

## SOCIO-ECONOMIC SERVICES AND COMMITMENTS AUDITS

Numerous social, economic and environmental commitments are made during project development that are not always captured in annual monitoring for regulatory compliance. Commitments in Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) are often made to primary stakeholders and follow up is essential to maintaining the stakeholder relationships built during consultation. As many social and environmental commitments are based in continuing relationships and maintaining communications rather than specific deliverables, they may be lost when projects move to operational phases.

Matrix has developed management system and audit tools and procedures that provide valuable insight on the status of these relationships and commitments. Audit personnel have in-depth knowledge of socio-economic evaluation, environmental program design, corporate social responsibility reporting, and stakeholder relations, providing a wide range of knowledge to inform the auditing process.

### Benefits

Benefits of undertaking commitments management systems and independent third-party audits include:

- establishing solid data for annual reporting and corporate social responsibility reporting;
- consistently tracking of commitments;
- preserving transparency with stakeholders;
- connecting development-stage commitments and operations management;
- improving the connection to regulated environmental requirements;
- developing monitoring programs for socio-economic and environmental commitments; and
- demonstrating socio-economic due diligence and corporate responsibility.



### Socio-Economic Services Lead

**Elizabeth (Bea) McNaughtan** has 20 years of experience in environmental consulting and business analysis. Bea's audit experience includes internal audits of operations groups within a major Canadian oil company, due diligence field audits and provision of environmental auditing training. She developed the indicators and process documentation for the economic and social sections of corporate social responsibility management and reporting for an oil company. Bea is trained as an ISO 14001 lead auditor.

As lead of the socio-economic group at Matrix, Bea has completed multiple social impact assessments in north-eastern Alberta. Her work has included social impact assessment, multi-stakeholder program development, environmental assessment and remediation, project management, data gathering and synthesis, interviews, client liaison, cost benefit analysis of corporate assets, and stewardship reporting.