

# UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

## MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Geoff Payne Vice President Research  
Dr. Dan Ryan Chair, Senate Committee on Academic Affairs

From: Dr. Darwyn Coxson

Date: June 12, 2018

Re: NRESi's 2017-2018 Annual Report

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Dear Drs Payne and Ryan

As per UNBC's Policy and Procedures for Centres and Research Institutes, please find attached the 2017-2018 Annual Report for the Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Institute (NRESi) covering the 2017-2018 fiscal year and NRESi's workplan of activities for 2018-2019. Both have been reviewed and discussed by its members at their 2018 Annual General Meeting.

On behalf of NRESi, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support. NRESi was focused on continuing the activities and initiatives that its members and the community have come to expect, as well as exploring and expanding possible research and project opportunities for NRESi and its members. Work has been focused on providing value to members, to UNBC, and the broader community, in a number of different ways. This will be explained in detail in the accompanying 2017-2018 Annual Report. NRESi continues to work towards the goals and objectives described in its five-year Strategic Plan, while also being flexible to new opportunities and ideas as they arise, as described in the 2018-2019 workplan of activities.

NRESi had another productive year, ending in a positive financial report and is exploring opportunities for long-term financial planning and sustainability, the continuance of ongoing activities, as well as the addition of new projects and initiatives to further support the work of NRESi members, UNBC, and its community partners.

Enclosures: NRESi Annual Report 2017-2018

cc: NRESi Steering Committee Members



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 disciplines and expertise.

As a result of this integration across expertise, information can be developed in local communities to address local issues. Research findings can also be disseminated through NRESi's channels to allow for information to be shared with 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. Dr. Darwyn Cox is the communi



The below (Table 2) provides an overview of NRESi's current membership, the membership category that each belongs to, and the most recent date of renewal (if applicable). This table shows that there are currently 70 NRESi members (Table 2). Membership activity during the

## Report on Activities for 2017-2018

*Background:* In 2011-2012,

Madeline Maley, BC Wildfire Service, Dr. Raina

addition, the videos of previous year's presentations have successfully been migrated over from the NRESi Youtube channel.

In the past, those interested in NRESi presentations and not able attend in person were able to participate via Livestream (video and slides) and Elluminate/Blackboard (slides and audio) It was decided in January 2018 to discontinue the Elluminate/Collaborate broadcast of the colloquium presentation. LiveStream provides a higher quality feed accessible to most. The provision of using two methods of access will continue to be evaluated on an ongoing basis and reinstated if required. The advantage of Blue Jeans system is that it does not require- 0.20.001 To -1.(v)3 (id)-4-





Over the last year, CIRC has continued to reach out to communities in northern British Columbia to expand our understanding of the cumulative impacts of resource development across northern BC, respond to knowledge and capacity gaps with original research, and build our capacity to act as a regional hub of cumulative impacts information and resources. As we move forward, we w

### *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 NRESi member who has achieved any or a

Dave attended almost every meeting, whether that was with the government, First Nations, or forestry companies. He was a true champion.

### *Scholarship Funds*

NRESi members continue to support two scholarship funds, respectively in memory of the contributions by the late Susan Stevenson and Dr. Joselito (Lito) Arocena. The recipient for the Susan Stevenson scholarship was Ms. Ilsa Griebel, who is conducting research on parasite susceptibility of nestling tree swallows. The recipient for the Joselito Arocena scholarship was Ms. Ilsa Griebel, who is conducting research on parasite susceptibility of nestling tree swallows. The recipient for the Joselito Arocena scholarship was Ms. Ilsa Griebel, who is conducting research on parasite susceptibility of nestling tree swallows.

Two publications were submitted and published in 2017.

- 1) Jackson, P.L., Albino, J., Birch, C., Nilson, B, Pawluk, J. & Tereshko, T. 2017. Trends in fine particulate matter (PM2.5) concentrations in Prince George, British Columbia, Canada. Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Institute. Research Extension Note No. 11, University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George, Canada.
- 2) Denryter, K.A., Cook, R.C., Cook, J.G., Parker, K.L. and Gillingham, M.P. 2018. Nutritional values of habitats for woodland caribou during summer. Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Institute. Research Extension Note No. 12, University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George, B.C., Canada.

