



# ANNUAL REPORT

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April 1, 2019 - March 31, 2020



The Canadian Mountain Network is a national not-for-profit organization that supports the resilience and health of Canada's mountain peoples and places through research partnerships based on Indigenous and Western ways of knowing that inform decision-making and action.

Visit [canadianmountainnetwork.ca](http://canadianmountainnetwork.ca) for more information.

### An initiative of Canada's granting agencies



Government of Canada  
Networks of Centres  
of Excellence

Gouvernement du Canada  
Réseaux de centres  
d'excellence

### Host institution



### Sustaining partners



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA  
FACULTY OF SCIENCE



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY



McGill

### Program partners



MOUNTAIN  
LEGACY  
PROJECT



The Banff Centre  
inspiring creativity



THE ROYAL  
CANADIAN  
GEOGRAPHICAL  
SOCIETY



LA SOCIÉTÉ  
GÉOGRAPHIQUE  
ROYALE DU  
CANADA



RECONCILING  
WAYS OF KNOWING



FULBRIGHT  
Canada



Natural Sciences and Engineering  
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en sciences  
naturelles et en génie du Canada

Canada

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# 1. MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

The Canadian Mountain Network (CMN) has come into existence at a time when Canada's mountain systems are undergoing rapid and uncertain change. Mountain systems themselves serve as Sentinels of Change at multiple levels – from local to global. In Canada and around the world, mountain systems are experiencing rapid and disruptive change that foreshadows serious impacts that will be felt more broadly over time.

CMN is the country's first formal research organization dedicated to advancing our understanding of mountain systems, which provide diverse and important benefits to Canadians living both near and far from these distinctive and iconic landscapes.

2019-20 marked CMN's first year of operations and we have built a strong foundation for future success. We established the Network as an independent not-for-profit organization, recruited a stellar Board of Directors and committees, released our Strategic Plan, shared new episodes of the Canadian Mountain Podcast, and launched 16 exciting research projects in British Columbia, Alberta, Yukon, the Northwest Territories, Quebec, and Labrador.

Mountain research has a bright future in Canada and for that we must acknowledge and thank the many individuals who have supported this initiative through their knowledge, wisdom, and tireless effort. We look forward to continuing to grow these relationships and building new partnerships in the years ahead to advance mountain research in Canada.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Norma Kassi', positioned above a horizontal line.

**Norma Kassi**  
Co-Research Director



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Murray Humphries', positioned above a horizontal line.

**Dr. Murray Humphries**  
Co-Research Director



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Dragon', positioned above a horizontal line.

**Dr. Joe Dragon**  
Chair, Board of Directors



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Berry', positioned above a horizontal line.

**Matthew Berry**  
Interim President

November 2020

Photo on next page: Banff National Park  
Photo: Tanvi Malik, Unsplash

# 2. ABOUT THE CANADIAN MOUNTAIN NETWORK



CANADIAN  
MOUNTAIN  
NETWORK

The Canadian Mountain Network (CMN) brings together diverse partners from universities, governments, Indigenous communities,

businesses and the not-for-profit sector. All demonstrate a shared commitment to the sustainability of mountain environments and communities across the country and around the world.

CMN was established in January 2019 thanks to generous support of Canada's research granting agencies through a five-year, \$18.3 million grant from the Networks of Centres of Excellence program. Combined with contributions from diverse partner organizations, this funding represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to position Canada as a global leader in mountain systems research at a time when Canada's mountain systems are undergoing rapid and uncertain change.

CMN's purpose is to support the resilience and health of Canada's mountain peoples and places through research partnerships based on Indigenous and Western ways of knowing that inform decision-making and action.

## Who is CMN?

**17**  
network members\*

**90**  
researchers

**72**  
trainees

**66**  
partner organizations

\***Network members** are institutions receiving CMN research and programs funding. See page 11 for a full list.

## Goals



Enhance our understanding of the impacts of rapid environmental, economic and social change on the resilience of mountain systems.



A diverse and collaborative community of mountain systems researchers, including academic and non-academic Indigenous trainees, is supported to co-design and co-deliver projects with knowledge users.



Decision-making and actions at multiple levels are informed by both Indigenous and Western ways of knowing.



Innovative models for partnerships across sectors exist and are shared that empower, respect, and, where useful, bring together Indigenous and Western knowledges and research approaches.



Enhanced funding for mountain systems research by improving public and policymaker understanding and appreciation of the importance of mountain systems.

# 3. WHY MOUNTAINS MATTER

Almost 24%, or 2.3 million km<sup>2</sup>, of Canada's landmass is covered by mountains. These important and influential landscapes—whether described in terms of plate tectonics, watersheds, ecosystem services, or sacred places—are essential to the environmental, economic, social, spiritual, and cultural identity and well-being of Canada's diverse peoples.

Mountain systems provide essential benefits to Canadians from coast to coast to coast. These may include fresh water, wildlife habitat, natural resources, energy, shelter and recreation, or spiritual connection. These benefits and values are delivered far beyond mountain landscapes and into the valleys, lowlands, and coasts to which mountains are meteorologically, hydrologically, biologically, and culturally connected.

Mountain systems are Sentinels of Change. Rapid and disruptive changes to mountain systems foreshadow impacts to the broader landscape. Studying these changes can help us anticipate and mitigate these impacts and take advantage of opportunities.



Mountains in the Montérégie region of Quebec.  
Photo by Annie Webb

# Facts and figures

## Extent of mountains in Canada



**24%**

of Canada (2.26 million km<sup>2</sup>).



Globally, Canada has the **fourth largest** extent of mountains (after China, Russia, and the United States).

### Where are Canada's mountains? (% of Canada's mountains)

British Columbia - 797,000 km<sup>2</sup> (35%)

Yukon - 450,000 km<sup>2</sup> (20%)

Nunavut - 402,000 km<sup>2</sup> (18%)

Northwest Territories - 202,000 km<sup>2</sup> (9%)

Quebec - 197,000 km<sup>2</sup> (9%)

### Canada's most mountainous regions

Yukon - 93%

British Columbia - 84%

Nunavut - 19%

Newfoundland and Labrador - 18%

Alberta - 17%

## Water



**60-80%**

of freshwater resources around the world are sourced from mountain headwaters.



**>80%**

of Canada's mountain glaciers, the source of many of the great prairie, Pacific, and Northern rivers, may disappear this century.

## Biodiversity



**52%**

of Canada's national parks are in mountains.



**50%**

of the world's biodiversity hotspots are concentrated in mountains.

## Tourism



**15-20%**

of global tourism takes place in mountain regions.



**9.2 million**

people visited Parks Canada's mountain parks in 2018 (25% more than in 2012).

# 4. ETHICAL SPACE

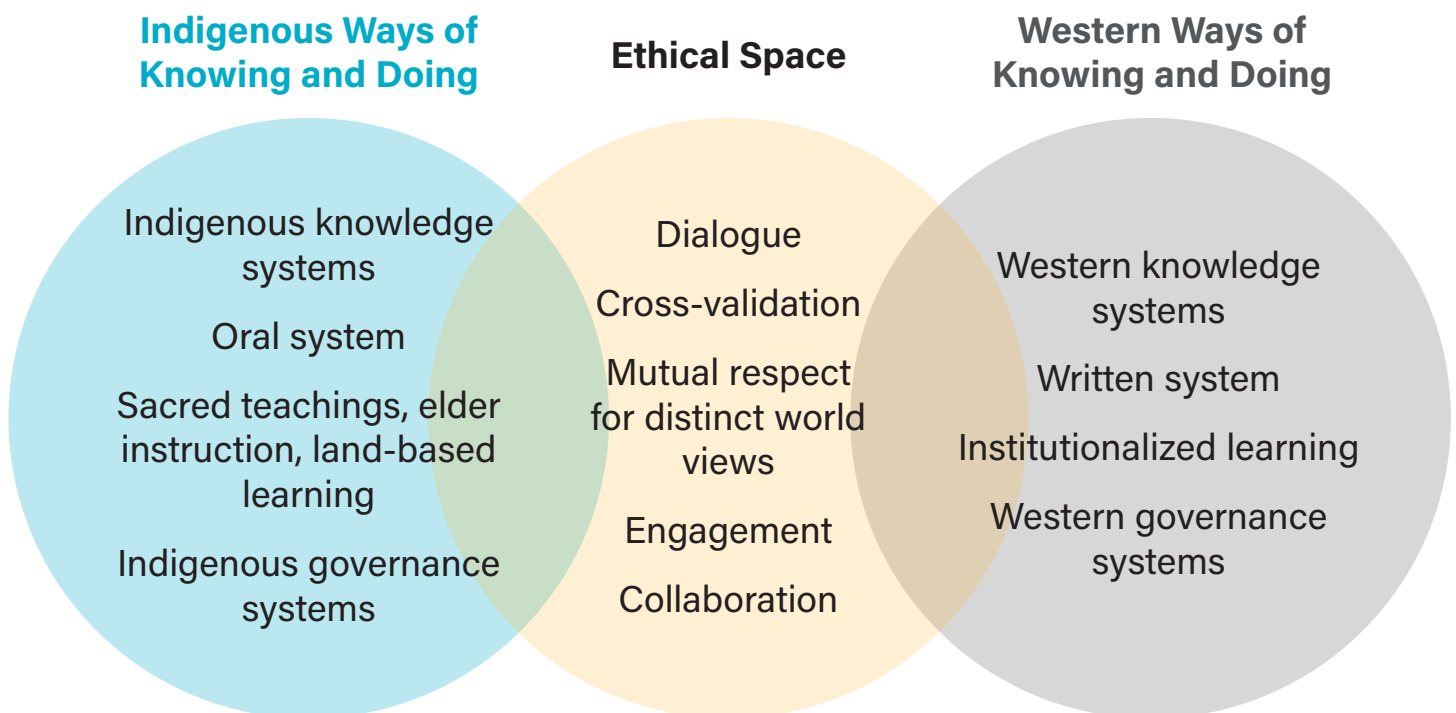
“*The ‘ethical space’ is formed when two societies, with disparate worldviews, are poised to engage each other. The ethical space of engagement proposes a framework as a way of examining the diversity and positioning of Indigenous peoples and Western society.*

