

CRRC HIGHLIGHTS



38th Annual CRRC Student Conference

Our Annual CRRC Student Conference is back! Get ready to share your research and build valuable connections.

Join us for:

- Oral presentations
- Poster presentations
- 3-minute highlight talks
- Guest speakers
- Social events
- Fieldwork workshop

First and second place awards for presentations and posters!!!



<https://www.kenvanrees.com/available-paintings.html>

Save the Dates

When: January 28th - January 30th, 2026

Where:

January 28th: Savvas Chamberlain Music Building at Wilfrid Laurier University

January 29th and 30th: Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) Campus at 67 Erb St. W, Waterloo, ON

Social events and fieldwork workshop: TBD

Exploring the Intersection of Science and Art Workshop

This year, the CRRC student conference will be offering a unique art experience that will allow you to explore the connections between scientific work and the world of visual art. Dr. Ken Van Rees, a professor at the University of Saskatchewan, will be leading this workshop. Registration coming soon!

CRRC Welcome Social

The Cold Regions Research Centre warmly invites you to the annual start-of-the-term welcome social. This is an excellent opportunity for new and returning students to connect with CRRC members. This event will be taking place on Friday, September 26th, from 12-3 pm at 165 Albert Street, Waterloo, ON. Lunch will be provided!

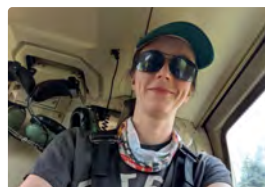
Guest speakers will also share their graduate research experience:



Amber Buston-White
PhD Student
Geography



Andy Sekoh
MSc Student
Geography



Emilie Knighton
PhD Student
Biology and Chemistry



Mackenzie Mihorean
MSc Student
Integrative Biology

Don't miss out on our welcome social; it's the perfect way to kick off the term! If you are planning to attend, please RSVP [here](#).

Interested in becoming a CRRC 2026 Student Conference volunteer?

We are looking for volunteers to join us in making the CRRC 2026 Student Conference a success!

Possible responsibilities include:

- ✓ Registration desk
- ✓ Program creation
- ✓ Chairing sessions
- ✓ Event setup
- ✓and more!!!



Apply to become a volunteer [here](#):



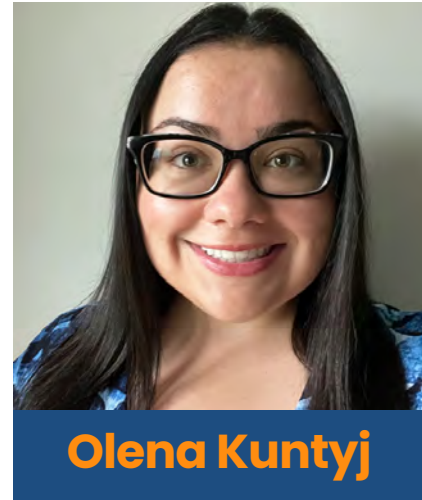
Dr. Joseph Culp

Dr. Culp is an Adjunct Professor at Wilfrid Laurier University, an Emeritus Research Scientist at Environment and Climate Change Canada, and a member of CRRC. He has been elected as a 2025 fellow of the Society of Freshwater Canada! To read more about Dr. Culp's achievements, click [here](#).

Welcome to our NEW Communications Assistant!

Olena Kuntjy, a PhD student in the Biological and Chemical Sciences program co-supervised by Drs. Deborah MacLatchy and Erin Leonard, is now serving as our new communications assistant.

If you have information or announcements you would like CRRC to share with our mailing list, don't hesitate to get in touch with us at coldregions_info@wlu.ca. We're happy to help spread the word!



Dr. William Quinton

Dr. Quinton is a professor of Geography and Environmental Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University and a member of CRRC. He has been named one of Laurier's University Research Professors for 2024-2025! To read more about Dr. Quinton's achievements, click [here](#).



Calling all Graduate Students!

Are you a CRRC undergraduate, master's, or doctoral student? Would you like to be featured in our CRRC Student Research Spotlight Series? This spotlight series is a great opportunity to share your research and graduate experience with CRRC members. It's a fantastic way to introduce yourself and connect with the CRRC community.

Please fill out this [Google Form](#) to be featured this term on our social media platforms.

**Dr. Derek Gray**

Welcome to our NEW CRRC executive member!

