

TAKING CARE
OF THE LAND
MAY SYMPOSIUM
9-11/2017



gdo akiiminaan ganawendanaan

PROGRAM



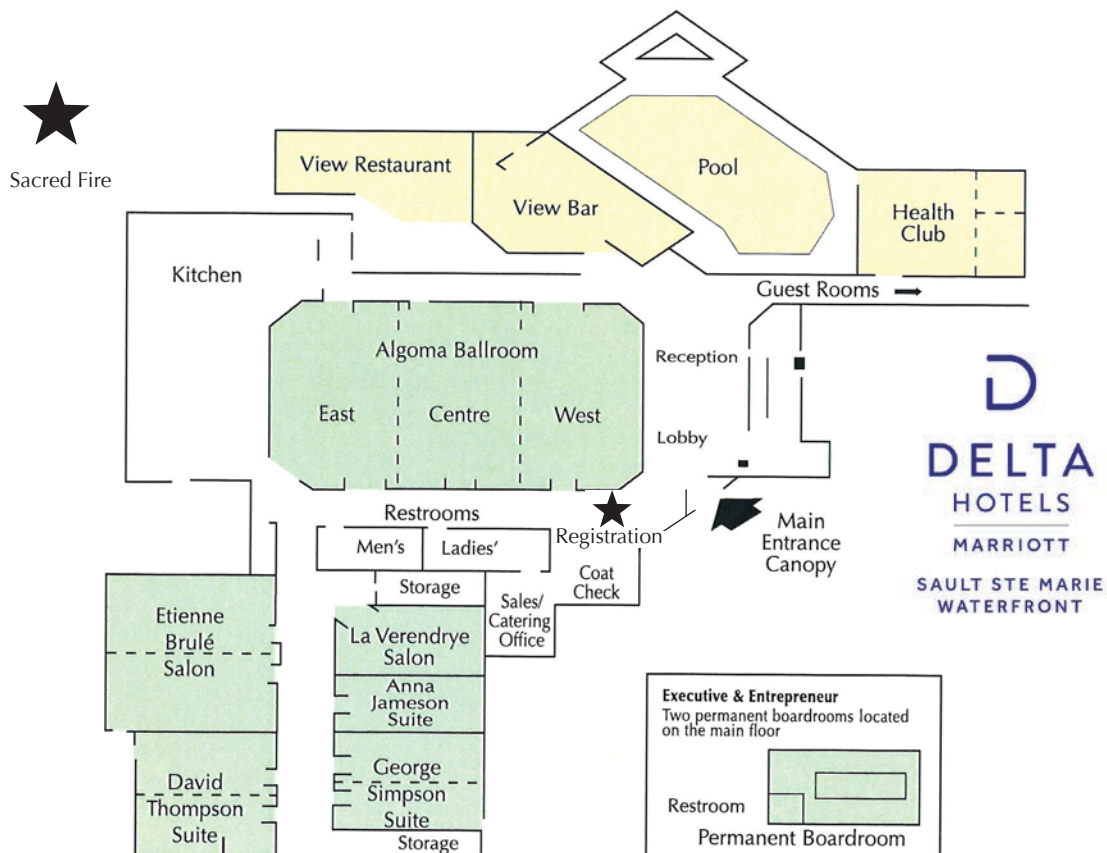


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*To learn more about our presenters and their presentations visit our website:
www.algomau.ca/AKII2017*

Delta Sault Ste. Marie Waterfront Hotel Floor Plan





WELCOME

We are pleased to welcome you to our 2nd Bi-Annual Symposium on
Gdo Akiiminaan Ganawendanaan (Taking Care of Our Land)

The Anishinaabe Initiatives Division and the Department of Geography & Geology at Algoma University are hosting the symposium in partnership. The purpose of this symposium is to explore the concept of “Reconciliation” through research and best practices, the inclusion of cultural and traditional practices of land management, planning and use for Aboriginal communities in northern Ontario.

In acknowledging the consequences of the residential schools in suppressing the vibrancy of Aboriginal knowledges in the region and beyond, the symposium seeks to redress this by:

Promot[ing] public dialogue, public/private partnerships, and public initiatives for reconciliation (Section 53: iv, p. 6). Truth and Reconciliation – Calls for Action (2015)

And in using “EDUCATION as a way of working towards RECONCILIATION, the forum is a space to engage how we can reconcile with the land by sharing information and best practices on teachings about this connection with our land.

This symposium is relative to the ‘teaching’ mandate of the university and the importance of disseminating new knowledge to the public (Algoma University Charter, 2008). This symposium will create awareness regarding the discourse of land management, planning, and use, and will explore the appropriate steps to building capacity in Aboriginal communities. The needs of Aboriginal communities are diverse as they prepare to face contemporary challenges.



SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, MAY 7

Registration and welcome desk open between 4:00-6:00pm

MONDAY, MAY 8

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

Time: 9:00am-4:30pm

Location: David Thompson Suite

Ginger Gibson and Steve DeRoy, The Firelight Group

Title: Community Involvement in IBAs and Protecting your Heritage with GIS Work

MORNING BREAK

Time: 10:00am

LUNCH

Time: 12:00-1:00pm

(Lunch is sponsored by the Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines)

AFTERNOON BREAK

Time: 2:00pm

SYMPOSIUM RECEPTION

Light Reception

Time: 5:30-7:00pm

Location: Etienne Brulé Salon

(Reception is sponsored by the Anishinaabe Initiatives Division, Algoma University)

All symposium registrants are welcome to attend

TUESDAY, MAY 9

Registration and welcome desk open between 8:00am – 4:00pm

SUNRISE CEREMONY

Time: 7:00am

Location: Tipi (on east side of hotel)

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Time: 8:00-9:00am

OPENING CEREMONIES

Time: 9:00am

Location: Algoma Ballroom

Ted Recollect, Elder – Opening prayer

“Obadjiwan Drum Group”, Dion Syrette – Welcoming Song

Dr. Celia Ross, President and Vice-Chancellor of Algoma University

Darrell Boissoneau, President Shingwauk Kinooomaage Gamig

Dean Sayers, Chief of Batchewana First Nation

Paul Syrette, Chief of Garden River First Nation

Christian Provenzano, Mayor, City of Sault Ste. Marie

Judy Syrette, Director of Anishinaabe Initiatives Division

Dr. Nairne Cameron, Faculty, Department of Geography/Geology



SCHEDULE

OPENING KEYNOTE

Time: 9:30-10:30am

Deborah McGregor, Associate Professor Osgoode Hall Law School and Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University

Title: Reconciling Our Relationship with the Land

BREAK & POSTER SESSION

Time: 10:30-11:00am

Location: Etienne Brulé Salon

Poster Presentation #1
Sheila Gruner

Time: 10:30-11:00am

Title: Concepts of Land, Life and Alternatives to Development

LAND PAPER SESSION

Location: Algoma Ballroom

Paper #1

Time: 11:00-11:30am

Dan'l Duckert, Lakehead University, Faculty of Natural Resources PhD Candidate, Lakehead University Faculty of Natural Resources Management

Title: Making Order out of Disorder: Decolonizing Land Use Planning in Treaty 5 & 9 Territories of Ontario through Reconciliation

Paper #2

Time: 11:30-12:00pm

Alanna Jones (Garden River First Nation Community Trust), Trust Manager at Garden River First Nation Community Trust

Title: Garden River First Nation Community Trust: Can culture and capitalism co-exist?

