

environmentally focused research and as an identifiable unit to which communities, industry, and government can turn for help with research questions and assessments of research needs.

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## PLANS FOR 2008-2009

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In July 2008, the NRES Institute intends to move to a single Director model, consistent with the long-term goals of the Institute. The Institute hopes to play coordination role to facilitate UNBC-based research as part of the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions as well as the Future Forest Ecosystems Scientific Council. Institute members are planning an Occasional Paper exploring issues surrounding biomass energy conversion. We will continue to sponsor the Colloquium Series, an NRES Graduate Student Icebreaker, as well as the Annual Research Forum and Annual Lecture Series.

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## Financial Statement

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Total revenues for FY 2007-2008 (\$11,470.98) from overhead redirection from the Vice-Provost for Research and Graduate Studies and matching overhead redirection from the associated administrative programs (ESM: Aukema, Booth, Burton, Egger, Gillingham, Green, Huber, Johnson, Lewis, Lindgren, Parker, Rea). Total expenditures (\$7,256.00) included stipends to the co-directors, sponsorship of the NRES Institute Colloquium, and office costs. The Doug-Little/Canfor Endowment supported the NRES Graduate Student Fall Icebreaker, the NRESI Research Forum and the NRESI Annual Lecture. Our year-end balance was \$51,292.98, a net increase in our year-end balance of \$4,214.98 from FY 2006-2007.

Starting Balance	\$47,078.00
Revenues	\$11,470.98
<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>\$7,256.00</u>
<b>Year End Balance</b>	<b>\$51,292.98</b>

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## Governance 2007-2008

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### *Co-Directors*

Art Fredeen  
Mike Gillingham

### *Steering Committee Members*

Phil Burton  
Kathy Lewis  
Brian Menounos  
Ken Otter

For more details on the information provided in this report, please visit our website:

<http://www.unbc.ca/nres>

### **Contact Information:**

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UNBC  
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Prince George, BC V2N 4Z9



## Natural Resources & Environmental Studies Institute

### Annual Report 2007-2008

April 2008



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## Our Purpose

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The Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (NRES) Institute is a formal association of UNBC faculty and affiliates promoting integrative research to address natural resource systems and human uses of the environment, especially issues pertinent to northern regions. The primary goal is to integrate across perspectives to better understand the functions, viability, and values of natural resource systems.

Founded on and governed by the strengths of its members, the NRES Institute creates opportunities for collaboration among its members to work on complex problems and to disseminate results. It advocates both fundamental and applied research approaches to resource use that conserve ecosystem health, and sustain resource-dependent communities. The NRES Institute serves to create alliances among researchers, resource managers, and representatives of all levels of governance and industry, communities, and First Nations, which are necessary to integrate research into management, and to keep research relevant and applicable to problems that require innovative solutions.

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## What We Do

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The NRES Institute fosters communication among researchers and potential partners, rather than sponsoring or conducting specific research projects. It provides a conduit for basic and applied research opportunities from outside of the university, as well as a means to synthesize research

findings for dissemination beyond academia. As well, we create a bridge to the NRES Graduate Programs by providing graduate students with opportunities to interact with researchers and to showcase their own research activities.

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## 2007-2008 Highlights

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- There are currently 63 members of NRES Institute.
- The Institute sponsored 22 colloquia as part of the weekly NRES Institute Colloquium Series (past abstracts available at [www.unbc.ca/nres](http://www.unbc.ca/nres)).
- The NRES Institute Endowment was created (thanks to an initial contribution from Dr. Art Fredeen) to provide a mechanism for external support of the Institute. Individuals interested in contributing to this endowment should contact the UNBC Advancement Office.
- The 3rd Annual NRES Graduate Fall Research Social was held on September 14th to showcase the work of NRES Graduate Students and to welcome to graduate students to the program.
- The 3rd Annual NRES Institute Research Forum (February 28th) showcased current research of NRES Graduate Students and Institute members.
- The 3rd Annual NRES Institute Lecture (February 28th) featured Dr. David Hik of the University of Alberta. Dr. Hik's talk was entitled, "International Polar Year and the Future of Arctic Research in Canada".
- Two NRES Occasional Papers were published during 2007-08 based on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual lectures presented by

Dr. Bill Rees and Dr. Terry Chapin. Occasional Papers are available in PDF format from [www.unbc.ca/nres](http://www.unbc.ca/nres).

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## Research Activity

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The Institute emphasizes disciplinary research in an interdisciplinary context. Research endeavors can be broadly grouped into one or more of the following categories: *Ecological Patterns and Processes*, *Societal Structures and Values*, and *Earth Systems and Dynamics*.

Please see [www.unbc.ca/nres](http://www.unbc.ca/nres) for a complete list of members and their research interests and a Google Earth link to view the location of current NRESI projects.

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## Support for the NRES Graduate Programs

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NRES INSTITUTE members mentor graduate students through the NRES Graduate Programs (PhD, MSc, MA, MNRES). The Institute sponsors an annual NRES Graduate Student Poster Session and Icebreaker each fall; and a Research Forum preceding the Annual Lecture each spring. Graduate students also nominate at least one speaker per year for the NRES Colloquium. The Institute also advertises funded graduate research opportunities within the NRES graduate programs.

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## Long-term Vision

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We envision the NRES Institute continuing to become a recognized leader in