



RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES

"Our environment is our future"

FRIDAY

Feb. 8, 2008

3:30 - 4:30

LECTURE THEATRE **7-150**

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS SERVED AT 3:20 PM

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Associate Professor History Program



Using Historical Documents to Reconstruct Environmental Change in Northern British Columbia

Environmental scientists recognize that environmental management strategies in northern British Columbia need to incorporate projections of the pace and trajectory of future environmental change. They also understand that knowledge of past environmental change is crucial to the development of these projections. However, scholars have made relatively little use of historical documents in their efforts to reconstruct environmental changes in the region over the past two centuries. This presentation will explore the possibilities for such research based on documents created during the fur trade era, with emphasis on the records of the Hudson's Bay Company dating from 1820 to the early twentieth century. Examples will range from evidence relating to the pine beetle and climate change, to the history of game and fur-bearing animals, including moose and caribou.