LUNCH

Time: 12:00-1:00pm

FOREST 1 PAPER SESSION

Location: Algoma Ballroom

Paper #3

Time: 1:00-1:30pm

Raymond Owl and Willie Pine TEK Elders (Traditional Ecological Knowledge) Robinson Huron Treaty Area

Title: Restoration of Jurisdiction over Forest Management in the Anishnabek Territory

Paper #4

Time: 1:30-2:00pm

Dorothee Schreiber, Ethnohistorian PhD and ecologist MSc, specializing in fisheries and wildlife management and the histories of Indigenous Hunting and Fishing rights in Canada

Title: Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Forest Herbicides



SCHEDULE

Paper #5**Time:** 2:00-2:30pm**Stephanie Seymour, PhD Student, Lakehead University Faculty of Natural Resources Management**

Title: Exploring the Potential for solid Wood Fuel to Reduce or Replace Diesel Fuel in Rural and Remote First Nations in Ontario- Opportunities for Collaboration, Capacity Building, Self-governance and Nation-to-Nation Relationships

BREAK & POSTER SESSION**Time:** 2:30-3:00pm**Location:** Etienne Brulé Salon**Poster Presentation #2****Time:** 2:30-3:00pm

Ryan Bullock, Environmental Studies Sciences Centre for Forest Interdisciplinary Research, University of Winnipeg

Julia Lawler, Centre for Forest Interdisciplinary Research, University of Winnipeg

Title: Case for Indigenous Community Forestry

LEARNING CIRCLE**Time:** 3:00-4:30pm**Location:** Algoma Ballroom

Anne-Sophie Bélanger (B.A.), Chloe Boone (M.Sc), Nafisa Sarwath (Ph.D.), Kristy Franks (Ph.D.) and Véronique Bussi  res (Ph.D.)

Concordia University Department of Geography, Planning and Environment

Title: Beyond the Tri-Council's Chapter 9: Enacting Reconciliation Efforts in Research

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

Registration and welcome desk open between 8:00am-4:00pm and 5:00-8:00pm.

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**Time:** 8:00-9:00am**KEYNOTE****Time:** 9:00-10:00am**Location:** Algoma Ballroom

Maria Swain, Grassy Narrows First Nation

Title: Wewei'ni Naagutchidoda

BREAK & POSTER SESSION**Time:** 10:00-10:30am**Location:** Etienne Br  l   Salon**Poster Presentation #3**

Leah Schmidt, Ontario Geological Survey

Title: Ontario Geological Survey: Providing Geoscience Data for Land Use Planning



SCHEDULE

WATER 1 PAPER SESSION

Location: Algoma Ballroom

Paper #6

Time: 10:30-11:00am

Veronique Bussieres, M.A in Public Policy and Public Administration, Department of Geography, Planning and Environment, Concordia University

Title: Indigenous Stewardship at the Land-Sea Interface: The Case of the Wemindji Projected Areas Project

Paper #7

Time: 11:00-11:30am

Paige Restoule, M.A. in Environmental Studies Candidate, Nipissing University, and Dokis First Nation

Title: Working to Protect the Water: Experiences of Connection through Storycircles

Paper #8

Time: 11:30-12:00pm

Nicole Latulippe, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Geography & Planning, University of Toronto

Title: Lived and Legislated: Fisheries Knowledge and Governance on Lake Nipissing

LUNCH

Time: 12:00-1:00pm

WATER 2 PAPER SESSION

Location: Algoma Ballroom

Paper #9

Time: 1:00-1:30pm

Nicole Recollet and Josie-Ann Langelier

Nicole Recollet, B.Sc. Biology, Algoma University and Civil Engineering Diploma from Cambrian College

Josie-Ann Langelier, Chapleau Cree First Nation, Environmental Field Technician, Wahnapiatae First Nation

Title: Water Keepers Journey: Land Based Learning and Water Resource Protection

YOUTH PAPER SESSION

Location: Algoma Ballroom

Paper #10

Time: 1:30-2:00pm

Paul Robitaille, MSc candidate, in Forestry at Lakehead University

Title: Forest-use patterns of First Nation youth in northern Ontario: Implications for policy and community engagement



SCHEDULE

CLIMATE CHANGE PAPER SESSION

Location: Algoma Ballroom

Paper #11

Time: 2:00-2:30pm

Deb Pine & Deborah McGregor

Deborah McGregor, Associate Professor Osgoode Hall Law School and Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University

Deb Pine , MA Student, Geography, University of Toronto

Title: Anishinaabe Gkendaasowin and the Practice of Ziisabaakodakaan

BREAK & POSTER SESSION

Time: 2:30-3:00pm

Location: Etienne Brulé Salon

Poster Presentation #4

Kristy Franks, PhD Candidate, Concordia University Department of Geography, Planning and Environment

Title: Cree Youth from Eeyou Istchee (Eastern James Bay, Northern Quebec) and Their Connections with Water

TEA & BANNOCK SESSION

Time: 3:00-4:00pm

Location: Algoma Ballroom

Jon Cada and Rihkee Strapp invite you to participate in a World Cafe session! This method of hosting encourages conversations that allows all of the brilliance in the room to come together! World Cafe gives people an opportunity to process and reflect on the learning taking place in the room and gives space for everyone to share their understandings of the topic at hand while also encouraging those who just wish to listen in on the learning. In this interactive session each table will be asked:

- 1. What were moments of meaning during the conference?***
- 2. What is my community doing? What is my role?***
- 3. What do you need to take action?***

BANQUET FEATURING COMEDIAN DON BURNSTICK

Time: 5:30pm – 9:00pm

Location: Algoma Ballroom



SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, MAY 11

Registration and welcome desk open between 8:00am-1:00pm.

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Time: 8:00-9:00am

KEYNOTE

Sharon Venne, Lawyer

Location: Algoma Ballroom

Time: 9:00-10:00am

BREAK

Location: Etienne Brulé Salon

Time: 10:00-10:20am

FOREST 2 PAPER SESSION

Location: Algoma Ballroom

Paper #12

Nicholas Palaschuk, University of Winnipeg

Time: 10:20-10:50am

Title: Sustainable Development of Non-timber Forest Products in North-eastern Ontario: A Case Study of the Missanabie Cree First Nation

Paper #13

Chris Macquarrie, Research Scientist, Canadian Forest Service, Sault Ste. Marie Ontario

Time: 10:50-11:20am

Title: Using Community Science to Help Understand Disturbances in the Boreal Forest of Eastern Canada- The Budworm Tracker Project

Paper #14

Nadine Roach, Former Diversity Strategy Coordinator, Thessalon First Nation

Tamara Ashawasega, Economic Development Officer of Thessalon First Nation

Gayle Broad, NORDIK Institute, Algoma University

Time: 11:20-11:50am

Title: Thessalon First Nation Diversifying its Biocentre

CLOSING PRAYER & TRAVEL SONG

Location: Algoma Ballroom

Ted Recollect, Elder – Closing prayer

“Obadjiwan Drum Group” – Dion Syrette

BOXED LUNCH & DEPART

Time: 12:30pm



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS & BIOGRAPHIES

Deborah McGregor

Associate Professor Osgoode Hall Law School and Faculty of Environmental Studies,
York University

Presentation title: Reconciling Our Relationship with the Land

Date: Tuesday May 9

Location: Algoma Ballroom

Time: 9:30-10:30am

Bio: Dr. Deborah McGregor (Anishinaabe) is an Associate Professor with the Osgoode Hall Law School and Faculty of Environmental Studies at York University. She currently holds a Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Environmental Justice. Her research focuses on Indigenous knowledge systems, water and environmental governance, environmental justice, forest policy and management, and Indigenous food sovereignty.



