



Above and below: The 2012-13 class in the Master of Northern Governance and Development program embarked on their international field school in Northern Norway (more on the field school inside)



Inside this issue...

-  ICNGD welcomes Yukon delegation
-  Snapshots of the MNGD international field school
-  MOUs signed with North-Eastern Federal University

Message from the Director

In late April, the members of the International Centre for Northern Governance and Development's Northern Advisory Board (NAB) came together to discuss the academic year ahead. After a half day of good discussion, the Board confirmed the Centre's research areas of focus as well as some guidelines for community consultation.

The Board unanimously endorsed five areas of research focus for the Centre including: Governance; Health and Social Development; Innovation and Entrepreneurship; Capacity Building; Resource Development and Environmental Management. These areas represent the subjects the ICNGD – with a 30+ membership that has a wide cross-section of expertise – has the capacity to lead in. For your interest, you can review the ICNGD membership by visiting www.usask.ca/icngd and selecting 'People' from the menu.

The Centre's three geographic audiences or regions of focus were also officially approved by the Board. These include Northern Saskatchewan, Provincial Norths, and the Circumpolar Sub-Arctic. The ICNGD works with partners across these three regions to formulate research strategies and programming that meet northern needs.

Finally, the Board also recognized the importance of seeking ways to engage community representatives in the various stages of the research process as well as the need to maintain a focus on youth—the fastest growing northern demographic. The Board's next meeting will take place within the Northern Administration District this fall.

In other news, the ICNGD is proud to have signed MOUs with Russia's North-Eastern Federal University (NEFU) as of April 12th. Read more about this in the 'International Connections' section of this newsletter. Lots of exciting stuff ahead!

~ Greg Poelzer

*Bringing the North to the university and
the university to the North*

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Research News

Circumpolar Workshop

(March 12, University of Saskatchewan)

With support from the Circumpolar Liaison Directorate at Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, the ICNGD held a workshop to discuss capacity building in the North. The workshop was attended by researchers from the U of S, Yukon College, the Yukon Government, and the University of Northern British Columbia. The objective was to identify strategies for cooperation between Circumpolar institutions, public and Aboriginal governments and business. The workshop is also part of an ongoing effort to build Circumpolar connections related to capacity building and workforce development in the Arctic and sub-Arctic.

Yukon Delegation

(March 11-12, University of Saskatchewan)

Representatives of Yukon College and the Yukon Government paid a visit to the ICNGD and

the U of S to continue their work on program development. The two institutes have been working together for over a year; coordinating resources to better serve Aboriginal northern communities.



Members of the Yukon College delegation, joined by Director of the BA Northern Studies at the U of S, Gary Wilson (second from left), preparing to attend the Circumpolar workshop.

Program News

MNGD International Field School

The third cohort in the Master of Northern Governance and Development program embarked on their international field school in Northern Norway between

March 15 and 23. The students conducted field work, made research connections and attended lectures. The field school is part of the coursework in their resource economics class and is intended to give the students a broader

perspective about northern economies and their relationship with natural resources. It's funded by Cameco, the Saskatchewan Government and the Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education.



From left: Lorna Lemaigre (La Loche), Thomas Sierzycki (La Ronge), and Denise Dodds (Fort McMurray) attending a lecture as part of the field school.



From left: Sylvia Harris and Thomas Sierzycki, both of La Ronge, take part in a king crab fishing expedition in Buggøynes, Norway.



From left: Lorie Peters-Whiteman (Sturgeon Lake) and Sylvia Harris visit an open iron ore pit at the Sydvaranger Mine in Bjørnevatn, Norway.

International Connections

ICNGD and UArctic Thematic Network in Northern Governance Welcome New Partner

The ICNGD and Director Greg Poelzer, who also leads the UArctic Thematic Network on Northern Governance, hosted a visit from the recently established *Center of Legal Studies of Sustainable Development in the Arctic and Indigenous People of the North* located at the North-Eastern Federal University (NEFU) in Yakutsk, Russia. Center Head Anatoly Sleptsov was in Saskatchewan – including stops

in Saskatoon, Prince Albert, and La Ronge – to discuss future collaborations in master's programming as well as areas for research coordination.

The two parties agreed to establish joint research initiatives within the Thematic Network in Northern Governance, as well as to work toward a dual degree offering in the future. MOUs were signed between the ICNGD and *Center of Legal Studies of Sustainable Development* and the ICNGD and the Faculty of Law at NEFU.



From left: Anatoly Sleptsov, Head of NEFU's *Center of Legal Studies of Sustainable Development in the Arctic and Indigenous People of the North*; Ken Coates, ICNGD Co-Director (Research), and; Greg Poelzer, ICNGD Director.

Community Networks

Meeting of the Northern Advisory Board

The ICNGD's Northern Advisory Board, chaired by Centre Director Greg Poelzer, met in Waskesiu on April 4th. The board provides feedback and guidance on Centre activities and helps to identify areas of program and research focus according to northern priorities. The next meeting of the Northern Advisory Board will take place on October 18, 2013.



Board members (from left): Rob Norris, Toby Greschner, Louis Gardiner, Ilene Busch-Vishniac, Georgina Jolibois, Greg Poelzer, Robert Doucette, Vice-Chief Dwayne Lasas. Absent from photo: Chief Tammy Cook-Searson, Gary Merasty, Grand Chief Ron Michel, and Robert Watson.