Dr. Derek Gray is an associate professor in the Department of Biology at Wilfrid Laurier University.

His lab focuses on understanding the impacts of environmental changes on aquatic communities.

For more information on Dr. Gray, check out his [website](#).

**Dr. Deborah MacLatchy**

Dr. MacLatchy is the president and vice-chancellor of Wilfrid Laurier University and a member of the CRRC. She has been appointed as the Council of Ontario Universities vice-chair! To read more about Dr. MacLatchy's achievements, click [here](#).

CRRC Newsletter: Here's what to expect

This year, the Cold Regions Research Centre is committed to sharing updates from our members with the entire CRRC community. By doing so, we aim to help our community stay informed, connected, and grow together.

We will be releasing a newsletter every three months featuring the latest research updates from CRRC members and information on upcoming events that students and faculty can participate in.

Get in on the action, be a part of our newsletter!

We are seeking PIs, staff, and students to become involved and share with us your research updates, new research articles, awards, and more! Please email [**coldregions_info@wlu.ca**](mailto:coldregions_info@wlu.ca) if you have any exciting new information you would like to share with the CRRC community.

Find us on Instagram, Facebook, X, and LinkedIn as **Cold Regions Research Centre**.

Join the CRRC community

To confirm your CRRC membership and ensure you are on our mailing list to receive all updates, please fill out the [**CRRC Membership Form**](#).





CRRC to Sponsor ArcticNet's Annual Scientific Meeting 2025

We are excited to announce that the CRRC will be a sponsor of **ArcticNet Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) 2025**, which will be held at the Calgary Telus Convention Centre from December 15 to 18th. This is an incredible milestone for CRRC as this opportunity gives us a platform to highlight our research, strengthen collaborations, and raise our collective profile in Arctic and subarctic science.

Join us at the CRRC booth at ArcticNet!

At the CRRC booth, we will be:

- displaying posters
- distributing outreach materials
- highlighting research projects
- advertising graduate opportunities



If you would like your outreach materials displayed or have open research positions, please share your materials and posters with us in advance so we can plan accordingly. Please email coldregions_info@wlu.ca with the information you would like advertised at the CRRC booth.

Highlighted Sessions at ArcticNet

Session: INF66 - Resiliency of Ice Roads and Winter Roads in Northern Canada

Homa Kheyrollah Pour (Wilfrid Laurier University)

Trevor Bell (Memorial University)

Michael English (Wilfrid Laurier University)

Robert Briggs (National Research Council)

Session: WBE62 - Fostering Healthy Communities: Climate Change, Sustainable Food Systems, and Food Security Action

Kelly Skinner (University of Waterloo)

Sonia Wesche (University of Ottawa)

Andrew Spring (Wilfrid Laurier University)

Sonja Ostertag (University of Waterloo)

Tiff-Annie Kenny (Université de Montréal)

If you are presenting at ArcticNet, be sure to use the CRRC logo in your oral and poster presentations:



Polar Knowledge Canada to visit Laurier: Learn about the Northern Scientific Training Program



Are you conducting field work in the Canadian north or interested in northern studies?

Come learn about the [Northern Scientific Training Program \(NSTP\)](#), that is provided by Polar Knowledge Canada (POLAR). If you are a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident enrolled in a Canadian University, and a graduate student or a thesis-based undergraduate student, you are eligible! Students can be eligible for **multiple** years of funding.

The funds provided by NSTP are intended to assist in the additional costs that come with northern research projects. This includes but is not limited to transportation costs, living expenses, and interpreter fees.

POLAR is also currently accepting applications for their other funding opportunities:

- [POLAR Knowledge Canada Scholarship](#)
- [POLAR Antarctic Scholarship](#)
- [POLAR Northern Resident Award](#)
- [POLAR Northern Resident Scholarship](#)

On Monday, **October 20th**, POLAR will be visiting Wilfrid Laurier University to present their various grant programs to students and supervisors. RSVP [here](#).

A reminder that, at Laurier, NSTP is due internally on **October 25th**.

Last week in Ottawa: Laurier experts share northern insights



Laurier leaders, including several CRRC members, spoke in Ottawa last week about their roles in shaping the North and strengthening its sovereignty. They discussed how they connect science with people and collaborate with local communities to address the North's most critical challenges. Read more about this event [here](#).