Maria Swain

Grassy Narrows First Nation

Presentation title: Wewei'ni Naagutchidoda

Date: Wednesday May 10

Location: Algoma Ballroom

Time: 9:00-10:00am

Bio: Maria (Anishnaabe name meaning "Lightening Thunder Woman") is a band member of Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishnabek (Grassy Narrows First Nation Community near Kenora). She is from the Lynx clan. Through her life experiences as a survivor of residential school and domestic violence, Maria excels at her work as a community wellness worker for the Ontario Native Women's Association. Maria uses her experience in social services and counseling for creating healthy and flourishing communities as well as her position as an engaged community member of Grassy Narrows First Nation to provide action-oriented advocacy for Anishnabe-kweg and their families.



Creating, sustaining and supporting community capacities have been key components of Maria's approach to building healthy Indigenous communities. Recognizing the histories of collective grief, Maria supports families in crisis through pro-active healing and counseling to create healthy self-directed initiatives. She strives to protect Anishnabe children and Anishnabe woman traumatized by domestic violence and develop initiatives to counter the cycle of violence in their lives.

Maria approaches her work through personal and professional experiences as well as specialized training and Certificates in Restorative Justice, First Nations Counselling, Child Protection, Grief Counselling and Domestic Violence Prevention.



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS & BIOGRAPHIES

Sharon Venne

Lawyer

Date: Thursday May 11

Location: Algoma Ballroom

Time: 9:00-10:00am

Bio: Sharon H. Venne (Notokwew Muskwa Manitokan) is an Indigenous Treaty person (Cree) and by marriage a member of the Blood Tribe within Treaty 7 with one son. She has worked at the United Nations prior to the establishment of the Working group on Indigenous Peoples in 1982. The background research to the many clauses on the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is included in her book: *Our Elders Understand Our Rights: Evolving international law regarding Indigenous Peoples*. She has lectured on the rights of Indigenous Peoples in Australia, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, France, Italy, Hawaii, United States and Canada. In addition to her work on the Declaration, she worked to secure a UN Study on Treaties. From the first introduction of the resolution in 1983 until the report was finalized in 1999, Sharon worked to ensure that the report reflected Indigenous laws and norms. Sharon has written numerous articles on the Treaty Rights of Indigenous Peoples. All her work internationally and domestically relates to the promotion of the rights of Indigenous Peoples especially rights related to lands, resources and treaties. Some of her works on laws of the Cree Peoples related to treaty making were published in *Aboriginal and Treaty Rights in Canada* (Michael Asch ed.) and *Natives and Settlers – Now & Then* (Paul DePasquale ed.). Sharon has published materials on the history of Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations since 1977 and an article on the problem of NGO's and their interference in Indigenous Peoples' exercise of the right to self-determination within international law. On the 10th of September 2015, Sharon was given the lifetime achievement award from the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians for her work for Treaty Peoples.

Don Burnstick

Banquet Speaker

Date: Wednesday May 10

Location: Algoma Ballroom

Time: 5:30-9:00pm

Bio: Don Burnstick is a Cree from the Alexander First Nation located outside of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. The youngest of 15 children, coupled with the fact of growing up on the reserve, taught Don a variety of means of defending himself, not the least of which became his use of humour.

Don's young life was very violent. "I lived on the streets of Edmonton as an alcoholic and drug addict. In 1985, when I sobered up at 21, there were not too many 21-year-old males that were alcohol- and drug-free so I just started asking to go and tell my story."

Burnstick obtained post secondary training at the University of San Diego in holistic urban youth development. He also has obtained certification as an Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor and graduated from the Native Trainers Development program at the Nechi Institute in Edmonton.

Don has now been involved within the healing/personal wellness movement for the past 20 years and has utilized humour and performance to provide a holistic approach to healing. His message speaks to a proud heritage, the importance of healing through humor and his continuing desire to leave a better world for our future generations. Don wrote and individually performs the play "I Am Alcohol - Healing the Wounded Warrior". In this play, without preaching or moralizing, Don presents a gripping dramatization of the addictive power of alcohol and drugs, and the connections to other destructive forces that have plagued the Aboriginal community.

In addition to his healing work, Don has established himself as one of Canada's best comedian of all times. His highly acclaimed comedy show "You Might be a Redskin - Healing Through Native Humour", is a comedic performance, that humorously portrays First Nations people, their habits, likes and dislikes.





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Sheila Gruner

Associate Professor, Algoma University, Department of Community Economic and Social Development

Title: Concepts of Land, Life and Alternatives to Development

Date: Tuesday May 9

Location: Etienne Brulé Salon

Time: 10:30-11:00am

Bio: Sheila Gruner is an activist-researcher and professor of Community Economic and Social Development at Algoma University. She is engaged with issues of land and cultural rights of Indigenous and Afrodescendent people, alternatives to dominant forms of development, and decolonizing approaches to learning. She has lived and worked in communities in Northern Ontario, in the territory of the Ininowuk Cree, as well as in the Colombian south Pacific river communities and department of Northern Cauca. She has been accompanying the work of the Black Communities Process for many years, as well as the Indigenous and Afrocolombian (“Ethnic”) Commission for Peace and the Defence of Territorial Rights in Colombia. Sheila is currently involved in research, community organizational work and alliance building in support of grassroots Indigenous and Afrocolombian territorial movements, women and communities involved in implementation of the Havana Peace Accords in Colombia.

Abstract: This presentation is aimed at highlighting proposals and parallels between land rights (Indigenous and Afrodescendent) movements in Canada and Colombia (South America), in the face of entrenched colonial histories, large scale extractivist policies and practices, and as they represent relations distinct from and as “alternatives to” development, displacement and conflict. In Colombia, Indigenous and Afrocolombian territorial and cultural movement organizations achieved a landmark chapter in the Havana Peace Accords which safeguards their rights to territorial governance and cultural practice, and presents the possibility of making visible other “ways of being on land”, as well as coalition building with other land based and human rights movements in the Americas in the defense of land, culture and autonomy. Concepts such as Minobimaadziwin, Buen vivir, Ubuntu, Transition, and Degrowth, will be explored for their cross-cultural implications and potential for addressing key social, political and environmental challenges facing both Northern Ontario and Colombia.



Dan'l Duckert

Lakehead University, Faculty of Natural Resources, PhD Candidate, Lakehead University Faculty of Natural Resources Management

Title: Making Order out of Disorder: Decolonizing Land Use Planning in Treaty 5 & 9 Territories of Ontario through Reconciliation

Date: Tuesday May 9

Location: Algoma Ballroom

Time: 11:00-11:30am

Bio: Dan is continuing a thirty-four-year career in forest management, science and policy development. The majority of his career was with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources where he was recognized as an expert in boreal forest ecosystem structure and function and disturbance ecology at the stand and site scale. Later in his career he worked on an effectiveness monitoring program for the forest management guide for the protection of cultural heritage values. Working in concepts of cultural landscapes and seeing a rich history of the land opened up a new world. Dan finally saw people in the forest and that expanded his outlook spatially, cognitively and emotionally at scales that seemed to complicate his worldview. He thought this was worth exploring. Dan is currently a PhD Candidate at Lakehead University in the Faculty of Natural Resources Management. His project is entitled “Going beyond values mapping: giving voice to communities about their relationships in the land and their well-being needs.” He is a recipient of a SSHRC doctoral award. Dan has been very fortunate that he has been able to work with North Spirit Lake First Nation in their efforts to make land use planning truly community-based.

