



NRESi Bi-WEEKLY NEWS

November 27 - December 11, 2015

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

NRESi NOTES

FROM THE RESEARCH MANAGER

Hello folks

Thanks to those who sent me contributions to the last newsletter. And also a big thank you to all of our speakers who have presented at our Friday colloquium series. We were treated to an informative and entertaining suite of presentations covering a wide range of topics. And looking at the confirmed winter line-up I fully expect this trend to continue. There will be one more newsletter before the Christmas break so please remember to send me any information you would like included in the newsletter.

Al Wiensczyk, RPF
Research Manager, NRESi

The NRESi's 2015 fall colloquium series is coming to an end with one final presentation today (Dec 4th). The winter colloquium session will kick off with a special presentation by the new Executive Director of the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS) on Wednesday, January 13, 2016, followed on Friday of the same week with our regularly scheduled presentation. Watch for announcements closer to the lectures confirming the presenter and topic. Lectures for the winter semester will be held in room 7-212 (to be confirmed in January).

FALL/WINTER COLLOQUIUM SCHEDULE

Presentation Date	Tentative Presenter and/or Topic
Dec 4, 2015	Special NRESi Film screening of "This Changes Everything" (2015) Followed by a post-film panel discussion with NRESi members Dr. Art Fredeen, Dr. Greg Halseth and Michelle Connolly (PICS) . If possible, please bring a non-perishable item for the NUGGS Food Shelf. *Room 7-212 - Unfortunately Livestreaming of this colloquium is not possible.
Jan 13, 2016	Dr. Sybil Seitzinger—Executive Director—Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions.
Jan 15, 2016	Dr. Stefanie LaZerte, Post-doctoral researcher - UNBC. Singing through the noise: How chickadees compensate for effects of noise on communication.
Jan 22, 2016	Dr. David Connell, Associate Professor - School of Environmental Planning - UNBC. Protecting Farmland in Northern BC through Land Use Planning: A Critical Assessment.

COLLOQUIUM ARCHIVE

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

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

PLEASE EMAIL ALL INFORMATION AND MATERIAL TO: al.wiensczyk@unbc.ca

We're on the web at : www.unbc.ca/nres-institute/newsletter

UPCOMING EVENTS

Special NRESi Film Screening of

[“This Changes Everything” \(2015\)](#)

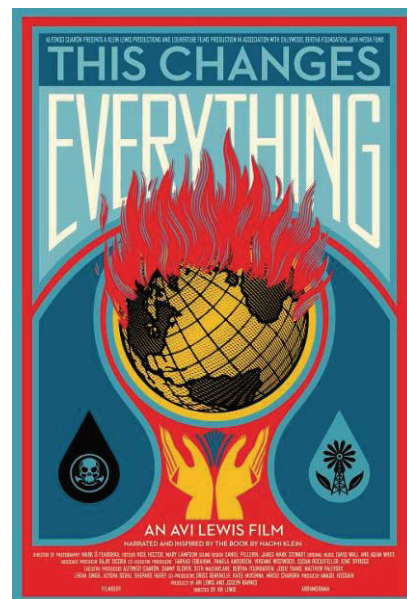
The final NRESi colloquium session of the semester will be a screening of “This Changes Everything”. Directed by Avi Lewis, and inspired by Naomi Klein’s international non-fiction bestseller, This Changes Everything was filmed in nine countries and five continents over four years. This documentary is an epic attempt to re-imagine the challenge of climate change. We encourage you to join us (and bring a friend!) and help create positive change.

Following the film, there will be a panel discussion with NRESi members **Dr. Art Fredeen**, **Dr. Greg Halseth** and a **Michelle Connolly (PICS)**.

Please note that an earlier FREE screening is planned for Wednesday, November 25th in Rm. 7-212 at 7pm (doors open at 6:30). Co-hosted by Geography, First Nations Studies, UNBC’s Green Centre, Prince George Public Interest Group (PGPIRG), and Development and Peace.

If possible, please bring a non-perishable item for the NUGGS Food Shelf.

NRESi COLLOQUIUM



Friday, Dec 4th, 2015

3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Room: 7- 212

Unfortunately LiveStreaming of this event is not permitted. Our apologies to our colloquium partici-

UPCOMING EVENTS

Canadian Institute of Forestry—National Electronic Lecture Series

Wed., December 9, 2015. 10:30 am PST—Biochar & Biocoal products from Forestry Residuals—Dr. Ataulh Khan and Don Harfield—Thermo Chemical Processing Alberta Innovates—Technology Futures.

To register contact: Svetlana Zeran (CIF/IFC) e-mail: electures@cif-ifc.org or phone (705) 744-1715 x 530.

Northern Silviculture Committee (NSC) Winter Workshop—February 16-17, 2016—Prince George Civic Centre.

Join us for the Northern Silviculture Committee’s annual winter workshop to be held in Prince George this February. This year, the NSC has gathered a group of experts to tackle a critical theme: **“Improving Silviculture Planning and Practice from our Current Stands to our Future Forests.”** Speakers from industry, government and academia will address four key subthemes:

- 1) Landscape-level reforestation and evolving stocking standards.
- 2) Opportunities and challenges for meeting future timber supply and wildlife habitat.
- 3) Considering cumulative impacts in professional site planning and silviculture prescriptions.
- 4) Are current forest-level plans and planning mechanisms—Adequate? If not, how can we fix them?

Register online at <http://www.booking.ca/bkunbccontinuingstudiespub/courses/index.asp?c=1&sc=8&crs=950>

Western Division of Canadian Association of Geographers Conference—March 11-12, 2016—UNBC Prince George

The Geography Program at UNBC is pleased to announce that the 58th Annual Meeting of the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers (WD-CAG) will be held **March 11-12, 2016** at UNBC’s Prince George Campus.

