



# NRESi WEEKLY NEWS

## June 8 - July 3, 2015

A newsletter for faculty, staff, students and the community  
who participates in the  
Natural Resources & Environmental Studies Institute  
and NRES Graduate Programs

### NRESi NOTES

Hello everyone,

June was busy with regional convocations and **UNBC's 25th anniversary wrap-up**. NRESi participated in these events by supporting the planting of anniversary ceremonial trees during convocation activities in Terrace, Quesnel, and Fort St. John, and a tree was also planted at the Quesnel River Research Centre. Further to this, NRESi worked with its partners to plant 16,000 trees in honour of each of the petition signers whose efforts contributed to the formation of UNBC. Special thanks to Ljiljana Knezevic (Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations) and the Forests for Tomorrow Program, as well as to Sue Grainger at the John Prince Research Forest for helping to make this project a success! A UNBC press release went out on this project (read it [here](#)) that was picked up by [CKPG News](#) with an interview by NRESi's Director, Darwyn Coxson, the [Prince George Citizen](#), and [250 News](#). There were also articles on the ceremonial tree plantings in Terrace ([Terrace Standard](#) - including a photo with NRESi member Phil Burton) and Fort St. John ([Energetic City](#)). Read more about UNBC's anniversary wrap-up on page 4.



### FROM THE DIRECTOR & RESEARCH MANAGER



16,000 trees are planted! NRESi's idea of planting a tree for each of the petition signers who put their name down in support of a northern BC university became a reality earlier this month. A couple of shots when 11,000 trees were planted 25 minutes east of Prince George on Highway 16.

Top: Tree planter Alex Pattison with Coast Range Contracting Ltd. plants one of the 16,000 seedlings that will be a lasting tribute to the 16,000 petition signers.

Left: Back row: summer student Sydney Mitchell, Erafor Forestry Ltd.; Kyle Aben, NRESi Steering Committee & Research Manager with Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions; Leanne Elliott, Research Manager, NRESi; Ljiljana Knezevic, Land Based Investment Specialist, BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations; and, Garth Hadley, Director of Coast Range Contracting Ltd. Kneeling from left: Adam Wells, Project Supervisor, Erafor Forestry Ltd.; Alex Pattison, Tree Planter, Coast Range Contracting Ltd., and Keith Little, Project Manager, Erafor Forestry Ltd.

Photo credits: UNBC Communications

**REMINDER:** Share your information about recent publications, grants, and/or other honours you may have received with others interested in future NRESi issues.

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**We're on the web at : [www.unbc.ca/nres-institute/newsletter](http://www.unbc.ca/nres-institute/newsletter)**

Congratulations to NRESi member Russ Dawson on his successful Discovery Grant from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC). This grant will have Russ continuing and expanding his research determining important factors influencing reproductive effort and success of birds. To read more about Russ' project and other UNBC researchers who also received grants, click [here](#).



NRESi, in partnership with the Community Development Institute and the Health Research Institute, is actively involved in planning the upcoming **Cumulative Impacts Research Consortium (CIRC) Launch Event**. This will take place at the UNBC Prince George Campus on **October 2-3, 2015**. We hope you will mark your calendars for what will be an informative event. It will also provide the opportunity for participants to contribute their insights into research needs and knowledge sharing around the cumulative impacts of natural resource development. This will help guide the work and activities of CIRC. More information can be found below. You can also stay in touch with the latest CIRC news by following on [Twitter](#) and/or contacting the Project Lead, Chris Buse (Chris.Buse@unbc.ca), to be added to the email distribution list.

Follow the yellow brick road?!? A beautiful 'dandelion river' outside Vanderhoof.  
Thanks for sharing, Roy!  
Photo credit: Roy Rea

NRESi will be hosting a **Special Lecture on Tuesday, July 21 from 11am-12pm in 7-150**. The topic will be on the Perspectives on Disturbance Ecology Research. We will be welcoming two guest presenters: Lawrence Walker (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) and Anke Jentsch (Bayreuth University, Germany). More information will be circulated soon.

We are happy to announce that we will be welcoming **Dr. Grant Gilchrist** as this year's **NRES Graduate Icebreaker guest lecturer**. Grant is a Research Scientist with Environment Canada and an Adjunct Professor at Carleton University. His research program integrates seabird ecology, traditional use and hunting practices, along with the interests of diverse stakeholders to aid in the implementation of effective conservation strategies. His geographic areas of study is the arctic regions of Canada and Greenland. The event will take place on **Friday, October 16th, 2015 as part of NRESi's colloquium** with a reception to follow.

