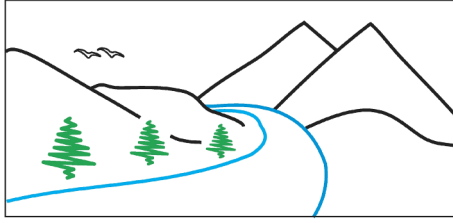


NRESi



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For **Collaborate** information and to link to the webcast: http://www.unbc.ca/nres/nresi_webcast.html

RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES

**Sam Albers¹, Ellen Petticrew^{1,2}
& Phil Owens^{1,3}**

¹Quesnel River Research Centre, ²Geography Program, ³Environmental Science Program, UNBC



Friday
Nov. 28, 2014

3:30 - 4:25

Weldwood Theater
7-238

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THE MOUNT POLLEY MINE TAILINGS POND BREACH: A PERSPECTIVE FROM UNBC'S QUESNEL RIVER RESEARCH CENTRE ON AQUATIC IMPACTS

On August 4th 2014, the tailings pond at the Mount Polley gold and copper mine failed, releasing in excess of 20 million m³ of mine waste (both water and sediment/tailings) and eroded sediment from Hazeltine Creek into Quesnel Lake and its watershed. The QRRC is a University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) research station located in the community of Likely, BC, only a few kilometers from Mount Polley mine and Hazeltine Creek. UNBC faculty, staff and students were amongst the first to sample and monitor the environmental effects of the incident (the first samples were collected on 4th August), and they are continuing to do this. Preliminary results suggest that fine sediment with elevated levels of metals and other substances is moving through the Quesnel Watershed. This event will have an unknown impact on the ecosystems of the Quesnel Watershed, including important salmon runs. We will describe the how QRRC and UNBC researchers responded to this incident and present our findings to date.