



# A Snapshot of Life in Remote Aboriginal communities South of 60

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# Purpose

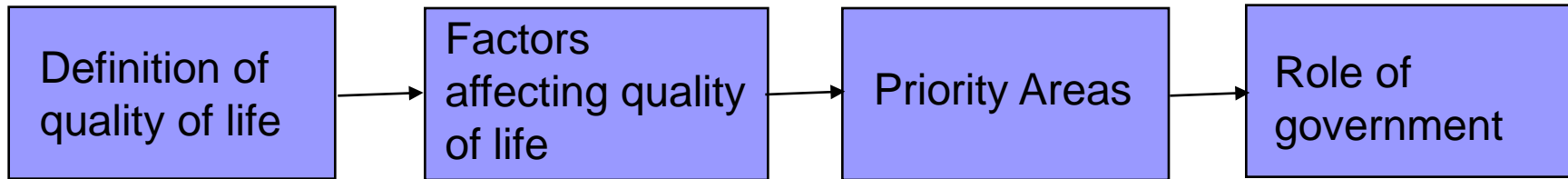


*INAC's Sustainable Development Strategy 2007-2010:*

## Target 1.1.2:

**“To identify the factors that influence the quality of life of remote communities south of 60 and determine how INAC policies and programs could be modified to better address the challenges.”**

# Proposed Outcomes



- ↪ Starting point to discuss INAC's role and approach
- ↪ Provides building blocks for communities in their community planning

Not addressing:

- Specific program or policy directives
- Specific tools to be used by the Department