– Willie Ermine, 2007. *Indigenous Law Journal*. 6:1

CMN aims to support the leadership of Indigenous individuals and communities in the Network by building ethical spaces into our governance, management, and programs. This includes embracing innovative approaches to defining and supporting research and training.

Ethical space is a concept first introduced to the context of Indigenous-Western relations in Canada by Cree scholar and educator Willie Ermine, who described it as a metaphorical “space between the Indigenous and Western spheres of culture and knowledge.”

Entering into an ethical space can be understood as an invitation to step outside of our own worldviews and assumptions and step into an undefined neutral zone that is an “abstract, nebulous space of possibility.” New possibilities exist because of our differences, which require ethical spaces to be co-created as we retain our autonomy and respect those differences.







Mountains and farm in British Columbia  
Photo from ArtTower on Pixabay

# 5. RESEARCH

CMN's research program supports the resilience and health of Canada's mountain peoples and places through partnerships based on Indigenous and Western ways of knowing that inform decision-making and action.



**16**

research projects funded across Canada



**6**

Indigenous-led projects



**40%**

of funding allocated to Indigenous-led research



## CMN's research priorities



1. Exploring how Indigenous Peoples apply Indigenous culture and knowledge to decision-making within mountain systems.



2. Advancing an integrated, continental scale understanding of the impacts of climate change and human activities on mountain systems.



3. Identifying and developing innovative planning, risk, and governance models applicable to the unique nature of mountain systems.

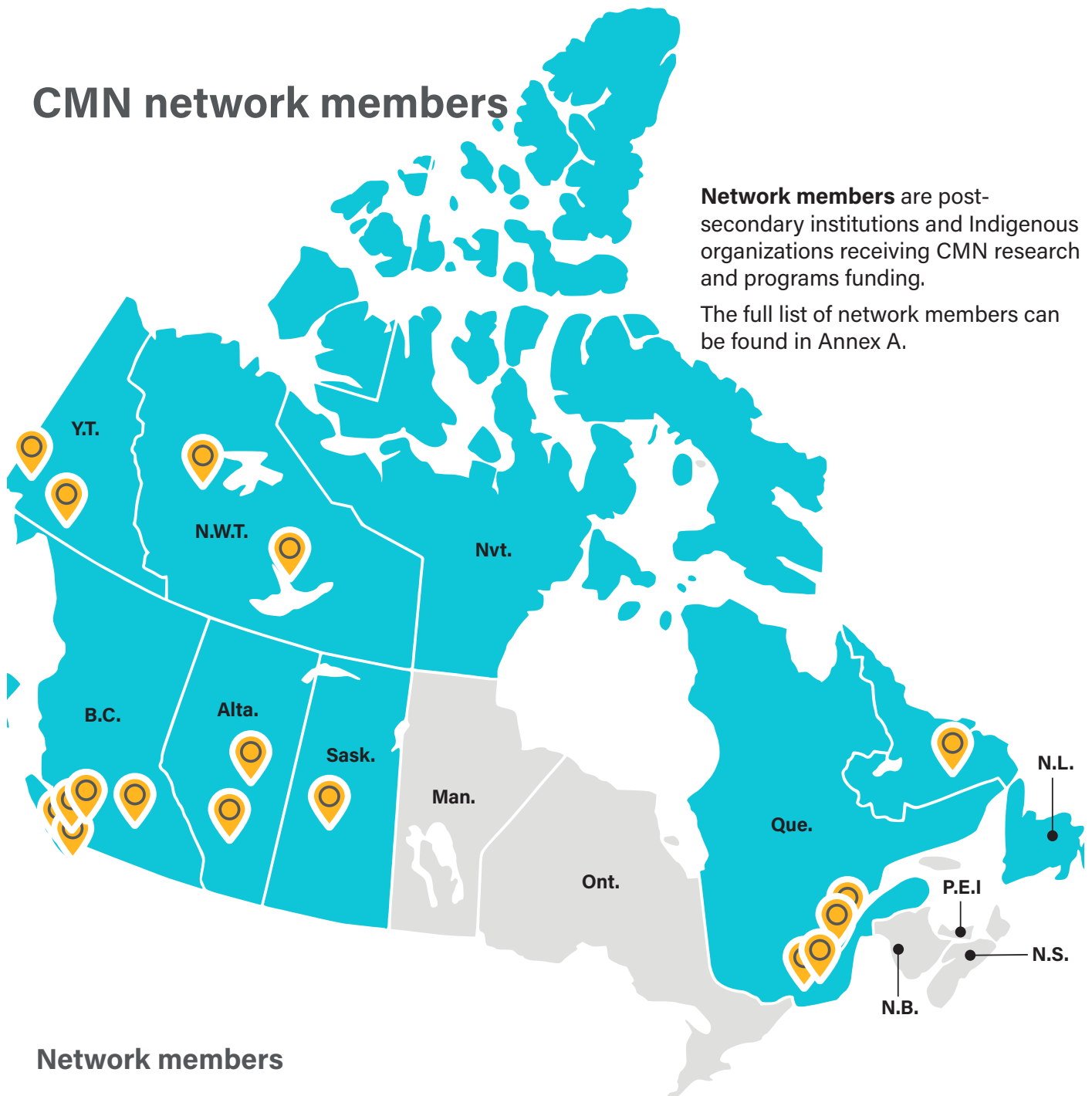


4. Exploring opportunities to support the viability and resilience of place-based livelihoods that sustain the resilience of mountain systems.

# CMN network members

**Network members** are post-secondary institutions and Indigenous organizations receiving CMN research and programs funding.

The full list of network members can be found in Annex A.



## Network members



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

# 6. INDIGENOUS-LED RESEARCH

CMN has strongly advocated for bringing multiple ways of knowing to the table to inform and enhance decision-making, including Indigenous and Western knowledge approaches.

Indigenous-led research is research that is based on Indigenous ways of knowing and doing. Affirming the validity of Indigenous research approaches, as well as building a greater awareness and understanding of those approaches by all network participants, is critical to deliver on CMN's vision and mission.

CMN is working collaboratively with diverse researchers, trainees, and knowledge users across Canada to design and deliver new approaches to research that respect and empower Indigenous knowledge.

## **An Indigenous-led research project may be informed by several principles:**

1. It draws on traditional knowledge that is place-based and that has been gained over many generations. This knowledge is primarily transmitted orally, including through stories and ceremony.
2. It takes a holistic approach, meaning that it works to examine and understand the relationships between the elements of a system. In the mountain context, this could mean the relationships between the people, animals, plants, land and waters of an area.
3. It guides behaviour and decision making that supports self-determination. For example, Indigenous research based on traditional knowledge is essential to inform everything from self-government and land claims to land stewardship, environmental assessments, and wildlife management.
4. It answers questions identified by communities and responds to the community's needs and priorities.
5. It is community-led, community-based, builds community research capacity, and supports knowledge transmission across generations by engaging youth and building relationships with Elders and knowledge holders.
6. It operates within an ethics framework that is determined by the community and best practices.
7. It can engage and exchange information and knowledge with Western science on the right terms. When this exchange is based on mutual respect it can benefit both sides. However, not all Indigenous-led research requires or benefits from this connection and Indigenous-led research must be understood as valuable in its own right. The exchange between ways of knowing cannot only be seen as an opportunity to translate Indigenous knowledge into western data to support western management and governance.

