

Social Sustainability



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Sage Planning Group Ltd.



- Sage Planning Group Ltd. is planning consortium specializing in providing quality professional planning, research and training services to its valued clients.
- We continually strive to balance economic, environmental and social responsibilities and are recognized as a leader and innovator in the delivery of strategic and sustainable solutions for both Aboriginal and non Aboriginal clients and communities across Canada.

Sage Planning Services



Training

- History of the Indian Act
- Residential schools
- Aboriginal Rights and Title Treaty history, Treaties and natural resources
- Modern Treaties and Land Claims
- Jurisdiction over natural resources
- Self-Government
- Aboriginal Justice
- Urban Aboriginal Issues
- Aboriginal Women and Equality Rights
- Enfranchisement and Bill-C-31
- Managing and transferring Indigenous Knowledge
- Protecting Indigenous Knowledge in Canadian law
- Aboriginal Consultation and reconciliation

Professional Services

- Comprehensive Community Development Planning and Strategic and business planning
- Facility and infrastructure and Land Use Planning and development
- Economic, social and physical and sustainability and development planning
- Alternative and renewable energy strategies, feasibility studies, business cases and business plans
- Governance and organizational effectiveness strategies and models
- Environmental, Consultation ,Human resource management
- Research
- Facilitation and mediation

Goal for this Workshop



Create ideas, tools and frameworks from which to sustain our most valued resource:

PEOPLE

Objectives of this Workshop



- **Define Social Sustainability and Socially Sustainable Communities**
- **To list at least 3 benefits to community and or project planning**
- **To identify at least 3 areas and opportunities to incorporate Social Sustainability into your planning**
- **Identify at least 2 barriers to implementing Social Sustainable initiatives**
- **Others?**

Workshop Format



- **This session will be interactive**
 - The group will work together in order to brainstorm, share ideas and applied learnings about Social Sustainability
- **This session will be informal**
 - Please ask questions and provide input throughout the workshop
- **The context will pertain to Aboriginal planning and development**

Social Sustainability Introduction



- Emerging field of research
- Lacks universally agreed upon definition
- Lacks sound quantitative models
- Lacks 'Real' Expertise
- Is thought to be addressed in Triple Bottom Line by addressing Social Impact.

What is Social Sustainability?



“Social sustainability occurs when the formal and informal: processes; systems; structures; and relationships actively support the capacity of current and future generations to create healthy and liveable communities” *WACOSS*

Socially unsustainable development leads to antisocial behaviour, including damage to property, community disruption, and violence

Processes, Systems, Structures, Relationships



- **Process**-the means by which culture and social organization change or are preserved.
- **Systems**-social system organized by a characteristic pattern of relationships. Most prominent systems approaches have been functionalism, a society made up of interdependent sections working together to fill the “functions” of society's survival
- **Social Structure**. Society based on established patterns of social interaction between different relationships (such as those between parents and children, teachers and students etc.), regulated through accepted norms and shared values.
- **Social Relationships**-forms the basis of Social Structure. How a communities members relate to each other.

What is a Social Sustainable Community?



- **Socially sustainable communities are equitable, diverse, connected and democratic and provide a good quality of life.**
- **4 Cs of healthy communities**
 - Capacity
 - Cohesion
 - Culture
 - Connectivity

Current State



- How many of you come from health, happy, vibrant communities?
- If so, how do you know?
- If not, how do you know?

Social and Community Health



- **What are some of the Social issues in your community?**
- **Can these issues be solved with Economic Development of Environmental Development?**

Community Initiatives



- What important initiatives are happening in your community?
- How did your community prioritize these projects?
- Was each project evaluated on social, economic or environmental goals?

Social Facts About First Nation Communities



- First Nations living conditions or quality of life ranks 63rd, or amongst Third World conditions
- A First Nations man will die 7.4 years earlier than a non-Aboriginal Canadian. A First Nations woman will die 5.2 years earlier than her non-Aboriginal counterpart
- The First Nations suicide rate is more than twice the Canadian rate. Suicide is now among the leading causes of death among First Nations between the ages of 10 and 24, with the rate estimated to be five to six times higher than that of non-Aboriginal youth
- Aboriginal peoples make up only 5% of the total population in Canada but represent 16% of new HIV infections.
- Housing density is twice that of the general population.

