

2019 Annual Conference

Sustainability in Higher Education in Canada

organized by The Canadian College & University Environmental Network (CCUEN)
and the Canadian Alliance of College & University Sustainability Professionals (CUSP)

University of Alberta, Peter Lougheed College
Edmonton, Alberta ~ May 14-15, 2019

The theme of this year's conference is how "inclusion", as set out in Agenda 2030 and the UN SDGs, is being realized in the academy and how might it be enhanced.

Thanks to the conference sponsors ECO Canada; the University of Alberta;
and Dalhousie College of Sustainability



Conference Presentations

Session 01: Collaboration/Partnership

This session discussed examples of, and opportunities for, partnerships and collaborations among universities, colleges and the community in general to enhance capabilities and achieve sustainable development goals.

- Shaun Watmough (Trent), Chair
- Amanda Smits (Brock) Community Partnerships in Action at Brock University
- Ryan Sisson (Trent) Community Campus Engagement: Embracing Diversity and Fostering Inclusion
- Alice Cohen (Acadia) Collaborations for Sustainability at Acadia
- Katie Aitken (Yukon) Northern Environmental and Conservation Sciences — an example of a College-University Partnership

Community Partnerships in Action at Brock University

Amanda Smits (Brock) Coordinator of Projects and Programs, Environmental Sustainability Research Centre (ESRC)
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Amanda has an undergraduate degree in Political Science and Business Administration from Wilfrid Laurier University and in 2017 she completed a Master of Education in the Administration and Leadership stream at Brock, where her research focused mainly on post-secondary sustainability policies in practice. Amanda now acts as project manager on multiple innovative community partnerships for the Environmental Sustainability Research Centre (ESRC). These partnerships allow the ESRC to leverage resources and talent with key partners and stakeholders, in order to build community capacity through evidence-based decision-making processes.

Community Campus Engagement: Embracing Diversity and Fostering Inclusion

Ryan Sisson (Trent) Coordinator Trent Community-Based Research; Department of Co-op, Careers & Experiential Learning
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Ryan holds a M.Sc. in Environmental Policy and Planning from the University of Michigan and has served as a Faculty Member of the Canadian University Dubai's School of Environment and Health Sciences. He has been an instructor with the Environmental Monitor Training Program through Aurora College, NWT, and has worked previously as a Legislative Assistant for Ontario's Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. In his current role, Ryan coordinates the Trent Community Research Centre that brings together the knowledge and research needs of the community with the research expertise of Trent University faculty and students.

Collaborations for Sustainability at Acadia

Dr Alice Cohen, Earth & Environmental Science and Environmental and Sustainability Studies, Acadia University
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Alice Cohen is an Associate Professor in the departments of Earth & Environmental Science and Environmental and Sustainability Studies at Acadia University in Wolfville Nova Scotia. Her work uses water as a way of understanding the relationships between people and place, and her current research looks at the politics of online databanks for community-based water monitoring. She holds a Ph.D. in Resource Management and Environmental Studies from the University of British Columbia.

Northern Environmental and Conservation Sciences — an example of a College-University Partnership

Dr Kathryn Aitken (Yukon)

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Kathryn (Katie) Aitken coordinates the Bachelor of Science in Northern Environmental and Conservation Sciences program that Yukon College offers in partnership with University of Alberta. This is a four-year U of Alberta degree that is delivered entirely at Yukon College's Ayamdigut campus in Whitehorse, Yukon. Katie is also an instructor in the School of Science at Yukon College, and is an Adjunct Professor in the Dept. of Renewable Resources at the University of Alberta. She teaches a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses in biology, experimental design, and science communication. Her research focuses on community and population ecology of birds. She completed her Master's and Doctoral degrees at the University of British Columbia in the Faculty of Forestry.

Session 02: The Sustainable Campus

This panel discussed how they are working to reduce the environmental impact of their campus operations, including successes and lessons learned – specifically regarding waste management, energy management and greenhouse gas emissions, sustainable procurement, and using the campus as a living lab.

- Leila Fanaeian (Alberta), Chair
- Kareina D'Souza (Dalhousie) Campus as a Living Lab: Student Learning and Campus Sustainability Operations
- Shannon Leblanc (Alberta) Energy & GHG Management at the University of Alberta
- Jessie Kwasny (Alberta) Zero Waste at the University of Alberta
- Megan Wibberley (Calgary) Climate Change Action Plan at the University of Calgary

Campus as a Living Lab: Student Learning and Campus Sustainability Operations

Kareina D'Souza (Dalhousie) Sustainability Manager

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Kareina D'Souza is the Sustainability Manager at the Office of Sustainability at Dalhousie University. She has a background in public engagement, research and environmental science and holds a BSc from the University of Guelph and a Masters of Resource and Environmental Management from Dalhousie University. She hopes to use education as a pathway to help people integrate sustainability practices in their lives. Kareina believes that individuals making small choices in their everyday life combined with support of larger initiatives can be a powerful force for change.

