



"Our environment is our future"

RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES

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LECTURE THEATRE

7-158

LINKS BETWEEN BIOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN THE CANADIAN BOREAL FOREST

Indigenous cultures around the world are tightly linked to the land and subsistence activities based on natural resources still play an important role in the everyday life of several communities. This connection between biological and cultural diversity is, however, threatened by increasing resource extraction in response to an ever-growing global demand. According to the United Nations, 90% of the world's languages are likely to become extinct or threatened with extinction by the end of the 21st century. In Canada, all but a few of the more than 60 aboriginal languages are endangered. The circumboreal forest — 40% of which is in Canada — is the most extensive terrestrial biome in the world. Ecological connectivity and continuity within the boreal forest create a fertile ground for intercultural knowledge exchange. The extent to which this would be possible, however, depends on intercultural similarity. This presentation will address this question relying on a statistical analysis of the most extensive database on traditional uses of medicinal plants in the Canadian boreal forest.