Why The Lack of Social Sustainability Planning



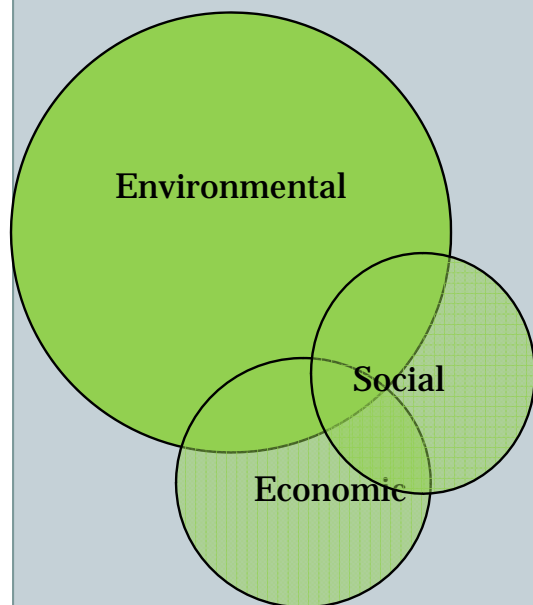
- Lack of a formalized process or framework
- Lack of research on the subject
 - Least understand and most overlook of the 3 area of Sustainability
- Costly, long term, complex
- Governance cycles and changes
- We don't have a formalized measurement of results.
- Little time and understanding of social problems
- Problem is for Social Workers only
- Others?

Uses of Social Sustainability

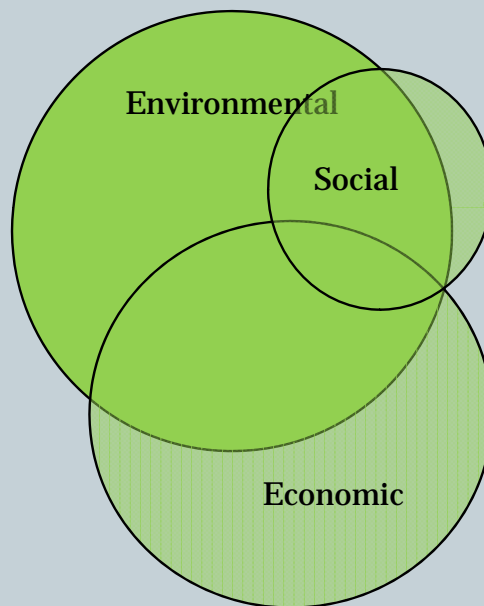


- **Project Planning**
- **Governance**
- **Program and Service Delivery**
- **Governance**
- **Others?**

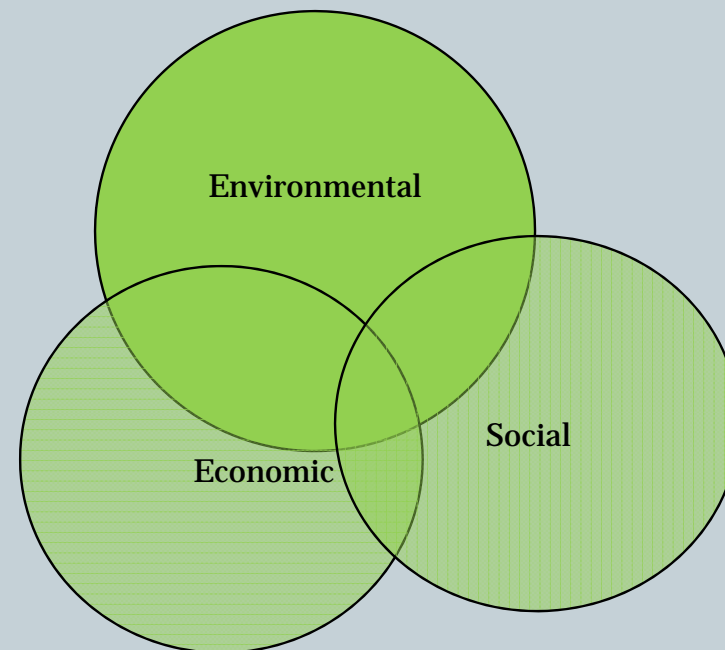
Social Sustainability Trends



1980s/mid-1990s



late-1990s



2000s, balance?