Energy & GHG Management at the University of Alberta

Shannon Leblanc (Alberta)

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Shannon Leblanc is a program coordinator for Energy Management and Sustainable Operations (EMSO) at the University of Alberta. She works across the Facilities and Operations portfolio and beyond to improve the sustainability of the university's operations on a wide range of topics such as waste diversion, GHG emissions, the campus food system, active transportation and sustainable purchasing.

She devotes much of her spare time to food, trying out new recipes and exploring local restaurants.

Zero Waste at the University of Alberta

Jessie Kwasny (Alberta)

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Jessie Kwasny is the Waste Diversion/Recycling Supervisor for Facilities & Operations – Buildings, Grounds, & Environmental services at the University of Alberta. Her main responsibilities include managing the Zero Waste program and the waste collection contract across all campuses.

Jessie started her post-secondary education at NAIT, graduating with a diploma in Biological Sciences Technology and has been working in her current role for over seven years. She has also been a Recycling Council of Alberta board member for six years, three of which as the Secretary.

Climate Change Action Plan at the University of Calgary

Megan Wibberley (Calgary)

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Session 03: Experiential Learning

Experiential learning, particularly those involving engagement with communities outside the academy, offers opportunities for inclusion beyond the traditional curriculum. How are these being realized; how might they be enhanced?

- Peter Mushkat (Dalhousie), Chair
- Rick Baydack (Manitoba) Examples of Experiential Learning in the Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of environment, Earth, and Resources at the University of Manitoba [prepared with the assistance of Leslie Goodman and Erin McCance]
- Brandee Diner (Vanier) Experiential Learning: From Field to Function
- Emilie Maine (Calgary) Calgary's Certificate in Sustainability Studies: Applied Sustainability on the Campus and in the Community
- Yogendra Chaudhry (ECO Canada) Indigenous Training and Employment in the Environmental Sector

Examples of Experiential Learning in the Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of environment, Earth, and Resources at the University of Manitoba

Richard Baydack (Manitoba)

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Dr. Rick Baydack is Professor and Chair of Environmental Science and Studies at the University of Manitoba, where he has been on faculty since 1979. He has also held a number of academic administrative positions at the University of Manitoba, including Associate Dean (Academic) of the Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources; Acting Head of the Department of Environment and Geography; Associate Director of the Natural Resources Institute; Chair of the University Senate Committee on Awards; and Graduate Chair of the Department of Environment and Geography and Natural Resources Institute.

He holds Honours Bachelor of Science (Zoology) and Master of Natural Resources Management degrees from the University of Manitoba, and a Ph.D. in Wildlife Biology from Colorado State University. His research interests include applied ecosystem management, conservation of biological diversity, wildlife conservation, and human dimensions of wildlife management. His University teaching is in the areas Ecosystem Management, Biogeography, Environmental Field Investigations, Wildlife Management, and Sustainable Water Management.

Rick is very active in hunting, fishing, and golfing in Manitoba and beyond. He has completed the coveted 'Royal Slam' of the National Wildlife Turkey Federation, received several Master Angler Awards for walleye, smallmouth bass, and channel catfish, and constantly tries to better his golf handicap of ~20. Rick and his wife Leslie are proud owners of a 25-acre hobby farm just south of the city of Winnipeg, where Leslie raises horses for competitive riding, and Rick tends to the property with a variety of John Deere 'toys.'

Experiential Learning: From Field to Function

Brandee Diner (Vanier)

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After graduating from McGill University, Brandee began her career as a wildlife biologist wrangling porcupines in Parc du Bic and has since moved on to being pecked at by birds, chasing mammals and educating students how to avoid poison ivy at the Vanier College Field Station. In addition to teaching terrestrial field courses in the third year of the Environmental and Wildlife Management Program, Brandee also spends a lot of time trying to develop international stage opportunities and partnerships with environmental organizations and other field stations. Her latest accomplishments include student placements in Costa Rica, Belize and Panama, as well as spearheading EWM's recent accreditation through ECO Canada.

Calgary's Certificate in Sustainability Studies: Applied Sustainability on the Campus and in the Community

Emilie Maine (Calgary)

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Emilie Maine is a research assistant for the Certificate in Sustainability Studies program at the University of Calgary. She

holds a Bachelor of Arts in Social and Cultural Anthropology, and is currently pursuing a Masters of Arts in Educational Research in Curriculum in Learning, with a focus on gender and sexuality

Indigenous Training and Employment in the Environmental Sector

Dr. Yogendra Chaudhry (ECO Canada)

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Dr. Yogendra Chaudhry is the Vice President, Professional Services for ECO Canada. Yogi oversees the development and delivery of professional services to support the rapidly growing network of the Canadian environment and sustainability workforce. He provides strategic insight and technical support for environment and sustainability programs, and works closely with a diverse range of stakeholders including government, industry and the environment & sustainability professionals. During his more than two decades of career in Environment and Sustainability, he has worked in numerous countries in Asia, Africa, Europe and North America. Yogi holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Science and supports a number of Canadian and international academic institutions, standard-setting organizations, and industry associations in various professional capacities. He oversees ECO Canada's indigenous training programs and has worked closely with a number of indigenous communities and Tribal Councils across Canada.

