



"Our environment is our future"

The Natural Resources & Environmental Studies Institute Annual Lecture



Guest Lecturer:

Dr. Bram Noble

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"Cumulative Environmental Effects and the Tyranny of Small Decisions"

Canada's land and water resources are under increasing pressure from the cumulative environmental effects of anthropogenic disturbance. Cumulative environmental effects are effects of an additive, interactive, synergistic, or surprise nature, caused by often individually minor, but collectively significant actions that accumulate over space and time. The need to assess and manage the environmental effects of development is not a matter of debate; however, the way in which we approach decisions about land use and resource development is doing more harm than good. Assessing and managing the impacts of development on the landscape is often piecemeal, divorced from broader regional and strategic planning initiatives and at odds with the pursuit of sustainable development. This presentation examines the nature of cumulative environmental effects, and the current state-of-the-art of cumulative effects assessment. Case studies from across Canada will be used to illustrate the current 'problem isolation paradigm' in decision-making about resource development, and the implications of current practices for cumulative environmental change. Challenges to cumulative effects science and to the regulatory approach to cumulative effects assessment will also be addressed. Opportunities will be identified to advance cumulative effects assessment to a more meaningful and integrative environmental assessment and resource planning framework.

Date: Thursday March 18th, 2010

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: UNBC, Canfor Theatre (Room 6-213)

(Light refreshments available)

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Unable to make it in person? Watch the colloquium at your computer! For Elluminate information and link to the webcast:

http://www.unbc.ca/nres/nresi_webcast.html

Log in as "Guest"