

Environment Forum 2008:

Environmental Change: Yukon Challenges, Yukon Solutions

May 21-22, 2008 at Yukon College

Environment “After Hours”

Wednesday, May 21, 7:00 pm at Yukon College Gym

Feature Speaker:

Ed Struzik, Author, Science Journalist, Adventurer

This Hour has 55 Million Years:

A Brief History of Climate Change in the Arctic

Plus... meet and chat with Environment Yukon and Environment Canada staff and learn about current projects through a display of research posters.

Environment Forum

Thursday, May 22, 8:30-5:00 pm

8:30 – 9:00	Registration	Yukon College Gym
9:00 – 9:20	Opening Remarks Dennis Fentie, Minister of Environment	Yukon College Gym
	Paul Kluckner, A/Regional Director General, Pacific Yukon Region, Environment Canada	
	Opening Prayer	
9:20-9:50	Keynote Address Dr. David Hik University of Alberta Executive Director, IPY Secretariat	Yukon College Gym
9:50-10:15	Refreshment Break	Poster Display Area
10:15-11:45	Concurrent Sessions	Stream 1: Gym Stream 2: Glass Class
11:45 – 1:00	Lunch	Yukon College Cafeteria
1:00 – 2:30	Concurrent Sessions	Stream 1: Gym Stream 2: Glass Class
2:30 – 3:00	Refreshment Break	Poster Display Area
3:00 – 4:30	Concurrent Sessions	Stream 1: Gym Stream 2: Glass Class
4:30 – 4:45	Closing Remarks Closing Prayer	Yukon College Gym

Stream 1: Changes in Wildlife and Landscapes (Yukon College Gym)

Each panel member will provide a 10-15 minute presentation followed by a few minutes of questions. After all panel members have presented, the floor will be open for the remainder of the session for a broad discussion of the topic.

10:15-11:45

Session # 1 - Monitoring Change

Where is change being seen in the Yukon, who is seeing it, and how is change being monitored? Learn how monitoring is taking place in the Yukon as biologists and other researchers describe their programs and tell stories of changes that are being observed. Share your own stories of the changes you have seen, or how your organization is contributing to monitoring change in the territory.

Topics

- Keystones, indicators, umbrellas, or focals: the agony of choosing what to monitor
Thomas Jung and Mark O'Donoghue, Environment Yukon
- Ecological monitoring: a community-based approach
Mark O'Donoghue and Val Loewen, Environment Yukon
- Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program
Mike Gill, Canadian Wildlife Service
- Tracking Invasive Species
Jennifer Line, Environment Yukon

1:00 – 2:30

Session # 2 - Understanding Change

So things are changing...what is the implication of change to me, my community and my Yukon? Hear how landscapes and wildlife are impacted by environmental change and the implications for all of us. Share your own stories of change and the implications for your community.

Topics

- The Ten Year Itch: Wildlife and the Decadal Oscillation,
Rob Florkiewicz, Environment Yukon
- Forces of change: What is bringing cougars north?
Ramona Maraj, Environment Yukon and Dr. John Seidensticker, Smithsonian Institute
- Impact of the spruce beetle outbreak on forest birds in the southwest Yukon.
Katie Aitken, University of Alberta / Environment Canada
- Using Radio-telemetry and Traditional Knowledge to Determine Habitat Use of Moose in South-Central Yukon
Alice McCully, University of Northern British Columbia and Rick Ward, Environment Yukon

3:00 – 4:30

Session # 3 - Managing Change

In a world of uncertainty, how do you manage the landscape and wildlife? What solutions and strategies are being used by environmental managers to ensure a healthy environment? Listen to environmental managers describe strategies and approaches to managing landscapes, wildlife, and water in an uncertain world. Hear about the approaches being taken and the lessons learned. Come with your own examples of solutions to managing environmental change.

(continued...)

Topics

- Tick Talk: What's happening to Takhini Elk?
Philip Merchant and Rick Ward, Environment Yukon
- How a little beetle might change the world: predictions and a monitoring framework for southwest Yukon.
Roger Brown, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations
- Managing bear viewing at Fishing Branch: context and overview
Stephen Mills, Vuntut Gwitchin Government
- Viewing grizzly bears at the Arctic Circle: Impacts on bears?
Shelley Marshall, M.Sc. Simon Fraser University
- Adapting Water Management Practices to Changing Yukon Hydrologic Regimes
Rick Janowicz, Environment Yukon

Stream 2: Climate Change (Yukon College “Glass Class”)

10:15 – 11:45

Session # 1 – Yukon Government Climate Change Action Plan

What is the Yukon Government Climate Change Action Plan and how can I get involved? This is an opportunity to provide feedback on the draft.

- *Johanna Smith, Environment Yukon*

1:00 – 2:30

Session # 2 – Yukon Research Centre of Excellence

What is the Yukon Research Centre of Excellence? How will it benefit my community or organization? How can I get involved? Come hear the results from the February symposium and discuss the next steps to be taken in developing this initiative.

Panelists:

- *Cindy Dickson, Council of Yukon First Nations*
- *Terry Weninger, Yukon College*
- *Carl Burgess, Yukon Government*

3:00 – 4:30

Session # 3 – An in-depth look at some options for responding to climate change

What can I do as a business, organization or individual to respond to climate change? Join us to discuss options and contribute your own ideas!

Topics

- Mitigation vs. adaptation
Presenter: To be confirmed
- Regional Climate Change Scenarios
Ian Church, Yukon Government
- What is carbon offsetting?
J.P. Pinard, P.Eng.
- Examples of Community-based Adaptation
Presenter: To be confirmed