Each year, NRESi also presents an award for a Research Extension Note written by a NRES graduate student. The 2017-18 award has not yet been presented.

## Budget Report

Revenues for the 2017-2018 fiscal year were derived from redirection of overhead from NRESi members and from cost recovery of research manager salary from project grants, including Peace Fish and Wildlife Compensation Projects

NRESi provided financial contributions to a number of events and activities throughout the year that it organized or help to organize:

- Annual Lecture, NRESi member and special invitation dinner and poster session, travel for a special lecturer, reception, and compensation for webcasting

- Undergraduate thesis presentation day and refreshment costs

- Graduate Icebreaker presentation, poster session, and travel for a special lecturer

- Special guest lecture presentations

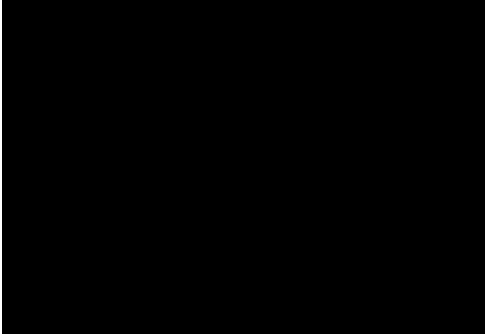
- Colloquium series assistance for travel for a presenter who participated in NRESi's colloquium series, advertising costs, compensation for all other



Table 6. NRESi Endowment (46055): year budget statement for FY 2017-2018.

Opening Balance (April 2017)	\$226,901
Revenue: Interest	\$7,834
Donation	\$260
Total Revenues (FY-18)	\$8,094
Total Expenditure (overhead)	\$ 947
Year End Balance (March 2018)	\$234,048

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# Natural Resources & Environmental Studies Institute

## 2018-2019 Workplan

This workplan describes how NRESi's 2018-2019 activities will build on the momentum of the previous fiscal year and further the objectives of NRESi through engagement, identification of new project opportunities, funders and partners, as well as providing networking across members and the community. Further to this, it will also describe how NRESi will work with other research institutes and organizations at UNBC and its partners on some key initiatives.

The focus of activities for the new year are described under five broad headings, which include a purpose, description, and desired outcomes for each proposed 2018-2019 budget. These are shown in Table 5 above.

### Project Descriptions

#### A. Partnerships & Project Development

**Purpose:** To develop partnerships and project opportunities to support the research goals of NRESi members and address the issues of UNBC's community through solutions based approaches and projects.

#### *Description of Activities:*

NRESi will continue working to identify project and funding opportunities on behalf of its members and NRESi more broadly, working together with the Development Office and the Office of Research. Planned area of investigation in 2018-2019 include working to explore further opportunities for research collaboration with the B.C. Hydro Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program.

Information and suggestions collected from NRESi members through the membership survey will assist in developing additional project themes. Opportunities to engage with the other UNBC research institutes, in addition to the cumulative impacts work currently underway, will be considered.



B. Service to NRESi Members and UNBC

Purpose: To maintain service delivery and networking between NRESi members and other UNBC departments for knowledge sharing, celebrating successes, building on each other's strengths, and reducing duplication of efforts where possible.

*Description of Activities:*

NRESi will continue to celebrate the achievements of its members and those in the natural resources research community. This will continue to be achieved in a number of ways. One example is providing NRESi's weekly newsletter as a venue for sharing new publications, awards NRESi members have received, conference presentations and other announcements.

NRESi also has its awards program that is presented each fall. The awards include: (a) Lifetime Achievement for career accomplishments, (b) Distinguished ~~Service~~ project related accomplishments, and, (c) Community Advancement for individuals and organizations outside

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NRESi will be organizing three lectures, 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 three of a three-year proposal to the Peace Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program to study and assess the nutrient dynamics and complex web of interactions between Kokanee, stream-dwelling macroinvertebrates (Aquatic insects), and the surrounding riparian zone (lichen communities) 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 of this project involved continued field assessments of Kokanee, aquatic invertebrates, and riparian lichens in identified streams while the third year of the project will focus on data analysis of collected samples, preparation of journal articles and summaries, and delivery of extension activities.

#### D. Communications

**Purpose:** To facilitate communication within the membership, to UNBC and external stakeholders, governments, communities, and other partners.

*Description of Activities:*