

LESSONS & TALES FROM ALMOST 40 YEARS IN CONSULTING ENGINEERING

Consulting Engineers of Alberta
Women in Consulting Engineering Conference

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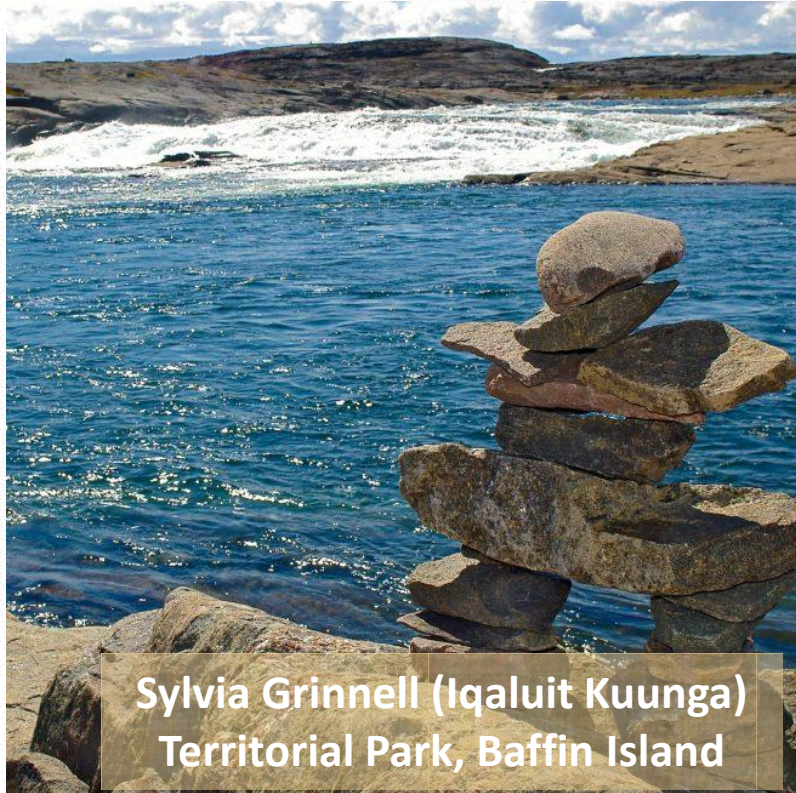
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So, who is this person and why is she talking to us....?

- B.Sc. Civil (1986)
- M.Eng. Water Resources (1989)
- Worked in consulting engineering since 1987
- River engineering specialist
- Former manager of national water group of ~115 staff





Sylvia Grinnell (Iqaluit Kuunga)
Territorial Park, Baffin Island



What's changed....

- Technology
- Awareness/regard for safety
- Acceptance on site (somewhat)
- Work-life balance (maybe)

And what hasn't....

- Still under-represented
- Unconscious bias and gender-based characterizations
- Still a challenging (and rewarding) career path



Mackenzie River Corridor Flow Monitoring
Norman Wells to Inuvik, NWT

Take the opportunities.....

...even if they come with less-than-desirable aspects.

- Some things are ever-present.....adapt
- Embrace the “ick”
- Even the locals don’t like them
- There is always a trade-off between exotic and distasteful



Northern Alberta
Tar Sands Beetle



Argentinian Scarab Beetle



Tanzanian Cockroach

Understand the fundamentals....

- About your field
- About the business of consulting
- About communication
- About leadership



Bring value.....

- We solve problems
- We often bring a different perspective
- Break through “perceptual narrowing” (a.k.a. thinking outside the box)



Pipeline Right-of-Way, Jujuy Province, Argentina (Elev. Approaching 4,500 m)
Gas Atacama Pipeline



Everyone has a boss....

- Understand your client's drivers
- Be attentive to the subtleties
- Be collegial, not adversarial



Dodoma, Tanzania - Dodoma Water Supply Study

It's probably not personal....

- May 1989 – Dawson City, YT Gold Show
- Prepared and presented the *Guidelines for Designing Diversion Channels for Placer Mines*
- It didn't go well.