In the coming weeks, organizers will send out a call for abstracts, and provide information on conference registration, accommodations, field trips and the banquet . This is a warm, welcoming and affordable conference for NRES graduate students! <http://www.unbc.ca/geography/unbcgeography-hosting-wdcag-2016>

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PLEASE EMAIL ALL INFORMATION AND MATERIAL TO: al.wienczyk@unbc.ca

PUBLICATIONS

Wood, L.J., D.J. Smith, and, **I.D. Hartley**. 2015. Predicting softwood quality attributes from climate data in interior British Columbia, Canada. *Forest Ecology and Management* 361:81-89. Available Online: DOI:10.1016/j.foreco.2015.11.004

Ray, J.C., Cichowski, D.B., St-Laurent, M-H, **Johnson, C.J.**, Petersen, S.D., and I.D. Thompson. 2015. Conservation status of caribou in the western mountain of Canada: Protections under the Species at Risk Act, 2002-2014. *Rangifer Special Issue No. 23*:1-32.

TRAVEL & CONFERENCES

Gail Fondahl attended a meeting of the Institut Polaire Français Paul-Emile Victor (IPEV) in Plouzané, France on 24-25 November. Gail serves as a member of IPEV's Council of Scientific and Technical Programs; the Council met to review 2015 funding applications.

IN THE NEWS



Levan Tielidze is being hosted at UNBC from the Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia, for four months from November 2015 - February 2016. He is working with Roger Wheate on digital techniques for glacier mapping, as part of his Ph.D thesis on the glaciers of Georgia in the Caucasus Mountains. He plans to present in the new year the 40 minute film "On the trails of the glaciers: mission to Caucasus" to an NRESi audience.

You can read more about the work in progress on the Glaciers of Georgia, by Levan and his team at: <https://glaciologygeorgia.wordpress.com/>



Stay up-to-date with the latest NRESi and member news by following us on Twitter: [@UNBC_NRESi](https://twitter.com/UNBC_NRESi)

Cumulative Impacts Research Consortium (CIRC) news

The Cumulative Impacts Research Consortium (CIRC) was recently awarded a \$25 000 knowledge synthesis grant titled “**A scoping review on the community impacts of unconventional natural gas development in northern British Columbia**”. This grant will characterize community impacts across ‘upstream’ gas extracting regions, ‘midstream’ gas transportation corridors, and ‘downstream’ gas processing and shipping communities. For more information contact chris.buse@unbc.ca.

The CIRC will also be facilitating a Cumulative Effects Monitoring Workshop in Prince Rupert on **December 10-11, 2015**. This workshop seeks to promote capacity in the conduct of cumulative effects assessments in the Skeena, with a public event on December 10th. For more information visit: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/evening-reception-status-of-cumulative-effects-management-in-canada-tickets-19275432337>.

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Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS) news

Dr. Sybil Seitzinger, the new executive director of PICS, will be visiting the Prince George campus on **Wednesday, January 13, 2016**. She will be meeting with NRESi, CIRC and other UNBC faculty as well as giving a special colloquium presentation in room 7-212. Stay tuned for more details to follow in future newsletters.

IN THE NEWS

(Government press releases)

Off-road vehicle registration mandatory on November 1, 2015.

October 15, 2015—Victoria. Off-road vehicle registration and safety provisions are mandatory on Crown land effective Nov. 1, 2015, following passage of regulations in support of the Off-Road Vehicle Act. The new regulations will promote safe and responsible use of B.C.'s backcountry, and include provisions on number plate placement, rules for child operators and safety equipment requirements. [For more details...](#)

Grant to accelerate uptake of open textbooks

Dec 1, 2015—Vancouver. A grant of \$525,000 USD over three years will allow BCcampus to focus on increasing uptake of open resources including textbooks by increasing the value of the resources. The grant is from The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. The funds will be used to develop support materials for open textbooks such as presentations, test banks and videos, as well as additional faculty reviews to boost credibility and workshops to support faculty in learning how to use and adopt open textbook resources for their classrooms. [For more details...](#)

Mount Polley short-term discharge permit approved

Nov 30, 2015—Williams Lake. After thorough public consultation, the Province has approved Mount Polley Mining Corporation's application for a short-term permit to treat and then discharge water outside of the mine site. The permit is needed because it is estimated that, under normal precipitation conditions, water levels in Springer Pit will reach permitted capacity in April 2016. [For more details...](#)

Climate Leadership Team Report Released

Nov 27, 2015—Victoria. Environment Minister Mary Polak today announced next steps towards developing a Climate Leadership Plan by spring 2016, as she marked the release of the Climate Leadership Team's recommendations for the B.C. government's new Climate Leadership Plan. [For more details...](#)

Two Forest Practices Board members reappointed

Nov 24, 2015—Victoria. Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Minister Steve Thomson has announced the re-appointment of **William B. McGill** as vice-chair and Ralph Archibald as part-time board member of the Forest Practices Board for terms of two years each. [For more details...](#)

SUSAN STEVENSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

As its first project of this kind, the Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Institute (NRESi) has established the Susan Stevenson Scholarship Fund, 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.

Efforts have succeeded in reaching the goal of \$15,000 that will be matched by UNBC to allow for an annual award. Award criteria are currently being developed. The inaugural award is hoped to be presented in the 2016-2017 academic year. NRESi would like to thank everyone who contributed to the scholarship! More information will follow in the coming months, as well as award criteria for students interested in applying.

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