



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCE ECONOMICS
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY

REES Brown Bag Presentation — Winter 2018

Rethinking Remediation: Mine Closure and Community Engagement at the Giant Mine, Yellowknife

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550 General Services Building



To date, research on mine remediation in Canada has focused primarily on its scientific and economic aspects; little is known about the historical and political dimensions of remediation. In addition, environmental impact assessments often underestimate the social complexities of closure. The Giant Mine Remediation Project in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories presents a novel case study of such processes. Initially, the Giant Mine remediation plan focused on containing arsenic contamination underground, which sidelined community concerns about mine legacies and future land uses. The City of Yellowknife and the Yellowknife Dene First Nations were not satisfied with the remediation plan presented in 2007 and forced the government-led remediation project into an environmental assessment in 2008. This presentation tracks the process of environmental assessment (EA) that followed the communities' rejection of the remediation plan, focusing on how the government Project Team sought to control definitions of remediation.