



C2-9  
YUKON UTILITIES BOARD

EXHIBIT C2-9

DAY

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UCG

NOV 1/16

## What is social inclusion?

Social inclusion describes how a society values all of its citizens, respects their differences, ensures everyone's basic needs are met, and welcomes and enables full participation in that society.

Using a social inclusion lens, we must consider whether people have **access** to society's assets. This includes access to necessities, such as:

- ⇒ nutritious food
- ⇒ suitable housing
- ⇒ essential material goods
- ⇒ health, medical care and addiction services

We also need to consider whether people have access to participatory activities, such as:

- ⇒ employment
- ⇒ education, including continuing education
- ⇒ arts and cultural activities
- ⇒ sports and recreation
- ⇒ elections, consultations, and decision-making groups

**Barriers to access** can serve as a proxy for social exclusion, and in many cases, barriers are measurable. Barriers may exist in areas such as:

- ⇒ literacy and numeracy skills
- ⇒ availability of time
- ⇒ scarcity of resources (such as affordable housing)
- ⇒ proximity, remoteness and the availability of transportation
- ⇒ communication infrastructure, such as phone and internet
- ⇒ financial considerations
- ⇒ health, wellness and disability
- ⇒ social support
- ⇒ stigma and discrimination

The concept of social inclusion is used broadly in a policy context by the European Union (*Social Indicators: the EU and Social Inclusion*, Atkinson et al., 2002).

"In line with our pragmatic objective of contributing to the policy-making process, we simply accept here the use of the terms [social exclusion and social inclusion] as shorthand for a range of concerns considered to be important in setting the European social agenda. There is, we believe, broad agreement about the list of such concerns, which encompass poverty, deprivation, low educational qualifications, labour market disadvantage, joblessness, poor health, poor housing or homelessness, illiteracy and innumeracy, precariousness, and incapacity to participate in society." (Atkinson et al., 2002; p.3)