






Reindeer grazing in Sweden - reindeer husbandry is an important part of the Sami cultural heritage

Master of Northern Governance and  
Development students in Umeå, Sweden



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# Message from the Director

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Happy 2012!

It is with great pleasure that myself and my staff greet the new year and the opportunities and challenges that await us at the International Centre for Northern Governance and Development.

As we head into our third year in operation, our Centre is really starting to take shape and produce tremendous results. Our Master of Northern Governance and Development program is about to turn out its first graduates - who we expect will do great things for Northern regions and Northern Saskatchewan in particular - and our BA Northern Studies is growing and expanding to offer more options and concentrations to accommodate diversified interests.

Our research programme is moving along nicely



as well and we're looking forward to sharing the findings of our Northern Saskatchewan-Scandinavian Comparative Research later this year.

As always, I look forward to working together towards our shared vision of a strong, vibrant, and successful North. Please don't hesitate to contact me at any time: [greg.poelzer@usask.ca](mailto:greg.poelzer@usask.ca).

~ Greg Poelzer

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

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## Research News

On December 5th, 2011 the ICNGD helped facilitate the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Saskatchewan and Yukon College. U of S president Peter MacKinnon and YC president Karen Barnes signed the agreement in Saskatoon.

“Innovative partnerships like this mean expanded options for students, researchers and communities,” said MacKinnon. “A student in the Yukon may now have access to a University of Saskatchewan program they wouldn’t have otherwise - and of course the reverse is true as well. This partnership may also serve as a model for other regions and jurisdictions.”

The MOU between the two institutions means any

department, faculty member, researcher, or staff person at either school can enter into a collaborative project between the two schools.

The ICNGD is looking forward to taking advantage of the opportunities presented by this new agreement.



MacKinnon and Barnes sign the MOU in Saskatoon, Dec. 5th.

## Master of Northern Governance and Development

Students in the second cohort of the MNGD program travelled to Umeå University in Sweden between Nov. 25th and Dec. 5th as part of the international field school component of the program. The trip included lectures, experiential learning, and opportunities to explore independent research.



Topics covered at the international field school included agricultural sciences, business, and political science.



MNGD students embark on a tour as part of Umeå’s Network for Sustainable Construction in Cold Climates.

## Bachelor of Arts Northern Studies



Dr. Arthur J. Ray presenting

B.A. Northern Studies students based in Northern Saskatchewan were among those invited to attend a recent special presentation by land claims and Aboriginal rights expert, Dr. Arthur J. Ray. The event was co-sponsored by the ICNGD and was open to all Northern Saskatchewan post-secondary students.

Approximately 150 students attended the presentation which was held at the Kikinahk Friendship Centre in La Ronge, SK on Nov. 21st.

Some of the student comments overheard were “eye-opening” and “timely and relevant”. Read more at <http://artsandscience.usask.ca/icngd/activities.php> (under Nov. 21).

## International Connections

### Geopolitics & Security Workshop

ICNGD Graduate & Research Officer, Heather Exner-Pirot, travelled to Copenhagen, Denmark for a meeting of the UArctic Thematic Network on Geopolitics and Security between Nov. 29th and Dec. 5th. Participants included network

leader Lassi Heininen (ULapland), Gleb Yaravoy (Petrozavodsk State University), Joel Plouffe (UQAM), Gunhild Hoogensen (Tromsø), Heather Nicol (Trent), and Matthias and Andrea Finger (Lausanne).

The group is working on a joint publication to be released later this year.



From left: Gleb Yaravoy, Heather Exner-Pirot, Lassi Heininen, and Jussi Huotari at the UArctic Geopolitics and Security Workshop. SUBMITTED PHOTO

### Master's Collaboration

The success of the Master of Northern Governance and Development program has led the ICNGD to explore various ways of expanding the program. One of the avenues currently being pursued is a joint Master's program around circumpolar and indigenous affairs with the University of Tromsø (Norway).

The two institutions have met several times to explore how the joint program could be shaped to enhance the student experience. The ICNGD is pleased with the progress and will continue to explore ways to grow its graduate and undergraduate programming.

## Outreach Activities

### Yukon College Collaboration

ICNGD staff were joined by representatives of the Prince Albert Grand Council and the U of S on a trip to Yukon College on Jan. 8-10th. The group met with YC to discuss expanded programming options for Northern undergraduate students. The two institutions anticipate the launch of a new joint program in 2013.



From left: ICNGD Undergraduate Program Coordinator, Kathy Walker; Education Advisor with the Prince Albert Grand Council, Cheryl Piprell; Director of Student Advising at the University of Saskatchewan, Sheryl Prouse, and; Director of the ICNGD, Greg Poelzer in front of Yukon College in Whitehorse.

