






Northern Saskatchewan summer landscapes



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Featured Photo

ICNGD Director Greg Poelzer took part in the June 25th unveiling of new Remote Presence (RP) technology offered by the U of S' College of Nursing. The ICNGD and College of Nursing frequently collaborate in efforts to overcome distance barriers in reaching students in remote Northern communities. This addition of RP technology for example, will enable College of Nursing faculty and mentors to reach Northern nursing students. In photo above: ICNGD Member and Dean of the College of Nursing, Lorna Butler, presents Greg with a College of Nursing t-shirt following his remarks at the event launch. COURTESY PHOTO

*Bringing the North to the university and
the university to the North*

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Research News

Sask First Nations EconDev

A report stemming from the first Saskatchewan First Nations Economic Development Forum (Saskatoon, March 13-14, 2012), entitled *Building Self-Sufficiency... Together: Establishing a Saskatchewan First Nations Economic Development Network*, was officially released this summer. Master of Northern Governance and Development (MNGD) student Jim Searson was part of the forum's organization committee and contributed to the final report

as part of his MNGD applied research internship. The report is available on the ICNGD website at www.usask.ca/icngd (select 'Research').

ICNGD awarded SSHRC dollars

The ICNGD and University of Waterloo were recently awarded \$175,000 from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) to further research on bottom-up knowledge mobilization and how it can be used to the benefit of Northern Saskatchewan

organizations. ICNGD researchers will join with the project's partnering agencies, including the Community Vitality Monitoring and Partnership Process in Northern Saskatchewan, to explore how to engage agencies throughout the research process instead of only at the beginning and end stages.

Preliminary research in this area has indicated that continuous stakeholder engagement in the research process leads to better application and end uses of the research results.

Program News

MNGD Welcomes Third Cohort

The ICNGD will welcome 12 new students into the Master of Northern Governance and Development (MNGD) program this fall.

The 2012-13 school year will kick off with a three-day orientation Sept. 5-7 which includes: an overview of what to expect from the program; a session exploring research internship opportunities; writing, communications, and research workshops; a tour of the U of S campus.

For more information on the MNGD program, contact Kathy Walker at kathy.walker@usask.ca or 966-8433.



The UNBC's Dr. Gary Wilson is now on secondment to the ICNGD as the Co-Director-Undergraduate Studies and he'll be working with the U of S College of Arts and Science to oversee the B.A. Northern Studies program. Gary brings with him a wealth of experience in the areas of Aboriginal government relations and evaluating the effects of global change on communities across the provincial norths.



Kathy Walker has been named the ICNGD's new Manager of Student Programs and Services. She will work closely with the Co-Director-Graduate Studies, Bonita Beatty, and the Co-Director-Undergraduate Studies, Gary Wilson, in delivering the Master of Northern Governance and Development and B.A. Northern Studies programs. Kathy will also work closely with the ICNGD's Program Assistant, Susan Prpich.

International Connections

ICNGD hosts visitor from Umeå University's Centre for Sami Research

Patrick Lantto of Umeå University's prestigious Center for Sami Research (Umeå, Sweden) visited the ICNGD and U of S campus between June 20-26 for a series of meetings around Indigenous land management, law, history, culture, and environmental stewardship.

Patrick also took part in Wanuskewin's Grand Entry and Powwow celebrating National Aboriginal Day (June 21), and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings at Prairieland Park (June 21-24).

ICNGD's Ken Coates takes part in Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) conference

ICNGD Co-Director-Research, Ken Coates, was invited

to present at the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region 2012 Conference held in Saskatoon July 15-19. PNWER's mandate is to facilitate working groups of public and private leaders to address issues impacting regional economies across North America.

In addition to presenting, Ken also attended the Arctic Caucus session at PNWER which provides a forum for Northern jurisdictions to share information, discuss issues of mutual concern, and identify areas for collaboration. The Arctic Caucus' current stated objectives are: to increase the visibility and priority of Arctic issues in all PNWER activities; support each other in achieving mutual goals; identify opportunities for mutual economic development in the Arctic, and; to provide support to other jurisdictions to help them achieve their individual goals.

Community Networks

Pinehouse Elders Gathering

ICNGD Outreach Coordinator Cathy Wheaton attended the Pinehouse Elders Gathering on June 5th. Cathy was invited to share information about the ICNGD's research and program options as well as participate in traditional cultural events like moose hide scraping and the making of birch bark bitings.

The gathering, which attracted participants from Pinehouse, Île-à-la-Crosse, La Ronge, and Grandmother's Bay, included discussions and guest speakers on issues such as justice, housing, language, education, and health. The participants also engaged in the sharing of cultural knowledge.

August in La Ronge

ICNGD Director Greg Poelzer and Co-Director-Undergraduate Studies, Gary Wilson, were joined by Interim Director of the U of S Canadian Centre of Nuclear

Innovation, John Root, for a series of meetings with elected representatives and academic administrators in La Ronge. The visit also included some time to enjoy the shores of Lac La Ronge.