Abstract: Ontario has called for orderly development in the Far North. This territory is home to 25 000 Anishinaabe/Cree people who reside on First Nation Reserves. Orderly development is delivered through the implementation of the Far North Act (2010). Under the Act, communities are asked to work in partnership with Ontario to produce a community based land use plan. According to the Act, planning involves segmenting the land into land categories to clarify where, and where not, development may occur. At least 50% of the land is to be protected from development. Despite Ontario's best intentions of building a relationship with First Nations through land use planning, land categorization is a strategy of pseudo self-control of colonial intrusions on First Nation territories while still embracing an outsider's perspective of development. Segmenting the land is unlikely to satisfy the holistic worldview of the Anishinaabe/Cree Nations, nor is it likely to address local development needs and desires. The objectives of this presentation are to re-





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examine the concept of land use planning and development in the Far North. Based on my experience working with North Spirit Lake First Nation I will present different views of land, land use planning and development. From this examination it becomes apparent that the direction in the Far North Act is restricting the opportunities and freedoms of First Nations to move beyond their dependency on western development. Critical questions will be presented as a starting point of discussions before planning and development should begin. These questions can facilitate a tripartite reconciliation process between First Nations, Settler Canadians and the Land.

Alanna Jones

Trust Manager at Garden River First Nation Community Trust

Title: *Garden River First Nation Community Trust: Can culture and capitalism co-exist?*

Date: Tuesday May 9

Location: Algoma Ballroom

Time: 11:30-12:00pm

Bio: Alanna is an Ojibwe Band member from Kitigaun Ziibii (Garden River) Ontario. In 2009, while attending full-time post-graduate studies and while working full-time, Alanna developed an understanding and an appreciation for strength and perseverance to overcome challenges. This has led her to adopt her favourite philosophy of “actions speak louder than words” to life’s challenges. Alanna considers herself to be an agent of change and opportunity.



Abstract: During Alanna’s presentation, she will be discussing the process for which Garden River First Nation settled monies into the Trust Agreement and her role as Trust manager to assist the Garden River trustees in carrying out their terms and conditions. The Garden River First Nation Community Trust was created in summer 1994 when four Agreements (Design Construction Framework Agreement, Phase I and Phase II and Winter Maintenance Service Agreement) were ratified by the Garden River band membership to resolve outstanding land issues.

When the monies were settled in to the Trust Capital account, the Garden River trustees “agree to invest and spend the Trust Property according to the Trust Agreement whose purpose is: “...manage the Trust Property in a wise and prudent manner, and that the management of the Trust Property may include acquiring land for GARDEN RIVER FIRST NATION both pursuant to the Agreements and otherwise, and investing and expending the Trust Property in ways that are to the greatest benefit to the people of GARDEN RIVER FIRST NATION, both those alive at the time this Trust Agreement is made and the future generations.”

For Alanna’s final research project to obtain her Masters in Business Administration, she wrote a case study about the voting patterns of Garden River First Nation from the GRFN Community Trust, federal and provincial elections and Chief and Council. Her presentation for the will focus on fostering community understanding and engagement in the process to realize the spirit and intent of the Trust Agreement.

Raymond Owl and Willie Pine TEK Elders (Traditional Ecological Knowledge) Robinson Huron Treaty Area

Title: *Restoration of Jurisdiction over Forest Management in the Anishnabek Territory*

Date: Tuesday May 9

Location: Algoma Ballroom

Time: 1:00-1:30pm

Abstract: The TEK Elders Group is comprised of elders from across the Robinson Huron Treaty area who are dedicated to protecting the medicines, plant and wild life, the water and all interdependent life forms of the Anishnabek Forest. Elders past and present have had a direct relationship with the land through the collection of medicines, harvesting game and berries, fishing, trapping, crafting, guiding, and conducting ceremonies. These elders have made a life from the land, they raised their families on the land and in their best efforts continue to pass their knowledge to the next generation. They understand their sacred responsibility to the land and all those who have not yet come. The goal of TEK Elders is the complete irrevocable ban of all herbicides currently used in forest management within the Robinson Huron Treaty Area, specifically Glyphosate / Round Up/ Vision Max, regardless which Ministry holds authority for approvals, licencing and distribution. The use of herbicides in forest management is to control broad leaf trees and competing vegetation to favor the growth of marketable trees such as the Jack Pine. Since 1974 when herbicides were first approved in Canada, First Nations people have not given free prior and informed consent for the use of herbicides.





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Dorothee Schreiber

Ethnohistorian PhD and ecologist MSc, specializing in fisheries and wildlife management and the histories of Indigenous Hunting and Fishing rights in Canada

Title: *Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Forest Herbicides*

Date: Tuesday May 9

Location: Algoma Ballroom

Time: 1:30-2:00pm

Bio: Dorothee Schreiber is an ethnohistorian (PhD) and ecologist (MSc), specializing in fisheries and wildlife management and the histories of Indigenous hunting and fishing rights in Canada. She has been working with First Nations communities in BC, Quebec, and Ontario for over ten years on oral history projects, traditional ecological knowledge studies, land use and occupancy research, and archival research. Much of her work has involved linking the knowledge of hunters, fishers, trappers, and other land users with ecological science, and developing ecological and policy analyses that highlight the strengths of Indigenous knowledge. She is interested in issues such as aerial spraying, fisheries and wildlife management, water and contaminants, invasive species, and climate change impacts in the north.

Abstract: The aerial spraying of glyphosate in north shore Lake Huron forests has raised serious concerns among Anishinabek land users over its effects on the water, plant and animal life, and the safety of traditional foods and medicines. In forest management, Indigenous knowledge about herbicides is often sidelined and judged to be incompatible with science. The scientific assessments on which herbicide approvals are based assume that effects are reversible, and they focus on a few organisms tested separately under laboratory conditions. The cumulative impacts of historical contamination and the consumption patterns of people eating country foods on a regular basis are absent from standard risk assessments. Indigenous land users experience ecological impacts firsthand, and have sophisticated and personal knowledge about ecological relationships and the web of influences and interdependencies keeping the land alive. Traditional ecological knowledge teaches about relationships; it can therefore help us to understand how toxicology and other forms of specialized knowledge can be applied and the extent to which various knowledges can be trusted. Using the example of aerial spraying, I suggest that allowing traditional ecological knowledge to guide environmental understanding can work towards reconciliation and renewing the treaty relationship. Keywords: Traditional ecological knowledge; harvesting; contamination; herbicides; forestry.



Stephanie Seymour

PhD Student, Lakehead University Faculty of Natural Resources Management

Title: *Exploring the Potential for solid Wood Fuel to Reduce or Replace Diesel Fuel in Rural and Remote First Nations in Ontario- Opportunities for Collaboration, Capacity Building, Self-governance and Nation-to-Nation Relationships*

Date: Tuesday May 9

Location: Algoma Ballroom

Time: 2:00-2:30pm

Bio: Stephanie Seymour is an Anishinaabe-kwe from Garden River, Ontario. After high school, Stephanie pursued an education in forestry beginning at Sir Sandford Fleming College in 2009, and continuing on to obtain her Bachelor of Science in Forestry from the University of New Brunswick and her Master of Science in Forestry at Lakehead University. Currently Stephanie is enrolled in the PhD in Forest Sciences program at Lakehead University where she is currently engaged in a research project that analyses existing policy and regulatory regimes that support the use of woody biomass to create energy in northern communities. This research promotes positive relationships with Indigenous communities, capacity-building, and diversification of the forest economy in northwestern Ontario.