### Outreach Coordinator

The ICNGD's new Outreach Coordinator has been hard at work meeting with Northern education stakeholders to discuss new programming opportunities. Cathy is based out of La Ronge, SK but frequently visits other communities located within the Northern Administration District (NAD).

Cathy has a BA Honours degree and is currently completing a Master of Northern Governance and Development (MNGD). She is eager to talk to people about the ICNGD as well as her own experiences with distance education.

You can reach Cathy at: [cathy.wheaton@usask.ca](mailto:cathy.wheaton@usask.ca).



Cathy Wheaton

## Spotlight on Centre Member

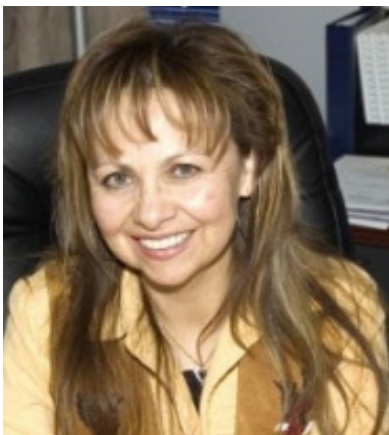
### Dr. Bonita Beatty

Bonita Beatty is the Co-Director, Graduate Studies at the ICNGD and Assistant Professor in the Department of Native Studies at the University of Saskatchewan. She is from Deschambault Lake, Saskatchewan and a member of the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation. Beatty's non-academic work reflects her academic interest in the areas of First Nation health management and administration, policy-making, strategic planning, community development and training.

She has held such positions as Senior Policy Analyst for the provincial government in the Saskatchewan Indian and Métis Affairs Secretariat; Director of Community Development and Executive Director of the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation Health Services Inc., and; Executive Director of the Health and Social Development Secretariat, Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations.

Bonita is currently teaching a Native Studies class in the Master of Northern Governance and Development program.

You can reach Bonita at [bonita.beatty@usask.ca](mailto:bonita.beatty@usask.ca)



## Student Profile

Clifford McKenzie of Grandmother's Bay first embarked on his post-secondary journey in 1991 when he started taking pre-law classes. The classes led to internships which more often than not ended in jobs.

"As a result of school and various work placements, I've found myself in all sorts of interesting positions - addictions counsellor, campaign manager, and teacher-tutor."

Financial obligations required Clifford to take frequent breaks from his studies over the next 15 years but he never lost the drive to continue learning and studying. In 2007, he spotted an ad for the Bachelor of Arts Northern Studies 'Degree Completion' program and he was sold.

"The BA Northern Studies program is such a good match for me in a few different ways. I continue to participate in traditional subsistence activities and this program incorporates the traditional way of living into its teachings."

The BA Northern Studies also includes courses on politics and regional development, which Clifford can really relate to given his 15 years of Aboriginal political experience, ranging from band council to various boards and committees.

Clifford, who intends to graduate this spring, said he hopes to use his degree to facilitate positive changes in the North through the development and institution of policies more appropriate to and respectful of the North. He also has plans to apply for the Master of Northern Governance and Development graduate program this fall.

# Get Involved!

## Northern Administration Students' Association (NASA)

NASA is a group of Northern post-secondary students from several institutions including the University of Saskatchewan and the SIAST Kelsey Campus. The group began in 2008 with an interest in establishing a support network for Northern Students.

In 2011, the ICNGD and NASA brokered a partnership that enables each agency to support the other. The ICNGD has been impressed with the industriousness of NASA

students and looks forward to continuing to expand on the partnership.

At present, NASA's range of student services include educational programs, subsidized events, and opportunities for member outreach. They work with Northern and Aboriginal communities, industry, and government to ensure their students' success.

If you or someone you know would like to explore membership or a partnership with NASA, please contact the president, Brandon White, at: [president@nasa-sk.ca](mailto:president@nasa-sk.ca).



International Centre for Northern Governance and Development (ICNGD)



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

## First Nations-Crown Gathering

The federal government has announced that an important Crown-First Nations Gathering will take place in Ottawa on January 24th, 2012.

The Crown-First Nations Gathering will be an opportunity for the Government and the First Nations to discuss and identify ways for Canada's Aboriginal peoples to benefit from increased social and economic participation in Canadian society and improved living conditions in First Nations communities. The

opening remarks and plenary closing sessions will be webcast, and interactive breakout sessions will allow First Nations leaders from across the country to participate in real-time using webinar technology.

The conversations are expected to touch on post-secondary education for First Nations and Métis people, and Aboriginal education stakeholders are encouraged to follow the discussions.

For more information, visit: <http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1314718067733>.