



"Our environment is our future"

The Natural Resources & Environmental Studies Institute Annual Lecture



Guest Lecturer:
Dr. David Hik
Professor
University of Alberta

"International Polar Year and the Future of Arctic Research in Canada"

The Arctic regions, including northern Canada, are facing unprecedented social, political, economic, environmental, and cultural changes. Scientific and government reports and committees have routinely recognized and commented on these challenges and the need for cooperative and collaborative interdisciplinary solutions based on sound knowledge. The International Polar Year (IPY) of 2007-2008 is a grand effort focusing the attention of the world on the state of the polar regions, the impacts of rapid climate change, and the connections between the poles and the rest of the planet. Over 50,000 participants from 63 nations are collaborating in some 200 interdisciplinary research programs, and in this sense, IPY has already succeeded. IPY has fostered international cooperation at a higher level and across a much wider range of polar science than at any previous time. Now, many efforts are underway to harness the momentum and resources of IPY to ensure that its impact is substantive and long lasting. The legacies of IPY include new and enhanced observation networks and research facilities, an unprecedented degree of access to data and information about the polar regions, a new generation of polar scientists, and the engagement of residents of the polar regions, the public and policy makers worldwide. I will provide an overview of some IPY research and outreach activities, as well as some of the efforts to secure a lasting legacy.

Date: Thursday February 28, 2008

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: UNBC, Canfor Theatre - Room 6-213

(Light refreshments available)

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!