Talk to you again in a few weeks. I hope you take every opportunity to enjoy the beautiful summer sunshine!

Leanne Elliott  
NRESi Research Manager

## CUMULATIVE IMPACTS RESEARCH CONSORTIUM - LAUNCH

The **Cumulative Impacts Research Consortium (CIRC)** is pleased to invite you to its upcoming launch event being held on **October 2-3, 2015 at the UNBC Campus in Prince George, BC**.

CIRC was created in the wake of a January 2014 forum hosted by the Community Development Institute, the Health Research Institute and the Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Institute at UNBC. The forum explored how to tackle the cumulative impacts of resource development across BC's northern regions. To continue fostering these conversations through dedicated research and community engagement, CIRC will investigate environmental, community and health impacts associated with resource development. For more information on CIRC, please visit [www.unbc.ca/cumulative-impacts](http://www.unbc.ca/cumulative-impacts). (continued on next page)

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## CUMULATIVE IMPACTS RESEARCH CONSORTIUM (continued)

The October launch event will: introduce CIRC's vision, academic leads, and advisory committee; share and discuss examples of research and practice on cumulative impacts across northern BC; and, provide opportunities for participants to share their concerns and help shape CIRC's future research and public engagement activities. We will also be launching a new book produced by UNBC researchers and northern community partners resulting from the January 2014 forum entitled: *The Integration Imperative: Cumulative Environmental, Community and Health Impacts of Multiple Natural Resource Developments*.

This event is open to the public and will take place on the evening of Friday October 2nd (6:30-9:00PM) and Saturday October 3rd (8:00AM-4:00PM). Light refreshments will be provided on Friday evening, with coffee and lunch provided to registered participants on Saturday. **We encourage you to RSVP (for attendance in person, or online for the Friday evening event) to help us plan accordingly.** A full schedule will be made available closer to the date of the event. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Chris Buse at: email - [chris.buse@unbc.ca](mailto:chris.buse@unbc.ca) , 250.960.5778 (office) or 1.778.349.4242 (cell)

## PUBLICATIONS

**Fondahl, G.**, V. Filippova, and L. Mack (2015) Indigenous peoples in the New Arctic, in *The New Arctic*, B. Evengård, J. N. Larsen and Ø. Ravna, eds., pp.7-22. (Dordrecht: Springer) <http://www.springer.com/us/book/9783319176017>

Hernández-Henríquez, M. A., **Déry, S.J.**, Derksen, C. 2015. Polar amplification and elevation-dependence in trends of Northern Hemisphere snow cover extent, 1971–2014. *Environmental Research Letters* 10 (4). <http://iopscience.iop.org/1748-9326/10/4/044010>

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

**David Connell** was interviewed on tree planting that is taking place for carbon offsets within the Agricultural Land Reserve. Watch the video [here](#).

Watch a CKPG news clip about Ontario's decision to restrict the use of seeds treated with neonicotinoids, including an interview with **Dezene Huber**. Check it out [here](#).

**Stephen Déry**, together with other UNBC and Environment Canada colleagues, are updating a study that first looked at the snow-cover extent in the Northern Hemisphere between 1972 and 2006. Read the article and some of the findings [here](#). Reference for this publication can be found above.

An article on water worries has comments from **Brian Menounos** regarding glaciers. Read it [here](#).

**Jane Young** and her research staff are collecting aquatic plants to showcase what can be found in the garden on the UNBC Prince George campus. See more and some photos [here](#).

The linkage between weather and forest fires is strong, especially when it is hot and dry, as we are seeing in northern BC and across the province. **Stephen Déry** provides his insights into this relationship. Learn more [here](#).

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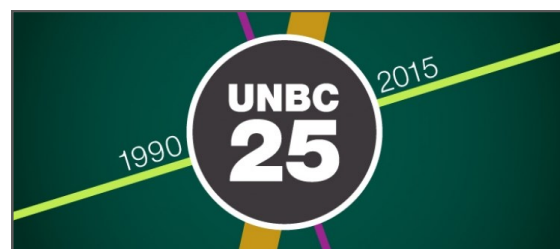
## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS (continued)

NRESi members **Phil Burton and Art Fredeen** provide thoughts on the results of a study on greenhouse gas emissions from BC's forests due to the mountain pine beetle. Read the article [here](#).

Chris Johnson's research on caribou herds is part of the latest Canadian Wildlife Federation's magazine. See more [here](#).

