



*Yakutsk, Russia*



## About the ICNGD News

Thank you for checking out the International Centre for Northern Governance and Development's first newsletter. We look forward to sharing the latest on our research, programming, and outreach activities.

ICNGD News will be distributed via email during the first week of each month beginning January 2012. The deadline for submissions will be the last day of the prior month. If you have a question, news or ideas to share, or would like to add yourself or someone else to the distribution list, please email: [info.icngd@usask.ca](mailto:info.icngd@usask.ca). Enjoy!

## Message from the Director

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I am pleased that the arrival of the *ICNGD News* will offer us a forum to talk about all our activities at the International Centre for Northern Governance and Development (ICNGD).

For those of you unfamiliar with our Centre, we've been operational since 2008 but have recently expanded our reach and range of services. We now provide a wide range of functions, including: administrative support of the Bachelor of Arts in Northern Studies; delivery of a newly established Master of Northern Governance and Development; international stakeholder engagement to deliver collaborative courses, programs and research initiatives, and; coordination of an extensive research programme that matches uSask faculty with areas of research priority in Northern Saskatchewan communities.



If you have an idea for a way to partner or just would like to learn more about our Centre, please drop me a line at [greg.poelzer@usask.ca](mailto:greg.poelzer@usask.ca). I am always looking for innovative new partnerships and approaches that will allow us to continue serving Northern Saskatchewan and the Circumpolar North.

~ Greg Poelzer

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

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## Research News

The ICNGD launched an ambitious research programme this fall.

Under the direction and coordination of Maureen Reed, Co-Director (Research) at the ICNGD and U of S Faculty (School of Environment and Sustainability and Department of Geography and Planning) and Heather Exner-Pirot, Research and Graduate Officer at the ICNGD, the Centre has

embarked on a research programme that will:

- Undertake the process of developing a set of benchmarks and indicators for Northern Saskatchewan socio-economic analysis;
- Collaborate with partners from Scandinavia on a northern economic development vision and joint initiatives, and;
- Continue matching researchers with areas of



**Dr. Maureen Reed**

research priority as identified by Northern stakeholders.

The ICNGD's research arm also recently unveiled its own Occasional Paper Series, published online at [artsandscience.usask.ca/icngd](http://artsandscience.usask.ca/icngd) (select 'Research').



**Dr. Heather Exner-Pirot**

The first paper in the series is entitled *Canadian Arctic Shipping: Issues and Perspectives*.

If you'd like to learn more about the ICNGD's research branch, please contact Heather at [heather.exner@usask.ca](mailto:heather.exner@usask.ca) or (306) 966-1624.

## Program News

### Bachelor of Arts - Northern Studies

Over the summer months, the Centre assumed administrative responsibility for the BA Northern Studies program at the U of S. Kathy Walker, the Centre's new Undergraduate Program Officer, will oversee the program.

The BA Northern Studies program operates through an international global consortium that enables Northern residents or Northern



**Kathy Walker**

enthusiasts to take this degree online from anywhere in the world.

What this means closer to home is Northern Saskatchewan students can earn a degree that focuses on development and governance within a northern context without leaving their communities.

For more info on this program, contact Kathy at (306) 966-8433 or [kathy.walker@usask.ca](mailto:kathy.walker@usask.ca).

### Master of Northern Governance and Development

Introduced in fall 2010 with a pilot cohort of seven students, the MNGD is the first program of its kind available in North America.

The program is administered

by the ICNGD's Research and Graduate Officer, Heather Exner-Pirot, and overseen by the Centre's Co-Director (Graduate Studies) Bonita Beatty.

The MNGD is designed with Northern professionals in mind. The courses are available via videoconference and students can complete the program while continuing to work.

For more info, contact Heather at 966-1624 or [heather.exner@usask.ca](mailto:heather.exner@usask.ca).



**Dr. Bonita Beatty**

## International Connections



(Bodø, Norway), University of Tromsø (Tromsø, Norway), and Umeå (Northern Sweden).

As follow-up to the meetings with Tromsø, a delegation of faculty researchers visited the ICNGD and the U of S campus Nov. 13-15 to continue discussions. As part of the visit, the ICNGD hosted a *Wine & Cheese and Lecture Series* with members of the Norwegian delegation on Nov. 15. The presentations focused on Aboriginal Self-Determination & Land Rights.

For more information on the lecture series, contact Colleen Cameron, ICNGD Communications Coordinator, at 966-1609 or [colleen.cameron@usask.ca](mailto:colleen.cameron@usask.ca).

The ICNGD recently facilitated a U of S delegation to Northern Scandinavia in order to conduct meetings around research and program collaboration. Representing the U of S were: Lee Swanson and David Zhang of the Edwards School of Business; Ken Coates, incoming Canada Research Chair at the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, and; ICNGD Director Greg Poelzer.