Social Sustainability Key Themes and Domains



Traditional

Basic needs, including Housing
Education and skills
Equity
Employment
Human rights
Poverty
Social justice

Emerging

Demographic change
Empowerment, Participation
and Access
Identity, Sense of Place and
Culture
Health and Safety
Social mixing and cohesion
Social Capital
Well being, Happiness and
Quality of life

Assessing Social Sustainability



- **Are Social-Economic Assessment enough?**
 - Social is no more than a trickle-down from economic benefit
- **Are Social Impact Assessments enough?**
 - Reactive to projects and driven by proponents
 - Mitigating worst social impacts of a project
 - Fairly constrained version of the 'social' – amenity, visual impact etc.
 - Social Assessment is not just community engagement

Developing a Social Sustainability Framework



Create an inventory of simple, self-assessment questions (survey) that will help you understand how your community, governance, programs or services contributes to social sustainability by:

- Encouraging reflection
- Facilitating discussion and dialogue
- Enhancing awareness and understanding of an initiative or project
- Developing a formalised process or framework

Social Sustainability Principles



Quality of Life



To what extent will the project improve (for the target group):

- affordable and appropriate housing opportunities
- physical health outcomes
- mental health outcomes for the target group
- education, training and skill development opportunities for the target group
- employment opportunities
- access to transportation
- the ability to meet their basic needs
- safety and security
- access to community amenities and facilities

Equity



To what extent will the project (for the target group):

- reduce disadvantage
- Assist in having more control over their lives, socially and economically
- identify the causes of disadvantage and inequality and look for ways to reduce them
- identify and aim to meet the needs of any particularly disadvantaged and marginalised people
- be delivered without bias and promote fairness

Diversity



To what extent will the project (for the target group):

- identify diverse groups (Elders, Youth, Membership) and look at ways to meet their particular needs
- recognise diversity within cultural, ethnic and racial groups
- allow for diverse viewpoints, beliefs and values to be taken into consideration
- promote understanding and acceptance within the broader community of diverse backgrounds, cultures and life circumstances

Social Cohesion/Inter connectedness



To what extent will the project (for the target group):

- Help develop a sense of belonging in the broader community
- increase participation in social activities by individuals
- improve the understanding of and access to public/band institutions
- build links between groups
- result in increased support by the broader community
- Encourage the community or provide support for others

Democracy and Governance



To what extent will (for the target group):

- the project allow for a diverse range of people to participate and be represented in decision-making processes
- the processes of decision-making for the project will be clear to and easily understood by staff and stakeholders
- the project has a budget sufficient to ensure adequate delivery by qualified trained staff
- the project ensure that the use of volunteers is appropriate and properly governed
- the duration of the project be sufficient to achieve the desired outcomes
- The impact be if a project ceases

Social Sustainability Framework Uses



- **Continuous improvement of projects and services:**
 - Eg., go back at regular intervals and reflect on the project intentions
- **Assist in the development phase of new projects and services**
- **Help to articulate the broader impacts of projects for:**
 - advocacy to funding bodies and decision-makers
 - making presentations about projects/programs
 - writing case studies / reflections of programs

Social Sustainability Framework Uses Cont'd



- As a starting point for a more detailed evaluation of projects
- As a starting point for peer exchange with other organisations and services
- As an educative tool to increase understanding about social sustainability and the broader impacts of services
- As a 'checklist' for program management
- Others?

Social Sustainability Framework Example



▼ WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES?

Organisation

- Employees encouraged to be active during the working day
- Yoga classes are offered at lunchtime

Service or Program

- Encourage walking and cycling to community events and workshops
- Ensure workshops and event have a good range of fresh healthy food

▼ WHERE CAN I FIND MORE DETAILED INFORMATION?

The Aboriginal Health Council of WA www.ahcwa.org.au - the peak body for Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services, may be another source of relevant information.