# 7. CMN-FUNDED INDIGENOUS-LED PROJECTS

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) defined reconciliation as an ongoing process of establishing and maintaining respectful relationships. One of the Principles of Reconciliation put forward by the TRC requires that both Indigenous knowledge systems and the land be integrated into the reconciliation process. In response, CMN aims to grow the proportion of its research projects that are led by Indigenous communities. Mountain systems research offers distinctive opportunities to support reconciliation in research, as this work is land-based and place-based.

## Indigenous-led CMN research projects

### **Bringing research home: Reclaiming research to tell the story of climate change in the Kluane First Nation Traditional Territory**

Principal Investigator (PI): Kate Ballegooyen, Kluane First Nation

### **Enhancing the reintroduction of Plains Bison through the inclusion of cultural monitoring and traditional knowledge in Banff National Park**

PI: Bill Snow, Stoney Tribal Administration

### **Łingít Kusteeyí (Tlingit Way of Life): Revitalizing Tlingit Law for Land and Wildlife**

PI: Dr. Aimee Schmidt, T'akhu Â Tlèn Conservancy

### **Mobilizing Mountain Metrics that Matter: Inuit-Led Environment and Health Monitoring in the Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve**

PI: Inez Shiwak, Torngat Wildlife, Plants, and Fisheries Secretariat

### **Níó Nę P'ęné - Trails of the mountain caribou: renewing Indigenous relationships in conservation**

PI: Leon Andrew, Sahtú Renewable Resources Board (SRRB)

### **Explore, describe and develop a methodology to best account for Indigenous perspectives on the value of Land Guardianship in Mountain Regions and the contributions to the biodiversity and well-being of their Nations**

PI: Norma Kassi, Adjunct Professor, McGill University & co-Research Director, Canadian Mountain Network



Participants in Leon Andrew's project in Ross River, Yukon

# CMN research snapshot: Enhancing bison re-introduction in Banff National Park through traditional knowledge

For 10,000 years, plains bison ran wild in the region around present day Banff, AB. European settlers nearly eradicated the species due to overhunting, causing the extirpation of bison in Banff National Park for the past 170 years. In July 2018, 31 plains bison were released into a section of the park as part of a pilot re-introduction program. Two years later, the herd has grown and is thriving.

The effects of bison on the environment can already be seen as they carve new trails, graze grasses, and spend the majority of their time at much higher altitudes than plains bison typically do. With funding support from CMN, local First Nations are working to integrate Indigenous traditional knowledge into the bison re-introduction through the project, ***Enhancing the reintroduction of Plains Bison through the inclusion of cultural monitoring and traditional knowledge in Banff National Park***. The aim is to better understand bison habitat and behaviour from a traditional knowledge perspective and help decision-makers enhance bison management at Banff National Park.

The study is led by William Snow, who is a member of the Stoney Nakoda Nation (Wesley First Nation). His role as Consultation Manager for Stoney Tribal Administration involves assessments of resource development projects within Stoney Nakoda

Traditional Lands and consultations with industry and governments. The project's research team also includes Elders and Knowledge Keepers from the Stoney Nakoda Nation, as well as collaborators from the University of British Columbia.

They are using a method called cultural monitoring to incorporate local traditional knowledge into the identification of resources and the monitoring of ecosystem change. Cultural monitoring complements Western science-based approaches by considering local knowledge and perspectives. Cultural monitoring can also increase community capacity for environmental problem-solving while providing a broader set of data upon which land management decisions can be made.

Historically, land management decisions in Canada have not adequately considered traditional knowledge. This project will add to the understanding of bison herd management in mountain landscapes and provide recommendations for wildlife and land management practices to decision-makers in both Canada and the United States. This more diverse foundation of knowledge will help foster a more informed and inclusive decision-making process with respect to the future of the reintroduction pilot program.



Stoney Trail Riders and Parks Canada staff after a five-day trail ride from the Bison Reintroduction Zone in Banff National Park

# CMN research snapshot: How are melting glaciers impacting downstream water quality, biological communities, and ecological services?

An interdisciplinary team of researchers from the University of Alberta are working together to study and understand the impacts of melting glaciers on the rivers they feed. This three-year, CMN-supported project entitled ***From the Mountains to Our Tables: Freshwater Security in Three Canadian Eastern Rocky Mountain Watersheds*** is led by Dr. Vincent St. Louis and is conducted in three primary Albertan watersheds in Banff and Jasper National Park/Treaty 6, 7, and 8 territory.

The headwaters of these watersheds are hydrologically fed by snow and glacial melt and are therefore under threat due to climate change. Annual glacial meltwater contributions to river flow in Alberta are expected to decline dramatically over the next century, resulting in unknown downstream effects on water quality and ecosystem productivity and resilience.

The headwaters of these rivers act as conduits for materials like nutrients and contaminants melting out from the glaciers and are hence important in regulating important biogeochemical cycles downstream. They are also hotspots of biodiversity,

hosting unique algal, invertebrate, and microbial communities that form the base of climatically-sensitive riverine food webs. Upper trophic level organisms such as fish are also climatically sensitive and can have low thresholds for water temperature changes in their river habitats. As such, documenting the contemporary chemical and biological diversity of these proglacial freshwaters is crucial for understanding their response to climate change.

Accelerating glacial melt thus has critical impacts on the entire ecosystem, and tackling such large-scale issues require collaboration between interdisciplinary researchers and their students. Within this project, Dr. St. Louis' group heads the research on water chemistry and quality; Drs. Suzanne Tank and Maya Bhatia's team work on organic matter cycling and microbial communities; Dr. Rolf Vinebrooke's team investigates periphyton and invertebrate community composition; and Dr. Mark Poesch's laboratory determines the effect of changing temperatures of mountain streams on fish populations.



CMN trainees sampling a glacial river

# CMN research snapshot: Looking to the past and future to understand human impacts on mountains

Mountains make up almost a quarter of Canada's landmass, and more than one third are found in British Columbia. As our population continues to grow, mountain ecosystems face unprecedented threats to their sustainability, including climate change impacts, biodiversity loss, and lack of water. All relate to human impacts and our relationship to the natural environment.

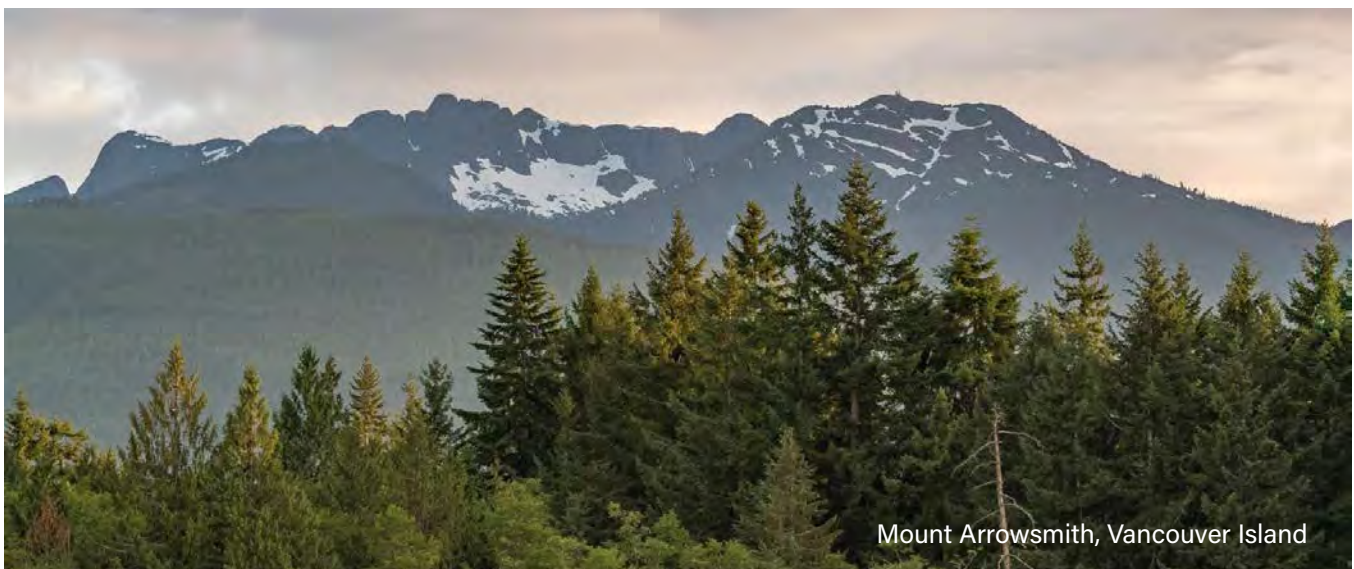
What will our mountains look like 100 years from now? Vancouver Island University researchers and their partners are studying both past data and future projections over 100 years to discover how mountain ecosystems are changing due to human activity. CMN is proud to support this three-year project entitled, ***The View from 2117: Human Actions, Consequences, and Perspectives on Mountain Regions***. The View from 2117 refers both to the vertical extent of Mount Arrowsmith, which is within the region where the study takes place, and to the study's projections to the year 2117. This group of researchers, led by Dr. Pamela Shaw, Research Director of the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Institute, is examining how population growth and behaviour, societal change, and regulatory regimes have affected and will affect mountain environments, mountain peoples and First Nations communities. Their research approaches include demographic analyses, indicator development, field research, surveys, focus groups, and

psychological assessments, which speak to the interconnectedness of people, economies, cultures and environments.

