



Postdoctoral Fellowship Position

***Chu äyi ätl'et* ("The Water In Me"): Collaboratively Developing a Water Strategy for the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations' Traditional Territory**

A postdoctoral fellow (PDF) is being recruited for this SSHRC-funded project, based on demonstrated achievements, skill, and enthusiasm for northern community-based participatory research. The ideal candidate will have skills and experience related to community-based participatory research, traditional knowledge, northern indigenous paradigms, cultural values, language accessibility, archiving, values revitalization, First Nation self-governance, and/or resource co-management. This position is available immediately.

The successful candidate will have a unique opportunity to be involved in an established and productive applied researcher-First Nation collaboration. The PDF will be based at the Yukon Research Centre (YRC) at Yukon College in Whitehorse, but will be jointly affiliated with University of Saskatchewan, supervised by the Project Director. This will give the PDF the opportunity to be part of an active, growing, respected northern research organization, while accessing research support offered by the University of Saskatchewan (e.g., journal resources, symposia, subject matter experts). The PDF will also spend time working from the offices of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN) in Whitehorse and Haines Junction, Yukon.

Specific responsibilities will include:

- Working as part of the project team on all areas of research within the project, with emphasis on the candidate's particular area of expertise (e.g., water resource management and/or governance, cultural values and traditional knowledge, indigenous cultural and linguistic revitalization, co-management policy and practice, archival studies)
- Leading research efforts to understand and articulate indigenous water governance principles for a self-governing First Nation

- Managing a pilot project on traditional knowledge mobilization for decision-making on water – involving identification of CAFN needs; reviewing options for information management systems; testing approaches to respectfully and appropriately mobilize CAFN citizens' knowledge in support of existing water management processes
- Taking an evolving role in project coordination and task execution
- Providing research support for CAFN contractors and other team members
- Authorship of manuscripts, outreach products, presentation at conferences, representing the project at relevant local meetings and community events
- Linking the project team with the growing scholarly body of knowledge on water-related social science and water security

Uniquely, this PDF position will receive CAFN mentorship with regards to their cultures and communities, including history, assimilation, paths to self-government, implications, and the current political landscape for Yukon First Nations. This will be a crucial part of the project, because it will help ensure that research activities are rooted in the culture and values of the First Nation they serve, and that results are co-created with, and beneficial to, CAFN and its citizens.

Primary Location: Yukon Research Centre, Yukon College, Whitehorse

Term: 2 years

Salary: \$40,500 + additional scholarship funds secured by the PDF with support from the project team

Initial review date: July 15, 2016

About this project: The overarching goal of this project is to discover how a self-governing First Nation can move beyond participating in government-led processes for management of natural resources through "contribution" of traditional knowledge towards the expression of an authentic indigenous ethic for environmental stewardship that such policy and regulatory processes could ultimately be reoriented around. Our project focuses on water as an integrator for such efforts. This research will be founded on the traditional knowledge and values of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN), a self-governing First Nation whose traditional territory encompasses the southwest Yukon and adjacent northwestern B.C. This project has three distinct components: taking stock of existing documented oral histories, mobilizing CAFN knowledge and values in real-world water management decisions, and revitalizing culture and language through water by compiling traditional place name origins and meanings, on river trips with participants.

About the Yukon Research Centre: The Yukon Research Centre is solving northern problems with northern expertise. We are here to answer northern research questions, support and advance local innovation, and provide research services to visiting researchers. We work in partnership with government, industry, entrepreneurs, First Nations, and communities to improve the lives of Northerners. There are seven key programs that operate under YRC at Yukon College: Biodiversity Monitoring, Cold Climate Innovation, Northern Climate ExChange, NSERC Industrial Research Chair in Mine Life Cycle, Resources and Sustainable Development in the Arctic, Science Adventures, and Technology Innovation. This project is being run by the Northern Climate ExChange, which focuses on the study of climate change in Yukon by promoting and conducting research on impacts and adaptations across Canada's North, coordinating the exchange of scientific and local knowledge and expertise, and providing mainstreaming and decision-making support, policy alternatives, and climate change education for a wide range of partners and audiences.

For more information and to apply for this position, please contact:

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This position will remain posted until filled.