

Partnering for Sustainable Resource Management



Introduction of new CURA Students, and their research topics



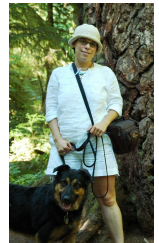
Deanna Yim, Environmental Monitoring, Improved Partnership Stream Graduate Student

Hi, in September I moved from Vancouver to Prince George to begin my masters at UNBC in the Improved Partnerships Stream of the CURA project. I am very excited for this opportunity to work on community environmental monitoring research with Tl'azt'en Nation. My research will involve working closely with Tl'azt'enne to develop, apply, and evaluate methods for identifying indigenous measures of co-management success for monitoring particular plants and animals of interest to the Tl'azt'en Nation within the following five categories: medicinal plants, berries, trapping, fishing, and hunting.

This project is of particular interest to me because of how this project will involve working closely in partnership with Tl'azt'en Nation; I know that I will learn a tremendous amount by working with community members. I am looking forward to being a part of and contributing to the meaningful research that is ongoing in CURA.

Claudette Bois, Disturbance History, TEK Stream PhD Student

I was born in Montreal, Quebec, where I lived for most of my life. I pursued my education at McGill University where I obtained an undergraduate degree in Botanical Sciences and a Master of Science in Renewable Resources (specifically, forest soil fertility as a result of wildfire and timber harvest). I moved to Prince George in 2003 to coordinate a research project which assessed the amount of carbon stored in large trees, small trees, shrubs, herbs, woody debris, forest floors, and soils in Sub-Boreal spruce stands in the Aleza Lake Research Forest. I have just started my Ph. D. this September with Dr. Kathy Lewis and Dr. Gail Fondahl. Currently, I am attending the required courses and preparing for the qualifying exams which will take place in April of this year. My research interest focuses on developing a disturbance history of the Tl'azt'en traditional territory through the use of both oral histories and field measurements, and how Tl'azt'enne adapted to historic forest disturbances. Forest disturbances include forest fire events, insect and pathogen outbreaks, and climate change. In doing this research, I look forward to working with, learning from, and sharing my expertise with the Tl'azt'enne.



Leona Shaw, Medicinal Plant Site Restoration, TEK Stream Graduate Student

I was born in Montreal, Quebec, and grew up mainly in London, Ontario. After high school I attended the University of Western Ontario (UWO), where I was enrolled in a variety of science and math courses. After a few years I decided that I wanted to get some field experience and moved to Castlegar, BC where I obtained my Fish and Wildlife Management Diploma. I then took a couple years off school and traveled through a few countries in South America and volunteered on an animal refuge in a small village (Villa Tunari) in Bolivia. When I returned to Canada I completed my Bachelor of Science (BSc) and began my Masters of Natural Resources and Environmental Science (MNRES).

I am currently a part of the Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) Stream and look forward to working with Tl'azt'enne and the rest of the people involved with CURA. My project focuses on the "ecology of harvesting". It involves working with the Tl'azt'en Elders and learning about traditional medicinal gathering sites through the collection of botanical and ecological information. I hope to begin collecting information in the spring by conducting interviews in field sites where medicinal plants are collected. I will gather information about plant communities and any disturbances that may have affected these communities in the past such as logging or pollution. Hopefully this data can be used in the future to aid in the restoration and protection of these special sites. I am excited to be working on this project and am grateful to have this opportunity to work with Tl'azt'en Nation.



Matteo Babini, Tl'azt'en Tourism Potential, Eco-tourism Stream Graduate Student

Hello everyone! I recently started working in the CURA project's Eco-tourism stream. I am originally from Genova, Italy but more recently from Vancouver. When I moved to Prince George this past September it was my first time this far north in British Columbia and I have recognized that this is a very special area of the world with bull moose wandering along the highways!

Dr. Pam Wright is my supervisor and the mentor of my project: to identify key features, messages, themes and resources that may serve as the basis of a tourism product that Tl'azt'en Nation would like to share with visitors. The identification of these cultural features and setting requires thoughtful research and consideration before the setting is offered for eco-tourism. The Tl'azt'enne are the most important participant in this process and the utmost respect and diligence will be used in order to develop an inventory of cultural settings that appear to have eco-tourism appeal. My background includes many years working in business and university degrees in Geography and Education and I am currently working as a substitute teacher in Prince George when time permits. I am hoping my maturity and past skills will enhance this project and I am very excited to continue with the creation of a cultural setting inventory in the coming months. The people that I have met so far have been extremely knowledgeable and helpful and I am sure with all of us working in concert this will be an incredible project upon completion.

Hebert Shane Hartman, Tourism initiatives for Tl'azt'en Nation, Eco-tourism Stream Graduate Student

Hadih, I'm a member of the Nak'azdli Band, Beaver Clan. I am a graduate student at the University of Northern British Columbia working the tourism stream of the Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Program. My field of research is developing new economic paradigms for resource based communities. I completed my undergrad at Malaspina University College where I helped research alternative rank and tenure practices to help Malaspina define and implement university policy. I also worked to help develop and implement the first Health and Wellness Center at Malaspina, as well as working as a volunteer student mentor to assist first year students in merging into university life.



For my work with CURA I will be working to develop an asset analysis for the first nations of the area. I would like to determine the local skills and knowledge available from the people in the area that could contribute to a tourism business for Tl'azt'en Nation. I will also be looking at how we can give ownership of the venture to the local community and what needs to be done to make sure any tourism business is successful. For my thesis I also plan to look at various levels of tourism business's and see which is best suited to Tl'azt'en Nation. Would they prefer a large business or several smaller ventures? In addition to helping determine the size of the business I am also going to look to see how it can be made sustainable for future generations. I look forward to working with Tl'azt'en Nation and hope our time together will be productive.



Diana Kutzner, Tl'azt'en Tourism Marketing Strategy, Eco-tourism Stream Graduate Student

Hello! I am originally from north-western Germany and immigrated to Canada about 4 years ago. I was fascinated by the idea of going to North America at a young age and I was delighted when I finally had the opportunity to come to Canada. In Germany, I was brought up on a farm which gave me my love for nature and animals. After I finished high school at a Waldorfschool in Germany I came to Canada and started a four year degree in Resource-Based Tourism (BA) at UNBC. Over the four years of completing my undergraduate degree I worked in a variety of tourism-related settings such as Barkerville Historic Town, the Visitor Information Center in Prince George, and doing research with Recreational Vehicle (RV) Travelers in Dawson Creek. Now that I have started the Master's degree in the NRES program at UNBC, I am very enthusiastic and excited about it. I am very happy that I have been given the opportunity to continue my education and honoured to be part of CURA.

My research will be looking at the market for Aboriginal tourism in Northern British Columbia. I will be trying to identify potential markets for Aboriginal tourism in the North and for the Tl'azt'en Nation in particular. My methods will consist in a mix of surveys, interviews and journaling. A portion of my research will be an investigation into those messages that visitors at Aboriginal tourism sites are most responsive to. To research this, I would like to use Visitor-Employed Photography - a research method in which visitors' take pictures of those displays/actions at tourism sites that have the greatest influence on them. With this research I hope to assist the Tl'azt'en Nation in advancing their tourism development. I am honoured to have this opportunity!

For more information on the Tl'azt'en Nation—UNBC CURA Project contact:

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