The project focuses on the UNESCO-designated Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region, which overlaps the territories of seven First Nations, four biogeoclimatic zones and three local governments. The region contains a mix of ecosystems, including alpine meadows, old-growth forests, and resource lands, as well as industrial, commercial, and residential areas. Mount Arrowsmith is also the largest mountain on southern Vancouver Island.

Project partners include representatives from the Qualicum, K'òmoks, and Snaw Naw As First Nations, as well as industry and local government representatives. They will provide insights on how regulations, demographics, and societal change can reduce human impacts on mountain ecosystems and help improve policy and regulatory frameworks.

The study will then be broadened and replicated to include other biosphere regions across Canada and other mountain regions. The research aims to influence how we view and regulate mountain landscapes and contribute to a better understanding of our relationship with these fragile and changing environments.



Mount Arrowsmith, Vancouver Island



# CMN research snapshot: Thawing ice in Canada's North revealing ancient artifacts central to Indigenous cultural identity

As global temperatures rise, mountain glaciers and ice patches are melting at a rapid pace in Canada's North. In the Yukon and Northwest Territories, snow accumulates and forms permanent ice patches on the northern sides of some mountains. As alpine ice patches melt, the leftover belongings of the North's first inhabitants are emerging after hundreds and even thousands of years.

Researchers and local Indigenous groups are racing to save these hunting artifacts before they are exposed to the air and decompose. The Globe and Mail recently discussed how Glen MacKay, CMN researcher and archaeologist with the Government of the Northwest Territories, is conducting archaeological research on cultural places at risk of climate change impacts.

MacKay and research partner Leon Andrew, a Shútagot'ine Elder of the Tulita Dene Band, are incorporating traditional knowledge, archaeology, and dendrochronology into their research on ice patches to promote the conservation of cultural values in the Shútagot'ine (Mountain Dene) homeland, located in the central Mackenzie Mountains. They are investigating Shútagot'ine land use by looking at wooden game drive fences and ice patches – specialized hunting sites of high cultural significance that are at risk of climate change impacts.

This project builds on over twelve years of collaborative archaeological and traditional knowledge research in the region. Project partners include the Tulit'a Dene Band, the Cultural Places Program of the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Mistik Askiwin Dendrochronology Laboratory of the University of Saskatchewan, and the Northwest Territories Centre for Geomatics.

This research sheds light on how northern Indigenous communities lived thousands of years ago and enriches our understanding of Shútagot'ine land and resource use through time. Conservation of these archaeological sites is critical to the integrity of Indigenous cultural landscapes, which are central to the identity and cultural vitality of Indigenous communities.

MacKay and Andrew are making sure they share these ancient artifacts with Indigenous youth in the region, so that they may learn about how their ancestors lived. They will also develop web-based materials to communicate the results of their archaeological research to students in Tulit'a and beyond.

Lessons learned from this work will improve best practices for the efficient preservation of cultural values at risk. The project will also provide useful information for regional land management and the protection of archaeological sites from development and climate change impacts.



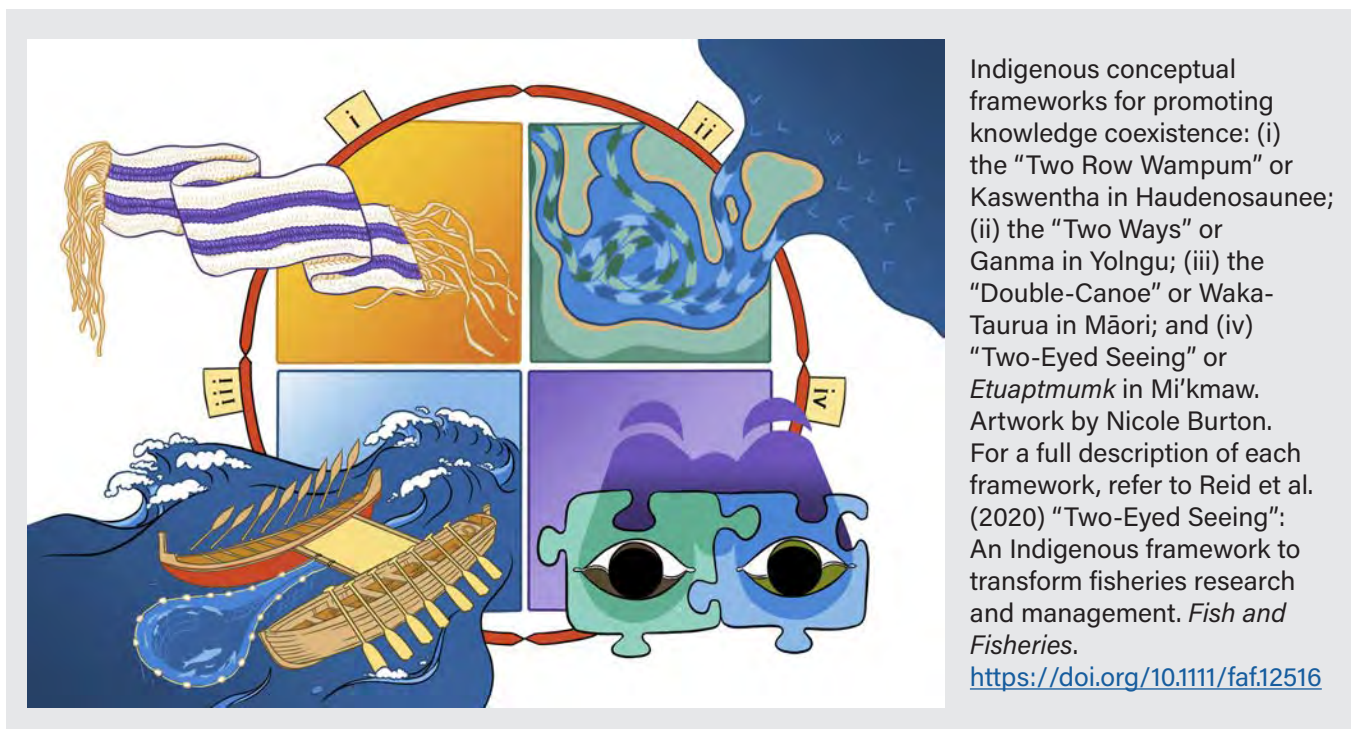
Wooden game drive fence, Mackenzie Mountains

# 8. ETHICAL KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND KNOWLEDGE COPRODUCTION

Despite good intentions, efforts to mobilize the best available knowledge through bringing together Indigenous and Western knowledge systems can be hindered by misunderstanding, misinterpretation, misappropriation, and misuse of Indigenous knowledge. Equitable outcomes in the design, implementation, and evaluation of such knowledge sharing and knowledge coproduction initiatives must be supported by co-created ethical principles that create capacities to enable respectful ways of being together for bridging and braiding of Indigenous and Western ways of knowing.

Developing, sharing, and applying an ethical framework for knowledge sharing and coproduction supports CMN's existing research, partnerships, and emerging initiatives. It also addresses a wider national need for contemporary ethical guidance that deeply considers the intercultural, interspecies and intergenerational aspects of reconciling diverse ways knowing

CMN is working towards building ethical knowledge sharing and knowledge co-production into its various projects and programs. For example, CMN is developing an educational and capacity-building framework with tools that address a significant training gap in Canada and that will be translated into online and in-person learning opportunities. These will enable the next generation of practitioners of Indigenous-led and/or Indigenous-engaged community-based research to successfully apply these principles in their work. In addition, CMN has launched the three-year Canadian Mountain Assessment, a landmark initiative to answer fundamental questions about the state of knowledge of Canada's mountain systems informed by both Indigenous knowledge and Western science. The Assessment's inclusive, participatory development and review procedures provide an important example of collaboration and reconciliation activities for network participants.



# 9. TRAINING

CMN supports the training of a diverse network of highly-skilled, solutions-oriented mountain systems researchers, including both academic trainees and non-academic Indigenous trainees. Through working on research projects and diverse complementary opportunities, trainees will develop strong intercultural competencies, gain experience working with both Indigenous and Western knowledge systems and research approaches, and benefit from improved employment outcomes.

CMN's most significant training accomplishment in 2019-20 was the launch of 16 research projects that brought many diverse HQP formally into the network. Their experience within these projects has offered valuable research training and professional development opportunities. Other highlights include a proposal for an on-the-land learning program that was a finalist for a 2019 Arctic Inspiration Prize, along with several grants to support Mitacs applied research internships funded in partnership with businesses and not-for-profit organizations.