From left: John Root, Interim Director of Canadian Centre of Nuclear Innovation (U of S); Cathy Wheaton, ICNGD Outreach Coordinator based out of La Ronge, and; Gary Wilson, ICNGD Co-Director-Undergraduate Studies. This photo was taken in the town of La Ronge near Patterson Park on the shore of Lac La Ronge.

Spotlight on Centre Member

Dr. Alec Aitken

Alec is a Full Professor and the Department Head of Geography & Planning (University of Saskatchewan) as well as past Academic Coordinator of the B.A. Northern Studies program at the U of S. He is also a Team Leader for Core Curriculum Revision for the University of the Arctic with responsibility for BCS 311/312 Land and Environment.

His research is focused in the Canadian Arctic and has explored research subjects in modern marine ecology, coastal geomorphology and marine geology, and Quaternary geology and palaeontology. He served as a Project Leader (2002-2007) in the Canadian Arctic Shelf Exchange Study (CASES), a large multidisciplinary and international study of the marine environment of the Beaufort Sea.

Alec is currently engaged in collaborative research with the National Museum of Canada (Ottawa), Fisheries & Oceans Canada (Winnipeg), the Geological Survey of Canada (Halifax), and the Institute for Ocean Sciences (Victoria) exploring the impacts of environmental

change in the western Canadian Arctic on the marine ecology and marine geology of the Beaufort Sea.

You can reach Alec at aitken@usask.ca.



Student Profile

Terry Custer

Bachelor of Arts in Northern Studies

Terry's academic journey began in Pelican Narrows, Saskatchewan. After graduating from high school, Terry moved to Prince Albert where he studied to become a professional cook. He succeeded and spent many years cooking his way across the country, spending time living and working in Alberta, Manitoba, and Nova Scotia.

After several years of this work, Terry decided he was ready to come home and try his hand at something else. He started working with his Band and held several different roles over the course of the next few years including Treaty Land Entitlement Coordinator and administrator with the Health Services Transportation Board.

The change in career suited Terry and he decided he wanted to pursue it further. Without a post-secondary education however, he knew he wouldn't make it very far. He decided to return to school in 2007, and began with the licensed practical nursing program delivered by Northlands College. Nursing led to interest in a B.A., and soon after Terry learned about the B.A. Northern Studies program from a friend who raved about her experience.

"I liked the kinds of things she was studying: culture, administration, governments and how they operate. I knew it was for me."

He made the decision to take the plunge. Terry enrolled at Northlands College's Creighton location, where he works on his degree with the aid of distance learning supports. He says the staff there is tremendous, and that he wouldn't be where he's at today without their support.

"We're like a family," says Terry of the students and staff at Northlands. "And families give you that push when you need it."

Terry is hoping to graduate with a 4-year degree in a little over a year. After that, he is considering continuing his studies or returning to work in public administration in a northern region.

"I feel like this experience has really opened my eyes," said Terry. "I'm meeting students from places like Russia in some of my (distance) classes, and it makes me want to see and learn so much more."

For info on the B.A. Northern Studies program, call 306-966-8433.

Upcoming Events & Announcements

2012 Prairie Political Science Association annual conference Northern Panels

Hosted by the University of Saskatchewan's Political Studies Department, this conference will explore some of the transformations taking place in contemporary politics. As part of the conference, the ICNGD will facilitate two panels on northern issues: *The Role of the Public Sector in Northern Governance* (Sept. 21st, 9:00-10:30 a.m.) and *Northern Governance and Development* (Sept. 22nd, 9:00-10:30 a.m.). Both panels will take place at St. Thomas Moore College (1437 College Dr., use North entry) at the U of S. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Report on Northern Aboriginal Political Culture to be released this fall

Overseen by ICNGD Director Greg Poelzer; Co-Director-Graduate Studies, Bonita Beatty, and; Member, Loleen Berdahl, the Centre will release a report on political attitudes and behaviours in Northern Saskatchewan this fall. The report contains findings gathered through a telephone survey conducted in communities across Northern Saskatchewan. The survey's administration and research intent were endorsed by the Prince Albert Grand Council and the Meadow Lake Tribal Council. Once released, the report will be posted online to www.usask.ca/icngd.



International Centre for Northern Governance
and Development (ICNGD)



UNIVERSITY OF
SASKATCHEWAN

Centre Member releases new publication related to ICNGD's research areas

ICNGD Member Ryan Bullock, along with co-author Kevin S. Hanna (Wilfrid Laurier), is pleased to announce the release of *Community Forestry: Local Values, Conflict and Forest Governance*. The publication focuses on Northern and rural communities and forests in Canada, the U.S., and Scandinavia, and highlights both the possibilities and challenges associated with community forestry implementation. Copies of this publication are available by calling 1-800-872-7423.

ICNGD conducts research for AANDC's First Nations Market Housing Fund

Centre Member Alan Anderson, with research support from the ICNGD, recently completed a literature review for Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada's First Nations Market Housing Fund — a fund developed in 2007 to broaden the range of housing options for residents of First Nations communities. To learn more about the Fund, visit www.fnmhf.ca. You can also view the literature review bibliography at www.usask.ca/icngd (select 'Research').