. I think the points that really resonate for me are the ones that jurisdictional issues are already in place. We should stay away from those. What we should do is support them,

by saying we network together. If we come up with a consortium that's a network for those people that are involved with research in the bay, that are involved from a community perspective in the bay and we use that as a vehicle to connect these things together. We create a consortium that is focused around just that: communicating. How do we communicate to improve the kind of research we're doing? How do we get the different research groups together with the communities to make them more effective and more directed at what the communities need?

- The bay is so big that it's hard to communicate from one side to the other. It would be valuable if we can put some effort into creating a network whose sole purpose is to improve communication, at all different levels and provide a house where the jurisdictional people can come to and say: I want to understand about what's going on right now. This could have real benefits.

- At some point, we can start to develop science plans that we see collectively as the people who work in the bay as the most important issues. Then other scientists pick those up, other communities that are involved with the development of that. Those are all very productive things. The jurisdictional parts I think we should just stay away from. Run away from those kinds of things, and leave that up to the organizations that are in the government structures around the bay.

- The Consortium could address some of the needs of the jurisdiction in terms of looking at what is going on in terms of research in the Hudson Bay and what is coming through and what already exists. A kind of data library that can be utilized as a central place to archive data, to synthesize it and facilitate communications among the regions.

- It could be very useful to come to a common vision of what sustainable development in the Bay means, and to develop an ecosystem approach integrating local knowledge and science, and then feed that to authorities who are responsible. From there to develop some kind of a governing system or co-management system at an ecosystem scale level. If the people want to use that ecosystem approach, then you hatch the Oceans Act.

- Because of the size of the whole area of Hudson Bay, James Bay, Fox Basin, one part of the area may not know



about what's happening in another part, so they won't really have any incentive to be engaged together, or any reasons to do that. But I think part of the puzzle, or the question, is: what are the common issues about that entire area, for everyone. If you have separated concerns, you'll deal with that within your own jurisdictions. But, what is the vision of this entire basin area? What is it about it that has things in common for everyone along that coast line?

- The Consortium could help provide advice to all the stakeholders along that coast, so that it is coordinated set of advice, to boards, to communities, to governments, or whoever makes decisions, in those areas, the marine areas. I think that a Consortium like this should be something that helps decision-makers, community decision-makers, board decision-makers, and other stakeholders.

- What is the overall common concern for the whole basin area that gives the reason why you would want to have a bigger coordinated process? If the Consortium develops a large vision of this basin with everyone agreeing that we have common concerns, can you make that into such a case that it would provide, for instance, leverage or a reason for getting funding to support local monitoring, to support traditional knowledge as part of that process. There are many communities that don't have that support, that need that support. The Consortium could help use this larger picture to support the various communities.

- There are a number of issues that are cross-cutting that are pretty important. One of them is, what is the future for ice regimes? Ice regimes are changing very much, what does that mean for the algae and the ecosystems associated within ice? And how is this affected by seasonal changes in ice? How is that affected by seasonal changes in fresh water? There are issues related to shipping. If you have major spill, clearly that's something could potentially affect the whole area. Just knowing how it's doing. How is Hudson Bay doing? How is it really doing? The IJC comes up with a statement of how the lakes are doing, and similarly this would be important for Hudson Bay. Cross-cutting across the basin, that will, if articulated well, enable communities to say: "how does that fit in with what's going on here, and we learn from that, how do we fit in". Its important to keep track of the big picture and the Consortium would help

facilitate this.

- Some issues may not be critical for all of Hudson Bay, but may still be important for many different sub-regions such East Hudson Bay which has many overlapping jurisdictions. Having different working groups for different regions or some organizational structure and meetings for specific areas that need more local cross-jurisdictional support could provided by the Consortium, and wouldn't necessarily need to involve every jurisdiction. The Consortium could help coordinate among jurisdictions at various levels which could also include planning meetings, not just at the community level, and for all of Hudson Bay, but also within meaningful regions of Hudson Bay.

- There is a strong historical value of Hudson Bay. We should push for designation as a UNESCO Heritage Site. All the communities around Hudson Bay could be declared.

- Ocean Health Index should be considered. If the Consortium could help organizations to make the data available on the state of the ocean in Hudson Bay, then it would be possible to then take those data and start building a map of the ocean health around the entire basin. That's a simple coordinating effort that doesn't take a lot of work. If the information is in a single place, someone will come and use it.

- We already have all these land claims wording all the words to protect and tell other jurisdictions if they're adjacent on those lines, and those kinds of things. But I like the ideas of having researchers to have a broader view of what's happening in Hudson Bay, the waters, and whatever is in there.

- Its hard to wrap my head around the stats or the governance aspect of it, but I can see strength in that all communities have problems with housing, for example. All communities have issues on health, and if they are all working together, these are things that can be developed, because you have a larger critical mass . There are economic issues in the north, we can always discuss how we want to see it developed. There are several different boards that operate from different rooms. There are not a whole lot of initiatives or mechanisms to force these boards to work together. Sometimes they work together on some issues, but other times none of them

want to deal with the confrontational aspect, and sometimes, you would need someone to say : Hey guys, we'd better sit down and handle this issue, because if we resolve this issue, maybe we can resolve this other issue at the same time.

- The Hudson Bay Consortium could also be important in helping implementing the Oceans Act for the Hudson Bay region.

- Governments and industry react better to outside pressure, and if there is outside pressure from people who care, and it is from a larger group, then it carries more weight than if it does from a small community.