Abstract: The paper focuses on alternative energy research conducted in collaboration with Lakehead University and First Nations in northwestern Ontario. The research aims to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of using forest biomass to reduce or replace existing energy supplies. The purpose of the research is to assess existing policies, regulations, and treaties that promote or prohibit the use of forest resources to create electricity. By providing an alternative source of heat and energy, the use of wood fuel can contribute to larger global goals such as carbon emissions reduction and the assertion of traditional rights to self-governance for First Nations in Canada. This research can benefit any rural and remote First Nation that relies on an outside fuel source to create heat and power, highlighting the potential for forest resources to support community initiatives and strengthen a community's self-governance. This paper hopes to showcase the prospects that renewable energy has for rural and remote communities. Though this research project is in its early stages, the research builds on previous research projects such as the one presented at the 2015 Gdo Akiiminaan Ganawendanaan Symposium entitled "Community Land Use Planning for Alternative





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Energy Projects in Ontario's Far North – Lessons and Opportunities for Aboriginal Lands and Resource Management". Further, the research may represent a shift in how land management issues are approached from a community's perspective. The researchers hope to share the lessons learned with other Aboriginal communities across Ontario. The research demonstrates cooperative relationships between universities, governments and communities, promotes sustainable use of resources, and supports local interests in renewable energy projects.

Ryan Bullock and Julia Lawler

Ryan Bullock, Environmental Studies Sciences Centre for Forest Interdisciplinary Research, University of Winnipeg

Julia Lawler, Centre for Forest Interdisciplinary Research, University of Winnipeg

Poster Title: Case for Indigenous Community Forestry

Date: Tuesday May 9

Location: Etienne Brulé Salon

Time: 2:30-3:00pm

Bio: Ryan Bullock, PhD, is Assistant Professor in the Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences and Director of the Centre for Forest Interdisciplinary Research (C-FIR) at The University of Winnipeg. He is also a former resident of Sault Ste. Marie and he is proud to have been a student at Algoma University (Geography, 2001-2003). His current community-based research focusses on how people learn together in cross-cultural governance settings in order to achieve mutual goals for forest and community sustainability. Ryan is lead editor of the forthcoming book *Growing Community Forests: Bridging Practice, Research and Advocacy in Canada* (with P. Smith, G. Broad, and L. Palmer, University of Manitoba Press, Fall 2017). He has also recently published articles in the United Nations journal *Natural Resources Forum*, as well as *Journal of Forestry*, and *Environment, Development and Sustainability*.

Abstract: Local control, benefits, and values are core principles of indigenous community forestry, which is a relevant management model for North America where communities and forests increasingly face competing and complex demands. In this article, we discuss the core principles and supporting conditions of indigenous community forestry in the context of Manitoba, Canada, where indigenous and forestry issues are closely connected. We characterize indigenous involvement in forest management in Canada to highlight the significance of forest-community connections and link recent developments to the Manitoba context to consider the potential for indigenous community forestry based on existing conditions, forest development opportunities, and needs.



Anne-Sophie Bélanger (B.A.), Chloe Boone (M.Sc), Nafisa Sarwath (Ph.D.), Kristy Franks (Ph.D.) and Véronique Bussières (Ph.D.)

Concordia University Department of Geography, Planning and Environment

Title: Beyond the Tri-Council's Chapter 9: Enacting Reconciliation Efforts in Research

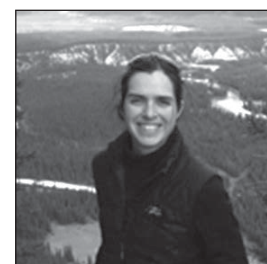
Date: Tuesday May 9

Location: Algoma Ballroom

Time: 3:00-4:30pm

Group Bio: This session is presented by a group of students in the department of Geography, Planning and Environment at Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec, working under the supervision of Dr. Monica Mulrennan. At various stages in their academic careers (from senior undergraduate to senior doctoral), they are all working on issues pertaining to Indigenous peoples, most in close collaboration with Indigenous communities. Their research interests range from protected areas and stewardship, to water ethics and relationality, to endangered species legislation and reviewing graduate theses that focus on Indigenous issues. They are all committed to fostering healthy, meaningful and enriching collaborations

Abstract: This talking circle focuses on community-academic research partnerships. We invite participants to share stories related to research ethics and protocols, research challenges, relationship-building processes, and respectful etiquette.





PRESENTERS

Leah Schmidt

Ontario Geological Survey

Poster Title: *Ontario Geological Survey: Providing Geoscience Data for Land Use Planning*

Date: Wednesday, May 10 **Location:** Etienne Brulé Salon **Time:** 10:00-10:30am

Bio: Leah Schmidt began work with the Ontario Geological Survey, which is a branch of the Ministry of Northern Development & Mines in March, 2016 and is based in the Thunder Bay Resident Geologist Office. Leah's educational background is in Indigenous human rights and Transitional Justice. She completed her Masters at Western University in Political Science and Transitional Justice with a focus on fostering collaborative relationships with Indigenous communities in Canada. Leah's previous work experience has been focussed on gaining additional working experience related to Indigenous relations within the provincial government. She has worked as a Research Assistant/Archivist at the National Women's Council of Canada in Ottawa; as Executive Assistant to the Director General of Transformations at Shared Services Canada in Ottawa; and as a Policy/Program Advisor Intern with Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)/Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs (MAA) based in Peterborough. Leah has had the privilege of spending time in a number of Northwestern Ontario Indigenous communities to continuously build her understanding of Indigenous cultural traditions and receive traditional knowledge teachings that has enabled her to build cohesive partnerships with various communities.

Abstract: The Ontario Geological Survey (OGS) is a Branch of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines and is responsible for collecting and interpreting geoscience data about the Province of Ontario and making it available to the public. Geoscience projects are conducted across the province from Fort Severn in the Far North to Windsor in southern Ontario. Geoscience data is commonly used for land use planning purposes by a wide range of stakeholders including municipalities, other government ministries, conservation authorities and the Federal government. Geoscience data is also used by First Nation communities in the Far North as part of the Community-Based Land Use planning process under the Far North Act. Geoscience data can be applied to a variety of public policy priorities such as public health & safety, infrastructure development, energy, economic development, biodiversity and habitat. The OGS works with users to interpret the geoscience data during the land-use planning process. The poster will highlight the various types of geoscience data that are collected and demonstrate how the data is used to inform land use planning decisions.



Veronique Bussieres

M.A in Public Policy and Public Administration, Department of Geography, Planning and Environment, Concordia University

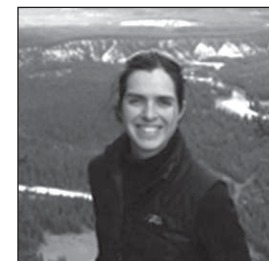
Title: *Indigenous Stewardship at the Land-Sea Interface: The Case of the Wemindji Projected Areas Project*

Date: Wednesday, May 10 **Location:** Algoma Ballroom **Time:** 10:30-11:00am

Bio: Véronique holds a B.Sc. in Biology from McGill University (2001) and an M.A. in Public Policy and Public Administration (2005) from the Department of Geography, Planning and Environment, Concordia University.

Veronique has been doing research in partnership with the Cree community of Wemindji, Northern Québec, since 2003. Building on her Master's thesis research on the relationship between the Crees of Wemindji and their coastal territory, her current research looks at indigenous environmental stewardship in coastal and marine environments. She is interested in getting a better understanding of how indigenous environmental stewardship can transform conservation approaches in Canada, in particular with regards to protected areas in coastal environments. She is drawing on her background in conservation biology, political science and human geography to analyze the complex institutional and governance context of eastern James Bay. Outside of her academic life, Véronique is the proud mother of three boys, aged 3, 7 and 10. She also finds the time to be an active community member; she is on the board of directors of the Québec chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (SNAP) and has been the president of her children's school governing board for the past 4 years.