## UNBC 25th ANNIVERSARY WRAP-UP, MEDIA & HIGHLIGHTS

Check out the highlights from the UNBC 25th Anniversary Community Celebration, including a great video of the celebration itself, other videos shown during the event, as well as photos and details from the day by clicking [here](#). Listening the stories and experiences show the extent of pride and ownership there is for UNBC, where it started, has come and where it will continue to go into the future. As someone who has recently moved to Prince George, it is inspiring to see this commitment to northern BC and growing expertise that is needed to meet its current and future needs.



As part of the 25th anniversary year, an alumni survey was conducted. Its results showed a high level of satisfaction and that most graduates were employed in their field of interest. Read more [here](#).

Other recent media on UNBC's 25th anniversary:

- CKPG News: [UNBC Gearing up for 25th Anniversary Bash](#)
- CKPG News: [UNBC Celebrating Silver Anniversary](#)
- A [Storify summary](#) of the Community Celebration, including photos, tweets, and videos
- [BC Government media release](#) on the anniversary where, on June 22, 1990, the legislature passed the University of Northern British Columbia Act

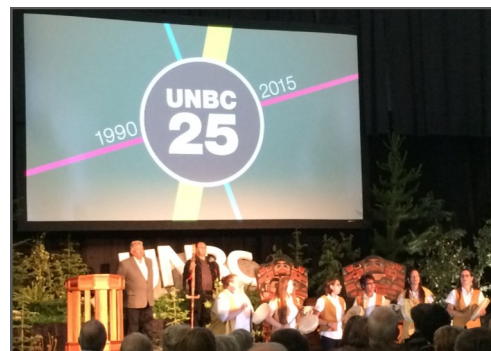


Top left: The setting of the UNBC 25th Anniversary Community Celebration, with a slide show of highlights from the year

Bottom left: The Khas't'an Drummers lead the procession of dignitaries and special guests.

Bottom right: The Khas't'an Drummers perform to begin the event, as Chief Dominic Frederick of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation and Ron Sebastian, a Gitksan artist and carver of UNBC's Ceremonial Chairs and Talking Stick, look on

Photo credits: L. Elliott



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## MITACS & NSERC ANNOUNCEMENT

Mitacs and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) recently signed a national partnership. This is intended to help build collaborative and complementary research projects between university researchers and industry partners. Read more [here](#).

## NSERC COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & FEEDBACK

Representatives from NSERC (Natural Science & Engineering Research Council) came to UNBC during their Community Engagement Visits. The event provided an overview of their current and new programs.

In addition, they are continuing to do ongoing program reviews, collecting feedback, suggestions, and comments from the community they work with to incorporate into their planning.

If you weren't able to attend, you can read more about their Community Engagement tour (click [here](#)) and find a link to the presentation on their website (direct link [here](#)). They were also encouraging anyone with thoughts, comments and ideas of how they can make improvements to their programs to email them at: [connect@nserc-crsng.gc.ca](mailto:connect@nserc-crsng.gc.ca)

## NEW NSERC FUNDING PROGRAM

NSERC is piloting a new Discovery Grant Program, focusing on research proposals coming from small universities. More information about this program can be found on NSERC's [website](#).

## SUSAN STEVENSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

As its first project of this kind, the Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Institute (NRESi) is building a fund to support a scholarship in memory of wildlife ecologist and NRESi member Susan Stevenson. During a 35-year career built primarily in the BC central interior, Susan designed and implemented important research and inventory projects related to mountain caribou habitat, lichen biology, and silvicultural systems, collaborating with a diverse range of researchers, and gave generously of her expertise to the next generation of scientists. Susan exemplified the Institute's values of interdisciplinary curiosity and unselfish collaboration, and enriched the lives of all those who worked and studied with her. The Institute invites you to join it in supporting the Susan Stevenson Scholarship Fund:

1. Visit UNBC Development Office's website: [www.unbc.ca/giving](http://www.unbc.ca/giving)
2. Click on the grey **Make a Gift** button
3. Enter the information requested
4. When you reach the question of **Please direct my donation to:** select **Other**
5. **Important** - In the **Comments** area, add that you would like your gift to be contributed to the **Susan Stevenson Scholarship Fund**

## COLLOQUIUM ARCHIVE

Did you miss a colloquium or special lecture? Visit NRESi's webcast archive to catch up! They can be found [here](#).

## ARCHIVE OF PAST EVENTS

Information, links, proceedings, and other information from past NRESi hosted and co-led events can be found at: <http://www.unbc.ca/nres-institute/special-events>. This site currently includes information about the Forest Tenure events (Annual Lecture and workshop) and a link to the Cumulative Effects Workshop site.

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