Session 04: Keynote Address

Perception is Reality: How Values Affect Sustainability in Canadian Academia

Ingrid Lemán Stefanovic (Simon Fraser University)

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In addition to serving as Dean of the Faculty of Environment at SFU, Ingrid Lemán Stefanovic is Professor Emerita, Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto. Her teaching and research center on how values and perceptions affect public policy, planning and environmental decision making. She is Principal Investigator of a project examining the evolution of environmental curricula at Canadian post-secondary institutions. Dr. Stefanovic has served as Executive Co-Director of the International Association for Environmental Philosophy and Senior Scholar at the Center for Humans and Nature, Chicago and New York. Recent books include *Safeguarding Our Common Future: Rethinking Sustainable Development* and the co-edited volume entitled *The Natural City: Re-Envisioning the Built Environment*.

Session 05: Indigenization of Curricula and Campuses

This panel discussed indigenization of post-secondary environmental and sustainability curricula and programming, and the ways in which environmental educators and campus sustainability professionals can support reconciliation.

- Chair: Kathryn Aitken (Yukon), Chair
- Jacqueline Ottmann (Saskatchewan) Decolonizing University Systems
- Jennifer Ward (Alberta) Enacting Wahkotwin to Indigenize and Decolonize the Academy
- Cassandra Ivany (Yukon) Yukon College – Our Indigenization Journey

Decolonizing University Systems

Jacqueline Ottmann (Saskatchewan)

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Dr. Jacqueline Ottmann is Anishinaabe (Saulteaux), former elementary and high school teacher and principal, now a scholar. While at the University of Calgary, she was Coordinator of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit undergraduate teacher education program, and Director of Indigenous Education Initiatives within the Werklund School of Education (WSE). She also co-chaired the Werklund School of Education Indigenous Strategy, and alongside the Provost, the university-wide Indigenous Strategy.

As of October 1st, 2017, Jacqueline became Professor and Vice-Provost Indigenous Engagement at the University of Saskatchewan. Ottmann has been recognized as an international researcher, advocate, and change-maker whose purpose is to transform practices inclusive of Indigenous leadership, methodologies and pedagogies. Jacqueline is driven to create schools and communities that foster a deeper sense of belonging and appreciation for Indigenous peoples – their histories, stories, ways of knowing and being.

Enacting Wahkotwin to Indigenize and Decolonize the Academy

Jennifer Ward (Alberta)

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Jennifer Ward is Umpqua, Walla Walla and Algonquin. She is a PhD student in the Faculty of Native Studies at University of

Alberta, as well as an Educational Developer in the Centre for Teaching and Learning.

Yukon College – Our Indigenization Journey

Cassandra Ivany (Yukon)

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Cassandra, better known as Cass, has been a facilitator with First Nations Initiatives (FNI) at Yukon College since 2013. Born and raised in Newfoundland, she obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Anthropology from Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN) before deciding to pursue a career in education. After completing her B.Ed., she spent four years teaching in the northern Labrador community of Natuashish and in Iqaluit, Nunavut before moving to Whitehorse in 2008. As part of the FNI team, Cass gets the opportunity to work with all departments as the college continues its' ongoing journey of Indigenization - delivering workshops on Yukon First Nation history and culture, reviewing curriculum, and supporting senior executive as they implement Indigenization goals.

Session 06: Keynote Listener

Thoughts from keynote listener

Meghan Fay Zahniser (AASHE)

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Meghan Fay Zahniser, Executive Director of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) has been with the organization for nine years and previously held the positions of Director of Programs and STARS Program Manager. Prior to joining AASHE, Meghan worked as Sustainability Specialist at NELSON where she provided sustainability expertise and consulting services to various clients. She also spent over five years working at the U.S. Green Building Council where, as Manager of Community, she developed and managed a local chapter network for building industry professionals and helped create the Emerging Green Builders program that integrates students and young professionals into the green building movement. Meghan also worked as Environmental Educator for the University at Buffalo Green Office, organizing campus and community education focused on energy conservation, green building, and sustainable living. She holds a bachelor's degree in Social Sciences, with concentrations in environmental studies and health & human services, from the University at Buffalo, a master's degree in Organization Management and Development from Fielding Graduate Institute, and a certificate in massage therapy from the Potomac Massage Training Institute.