



# NRES WEEKLY NEWS

## February 11 - 15, 2013

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

### COMING EVENTS

### NRESI RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES

For Elluminate information and link to the webcast: [http://www.unbc.ca/nres/nresi\\_webcast.html](http://www.unbc.ca/nres/nresi_webcast.html)



## John Pineau

Chief Executive Officer

Canadian Institute of Forestry - Institut forestier du Canada



### Sustainable Forest Management in Canada - A Brief Overview

Sustainable forest management in Canada is purportedly inherent within the policies, planning and practices undertaken by all of the country's provincial and territorial jurisdictions. The presentation focuses on the impact and importance of the forest sector, as well as the due diligence carried out by regulatory bodies, industry and third party certification systems; and outlines the importance of forests and forestry to Canada's prosperity and national identity, and that forest management is based on the application of sound science. The presentation also considers true sustainability, defined as achieving balance between ecological, economic and social components; and that it must now be considered within the full context of globalization, world population and climate change. Forestry career and job opportunities continue to be interdisciplinary, diverse, high-tech, green and more abundant than realized. A cross-country overview of Canada's various provinces and regions clearly demonstrates that although specific challenges exist, opportunities and solutions are quite similar across the country, and there is much that can be learned and accomplished through the application and implementation of sound forest science fostered through effective national knowledge exchange. Finally, the presentation provides a unique perspective from a career spanning over 30 years in the Canadian forest sector—in different jurisdictions and through employment positions relating to forestry within government, industry, academia and non-profit associations.

**Friday, February 15, 2013**

**3:30 - 4:30 pm**

**Room: 7-158**

## Sonja Ostertag

PhD Candidate, UNBC



### A community-based approach to assessing the risk of mercury toxicity in beluga whales from the western Canadian Arctic

In 2008, four researchers traveled by boat to Hendrickson Island, NT, in the Beaufort Sea, for a comprehensive beluga study. Beluga whales (*Delphinapterus leucas*) are hunted by Inuvialuit for subsistence and continue to be a valued and healthy part of the diet in the Arctic. The objective for this study was to assess the neurotoxicological risk of mercury exposure for whales from the eastern Beaufort Sea beluga population. Mercury reaches levels associated with neurotoxicity in this population of beluga whales. Therefore, the forms of mercury present in brain tissue were analyzed and a biomarker approach was used to study the relationship between mercury concentration and potential neurochemical variation. Our results suggest that mercury exposure was associated with neurochemical variation, but not unusual behaviour, in the population studied. The community-based participatory approach used by the team increased communication and dialogue, which are integral aspects of respectful and empowering research relationships.

**Friday, MARCH 1, 2013**

**3:30 - 4:30 pm**

**Room: 7-158**

**Joint Seminar with Northern Studies in conjunction with UNBC Polar Day**

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

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

## GRADUATE THESIS DEFENCE

Mr. Blake Rowsell is a candidate for the degree:

**Master of Arts in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (Tourism)**

Mr. Rowsell will be defending his thesis entitled:

**“Mountain Bike Tourist Development Under the Midnight Sun: Capitalizing on Destination Attributes to Maximize Potential in the Yukon Territory, Canada”**

Supervisor: **Dr. Pat Maher**

Date: **February 27, 2013** Time: 10:00 am Room: 6-306 Conference Centre

### OTHER NRESi EVENTS

The Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y) and Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Institute (NRESi) are hosting a workshop entitled **“Protected or in Peril?: Conservation in the Peace River Break and Muskwa-Kechika Regions”** on Friday, March 15th and Saturday, March 16th. This workshop will focus on the conservation values, challenges and opportunities in the greater Peace River Break and northern Canadian Rockies region. The Peace River Break is one of the most ecologically diverse landscapes in the Yellowstone to Yukon Region, yet there are few protected areas, decreasing intact habitat for wide-ranging wildlife species, and a rapidly expanding industrial footprint—including the prospect of a third hydroelectric dam on the Peace River. A detailed workshop announcement can be found at

<http://web.unbc.ca/~Michael/Y2YPeaceBreakWorkshopAnnouncement.pdf>

The Friday NRESi Colloquium will kick off the workshop and there will be a public presentation Friday evening on the UNBC campus. **The day-long workshop on Saturday has room for 70 participants and advanced registration (no charge) is required.** Please contact Mike Gillingham ([michael@unbc.ca](mailto:michael@unbc.ca)) or Juri Peepre (<[jpeepre@yahoo.ca](mailto:jpeepre@yahoo.ca)>) to register or if you have additional questions.

### OTHER EVENTS

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March 1

GLOBAL FRIDAYS  
ROOM 7-158  
12:00 - 1:30 pm

Dr. Hayley Hessel, University of Saskatchewan

**“University of the Arctic: Past, Present and Future”**

All Global Friday presentations will be available to remote participants at: <http://bit.ly/unbc-globalfriday>

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**PLEASE EMAIL ALL INFORMATION AND MATERIAL TO: [Michelle.Keen@unbc.ca](mailto:Michelle.Keen@unbc.ca)**