Among the agenda items was the Northern Saskatchewan/Northern Scandinavian comparative research being conducted by the ICNGD in cooperation with the Government of Saskatchewan's Ministry of First Nations and Métis Relations, and the development of a joint Master's degree in Northern and Indigenous Affairs.

The delegation attended meetings at the University of Nordland

## Outreach Activities

The ICNGD's primary audience is located across the vast northern regions of Saskatchewan. This brings with it challenges in efforts to reach students and stakeholders who live and work in these communities.

To combat this, Cameco Corporation has financed a new Cameco Portal to the North videoconferencing unit for the ICNGD. This state-of-the-art equipment is located in Kirk Hall and enables Centre members and staff to reach their northern audiences in real time and "face-to-face". Some of the courses in the Master's program are taught via videoconference.

Another way the ICNGD is working to overcome its distance barriers is by opening a satellite office. Cathy Wheaton, a long time northern resident and an advocate for the North, has recently assumed the position of Outreach Coordinator, based out of La Ronge, SK. As part of her duties, she will be visiting Northern Saskatchewan communities to provide

program information and research updates in person. Cathy can be reached at 306-420-8248 or [cathy.wheaton@usask.ca](mailto:cathy.wheaton@usask.ca).

Another facet of the Centre's outreach activities is the effort to communicate research findings with communities and stakeholders with a vested interest. In the photo below, Master's student Nathan Ray (Sandy Bay, SK) talks to Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration Minister, Rob Norris, about his research findings on youth engagement in politics in the North.



## Spotlight on Centre Member

### Dr. Hayley Hesseln

Hayley Hesseln has been an instrumental member of the International Centre for Northern Governance and Development since the very beginning. An Associate Professor in the Department of Bioresources, Policy, Business, and Economics, Hesseln has lent her teaching and research abilities to a number of ICNGD projects. Until recently, she also served as Dean of Undergraduate Studies for the University of the Arctic at the U of S.

Some of Hesseln's research accomplishments include research on the economics of wildfire and fuels management, including an examination of the costs of fuels treatments such as prescribed burning and mechanical fuels reduction. She has explored the impacts of wildfires in the wildland urban interface, wildland fire policy, and the effects of GIS on suppression expenditures.

Hesseln's current research interests include the effects of change on the boreal forest and property rights regimes associated with natural resources across the circumpolar north. Her publications include a co-authored forest economics textbook,

*Principles of Forest and Environmental Economics*, and a number of journal articles related to forestry.

You can reach Hayley at [hayley.hesseln@usask.ca](mailto:hayley.hesseln@usask.ca).



### Debbie Billette

Debbie Billette graduated from the BA Northern Studies program, with a concentration in Public Administration, in 2008. Shortly after completing her degree, Billette went on to become the first ever female Chief at the Buffalo River Dené Nation. She continues to serve in that role today.

Billette said she was thrilled to be able to complete a degree in something that she found important and fascinating at the same time.

"Working with the public is always something that I have loved," said Billette. "I want to be interactive with the people of this community, and allow them to have a real say in what goes on. We have to always look towards the future."

Billette has identified working with local youth as one of her top priorities. Specifically, she works with other members of the community to instill core values, offer encouragement, and foster a deeper appreciation and awareness of their role in the community.

You can reach Debbie through the Buffalo River Dené Nation Band Office in Dillon, Saskatchewan at 306-282-2033, ext. 226.

# Get Involved!

## Upcoming ICNGD Conference on Northern Provincial Economic Development

In Spring 2012, the ICNGD will be hosting a workshop on northern provincial economic development. Key stakeholders from Northern Saskatchewan communities will be invited.

If you are involved in an area of research inquiry that you think may have relevance to the workshop, please give us a call or drop us a line: 966-1238 or [info.icngd@usask.ca](mailto:info.icngd@usask.ca)

## Program Recruitment

The ICNGD is always looking for new ways to reach prospective students about the BA Northern Studies and Master of Northern Governance and Development programs.

If you would like someone from our Centre to make a presentation to your class, board, or organization, we would love to hear from you.

Call 966-1609 or email [info.icngd@usask.ca](mailto:info.icngd@usask.ca) to learn more.



International Centre for Northern Governance and Development (ICNGD)



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

## UArctic Update

The ICNGD will be attending the upcoming UArctic Thematic Networks Program Team Meeting in Akureyri, Iceland, January 12-13, 2012. The agenda includes overviews or updates from the Individual Thematic Network and a seminar on building the fundraising capacity in Thematic Networks.

If you have information or materials you would like to see presented or shared at the conference, please send it via email to [info.icngd@usask.ca](mailto:info.icngd@usask.ca).

## Yukon College Visit

The U of S recently entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Yukon College (YC), opening the door to joint collaboration between the two institutions. In keeping with that agreement, the ICNGD will visit YC in January 2012 where they will discuss ways to partner around research and education programming.

If you wish to be a part of this exciting new collaboration, please contact Kathy at (306) 966-8433 or [kathy.walker@usask.ca](mailto:kathy.walker@usask.ca).