## 72 trainees

15 undergraduate students

22 Master's students

14 PhD candidates

2 Postdoctoral Fellows

14 Research associates

5 Indigenous youth/interns



## 4 Mitacs applied internships funded:

1. Preparing Mountain Tourism for a Warmer and Decarbonized Canada
2. Assessment of montane plant species responses to climate warming in the northern boreal mountain zone
3. Interactive, place-based mapping of climate analogs in Yukon's mountain regions to inform tree species selection in areas of rapid climate change
4. Habitat security mapping for improving human-wildlife coexistence in the Bow Valley



## 4 trainee travel grants



CMN trainees at the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Reserve

# 10. KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION

CMN aims to become a leading information hub for mountain systems researchers and knowledge users. The Network supports collaboration and informed decision-making through effective in-person and digital communications, events, and other tailored products or activities.

## International Mountain Day

The United Nations has designated December 11th as International Mountain Day (IMD) to celebrate and call attention to the world about the importance of mountains to life. It is dedicated to raising awareness about opportunities and challenges facing mountain regions, as well as building alliances that will bring positive change to mountain peoples and places around the world.

CMN is involved in the national coordination and promotion of events in celebration of IMD in support of mobilizing mountain systems research. For IMD 2019, CMN led a print and digital advertising campaign and funded nine community- led knowledge mobilization events. In addition, two bilingual infographics were developed to explore mountain systems in Canada.

## Canadian Mountain Podcast

The Canadian Mountain Podcast is a knowledge mobilization initiative highlighting CMN-supported research and facilitating other important discussions relevant to mountain research and issues in Canada and around the world.

The Podcast launched its new season in 2019 as a student training partnership with the Journalism Program at Mount Royal University in Calgary. Seven episodes have been published to date on topics ranging from human-wildlife coexistence to the importance of mountains for water to research based on Indigenous knowledge. Visit iTunes or wherever you get your podcasts to subscribe!

## Royal Canadian Geographical Society Partnership

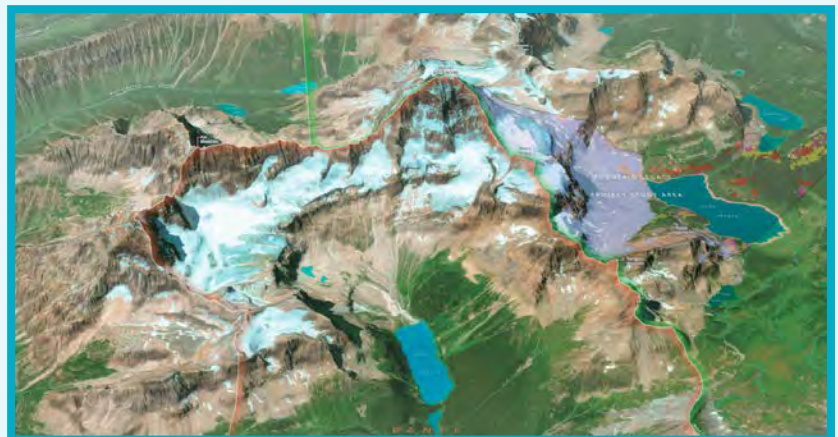
CMN has negotiated a media partnership with the Royal Canadian Geographical Society to build awareness of network activities, including serial content in Canadian Geographic magazine and its communications platforms. The partnership also supports public education and the development of K-12 mountain research "trainees" through poster maps and lessons plans accessible to CanGeo Education's network of 23,500 educators in more than 600 elementary and secondary schools across Canada.



Blaise Kemna,  
Host & Producer,  
Canadian Mountain  
Podcast



Meg Wilcox,  
Senior Producer,  
Canadian Mountain  
Podcast



CMN-sponsored Canadian Geographic Magazine Mountain  
Systems Map Insert

# Network communications highlights

As of March 31st, 2020

## Traditional media

24

editorial mentions  
(number of appearances in articles)

18,500,000

estimated article views

## Social media

3,171

social media followers

3,800

Total number of engagements

## Website

43,507

total page views on canadianmountainnetwork.ca

## Blog

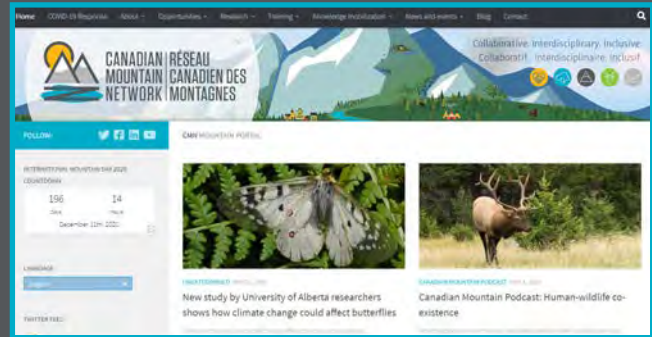
26

new articles  
(each available in French and English)

## Newsletter

1,418

subscribers



# 11. COVID-19 RESPONSE

CMN is working with the Networks of Centres of Excellence program to mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on our researchers and other partners. We anticipate that the pandemic will have significant but differentiated impacts on all of CMN's funded projects and are committed to supporting our research teams to mitigate and/or accommodate those impacts. Safety is of paramount concern and CMN has emphasized the need for researchers to follow the public health guidance of the communities in which they work, along with that from governments and their employers.

CMN's Research Management Committee is evaluating project timelines and budgets in light of these exceptional circumstances and the Network has strongly encouraged team leaders to consider other research support work opportunities that could be offered to trainees during the suspended field season.

CMN itself has covered the cost for network trainees to receive a Coursera certificate in one of four Massive Open Online Courses relevant to the Network's goals: *Mountains 101*, *Climate Change and Water in Mountains: A Global Concern*, *Aboriginal Worldviews and Education*, and *Indigenous Canada*.

Finally, the CMN-sponsored Reconciling Ways of Knowing Forum that was scheduled for May 2020 has transitioned to a series of webinars that address multiple perspectives and considerations related to bringing together Indigenous and Western ways of knowing. Recordings can be viewed at [waysofknowingforum.ca](http://waysofknowingforum.ca).

We thank the mountain research community for your patience during this time and look forward to the day that we can reconvene together in person to share our love for mountain peoples and places.



© Light Art by Gerry Hofstetter / Photo Michael Kessler

The Swiss mountain resort town of Zermatt sent a message of hope and unity to the world by illuminating the flags of countries hit by the coronavirus pandemic, including Canada, on the iconic Matterhorn peak.

# 12. ANNEXES

## Annex A: Our Network

(as of September 30th, 2020)

### Network members

Aurora College  
Kluane First Nation  
Torngat Wildlife, Plants and Fisheries Secretariat  
Sahtú Renewable Resources Board  
Simon Fraser University  
Mount Royal University  
T'Akhu A Tlen Conservancy  
University of Alberta  
Thompson Rivers University  
Université Laval  
Université de Montréal  
Université de Sherbrooke  
University of Saskatchewan  
Vancouver Island University  
University of Calgary  
McGill University  
University of Victoria  
University of British Columbia

### Board of Directors

Dr. Joe Dragon (Chair)  
Paulette Fox (Vice Chair), President/Owner,  
Harmony Walkers Inc.  
Laurel Carlton (Secretary), Founder and Principal,  
Summit in Stride  
Lynne Hatley (Treasurer), Director, Development  
and Communications (Alberta), Nature  
Conservancy of Canada  
The Hon. Ethel Blondin-Andrew, P.C., Former  
Member of Parliament for Western Arctic/Minister  
of State for Northern Development and Former  
Chair of the Sahtu Secretariat

Charity Callahan, Associate, Western Management  
Consultants

Dr. Walter Dixon, Interim Vice-President (Research  
and Innovation), University of Alberta

Lawrence Ignace, Member-at-large, Whitehorse,  
Yukon

Jocelyn Joe-Strack, Consultant, Subarctic  
Research & Strategy and PhD Candidate,  
University of Saskatchewan School of Environment  
and Sustainability

Dr. Maribeth Murray, Executive Director, Arctic  
Institute of North America

Dr. Niall O'Dea, Assistant Deputy Minister,  
Canadian Wildlife Service

Dr. Mark Prystupa, Director Indigenous and  
Community Relations, Suncor Energy Inc.

Kelly Sloan, Owner, Sloan Leadership Consulting/  
Owner, Odyssey Adventures for Women

Alida Thomas, VP of Programs and Research,  
Empowering Villages International

Wendy Wan, Senior Consultant – Humanity  
Financial Management Inc.

Dr. Stewart Fast, Senior Program Manager,  
Networks of Centres of Excellence Program  
(Observer)



## **Governance Committee**

Laurel Carlton (Chair), Founder and Principal, Summit in Stride

Charity Callahan, Associate, Western Management Consultants

Paulette Fox, President/Owner, Harmony Walkers Inc.