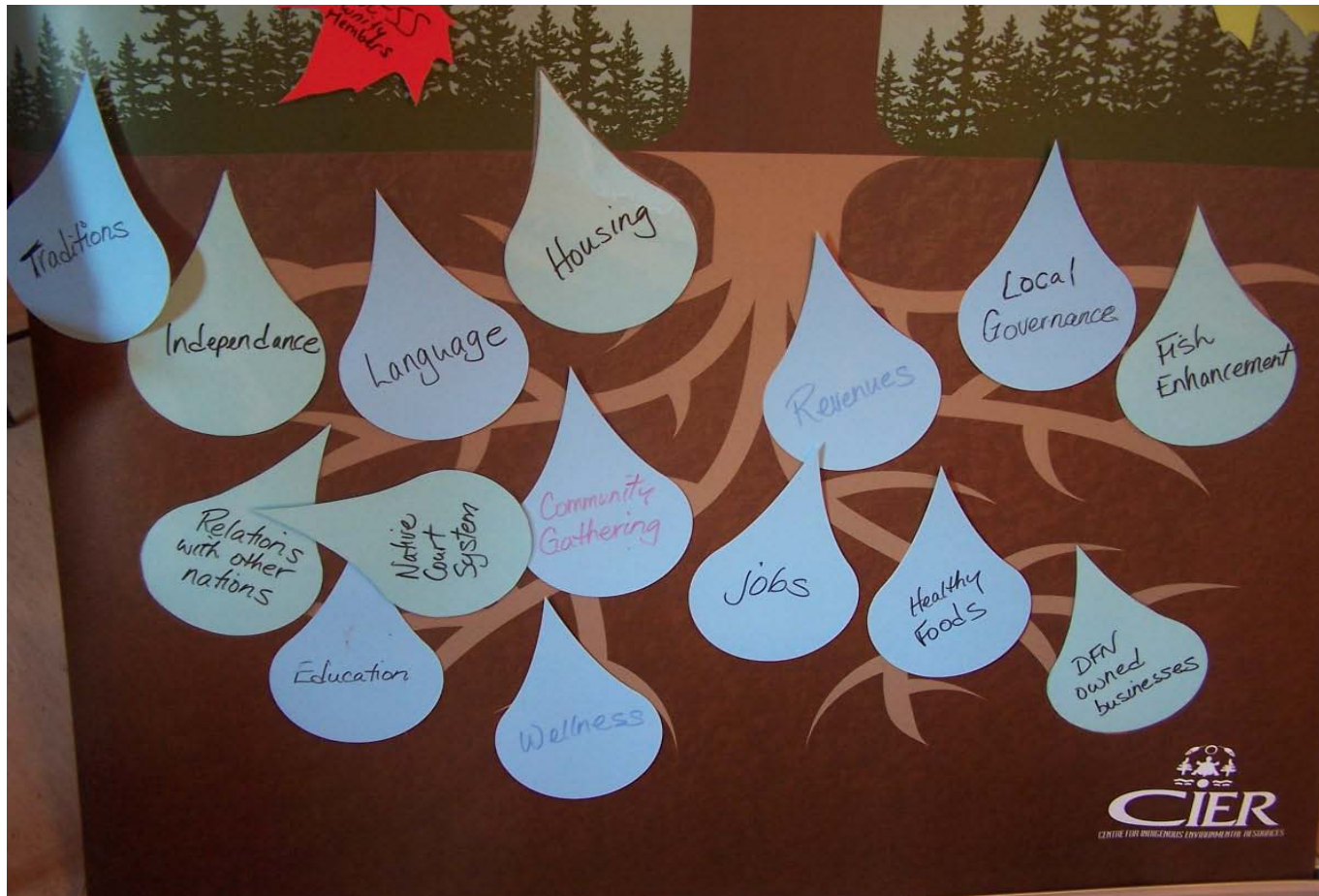
# Phases



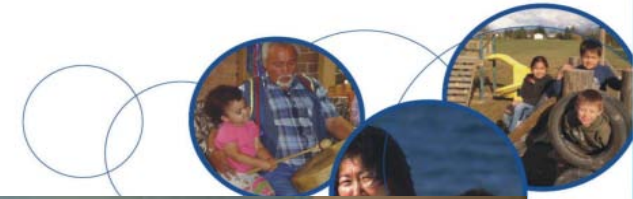
Exploratory study using both Western and Aboriginal research methods:

Phase I	Literature Review	Completed
Phase II	<p><b>Analysis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Literature Review Analysis</li> <li>■ Regional/Sectoral Discussions</li> <li>■ Community Workshops</li> <li>■ Band Profiles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Completed</li> <li>■ Completed</li> <li>■ Underway</li> <li>■ TBC</li> </ul>
Phase III	<p><b>Case Studies</b></p> <p><b>INAC Program and Policy Review</b></p>	<p>TBC</p> <p>TBC</p>
Phase IV	Recommendations	TBC

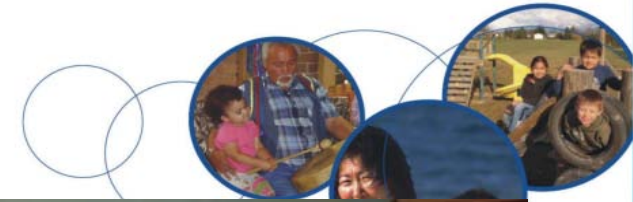
# Community Quality of Life Tree: Douglas First Nation



# Community Quality of Life Tree: Douglas First Nation (cont'd)



# Community Quality of Life Tree: Douglas First Nation (cont'd)



# Defining Remote Communities



- population makes up 3.7% of Aboriginal communities in Canada
- high out-migration rates from remote communities
- higher costs of transporting goods and difficulty accessing resources
- most are reliant on costly imported fuels
- many have housing shortages and poor quality housing
- some communities have high risk water systems
- social issues may be prevalent – violence, abuse, alcoholism, drug abuse, suicide – coupled with limited resources to help
- many in 3<sup>rd</sup>-party management or co-management
- some communities are more susceptible to the most common emergencies – forest fires, floods and winter road failures
- some communities have higher crime rates
- severe shortage of medical personnel and services

# Methodological Considerations



- Data not collected for all communities
- Level of aggregation at Aboriginal vs. non-Aboriginal level
- Quantitative vs. qualitative findings
- More focus on some issues such as health, social issues, women's issues
- Limited focus on the importance of Aboriginal specific information, such as culture, traditional foods, traditional employments, etc. in determining quality of life
- Effectiveness of INAC programs not measured

# Furthering our Knowledge Base



## ■ **Strengths:**

- Collecting both qualitative and quantitative data
- Using experiential knowledge through ethnographies
- Drawing together both Departmental and community perspectives

## ■ **Develop community ethnographies:**

- What is their conceptual framework of quality of life
- What are the relationships between the factors that affect quality of life
- What are the key issues that, if addressed, would lead their community closer to a meaningful quality of life
- What are the best practices for overcoming obstacles

## ■ **Band Profiles:**

- Quantitative data for each community
- Enable comparisons between remote and non-remote communities, north and south of 60, etc.

# Preliminary Findings



- All issues are interconnected – difficult to determine root causes
- Different tiers of issues that must be addressed:
  - Systemic issue of cost of living
  - High-level issues of capacity and governance
  - Permeating issues of housing, education, social and economic development
- The communities are not all the same – they deal with different issues, some are at higher or lower social, economic and governance levels of development than others
- The strengths of communities need to be highlighted and recognized

# Moving Forward



- Quality of life in remote communities affects many other groups – other federal government departments, provincial governments, Aboriginal organizations, etc.
- Need to start collaborating by creating and maintaining horizontal linkages both within and outside of government
- Collaboration and sharing of information will reduce isolation of remote communities and increase knowledge of best practices