Abstract: Adjacent marine and terrestrial coastal areas are connected through numerous ecological and physical processes. Indigenous and other local communities that inhabit coastal areas are part of complex social-ecological systems that characterise these land/sea-scapes. Many of them even see the land-sea interface as a continuous scape. Yet, most conservation strategies based on western worldviews see these two environments as separate. This research is based on 15 years of collaborative research with the Cree First Nation of Wemindji and a team of interdisciplinary researchers. It examines the potential application of community-based protected areas to accommodate indigenous stewardship in the complex context of rights, interests and jurisdictions that comprise





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and impinge upon the customary coastal and marine territory of a northern indigenous community. It looks more specifically at the initiative of the Crees of Wemindji to establish a protected area in their coastal and offshore customary territory. In addition to its high intrinsic ecological value, this area is of major cultural and subsistence economic significance to the Crees. This initiative is part of strategies both at the local and regional level to balance economic development, environmental conservation and the preservation of Cree culture and way of life. At the regional level, the Crees of Eeyou Istchee (eastern James Bay) are working towards the establishment of a network of culturally appropriate, locally-managed protected areas. In this paper, we will explore Cree stewardship in the land-sea continuum, and the political and institutional context for the development of this coastal protected area initiative. We examine opportunities and challenges with regards to indigenous environmental stewardship, with a focus on interactions between community and regional Cree governance entities, academics and NGOs. Keywords: Indigenous stewardship, land-sea continuum, marine protected areas, governance institutions, conservation.

Paige Restoule

M.A. in Environmental Studies Candidate, Nipissing University, and Dokis First Nation
Title: *Working to Protect the Water: Experiences of Connection through Storycircles*

Date: Wednesday, May 10 **Location:** Algoma Ballroom **Time:** 11:00-11:30am

Bio: Paige Restoule (Waasnoode Kwe) is Ojibway and Potawatomi from Dokis First Nation, Ontario. Paige graduated from Trent University with an Honors in Psychology and a minor in Indigenous Studies. Currently, Paige is a graduate student at Nipissing University in the Masters of Environmental Studies program, and her research focuses on the resurgence of Indigenous land-based activities. Paige is a community-based researcher and an active community member of her school and community.



Abstract: This paper focuses on exploring interconnections between technology, water risk, and Indigenous identity in Dokis First Nation, an Anishinaabe community in Northern Ontario. The research team recorded and transcribed shared stories through story circles and community workshops to effectively gather traditional knowledge. As such, part of this paper's focus is necessarily the process of translating these oral stories into a digital format that can be easily shared with community members through a web portal. Additionally, this paper communicates reflections on the development of a collaborative project between university graduate students and Dokis First Nation. These reflections include stories of the student's own research journeys of seeking and understanding knowledge about water use, control, and risk designation from their own perspective. Special emphasis is placed on the relationality of knowledge, a position that is rooted in the principal graduate student investigator's position as a community-based researcher from Dokis First Nation. Working within a collaborative project and grounded in story-based sharing, story-circles provide an alternative to individual interviews that attend to Indigenous knowledge systems, conceptions of identity, relationality, spirit, community and renewal. Graduate researchers share how their work, journey, and relationships are rooted within themselves, the people, places and Creation.

Nicole Latulippe

Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Geography & Planning, University of Toronto
Title: *Lived and Legislated: Fisheries Knowledge and Governance on Lake Nipissing*

Date: Wednesday, May 10 **Location:** Algoma Ballroom **Time:** 11:30-12:00pm

Bio: Nicole Latulippe is a PhD Candidate in geography at the University of Toronto. She comes from North Bay, Ontario, territory of the Nipissing and Algonquin peoples and the Robinson-Huron Treaty. She is completing doctoral research with Nipissing First Nation on the relationship between fisheries knowledge and governance systems on Lake Nipissing.



Abstract: My research with Nipissing First Nation (NFN) has shown some of the values, family networks, knowledges, politics, and responsibilities that underpin Nipissing fishing practices. These far exceed Traditional Ecological Knowledge and other policy frameworks designed to "capture" Indigenous fisheries. Provincial authorities and other outside agents often view Indigenous knowledge practices as frozen in time, vanishing or of use to 'fill gaps' in existing western knowledge systems. As one research participant stated, "You have to be careful when you give others the power to define these things." In my research, community members don't talk about TEK or circumscribed 'Aboriginal fisheries'. They talk about living, knowing, and loving the lake; responsibilities and "getting our house in order"; and they employ many tools to do so. Pottawatomi scholar Kyle Whyte calls this "knowledge sovereignty": the restoration of internal governance structures and the establishment of ethical relations between



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communities and other governments, researchers, and resource managers. NFN, like many communities, is already doing this. In contrast, the province merely tacks TEK on to existing policy instruments that exist with no reference to treaty implementation. In this session I share what I have learned from Nipissing knowledge holders, harvesters, and resource managers about Indigenous fisheries governance on Lake Nipissing and in the province of Ontario. Keywords: Indigenous fisheries; Indigenous environments and resource management; knowledge sovereignty; Lake Nipissing; Nipissing First Nation.

Nicole Recollet and Josie-Ann Langelier

Nicole Recollet: Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology from Algoma University and Civil Engineering Diploma from Cambrian College

Josie-Ann Langelier: Diploma for Fish and Wildlife Technician and Forestry Technologist, Wahnapiatae First Nation

Title: *Water Keepers Journey: Land Based Learning and Water Resource Protection*

Date: Wednesday, May 10

Location: Algoma Ballroom

Time: 1:00-1:30pm

Bio(s): Nicole Recollet is the Geospatial Analyst for the Wahnapiatae First Nation for the past seven years. She is responsible for the maintenance and operation of our Geographic Information System (GIS). Our GIS provides strong geospatial analysis of projects and activities within in our territory and is the core of resource management for the Wahnapiatae First Nation. Nicole has a graduate certificate in Geospatial Applications from Sault College as well as a Civil Engineering Diploma from Cambrian College. Nicole also holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology from Algoma University.

Josie-Ann graduated from College Boreal with a Diploma in Fish and Wildlife and Forestry Conservation and is now an Environmental Field Technician. She also shared her knowledge with students regarding Wetland Classification. She has strong knowledge of various environmental field and analysis techniques and has a high level of understanding on environmental studies relating to stream assessments, fisheries, biodiversity assessments, terrestrial surveys and wetland evaluations. She is an avid outdoors-woman and has great respect for the land and water and understands that protection of Mother Earth is paramount.

Abstract: In the summer of 2016, Indigenous women embarked on 19-day ceremonial canoe journey that followed their ancestral canoe route from their home community of Wahnabitaybing to the Great Lakes Water Gathering at Ketegaunseebee.

They paddled along the rivers and lakes that once connected the Anishinaabek communities, since divided by colonial systems, and legislation like the Indian Act. They intended to reaffirm the strength of the once unified Anishinaabek Nation and the shared responsibilities towards our collective lands and waters.

The journey blended the traditional responsibility of the Anishinaabe Kwe to care for the waters with modern day science techniques to assess the current health of the water systems and to pray for the healing of the waters. Along the way they documented hydro damming and other developments that impacts on the Anishinaabe way of life. What they found was eco-system disruptions, invasive species, unkempt portages, pollution, and water advisories among many of the First Nation communities along the North Shore of the Great Lakes. Through identifying these areas of concern, they've established the opportunity to dialogue with industry and government and work toward restoring those areas. Guided by the local elders, the women held water ceremonies in each of the communities they passed through. Through these ceremonies and the stories shared, the youth participants were taught about their sacred duty to protect the waters for future generations. The paddlers gave & received gifts and knowledge along the journey, resulting in the birth of a beautiful new water medicine bundle, which now travels to local elementary schools and teaches love for nibi.

Keywords: Traditional Land Use, Stewardship of the Water, Indigenous Wellbeing, Land Use & Occupancy Mapping, Reclamation & Restoration.