Alida Thomas, VP of Programs and Research, Empowering Villages International

Dr. Joe Dragon, CMN Board Chair (ex officio member)

Dr. Stewart Fast, Senior Program Manager, Networks of Centres of Excellence Program (Observer)

## **Finance, Audit and Risk Committee**

Lynne Hatley (Chair), Director, Development and Communications (Alberta), Nature Conservancy of Canada

Laurel Carlton, Founder and Principal, Summit in Stride

Kelly Sloan, Owner, Sloan Leadership Consulting/Owner, Odyssey Adventures for Women

Wendy Wan, Senior Consultant – Humanity Financial Management Inc.

Dr. Joe Dragon, CMN Board Chair (ex officio member)

Dr. Stewart Fast, Senior Program Manager, Networks of Centres of Excellence Program (Observer)

## **Research Management Committee**

Andrew Applejohn (Chair), Senior Science Advisor, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Northwest Territories

Paulette Fox, President/Owner, Harmony Walkers Inc.

Meagan Grabowski, Meagan Grabowski Consulting, Researcher, Biologist and Yukon University Instructor

Dr. Eric Higgs, Professor and former Director of the School of Environmental Studies, University of Victoria

Dr. Murray Humphries, CMN co-Research Director & McGill Northern Research Chair/Director, Center for Indigenous Peoples' Nutrition and Environment (CINE), McGill University

Lawrence Ignace, Member-at-large, Whitehorse, Yukon

Mary Jane Johnson, Lhu'ààn Mân Ku Dañ Elder

Norma Kassi, CMN co-Research Director & Adjunct Professor, McGill University

Dr. Julia Klein, Professor, Department of Ecosystem Science & Sustainability, Colorado State University and Head of the Mountain Sentinels Network

Marlin Legare, Research Associate, Morning Star Lodge, a lab of the University of Saskatchewan College of Medicine's Indigenous Peoples' Health Research Centre

Dr. Mark Prystupa, Director, Indigenous and Community Relations, Suncor Energy Inc.

Dr. Cathryn Ryan, Associate Dean of Research, Faculty of Science, University of Calgary

Dr. Joe Dragon, CMN Board Chair (ex officio member)

Dr. Stewart Fast, Senior Program Manager, Networks of Centres of Excellence Program (Observer)

## **Indigenous Circle of Advisors**

The Hon. Ethel Blondin-Andrew, P.C., Former Member of Parliament for Western Arctic/Minister of State for Northern Development and Former Chair of the Sahtu Secretariat

Paulette Fox, President/Owner, Harmony Walkers Inc.

Jocelyn Joe-Strack, Consultant, Subarctic Research & Strategy and PhD Candidate, University of Saskatchewan School of Environment and Sustainability

Norma Kassi, CMN co-Research Director & Adjunct Professor, McGill University

Andrew Applejohn, Chair of the Research Management Committee (ex officio)

Dr. Joe Dragon, CMN Board Chair (ex officio member)



## **Network Staff**

Matthew Berry, Interim President  
Norma Kassi, co-Research Director  
Dr. Murray Humphries, co-Research Director  
Nicole Olivier, Programs Manager  
Ainsley Sykes, Operations Manager  
Hannah Ordway, Governance Coordinator  
Dr. Jen Feikes, Controller  
Charity Akinseloyin, Financial Administrator  
Weronika Murray, Indigenous Engagement Coordinator  
Kirsten Bowser, Scientific Engagement Coordinator  
Annie Webb, Communications Advisor  
Dr. Graham McDowell, Project Leader, Canadian Mountain Assessment  
Meg Wilcox, Senior Producer, Canadian Mountain Podcast  
Gabrielle Pyska, Host & Producer, Canadian Mountain Podcast  
Eric Tanner, Host & Producer, Canadian Mountain Podcast  
Ethan Ward, Host & Producer, Canadian Mountain Podcast

## **Investigators**

Diana Allen, Simon Fraser University  
Leon Andrew, Tulita Dene Band, Sahtú Renewable Resources Board  
Kate Ballegooyen, Kluane First Nation  
Maya Bhatia, University of Alberta  
Ethel Blondin-Andrew, Indigenous Leadership Initiative  
Laurent Bourdeau, Université Laval  
Anna Carr, University of Otago  
Don Carruthers Den Hoed, Mount Royal University  
Lindsay Chase, University of Victoria  
Dave Coltman, University of Alberta  
Colin Cooke, Alberta Environments and Parks; University of Alberta  
Alison Criscitiello, University of Alberta

Ashlee Cunsolo, Labrador Institute of Memorial University  
Steve Derome, Université Laval  
Sarah Elmeligi, Mount Royal University  
Isabelle Falardeau, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières  
Marco Festa-Bianchet, Université de Sherbrooke  
Daniel Fortier, Université de Montréal  
Florence Gilbert, Université du Québec à Montréal  
Uwe Glässer, Simon Fraser University  
Pascal Haegeli, Simon Fraser University  
Sherilee Harper, University of Alberta  
Patrick Hayes, Université de Montréal  
Thora Hermann, Université de Montréal  
Eric Higgs, University of Victoria  
Brian Horton, Yukon College  
Maria Ines, Instituto Federal Fluminense  
James King, Université de Montréal  
Sylvie Lafrenière, Vancouver Island University  
Dominic Lapointe, Université du Québec à Montréal  
Colin Laroque, University of Saskatchewan  
Glen MacKay, Government of Northwest Territories  
Geraldine Manson, Vancouver Island University  
Pascale Marcotte, Université Laval  
Shawn Marshall, University of Calgary  
Courtney Mason, Thompson Rivers University  
Lindsay McCunn, Vancouver Island University  
Rhea McDonald, , Norman Wells Renewable Resource Council  
Danie Nadeau, Université de Laval  
Norm O'Neill, Université de Sherbrooke  
Fanie Pelletier, Université de Sherbrooke  
Lois Philip, Fort Providence, NT  
Mark Poesch, University of Alberta  
Alexandra Roy, Bureau du député de la circonscription d'Orford  
Aimee Schmidt, T'akhu A'Tlen Conservancy  
Martin Sharp, University of Alberta  
Pamela Shaw, Vancouver Island University

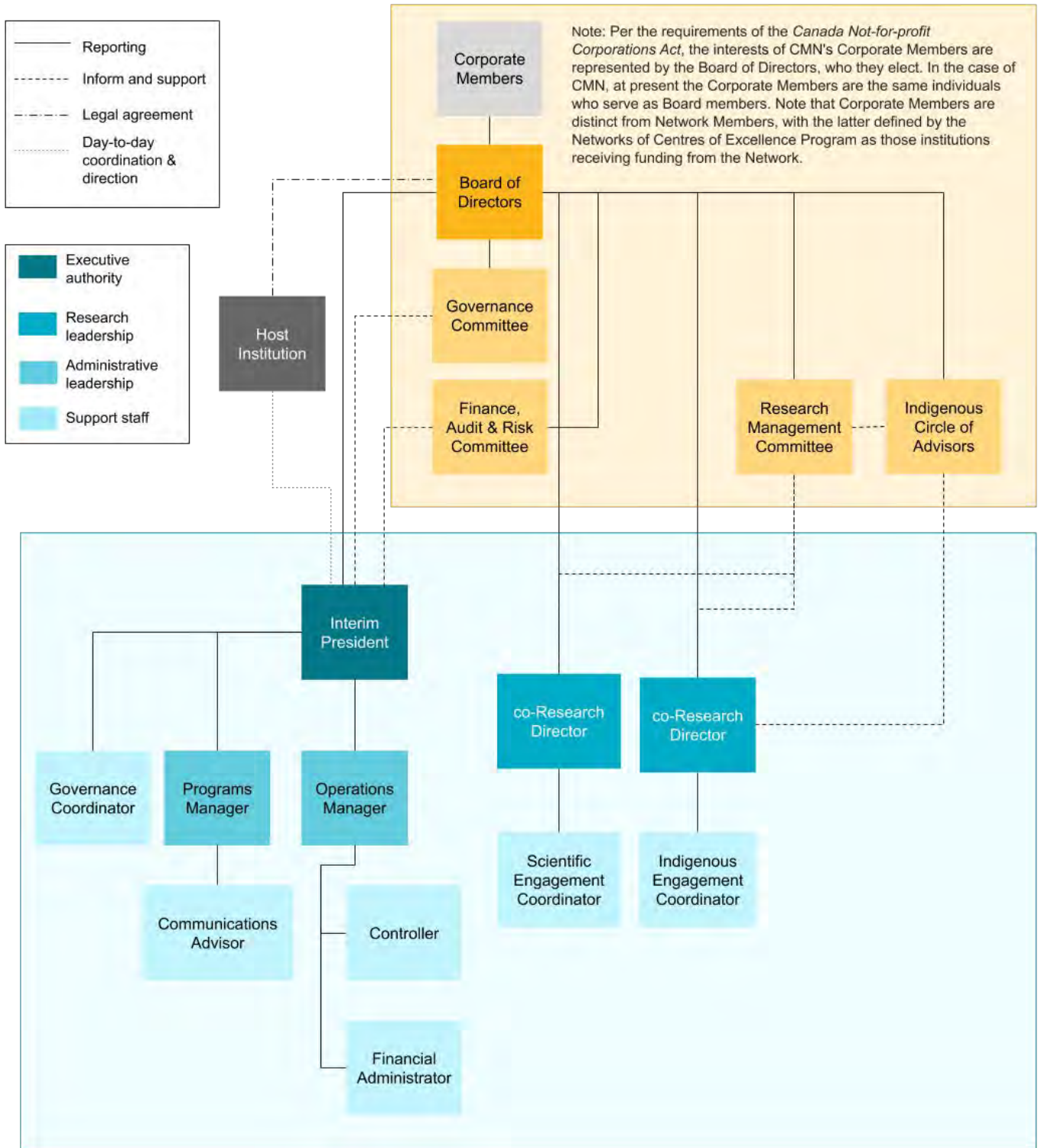
Inez Shiwak, Torngat Wildlife, Plants, and Fisheries Secretariat  
Deborah Simmons, Sahtú Renewable Resources Board  
Jamie Snook, Torngat Wildlife, Plants, and Fisheries Secretariat  
William Snow, Stoney Tribal Administration  
Vincent St. Louis, University of Alberta  
Norm Sterriah, Ross River Dena Lands Department  
Julie Talbot, Université de Montréal  
Suzanne Tank, University of Alberta  
Olivier Tremblay-Pecek, Cégep de St- Hyacinthe & Cégep de Trois-Rivières  
Rolf Vinebrooke, University of Alberta  
Sonia Wesche, University of Ottawa  
Meg Wilcox, Mount Royal University  
Glyn Williams-Jones, Simon Fraser University

