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**Service Area:** Environmental and Social Monitoring

**Project:** Indicators of Cultural Change (1960 – 2009): A Framework for Selecting Indicators Based on Cultural Values in Fort McKay

**Client:** Fort McKay First Nation

**Location:** Northeastern Alberta, Canada

Uniquely situated amidst intense oil sand development in northeastern Alberta, the community of Fort McKay (comprised of First Nation and Métis community members) decided to conduct a Community Specific Assessment. The goal was to measure the effects industrial development (in particular, the oil sands) has had on the Fort McKay people.

As part of the Project team, **the human environment group (HEG)** carried out specific components of the Cultural Heritage Cumulative Impact Assessment. Engaging a cross section of the Fort McKay community, **HEG** facilitated the development of a list of local cultural values and industry stressors affecting these values. In addition, participants were asked to determine cultural indicators that could be used to measure industry stressors and cultural change.

Research methods included a literature review of community and regional documents and academic papers, community workshops and focus groups. A model, validated by the community, was created to represent the findings.