The Health Department publishes Health and Wellbeing of Adults in Western Australia www.health.wa.gov.au

Poor health outcomes are often the symptom of social disadvantage - a perspective which has come to be seen as a Social Model of Health. The World Health Organisation publishes the Ten Social Determinants of Health www.euro.who.int

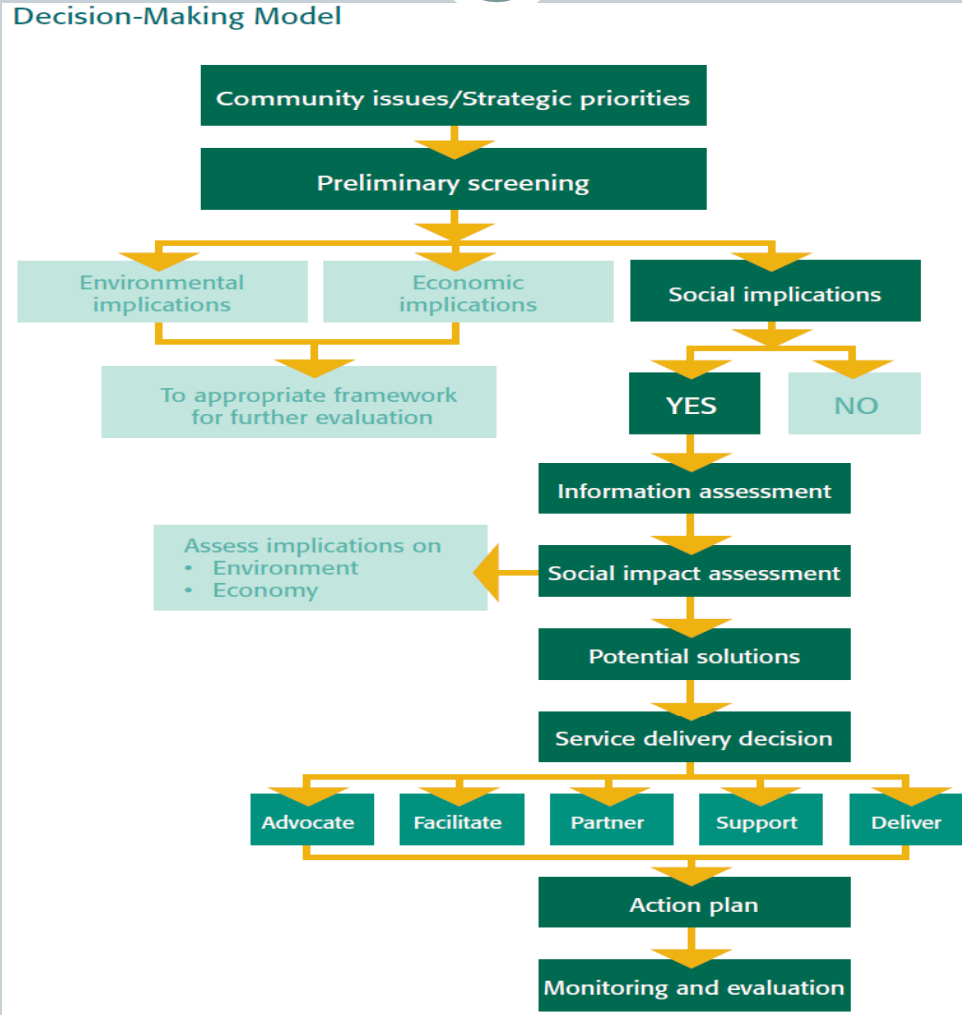
The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report Australia's Welfare 2007 www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm?series/14 lists six key indicators of health:

- Life expectancy
- Expected years of life lived with disability
- Infant mortality
- Mental health
- Physical activity
- Prevalence of obesity

next question ▶



Traditional Example



Did we meet our Objectives?



Today We:

- **Defined Social Sustainability and Socially Sustainable Communities**
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Summary



- **Social Sustainability should not be measured as a by-product of Economic and Environmental development but rather as an input to Sustainable Development.**

Next Steps



- Introduction of the SSAF to your organisations and communities
- Look for other partners to create alternate versions, for example:
 - Government – planning and development assessment processes, broader sustainability assessment processes, community development and community service provision
 - Private sector – sustainability assessment processes, community engagement for development and project proposals

Questions?

