

## 2018 CIRC Forum: Cumulative impacts policy and practice in northern BC

*UNBC Campus, Prince George, January 18-19, 2018*

Forest fires. Climate change. Softwood lumber tariffs. A struggling liquefied natural gas sector. Over the past year, British Columbia has faced significant challenges which disproportionately affect northern communities. The change in provincial government has signaled commitments to strengthening its relationship with First Nations and northern communities, and address the broader impacts of environmental change. However, questions remain over the future of communities in resource-rich areas across northern BC. How can we better plan for and protect our communities under a changing climate? What does modernized land and resource planning look like? What are the policy opportunities that will assist us in protecting environments, community, and health values into the future?

Fueled by ongoing conversations with northern communities and collaborators working within and across various health, environment, and community-related sectors, the UNBC Cumulative Impacts Research Consortium (CIRC), with support from the ECHO (Environment, Community, Health Observatory) Network and the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS), is convening a policy-oriented forum addressing the future of resource communities in a shifting political landscape and a changing climate.

Designed with an integrative approach in mind, this event will provide opportunities to convene conversations with people and organizations interested in and actively working on issues related to the myriad impacts of resource development and climate change throughout northern BC. We will be hosting a public keynote event the evening of **Thursday January 18, 2018**, followed by a series of plenary sessions during the day on **Friday January 19, 2018**.

In hosting this event, CIRC intends to increase the visibility of policy-relevant research and practices directed towards the complex and unique challenges facing northern BC communities. In both imagining and planning for the futures of rural and remote communities in northern BC, this event seeks to promote collaboration and co-learning to stimulate intersectoral action, while celebrating innovative initiatives that are driving northern BC towards thriving and just futures.

No registration is required for the keynote address on January 18; this event will be free and open to the public. Registration is now closed for the sessions taking place on January 19. However, all sessions (including the keynote address) will be available for remote viewing using the following website: <https://www.unbc.ca/livestream>. Please contact [madeline.wilson@unbc.ca](mailto:madeline.wilson@unbc.ca) for details.

The event is initiated and led by CIRC (Cumulative Impacts Research Consortium), with the support of UNBC, the ECHO Network (Environment, Community, Health Observatory), and PICS (Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions).

## AGENDA

*All sessions will take place at UNBC Campus, Prince George,  
in the Conference Centre & Northern University Student Centre building.  
<https://www.unbc.ca/sites/default/files/sections/about-unbc/campus-map-2017.pdf>*

*All sessions will be available for remote viewing at: <https://www.unbc.ca/livestream>*

### **DAY 1: Thursday January 18, 2018**

***Canfor Theatre, Conference Centre & Northern University Student Centre***

**7:00 pm Keynote Address: Megan Leslie, World Wildlife Fund Canada**

Megan Leslie, President and CEO of World Wildlife Fund-Canada, will provide insight into emerging directions in wildlife and habitat conservation being led by WWF-Canada, the largest international conservation organization in the country. Drawing from her diverse experience working on issues related to environment and health from both inside and outside government, Leslie will reflect on the intersections between conservation and cumulative impacts management, and the important role of integration in understanding and addressing these complex challenges.

*Moderator: Art Fredeen, UNBC*

### **DAY 2: Friday January 19, 2018**

***Unless otherwise noted, all sessions will take place in Room 6-250, Conference Centre & Northern University Student Centre***

**8:00 am – 8:30 am Registration**

**8:30 am – 9:00 am Welcomes & opening remarks**

**9:00 am - 10:00 am Session 1: Cumulative effects frameworks for assessment, monitoring, and management**

Cumulative effects assessment attempts to reconcile possible environmental, community and health impacts of a proposed or existing project with an array of past, present and future land use activities. In light of a newly developed provincial policy framework, numerous groups are attempting to take stock of cumulative changes to environmental, social, economic, and cultural values resulting from the confluence of a variety of development projects. This panel explores perspectives from practitioners and policy-makers designing and deploying assessment frameworks to inform a deeper understanding of the long-term positive and negative impacts of resource development activities on northern BC landscapes.