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Paul Robitaille

MSc candidate, in Forestry at Lakehead University

Title: *Forest-use patterns of First Nation youth in northern Ontario: Implications for policy and community engagement*

Date: Wednesday, May 10 **Location:** Algoma Ballroom

Time: 1:30-2:00pm

Bio: Paul Robitaille holds a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Science from McMaster University as well as a Forest Technician Diploma and Certificate in Aboriginal-Canadian Relations from Confederation College. Paul is now completing a Master's of Science in Forestry at Lakehead University, exploring collaboration building between Indigenous and non-Indigenous actors within Ontario's forest sector through improving our understanding of the unique interests, needs, aspirations and perspectives of Indigenous youth. Paul is also very active within the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), where he sits as he Chair of MNO's Provincial Youth Council and represents Métis communities in Northwestern Ontario in forestry-related consultation matters.



Abstract: First Nation youth play a central—albeit indirect—role in Ontario's forest sector as the beneficiaries of capacity-building arrangements, employment opportunities and cultural-retention initiatives. Despite their significant impacts to youth, these agreements are typically negotiated by only a small group of community elites, such as official leadership or economic interests within the community. While this, in itself, is not necessarily problematic, recent studies have suggested that the interests and perspectives of First Nation youth potentially differ substantially from traditional community decision makers such as elected leadership and elders. Consequently, there exists a strong possibility that capacity building arrangements and other initiatives, though well-intentioned, may ultimately be harmful or undesirable to youth, as they are created on youths' behalf, but without their direct input. Using a written, qualitative survey of participants in the First Nations Natural Resources Youth Employment Program, this study explores the current forest-use patterns of First Nation youth in northern Ontario as well as their awareness and knowledge pertaining to Ontario's industrial forest sector. These results are examined in relation to Ontario's current forest policies and the existing body of academic literature to provide a series of recommendations to support the more effective engagement and meaningful participation of First Nation youth within Ontario's forest sector. Gathering information directly from First Nation youth will not only help to ensure that they are the recipients of more meaningful development-derived benefits, but also that resource sector relationships and participatory processes will remain relevant and collaborative as younger individuals soon enter community leadership positions.

Deb Pine and Deborah McGregor

Deborah McGregor: Associate Professor Osgoode Hall Law School and Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University

Deb Pine: MA Student, Geography, University of Toronto

Title: *Anishinaabe Gkendaasowin and the Practice of Ziisabaakodakaan*

Date: Wednesday, May 10 **Location:** Algoma Ballroom

Time: 2:00-2:30pm

Bio(s): Dr. Deborah McGregor (Anishinaabe) is an Associate Professor with the Osgoode Hall Law School and Faculty of Environmental Studies at York University. She currently holds a Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Environmental Justice. Her research focuses on Indigenous knowledge systems, water and environmental governance, environmental justice, forest policy and management, and Indigenous food sovereignty.

Deborah Pine is from Garden River First Nation. Her parents are Fred and Louise Pine (her mother is originally from Birch Island First Nation) and both are fluent speakers of Anishinaabemowin/Ojibwe. Deborah graduated in 2013 Cum Laude from Algoma University with a degree in Community Economic and Social Development and minor in Sociology. She graduated in 2016 from University of Toronto with a Masters of Arts in Geography. Deborah conducted research on Anishinaabe Gkendaasowin, TEK and Climate Change. The title of her thesis was *Ziisabaakodakaan: the place where sugar is made*. Deborah is still a language student. Currently she works for Nogdawindamin Family and Community Services as a research project worker.



Abstract: One of the most pressing environmental challenges facing peoples around the world is climate change. Climate change scientists have pointed out that, in 100 years, the maple trees will no longer produce sap for making maple syrup and sugar. Sugar Maple trees (Ninaatigoog) are not adapting to the warmer climate. There are cultural practices of the Anishinabek that revolve around participating and producing Ziiwaagamide that are dependent on the environment and promote cultural continuity. Certain



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environmental conditions must be met for trees to produce sap; these conditions are well known to the Anishinaabek people who still produce Ziiwaagmide. What are the social and cultural impacts of the disappearance of Ziisabaakodakaan practices on Anishinaabek well-being? How have changes of Ziisabaakodakaan practices influenced Anishinaabemowin? How can Anishinaabe Gkendaasowin assist Anishinaabek in coping with ecological changes due to climate change? This presentation looks to address these questions through research conducted with a family based practice of the Ziisabaakodakaan in Wiigwaaskinigaa.

Kristy Franks

PhD Candidate, Concordia University Department of Geography, Planning and Environment

Poster Title: Cree Youth from Eeyou Istchee (Eastern James Bay, Northern Quebec) and Their Connections with Water

Date: Wednesday, May 10 **Location:** Etienne Brulé Salon **Time:** 2:00-2:30pm

Bio: Kristy's passion is water and trying to better understand our human relationship(s) with it. She completed a Master's with Concordia's Individualized Program focused on water worldviews working with Cree youth from Eeyou Istchee (Eastern James Bay, Northern Quebec). She is currently doing a PhD with Concordia's Department of Geography, Planning, and Environment and working with Indigenous communities in Northern Quebec, Northwestern Ontario and Southern Australia. She enjoys public speaking and video making, both for which she has won awards, specifically with the 3-Minute Thesis and SSHRC Storytellers contests. She cofounded and volunteers with Canal Bleu, an organization with the goal to clean up and promote enjoyment of the Lachine Canal in Montreal's Southwest, while also serving on the Board of Directors of Sustainable Concordia. Kristy is happy to learn and collaborate, specifically in areas of sustainable living, permaculture, traditional knowledge, ethics, water governance, and water justice.

Abstract: This poster presents findings from my Master's research which explored the water worldviews and related contexts of Cree youth from Eeyou Istchee (Eastern James Bay), Northern Quebec. I joined the group of youth and community Elders on a 10-day canoe expedition on the Paakumshumwaa (Old Factory) River, a waterway rich in cultural tradition and heritage for the Cree. Considering the construction of hydro-electric dams on Cree territory, the relationship Cree youth have with water has been impacted how they learn about water and water management, governance, and stewardship. The youth have experienced their traditional Cree knowledge simultaneously with Western knowledge and influences, a combination often causing internal and external conflicts. Youth want to believe that their skills and values related to water are inseparable (as per traditional Cree knowledge) however modern mainstream information and propaganda teach them otherwise. The presentation of my research findings explores how and what Cree youth have learned about their own relationships with water in the contexts of the cultural, economic, spiritual and environmental networks in which they are situated. The poster includes powerful quotes from the youth related to their own learnings about water and related to the knowledge they would like to transmit to future generations, in addition to captivating photos of the Cree youth interacting with water. Furthermore, a brief explanation of the guiding research methodologies is presented, consisting of an Ecosystem Approach (Sharpe, 2011), framed by case study methodology (Yin, 2009), and guided by Indigenous methodology principles (Hart, 2007; Kovach, 2010; Smith, 1999; Wilson, 2008).



Nicholas Palaschuk

University of Winnipeg

Title: Sustainable Development of Non-timber Forest Products in North-eastern Ontario: A Case Study of the Missanabie Cree First Nation

Date: Thursday, May 11 **Location:** Algoma Ballroom **Time:** 10:20-10:50am

Bio: Nicholas is a current second year graduate student at The University of Winnipeg pursuing a M.Sc in the Bioscience, Technology and Public Policy program and has completed a four year B.Sc, majoring in biology. His academic studies included a strong background in both forestry and biology with specific emphasis on conservation ecology, natural resource management, and sustainable development which has enabled him to gain a strong applied understanding of biological principles.

Through Nicholas's program of study in Bioscience, Technology and Public Policy, he continues to research current forest policy and management practices and how they affect Canadian land use planning. He believes that a strong commitment to scientific research with respect to northern forest policy and management is of unparalleled importance to better protect Canada's forest ecosystems and communities.