### **Collaborators**

Frederick Andrew Jr., Tulít'a Renewable Resource Council  
Sébastien Blouin, Corporation ski et golf Mont-Orford  
David Borish, University of Guelph  
Julie Buysse, Culture and Heritage Division, Government of the Northwest Territories  
Mélanie Desautel, Municipalité régionale de comté de Memphrémagog  
Kyanna Lennie Dolphus, Sahtú Renewable Resources Board  
Craig Emmerton, Alberta Environments and Parks; University of Alberta  
Florence Gilbert, Université du Québec à Montréal  
Tom Gleeson, University of Victoria  
Jon Goetz, BC Environmental Protection & Sustainability  
Julie Ann Ishikawa, BC Environmental Protection & Sustainability  
Kirsten Jensen, Sahtú Renewable Resources Board  
Blair Kennedy, Environment and Climate Change Canada  
Martin Lavoie, Jouvence

Micheline Manseau, Environment and Climate Change Canada  
Brigitte Marchand, Parc national du Mont-Orford  
Carl Mendoza, University of Alberta  
Roger Odgaard, Norman Wells Renewable Resource Council  
Jean Pagé, Société des établissements de plein air du Québec  
Robin Pike, BC Environmental Protection & Sustainability  
Graham Sakaki, Vancouver Island University  
Naomi Smethurst, Culture and Heritage Division, Government of the Northwest Territories  
Wonny Song, Orford Musique  
Skye Tompson, BC Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development  
Jurjen van der Sluijs, NWT Centre of Geomatics  
Anna Warwick-Sears, Okanagan Basin Water Board  
Carmen Wong, Parks Canada  
Michele Wood, Nunatsiavut Government Department of Health & Social Development  
Sarah Woodman, Culture and Heritage Division, Government of the Northwest Territories  
Jessie Yakeleya, Sahtú Renewable Resources Board

# CMN Organizational Chart



## Annex B: Network Research Projects

### 1. **Bringing research home: Reclaiming research to tell the story of climate change in the Kluane First Nation Traditional Territory**

Principal Investigator: Kate Ballegooyen (Natural Resources Manager/Lands Resources and Heritage, Kluane First Nation, Burwash Landing)

Research Location: Kluane First Nation Traditional Territory, Yukon Territory

### 2. **Co-creation of a governance structure: The case of a recreo-tourism development in Mont-Orford**

Principal Investigator: Dr. Laurent Bourdeau (Professor, Department of Geography, Laval University)

Research Location: Mont-Orford region, Québec

### 3. **Effects of climate change and human activities on mountain species and ecosystems**

Principal Investigator: Dr. Stan Boutin (Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta)

Research Locations: British Columbia and Yukon Territory

### 4. **Enhancing the reintroduction of plains bison through the inclusion of cultural monitoring and traditional knowledge in Banff National Park**

Principal Investigator: William Snow (Consultation Manager, Stoney Tribal Administration)

Research Location: Banff National Park, Alberta

### 5. **Explore, describe and develop a methodology to best account Indigenous perspectives on the value of land guardianship in mountain regions and the contributions to the biodiversity and well-being of their Nations**

Principal Investigator: Norma Kassi, CMN co-Research Director & Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Science, McGill University

Research Locations: Yukon, Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Quebec, Newfoundland & Labrador

### 6. **From the mountains to our tables: Freshwater security in three Canadian eastern Rocky Mountain watersheds**

Principal Investigator: Dr. Vincent St. Louis (Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta)

Research Locations: Banff National Park and Jasper National Park, Alberta

### 7. **Indigenous land rights in Canada and New Zealand: Sustainable protected areas in rural and mountain environments**

Principal Investigator: Dr. Courtney Mason (Associate Professor & Canada Research Chair in Rural Livelihoods and Sustainable Communities, Thompson Rivers University)

Research Locations: Alberta (Banff National Park, Jasper National Park, Yoho National Park); Northwest Territories (Mackenzie Bison Sanctuary); and New Zealand (Urewera National Park)

### 8. **Łingít Kusteeyí (Tlingit way of life): Revitalizing Tlingit law for land and wildlife**

Principal Investigator: Dr. Aimee Schmidt (Executive Director, T'akhu Â Tlèn Conservancy)

Research Location: Taku River Tlingit Traditional Territory, British Columbia and Yukon Territory

### 9. **Long-term monitoring of harvested mountain ungulates to improve their conservation and sustainable use**

Principal Investigator: Dr. Marco Festa-Bianchet (Professor, Department of Biology, University of Sherbrooke)

Research Locations: Yukon Territory, the Northwest Territories, British Columbia, and Alberta

### 10. **Managing groundwater resources in mountainous areas: Planning for and adapting to drought conditions**

Principal Investigator: Dr. Diana Allen (Professor, Earth Sciences, Simon Fraser University)

Research Location: Okanagan Basin, British Columbia

**11. Mineral dust dynamics and climate change at high latitude mountainous regions**

Principal Investigator: Dr. James King (Assistant Professor in Geomorphology Wind Erosion Lab, Department of Geography, University of Montreal)

Research Location: Łhù'ààn Mân (Kluane Lake), Yukon Territory

**12. Mobilizing mountain metrics that matter: Inuit-led environment and health monitoring in the Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve**

Principal Investigator: Inez Shiwak, Torngat Wildlife, Plants, and Fisheries Secretariat

Research Location: Mealy Mountains, Labrador

**13. Níó Nę P'ęnę - Trails of the mountain caribou: Renewing Indigenous relationships in conservation**

Principal Investigator: Leon Andrew (Shúhtagot'įnę Elder/Ancien, Tulít'a Dene Band, Sahtú Renewable Resources Board)

Research Location: Mackenzie Mountains, Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories

**14. The mountain risk knowledge exchange - Building risk management capacity and resilience in mountain communities**

Principal Investigator: Dr. Glyn Williams-Jones (Co-Director, Centre for Natural Hazards Research / Professor, Volcanology, Simon Fraser University)

Research Locations: Lil'wat Nation/Squamish-Lillooet Regional District, British Columbia; various Nunavut communities

**15. The Shútagot'ine cultural landscape project**

Principal Investigator: Glen MacKay (Territorial Archaeologist, Cultural Places Program, Government of the Northwest Territories)

Research Location: Mackenzie Mountains, Northwest Territories

**16. The View from 2117: Human actions, consequences and perspectives on mountain regions**

Principal Investigator: Dr. Pamela Shaw (Research Director, Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Institute, Vancouver Island University)

Research Location: Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Reserve, British Columbia

Photo on next page:  
Wildflowers in the Rocky Mountains, Alberta  
Photo by Nicole Olivier



# **Canadian Mountain Network**

Financial Statements

**March 31, 2020**



## *Independent auditor's report*

To the Members of Canadian Mountain Network

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### *Our opinion*

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Canadian Mountain Network (the Network) as at March 31, 2020 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

#### **What we have audited**

The Network's financial statements comprise:

- the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2020;
- the statement of operations for the year then ended;
- the statement of changes in net assets for the year then ended;
- the statement of cash flows for the year then ended; and
- the notes to the financial statements, which include a summary of significant accounting policies.