*Speakers:*

- Matthew LeRoy, BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
- Hannah Askew, West Coast Environmental Law
- Don Morgan, BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
- Alistair MacDonald, The Firelight Group, on behalf of Fort Nelson First Nation

*Moderator: Mike Gillingham, UNBC*

**10:00 am – 10:20 am Break**

**10:20 am – 11:20 am Session 2: Indigenous land use planning and cumulative impacts management**

Across Turtle Island and around the world, Indigenous communities are actively planning to promote land and resource management. This panel will present some of the ways Indigenous communities and organizations are approaching land use planning and cumulative impacts management in a manner that accounts for impacts to treaty rights and Indigenous rights and title, and the inherent responsibilities of settlers and Canadian governments to support and respect these processes and their outcomes.

*Speakers:*

- Agnes Pawlowska-Mainville, UNBC
- Clayton Davis, Treaty 8 Cumulative Effects Framework Working Group
- Karyn Sharp, Carrier Sekani Tribal Council

*Moderator: Rheanna Robinson, UNBC*

**11:20 am – 12:20 pm Session 3: Watershed governance and cumulative impacts**

The health of watersheds in northern BC and beyond is critical to the communities and the natural environment, including the plant and wildlife to which they supply freshwater. Critical challenges to the health of these watersheds range from local resource extraction impacts to global influences such as climate change. As such, watersheds are exemplar levels of analysis to understand the cumulative impacts of resource development. Momentum has been building among a growing number of collaborative initiatives and grassroots organizations which seek to engage in formal roles in watershed decision-making. This panel discussion will explore BC trends in freshwater governance, including British Columbia's new Water Sustainability Act, which came into force in 2016. The Act outlines a process for designating responsibility for developing area-based water sustainability plans to local planning organizations.

*Speakers:*

- Jennifer Vigano, BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
- Reg Whiten, InterraPlan Inc.
- Rosie Simms, The POLIS Project on Ecological Governance
- Deborah Harford, Adaptation to Climate Change Team

*Moderator: Terry Robert, Fraser Basin Council*

**12:20 pm – 1:10 pm Lunch (provided for attendees who completed advance registration)**

**1:10 pm – 2:10 pm Session 4: Session with youth delegation**

Youth are the inheritors of the future. Recognizing the importance of including decision-makers of tomorrow in the decisions that are made today, a youth-tailored workshop will occur alongside the larger forum. The workshop will focus on youth priorities for their communities in light of cumulative impacts of resource extraction. Youth will also work to draw connections between their communities, environment, and wellbeing, while hearing about research that is occurring across northern BC. Youth

delegates will join the larger symposium in this afternoon session to facilitate discussion on their priorities and interests, and for forum attendees to learn from the next generation of decision-makers.

*Moderator: Vanessa Sloan Morgan, UNBC*

**2:10 pm – 3:10 pm      Session 5: Assessment of cumulative impacts on health and wellbeing**

Health is a recognized pillar of environmental assessment regulations in British Columbia. However, health impacts of various development projects still focus largely on direct biophysical exposures. This session will explore the ways in which proponents, government agencies, communities and researchers are attempting to broaden the purview of the health impacts of resource development to include impacts on the social determinants of health and health service delivery.

*Speakers:*

- Barb Oke, Northern Health
- Chris Buse, UNBC
- Sandra Martin Harris, Lihksilyu Clan, with the Gitksan Government Commission
- Henry Harder, UNBC

*Moderators: Margot Parkes (UNBC) and Sandra Allison (Northern Health)*

**3:10 pm – 3:30 pm      Break + Walk to Wildfires panel**

**3:30 pm – 4:30 pm      Session 6: Wildfire preparedness and cumulative impacts\***

*\*Note this panel will take place in the Canfor Theatre  
(Livestream will be available at: <https://www.unbc.ca/livestream>)*

The summer of 2017 was the worst wildfire season on record in the province of British Columbia. Wildfires have widespread impacts on the environment, communities, and health. This session will explore climate change, conservation, planning, and provincial and regional responses to wildfires. Speakers will discuss what they understand to be important steps in planning and protecting our landscapes and health, from the local to the global level.

*Speakers:*

- Dominick DellaSala, GEOS Institute
- Madeline Maley, BC Wildfire Service
- Raina Fumerton, Northern Health
- Sonja Leverkus, Shifting Mosaics Consulting/Northern Fire WoRx

*Moderator: Al Wiensczyk, UNBC*

**4:30 pm – 5:00 pm      Concluding Remarks**