

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN BRITISH
COLUMBIA

NRESi has important role in creating linkages between researchers. This includes communication and the opportunity for interaction among UNBC and other university faculty, graduate students, and other associated researchers and research centers. It also recognizes the importance of making knowledge sharing and project participation open to the public, creating dialogues, and building linkages across a wide range of perspectives and expertise.

As a result of this integration across expertise, information can be shared in local communities to address local issues. Research findings can also be disseminated through NRESi's channels to allow for information to be shared to other areas facing similar issues or management and planning concerns. This has taken the form of presentations and extension, through NRESi's publication series and/or sharing current events and activities through the newsletter that others may find useful in their own work. NRESi continues to engage its members in discussions about how they would like NRESi to support their work, as well as the research needs of the broader community for mutual benefit that NRESi could help address.

Governance

The NRESi is overseen by a Director, selected for a 3 year term. There were two directors for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. Dr. Darwyn Coxson, serving in the 2nd year of his appointment, was on sabbatical from July-December 31, 2016. In his absence, Dr. Peter Jackson assumed the NRESi Director's responsibilities. In addition to a Director, NRESi is supported by a Research Manager who moves forward the day-to-day activities and needs of NRESi and its members, NRESi's initiatives, project development and communications. Alan Wiensczyk continued his role as NRESi Research Manager on a part-time basis for the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

The Director and Research Manager work closely with an internal Steering Committee. This group includes: three individuals selected to 2 year terms by the membership of the Institute, one member representing the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions, and another representing the NRES Graduate Program. See Table 1. The intent of this group is to reflect the perspectives of NRESi's members, provide guidance to support the work and activities of NRESi, and ensure that the Institute functions in accordance with its vision statement and purpose.

Table 1 Steering Committee membership during 2016-2017 fiscal year.

Name	Role	Term
Darwyn Coxson	Director	1 July 2014- 30 June 2018
Peter Jackson	Acting Director	1 July 2016- 31 December 2016
Che Elkin	Elected Member	1 May 2016- 30 April 2018
Steve Helle	Elected Member	1 July 2016- 30 June 2018
Paul Sanborn	Elected Member	1 July 2016- 30 June 2018
Stephen Dery	NRES Grad Program Rep	Began 1 Sept 2016 with No Fixed Term
Michelle Connolly	PICS Representative	No Fixed Term
Alan Wiensczyk	Research Manager	1 November, 2015- 31 March 2019

Nov 25 2016

Dr. Susan Wood-Bohm (Alberta Innovates)

three First Nations partners (Tsay Key Dene First Nation, Kwadacha First Nation and McLeod Lake Indian Band). The project funding will additionally help with cost recovery of consultancy expenditures by NRESi.

Cumulative Effects

The NRESi continued to participate in the institute partnership created Cumulative Impacts Research Consortium (CIRC) which was established in 2015 as a platform for research and community dialogue on the cumulative impacts of resource de

Peace Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program Lectures

For the past number of years, NRESi has partnered with the Peace Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program to put on a lecture that has themes related to the natural resource around the Peace region and Williston Reservoir. Five presentations were delivered this year: one in Prince George, and two each in two other communities in the Northeastern region of the Province. Dr. Kari Stuart-Smith (Canadian Forest Products Ltd) presented information on forest management efforts developed by several forest companies in the interior of BC related to the Migratory Bird Convention Act and Ryan Bichon (Mackenzie Nature Observatory) spoke about the on-going work at the Mugaha Bird Banding station to an audience of 35 at the Mackenzie Recreation Centre on November 30, 2016. On March 8, 2017, George Desjarlais (West Moberly First Nations) spoke about the decline in ungulate populations in the west at the Williston Reservoir as observed by Elders from the West Moberly First Nations and Scott McNay (Wildlife Infometrics Inc.) spoke about the research that he and his associates have undertaken on the status of caribou in the area around the reservoir. Approximately 20 people attended the talk at the LIDO theatre in Fort St John. The final speaker in the PMCP sponsored lectures was Dr. Steven Cooke from Carlton University in Ottawa, Ontario. Dr. Cooke spoke on March 22, 2017 about monitoring and research involving freshwater fish to an audience of over 40 at the Prince George, UNBC campus.

