

Some of the work that I've done is within First Nation communities in Ontario, in particular, and this little example, I like to raise because it really emphasizes this idea of scale and cross-scale dynamics. This is the west coast of James Bay. These are several First Nation communities that I've worked in, in particular, Fort Albany; and Attawapiskat, I'm sure people have heard of in the news for a variety of reasons, Kashechewan, and Moosonee and Moose Factory down in the southern area of James Bay.

Some of the work that I did was around this idea of the development of Ontario's first diamond mine in northern Ontario. We had been working extensively with Fort Albany around environmental assessment and land use planning. They were very concerned about this particular environmental assessment and what it meant for their community. We started to do some work with them, looking at the Victor Diamond Mine through a Fort Albany First Nation perspective.

Some of the things that came out of it were that—and I'll return to this example a little bit later—the perspective of the mining company and the perspective of the First

Nation were so different. They were defining the system in very, very different ways. Part of it was the context in which they were working. As I mentioned, I'll return to this with some examples later.

If we zoom in a little bit, you might start to understand some of the difference in perspective. From where the company was coming from, or where I come from, for instance, in southern Ontario, this is the community of Fort Albany. The Albany River is an important aspect of the community. They have a relatively new and very nice school. The airport is there. Some of what I try to emphasize here when I use this, and you start to zoom in on this particular community, it's a community of about 850 or 900 people. It is a fly in community only, in the sense that the airport is the only way in or out, unless you want to take the river and get out into James Bay and head down to Moosonee where you might be able to catch the train. This is a very different context.

Not only is it a different physical, social, political, economic context in the sense that it's a remote community, but it's also a First Nation community, a Cree community, which means they think about things in very

different ways. I'll come back to this in a few moments.

One of the things that I like to emphasize is if you note, and it doesn't always show up because a couple of the roads go off, but many of the roads just end, which is not something that we can relate to in our part of the world. When you're driving on many of these roads, they will just end in the summertime at an area of muskeg, which gives you a very different perspective on the world. Not only do they come from a different cultural perspective, in terms of the fact that they are Cree, but they are in a remote community and yet this is the same province.

So when different companies and government officials come into this community, it's very difficult for them to relate. Again, this will emphasize this notion of perspective. You can also then start to see how scale plays in when you think about region like the Mushkegowuk territory, which is most of the western coast of James Bay, zooming in on a particular community, you start to see how different scales can allow you to see different things in terms of being fractal in that sense.