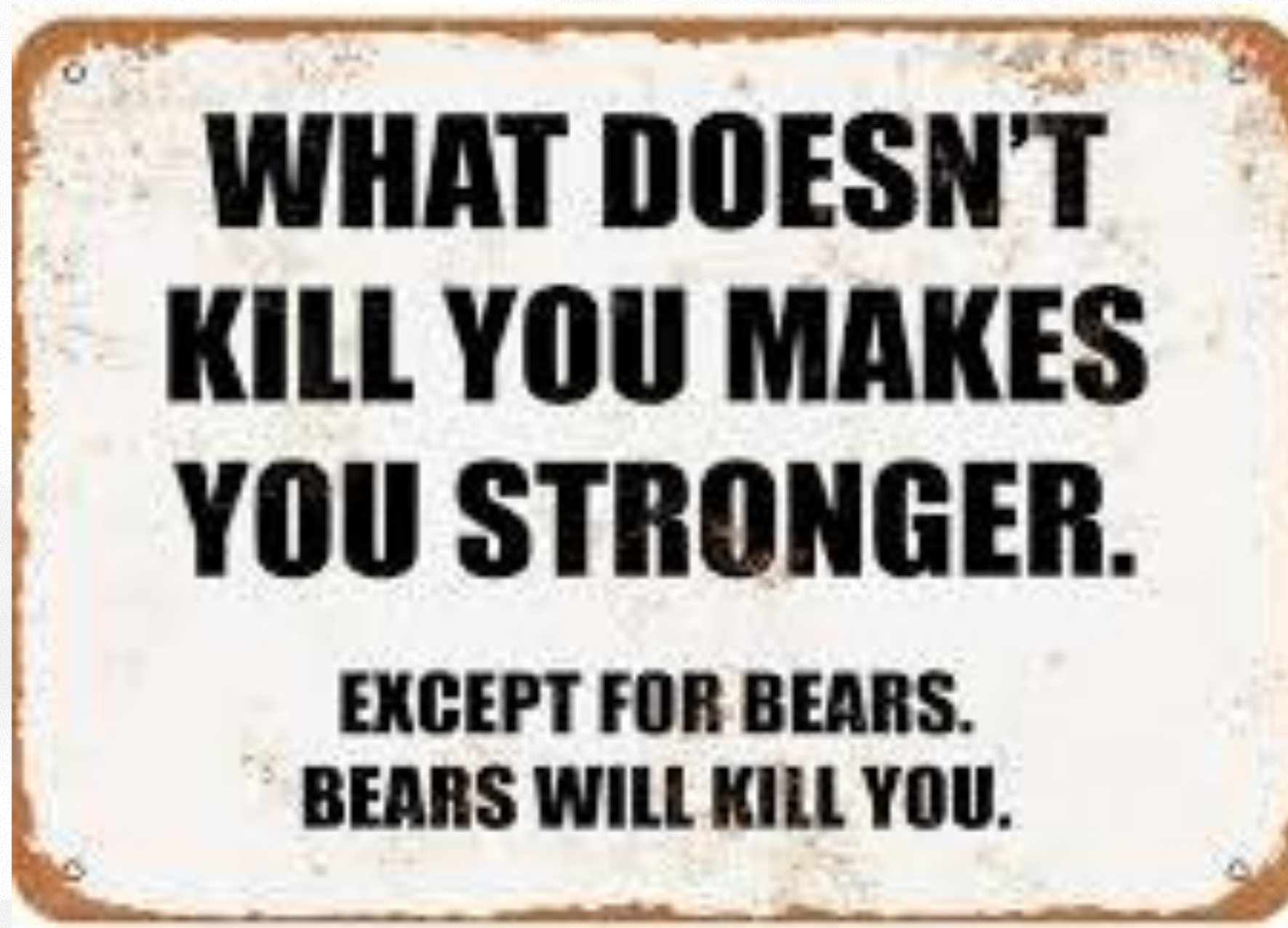


Indian River, Yukon Territory
Diversion Channel Design Guidelines

Fish Habitat Design,
Operation and Reclamation
Workbook and Worksheets for
Placer Mining in the Yukon Territory



Final Thoughts



- Get a mentor – BE a mentor
- Remain authentic
- Speak up
- Be a leader, not a manager
- Be accountable
- Embrace the challenge

Thank You!



Near Purmamarca, Jujuy Province, Argentina
Gas Atacama Pipeline