NRESi Awards

In past years, NRESi has recognized members who have made valuable research contributions over their career with the Distinguished Fellow award.

1. Distinguished Scholar: a NRESi member who has achieved any or a combination of the described criteria over the past 12 months (it is possible to receive this award more than once over a career)
2. Lifetime Achievement: a NRESi member who has achieved a combination criteria over the course of their career (both as NRESi members and, if appropriate, in previous positions/activities) and recipients are given a lifetime membership to NRESi.
3. Community Advancement Award: an individual or organization from the broader community who has demonstrated achievement of any or a combination of the described criteria through their research and/or service and recipients or an identified representative from the recipient organization is given a lifetime membership to NRESi

Further information, nomination guidelines, and criteria can be found on NRESi's website (<http://www.unbc.ca/nresinstitute/special-events-activities>).

This year, NRESi presented one award to a deserving researcher in the NRESi community. The Community Advancement Award was awarded to Darwyn Coxson for his work on the Ancient Forest Provincial Park initiative.

Scholarship Funds

Our 2016/2017 year-end operating fund closing balance was \$274,674. The financial situation for NRESi has improved over last year. Operating fund expenditures in 2016/17 exceeded revenues by only \$28,020 (Table 5), while overall funds at year end were \$621,310, down \$7,324 from the previous year end (Table 9). Proposed expenditures for 2017/2018 will be very similar, again drawing down the operating fund reserve by ca. \$27,000.

Revenue for the institute derives mainly from the reallocation of research overhead by members, which totaled \$15,569 in 2016/2017, up from \$9,835 in 2015/2016. NRESi continues to work towards new funding opportunities such as our participation in the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program project to reduce the drawdown of our operating fund.

NRESi has three endowment funds (a) NRESi Endowment, (b) Northwood Endowment, and, (c) Linnea Fund. The largest endowment fund is the NRESi Endowment. A one-time contribution of \$200,000 from BMAP overhead income in 2016 will enable use of the NRESi endowment fund as a source of future support for NRESi activities. Given the substantial funds held in the NRESi operating account in 2016/2017, no contribution was taken from the NRESi endowment fund in the past year allowing this fund to grow for future use (Table 6).

Our second largest endowment fund is the Northwood Endowment, which is used to fund the NRESi Annual Lecture series and other special events consistent with the original intent of the endowment. In years when the return on the endowment has been low (or even negative), NRESi's operating budget has been used to fund such activities in order to maintain an adequate balance in the endowment. This year, the Northwood Endowment earned \$9,349 in interest (Table 7).

The Linnea fund is presently inactive, as most of its assets were transferred to the Susan

Table 6 NRESi Endowment (46055): year-end budget statement for FY 2016-2017.

Opening Balance (April 2016)	\$209,406
Revenue: Interest	\$14,160
Donation	\$250
Total Revenues (FY-16)	\$14,410
Total Expenditure (overhead)	\$916
Year End Balance (March 2017)	\$222,900

Table 7. Northwood/Canfor endowment year-end budget statement for FY 2016-2017.

Opening Balance (April 2016)	\$116,185
Revenue: Interest	\$9,349
Total Revenues (FY-17)	\$ 9,349
Expenditure:	\$2,147

Natural Resources & Environmental Studies Institute

2017-2018 Workplan

This workplan describes how NRESi's 2016

NRESi will be organizing three lectures, one in Prince George during the usual spring timeslot, plus two additional presentations in the fall and winter in a northeastern BC community.

NRESi received conditional approval for year two of a three-year proposal to the Peace Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program for the second year of a research project to study and assess the nutrient dynamics and complex web of interactions between Kokanee, stream macro invertebrates (Aquatic insects), and the surrounding riparian zone (lichens) as a result of the introduction of Kokanee into the Williston Reservoir. First year results included identification of sample streams as well as preliminary field sampling. The second year project will involve continued field assessments of Kokanee, aquatic invertebrates, and riparian lichens in iden-6 (ae)3 (net)6 (T(c)8 (e))T(tr)4 (e)3 (a)4 (m1(d)-6 (ffia)10 (abl-10 (he)-86.1 n)-4 (i)14