



"Our environment is our future"

**Friday,
Sept 27, 2019**

3:30 - 4:30

**Room
8-164**

NRESi COLLOQUIUM

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Integrated Watershed Research in the Nechako

The Nechako Watershed encompasses nearly 50,000 square kilometers from the Coast Mountains to the Interior Plateau of British Columbia, forming the second largest sub-watershed of the Fraser River Basin. The Nechako (a derivation of a Dakelh word meaning "big river") remains a vital waterway for anadromous fish including three species of salmon and non-anadromous fish such as bull trout, rainbow trout, and the endangered Nechako white sturgeon. Despite its ecological, societal and cultural importance, the nature of this complex system remains elusive. Cumulative stressors including climate change, landcover disturbances (e.g. wild-fires, the mountain pine beetle outbreak and forest harvesting), land use changes (e.g. the expansion of the Vanderhoof agricultural belt), and damming of the Nechako River main stem have led to drastic changes to the water and landscapes of the Nechako. Over the past five years, a team of four UNBC researchers with complementary expertise has thus undertaken a study to integrate knowledge on climate change and water security, sediment sources and fluxes, and the health and well-being of the Nechako. This colloquium delivered by the four members of the Integrated Watershed Research Group will report on their findings through the first years of research in the Nechako and lessons learned in this collaborative effort involving many stakeholders across the Nechako.