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It is his desire to be part of the movement that changes the way we as a country manage our lands and the way in which people perceive our forests. Throughout his post-secondary research, it has become apparent that significant biological and ecological knowledge gaps exist within the understanding of Canada's forested ecosystems structure and function. This remains a significant barrier to socio-economic development for rural, forest dependent communities. With little regional and national policy regulating the management of non-timber resources, westernized management systems have proven successful in mismanaging these invaluable resources while compromising the integrity of Canada's forests. In the wake of dynamic global climate change, Nicholas believes that addressing these knowledge gaps is of paramount importance to help advance sustainable forest management and foster strong environmental policy.

Abstract: Non-timber forest products (NTFPs) are an important element of the spiritual and cultural identity of Canada's Indigenous communities, while playing a significant role in traditional economies. Current commercial forest management systems do not adequately protect these natural resources as managers have yet to sufficiently incorporate both Western science and local Traditional Knowledge and experience into the planning process. To address these issues, we performed community-based case study research to examine the relationship between the Missanabie Cree First Nation and the provincial forest management system of Ontario, Canada. By outlining key interdependencies between forest governance and Aboriginal land use planning, this research identifies the potential socio-economic benefits of NTFPs for increasing the resilience of First Nations communities in boreal forest regions. 27 semi-structured interviews were conducted in August 2016 to investigate priorities and perspectives surrounding the development and conservation of NTFPs within Missanabie's traditional territory. For plant species deemed culturally/ecologically sensitive, setting conservation objectives will help facilitate strong protection mechanisms within the land claim. For those species deemed appropriate to develop, defining management objectives will also help ensure respectful and sustainable use. This analysis establishes key community-based objectives that have been prioritized by the community with the intent of promoting diverse socio-economic benefits, while advancing local forest management systems. Collaborative research findings will allow for Traditional Knowledge to be considered alongside Western scientific knowledge in working towards an NTFP development plan that can support social, economic, and environmental benefits to the Missanabie Cree community. **Keywords:** Aboriginal forestry, non-timber forest products, land use planning, sustainable development, Boreal.

Chris Macquarrie

Research Scientist, Canadian Forest Service, Sault Ste. Marie Ontario

Title: *Using Community Science to Help Understand Disturbances in the Boreal Forest of Eastern Canada- The Budworm Tracker Project*

Date: Thursday, May 11

Location: Algoma Ballroom

Time: 10:50-11:20pm

Bio: Chris MacQuarrie is a research scientist with the Canadian Forest Service in Sault Ste. Marie Ontario. He studies the interactions between trees, insects and forests. His goal is to develop ways to assess and mitigate the risk from insect pests to trees and develop ways of controlling insects that are integrated with natural processes. He currently works on spruce budworm, mountain pine beetle, forest tent caterpillar and the emerald ash borer.



Abstract: The budworm tracker program is a community science initiative that records the activity of spruce budworm ("budworm") moths across Eastern Canada and Maine. This presentation will discuss the ecology and management of budworm and introduce the Budworm Tracker program. Budworm is an important part of the ecology of the boreal forest and second only to fire as a disturbance agent influencing the structure and composition of forests in Canada. Budworm has been the subject of study for over 60 years to understand both its ecological and economic impacts. However, there is still a great deal that is not known about this species. This lack of knowledge influences our ability to predict the risk to the environment and the forest economy. The budworm tracker program is a community science initiative where residents of forest communities help scientists learn about this species. Participants in the program ('trackers') are given a moth trap and asked to monitor it over the summer. The data collected (the number of moths and the moths themselves) are returned to the project and combined with that from other trackers and used in research projects. The budworm tracker project has two goals 1) help scientists learn how populations of the budworm grow and move across the landscape and 2) engage with individuals and forest communities that are interested in learning more about the role of forests and forest insects. Forest communities in the north are ideal locations for budworm tracker sites, as they are located in areas that have not been well studied. Engaging trackers from these communities would help grow our understanding of the budworm in the boreal forest. **Keywords:** Forestry, science, spruce budworm, ecology, insects.



PRESENTERS

Nadine Roach, Tamara Ashawasega and Gayle Broad

Nadine Roach, Former Diversity Strategy Coordinator, Thessalon First Nation

Tamara Ashawasega, Economic Development Officer of Thessalon First Nation

Gayle Broad, NORDIK Institute, Algoma University

Title: Thessalon First Nation Diversifying its Biocentre

Date: Thursday, May 11

Location: Algoma Ballroom

Time: 11:20-11:50am

Bio(s): Tamara Ashawasega has been with Thessalon First Nation for over five years, first as the Business Development Officer and in the past three years as the Economic Development/Employment & Training Officer. Tamara has over 30 years of financial, operational and project management experience in aboriginal non-for-profit and charitable organizations. The one organization that stands out the most is Indspire (formerly the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation) as this company went through substantial growth within a short time frame and a mandate to assist aboriginal youth. With this vision of empowering youth, Tamara finds that engaging youth is the foundation of any future community development initiative of Thessalon First Nation. Tamara, one of four children and a second-generation residential school survivor, her parents were from Henvey Inlet and Wasauksing First Nations. As her parents were passionate in the rights of aboriginal peoples and became advocates, Tamara carries this torch with her.

Dr. Gayle Broad is an Associate Professor and the Research Director of NORDIK Institute, a community based research institute affiliated with Algoma University. A lifelong resident of Northern Ontario, Gayle's knowledge and interest in resource-dependency and its impact on people and the environment, has led her to take a holistic approach to researching community sustainability and resilience, including such diverse areas as culture and the arts, housing and poverty, and active involvement in the development of farmer's markets and local food marketing strategies, as well as with community forestry and non-timber forest products. She has been working with Thessalon First Nation in an advisory capacity to the diversification of their Bio-Centre.

Abstract: Thessalon First Nation (TFN) is leading the development of sustainable, culturally rooted self-reliance, community healing and pride, through the diversification of its BioCentre, an asset obtained by TFN as part of its land claims settlement. The diversification is founded on a four-part strategy that includes business diversification, strong communications and community engagement with TFN citizens, and networking with a diversity of potential partners including neighbouring First Nations and municipalities. The history of the site has revealed a cyclical process, where TFN's self-reliance and autonomy were compromised through the time of colonization, but is now contributing to the community's restoration, economic independence and overall health. This project illustrates some of the tools and strategies that communities may find useful in creating their own 'life projects'. Keywords: economic development, tools, methodologies, rehabilitation of lands Vendors/Exhibitors



Rihkee Strapp

Metis of the Wolverine Clan

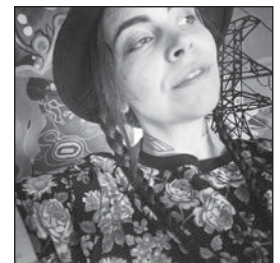
Tea & Bannock Session

Date: Wednesday, May 10

Location: Algoma Ballroom

Time: 3:00-4:00pm

Bio: Rihkee Strapp is a genderfluid Metis of the Wolverine Clan and was born in Red Lake, Ontario. They are a multi-disciplinary artist and Algoma University Alumni. After university, Rihkee completed a #StudioY Fellowship at the MaRS Discovery District, one of the world's largest urban innovation hubs. Rihkee loves connecting with people across Turtle Island using the process and history of graphic facilitation, for the purposes of community development, and co-creation.



Vendors/Exhibitors will be available in the Etienne Brulé Salaon throughout the Symposium.

NOTES



HOSTED BY

**Algoma University
Anishinaabe Initiatives Division
and the
Department of Geography & Geology**

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CHI MIIGWETCH