- The Inuvialuit Final Agreement approach is worth considering, every three years, there has to be a conference involving all the players, providing a formal place where information is shared, where knowledge is shared and policy is developed. In a forum where there are all of the different jurisdictions and all the different players. The people side happens as well. The relationships are formed, so that, on an issue by issue basis, you know who to call. It provides an identity as well, that's the idea. What is Hudson Bay? The Consortium could help develop a similar strategy for Hudson Bay.

- I agree something is required. It's not about rights, or treaty rights or government rights, it's about the environment. Preservation of the environment, it has to be the focus

- There has been no impact assessment of the first round of developments in the region, in our region (James Bay/ East Hudson Bay), probably not in Manitoba or Ontario either. So I think one of the first things that you need to do is to have the information from research, to establish some baseline data.

- We don't want the compensation, we'd rather have the environment the way it is, and our way of life the way it is. So, in order for our way of life to continue, we need the environment to be that way. In order for us to remain healthy, we need the environment to be healthy as well.

## ***Policy and Advocacy***

- In addition to research and networking, I picture that there would be a bigger policy role for this, an advisory piece to it. I'm not suggesting that you take away the power of the jurisdictions, but I do picture that this group would have an advocacy role of some kind, a bigger role than just networking.

- I agree, and you can have an advocacy role without undermining the jurisdictional powers. And I would think that a Consortium should have the capacity to report every two years, to play a role in government meetings, to have a secretariat and steering committee with the people from the jurisdictions, to put together the things they think are missing. I definitely think that good research and monitoring is the basis of understanding what is happening to the bay. It should also have some kind of capacity to advise and suggest. I definitely think that it should have a policy advice kind of role, in that sense.

- It would be nice to have an advocacy group that represents a larger community that could come back and say: you know this group is right in this aspect. If you look at it at a larger scale, this is the impact, if we don't make those decisions.

- The ArcticNet IRIS will help synthesize knowledge which can be used as a guide for policy directions that the Consortium could develop.

## ***Funding***

- The issue of what is possible here seems very closely tied to funding and research. I was just wondering what your thoughts are in terms of the possibilities of generating funding, what you see as the most likely sources.

- Some organizations have expressed interest in funding this, they each want to see the stakeholders participation and but it is a chicken-egg situation because they would like to see other groups contribute first before they commit, or identify a source of cross-regional funding.

- In the past, when we've tried to get funding, certainly there is the leverage issue. I would like to see Manitoba, Ontario, Québec and Nunavut, all contribute.

- Everyone was keenly interested, except that funding was tied up elsewhere, and it really was tied to the fact that this region is a policy gap, and therefore a funding gap. And the other thing that became clear to me, and that was mentioned a few times, is that it kind of lacks a champion. We need a person, a visible person to champion it, which I think would be really useful in getting funding.
- If it comes from outside with the support of many people and a champion, I think that's an excellent idea, then you have a much better chance of moving along, than if it is just coming from the inside.

### *Next Steps*

- A planning stage is necessary
- I think that in order to find out how to do something, you have to know what it is that you want to do, then you come up with the tools and resources to do that. We don't want to fit to something that already exists or take something somewhere else to make it fit with what we're trying to do. We need to understand, amongst ourselves, amongst the group, what it is specifically that we want to achieve. And then we build the organization that will achieve that.
- I think the most important thing is that there is going to be representation, if we're going to have credibility. I think we have a lot of credibility already, just by seeing who is in this room today, and that everyone's come together for this. So if we can keep that moving forward, and have all the different groups and stakeholders represented on the steering committee, and move things forward and figure out what kind of structure is needed.
- We're not going to figure out all details of structure and priorities today, the idea is that will be the job of a Steering Committee representing the different stakeholders around Hudson Bay that will discuss these details further on an ongoing basis
- The role of the steering committee would be to begin developing fundraising strategies, determine details for the organizational structure of the Consortium, to solicit letters of support from stakeholders, and draft a simple statement of intent that can be further developed into terms of reference.
- IISD would commit time to participate in the steering committee and continue to support looking for additional funding, to support the secretariat roles
- The Arctic Eider Society has charitable status and stewardship for Hudson Bay is a part of our existing mandate. We've been raising funds and can accept charitable foundation support such as that raised for this meeting, and will continue to contribute administrative support, communications and coordination until such a time as the consortium can operate as an independent entity.
- We realize that not everybody can commit to joining the Steering Committee right here and now, but we'd like of you to take away and think about how you might fit in, if you've got ideas, please send us an email or call us on the phone.
- People can take back to their organizations that there was generally a consensus that communications, networking and starting to work together is something that's very valuable and that needs to happen for Hudson Bay. We can keep it simple at this stage, is your organization willing to participate in communicating and working with other stakeholders in Hudson Bay through a Consortium. Can your organization support representation on the Steering Committee or funding for the Secretariat? Once we have a Steering Committee we can work out additional details and the vision together. That's going to take some more time, so for right now to get things started, is your organizations ready to say: Yes I want to work towards some sort of stewardship for Hudson Bay. I think that's the main message to take back.
- **CONCLUSION:** There is a clear need for a coordinating body to mitigate the inter-jurisdictional nature of the Hudson Bay Region and consider it as an integrated ecosystem. Networking, coordination, advocacy and governance are all required roles of a Consortium concept. This body requires funding and buy-in to develop a secretariat and Steering Committee to move forward.