MNGD Spring Recruitment Tour

The ICNGD toured northern communities in advance of the Master of Northern Governance and Development program's May 1st application deadline. Some of the communities visited include (clockwise from top left photo below): Pelican Narrows, Hall Lake, Cumberland House, and Deschambault Lake, as well as (not pictured here): Pinehouse, Montreal Lake, Southend, Grandmother's Bay, La Ronge, Prince Albert, Creighton, and Sandy Bay.



Spotlight on Centre Member

Dr. Toddi Steelman

Toddi Steelman, Executive Director and Professor at the School of Environment and Sustainability (U of S), is the newest Centre member.

In 2008, Toddi was a Fulbright Scholar to Simon Fraser University where she worked on biodiversity conservation issues in the greater Vancouver region. She is the editor in chief of the journal *Policy Sciences*. Her research focuses on improving the governance of environmental and natural resources, with an emphasis on science, policy, and decision making interactions. She places special emphasis on the role of the public and community in decision making. Current and past research and outreach projects have included climate change adaptation, disaster resilient communities, risk and crisis communication, wildfire preparedness, watershed remediation and management, land and open space protection, national forest planning, community forestry, and biodiversity conservation.

Toddi is the author of *Implementing Innovation: Fostering Enduring Change in Environmental and Natural Resource Governance* (Georgetown University Press, 2010). She is the co-author of *Knowledge and Environmental Policy: Re-Imagining the Boundaries of Science and Politics* (MIT Press, 2010), *Collaborative Environmental Management: What Role for Government?* (Resources for the Future, 2004), *Adaptive Governance: Integrating Science, Policy and Decision Making* (Columbia University Press, 2005), and numerous journal articles and book chapters. You can reach Toddi at toddi.steelman@usask.ca.



Student Profile

Dee Johns

MNGD, Class of 2011

Originally from Ontario, Dee has been living and working in La Ronge, Saskatchewan since 1999. She says that she and her husband went to La Ronge for a few months of vacation and just never left.



"I always knew I wanted to live and work in a non-urban setting," says Dee. "The North quickly became my home and it's where we're raising our five kids."

It was Dee's boss that suggested she consider the MNGD program in the spring of 2011. He felt that her passion for the North, combined with her undergraduate training in planning, would make her an excellent candidate for a program devoted to northern development and capacity building. She decided to take the plunge and hasn't looked back.

"I tell anyone who asks me about the program that the single most important thing it did for me was to broaden the way I look at things," says Dee. "It sounds simplistic but learning to look at things from a variety of perspectives has changed my worldview."

She credits Bonita Beatty, the MNGD Chair and a professor of Native Studies, for introducing her to the idea of multiple ways of learning and knowing.

Dee is currently working as a planner for the Government of Saskatchewan. She is based out of La Ronge but works with 35 northern communities. She will convocate this spring, and plans to continue drawing on the lessons and contacts she made through the MNDG program.

She concludes: "I've learned that there is so much more than I was even aware of happening right here in Northern Saskatchewan."

Announcements & Centre Briefs

The Centre's Bonita Beatty to receive Graduate Teaching Award

Dr. Bonita Beatty, ICNGD Co-Director of Graduate Studies and Chair of the Master of Northern Governance and Development program, will receive the 2013 Provost's Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award. The award is in recognition of Bonita's leadership in developing the MNGD program as well as her strong and sustained commitment to ensuring the success of northern students.

The Provost's Award winners were announced in early April, and the presentations will be made during the University of Saskatchewan's Celebrity of Teaching event to be held in September 2013.

ICNGD Director Greg Poelzer asks: Is Canada's rich prairie province poised to be another Norway?

ICNGD Director Greg Poelzer had an article published in the March 2013 edition of Policy Options magazine, discussing potential wealth creation and maintenance strategies for the province. In particular the article focuses on what Saskatchewan could learn from Norway's successful stewardship of northern resource wealth. The article, entitled *Saskatchewan Vikings*, is already generating interest in Saskatchewan and abroad.

View the article on the ICNGD website under the 'Activities' menu (March 14th entry).



International Centre for Northern Governance and Development (ICNGD)



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

New agreement attracts SIAST grads to Bachelor of Northern Studies program

The U of S College of Arts and Science signed a 2+2 Articulation Agreement with the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST) that will allow graduates of SIAST's Resource and Environmental Law program to transfer into the third year of the U of S BA Northern Studies program. This agreement is possible because this SIAST program has similar course requirements to the first two years of the BA Northern Studies program.

The BA Northern Studies was formerly housed with the ICNGD and the Centre continues to maintain an affiliation to the program.

ICNGD informs Government of Canada study on Arctic Foreign Policy

The Government of Canada's Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development invited ICNGD Director Greg Poelzer to provide evidence on the government's study into Canada's Arctic Foreign Policy. The presentation touched on:

- Growing natural resource needs
- The effects of climate change on transportation
- Changing governance structures in the North
- The interests of the Provincial Norths

Read the complete presentation on the ICNGD website under the 'Activities' menu (March 7th entry).