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### *Basis for opinion*

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### **Independence**

We are independent of the Network in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada. We have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

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### *Responsibilities of management and those charged with governance for the financial statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

---

*PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP*  
Stantec Tower, 10220 103 Avenue NW, Suite 2200, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5J 0K4  
T: +1 780 441 6700, F: +1 780 441 6776





In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Network's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Network or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Network's financial reporting process.

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### *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements*

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Network's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Network's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Network to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.



We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

*PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP*

Chartered Professional Accountants

Edmonton, Alberta  
September 22, 2020

**Canadian Mountain Network**  
Statement of Financial Position  
As at March 31, 2020

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash	\$ 31,310	\$ -
Grants receivable	134,802	-
Prepaid expenses	150,165	8,236
Due from Network Host (note 3)	<u>7,412,475</u>	<u>5,355,800</u>
	7,728,752	5,364,036
 <b>Computer equipment (note 5)</b>	 <u>5,434</u>	 <u>10,867</u>
	<b>\$ <u>7,734,186</u></b>	<b>\$ <u>5,374,903</u></b>
 <b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 259,673	\$ 27,738
Deferred revenue (note 4)	<u>7,474,513</u>	<u>5,347,165</u>
	7,734,186	5,374,903
 <b>Net assets</b>		
<b>Unrestricted net assets</b>	 <u>-</u>	 <u>-</u>
	<b>\$ <u>7,734,186</u></b>	<b>\$ <u>5,374,903</u></b>

Approved by the Board of Directors

*Lynne Hately*

Lynne Hately (Sep 28, 2020 18:25 MDT)

Director

*Charity Callahan*

Charity Callahan (Sep 28, 2020 19:02 MDT)

Director

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**Canadian Mountain Network**  
Statement of Operations  
For the year ended March 31, 2020

	<b>Year ended March 31, 2020</b>	<b>Period from January 25 to March 31, 2019</b>
<b>Revenues</b>		
Grants (note 4)	\$ 2,624,464	\$ 62,979
Contributed goods and services (note 5)	43,844	41,440
	<u>2,668,308</u>	<u>104,419</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Funding distributions	1,609,166	-
Staff payroll, contracts and benefits	556,649	33,552
Consulting fees	231,875	37,494
Travel	115,367	7,280
Promotion and sponsorships	84,654	-
Professional fees	18,440	11,221
Equipment and software	14,796	5,433
Meeting	13,068	-
Office	10,506	8,325
Insurance	8,236	114
Other	5,551	1,000
	<u>2,668,308</u>	<u>104,419</u>
<b>Excess of revenues over expenditures for the period</b>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**Canadian Mountain Network**  
Statement of Changes in Net Assets  
For the year ended March 31, 2020

	<u>Year ended March 31, 2020</u>	<u>Period from January 25 to March 31, 2019</u>
<b>Balance - Beginning of period</b>	\$ -	\$ -
Excess of revenues over expenditures for the period	-	-
<b>Balance - End of period</b>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**Canadian Mountain Network**  
Statement of Cash Flows  
For the year ended March 31, 2020

	<u>Year ended March 31, 2020</u>	<u>Period from January 25 to March 31, 2019</u>
<b>Cash provided by (used in)</b>		
<b>Operating activities</b>		
Excess of revenues over expenditures for the period	\$ -	\$ -
Non-cash items		
Amortized equipment cost	5,433	5,433
Changes in non-cash working capital items		
Grants receivable	(134,802)	-
Prepaid expenses	(141,929)	(8,236)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	231,935	27,738
Due from Network Host	(2,056,675)	(5,355,800)
Deferred revenue	2,127,348	5,330,865
	<u>25,877</u>	<u>(5,433)</u>
<b>Increase in cash during the period</b>	31,310	-
<b>Cash - Beginning of period</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Cash - End of period</b>	\$ <u><u>31,310</u></u>	\$ <u><u>-</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**1 Nature of operations**

Canadian Mountain Network (the Network) was incorporated on January 25, 2019 to support the resilience and health of Canada's mountain peoples and places through research partnerships based on Indigenous and Western ways of knowing that inform decision-making and action.

The Network is a not-for-profit organization and, accordingly, is exempt from income tax in accordance with Section 149(1)(e) of the Canadian Income Tax Act and Section 35 of the Alberta Income Tax Act. Under the funding agreement between the Network, the Government of Canada's Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCE) program and the University of Alberta (the Network Host), the Network is allowed to incur expenses against the funds provided starting on December 19, 2018; therefore, these financial statements include prior year comparatives that reflect revenues and expenses incurred since that date rather than the incorporation date noted above.

**2 Summary of significant accounting policies**

**Basis for presentation**

These financial statements have been prepared by management in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO). The preparation of financial statements for a period necessarily includes the use of estimates and approximations, which have been made using careful judgment. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Significant areas of estimation included in these financial statements are the estimate of fair value of donated materials and services. These financial statements have, in management's opinion, been properly prepared within reasonable limits of materiality and within the framework of the accounting policies summarized below.

**Revenue recognition**

The Network follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Externally restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expense is incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year received or receivable if the amounts to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Projects funded by the Network receive cash and in-kind contributions of services, personnel and supplies from other funders. These contributions are not recorded in the financial statements of the Network as they are not revenues of the Network.

**Contributed goods and services**

Contributed goods and services are recorded in the financial statements at fair value on the date contributed when fair value can be reasonably estimated and the contributed goods or services would have otherwise normally been purchased by the Network.

**Financial instruments**

Financial assets and liabilities are initially recognized at fair value and are subsequently accounted for at amortized cost using the effective interest rate method. Financial assets measured at amortized cost are tested for impairment when there are indicators of impairment.

**3 Due from Network Host**

Due from Network Host are amounts held in trust by the University of Alberta in its role as network host under an agreement dated March 4, 2019 between the Network and the Network Host. Under the terms of the agreement, the Network Host is responsible for receiving and administering grant funding received from the NCE program and providing administrative support in the disbursement of funds as directed by the Network.

These transactions are in the normal course of operations and are recorded at their exchange amount, which is the amount agreed to by the parties. Due from Network Host is unsecured and non-interest bearing with no set terms of repayment.

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
NCE funds held by Network Host	\$ 6,910,557	\$ 5,288,283
Network Host Funds	501,918	67,517
	<u>\$ 7,412,475</u>	<u>\$ 5,355,800</u>

**4 Deferred revenue**

Funding received in the period includes grants from the NCE program, which are restricted to eligible expenditures under the terms of the grant agreement.

Details of the changes in deferred revenue from NCE are as follows:

	<b>Year ended March 31, 2020</b>	<b>Period from January 25 to March 31, 2019</b>
Balance - Beginning of period	\$ 5,272,832	\$ -
Grant received	4,090,000	5,326,000
Amount recognized as revenue	(2,499,735)	(53,168)
Balance - End of period	<u>\$ 6,863,097</u>	<u>\$ 5,272,832</u>

Details of the changes in deferred revenue from other grantors are as follows:

	<b>Year ended March 31, 2020</b>	<b>Period from January 25 to March 31, 2019</b>
Balance - Beginning of period	\$ 63,466	\$ -
Grant received		
Network Host	100,000	73,277
Others	32,443	-
Grant receivable		
Network Host	400,000	-
Others	134,802	-
Amount recognized as revenue		
Network Host	(53,784)	(9,811)
Others	(70,945)	-
Balance - End of period	<u>\$ 605,982</u>	<u>\$ 63,466</u>

	<b>Year ended March 31, 2020</b>	<b>Period from January 25 to March 31, 2019</b>
Balance - End of period from NCE	\$ 6,863,097	\$ 5,272,832
Balance - End of period from other grantors	605,982	63,466
Balance - End of period for contributed computer equipment (note 5)	5,434	10,867
	<u>\$ 7,474,513</u>	<u>\$ 5,347,165</u>

Total funding that is restricted in use to eligible expenditures under the grant agreements is made up of due from Network Host of \$7,372,780 (2019 - \$5,336,298).

**5 Contributed goods and services**

Contributed goods and services totalling \$43,844 (2019 - \$41,440) relate to \$38,411 (2019 - nil) in salaries and benefits paid on behalf of the Network by University of Calgary and \$5,433 (2019 - \$5,433) in equipment costs contributed by the Network Host. In the period from January 25 to March 31, 2019, revenue or expense related to salaries and benefits contributed by the Network Host of \$33,552 and office space costs valued at \$2,455 were recognized on the financial statements.

The Network Host contributes the use of certain computer equipment such that the Network has exclusive use of the equipment during the lifetime of the Network. The fair value of the equipment was recognized as computer equipment on the statement of financial position and is being recognized as equipment costs over the estimated life of the equipment.

The Network Host provides certain administrative services, office space and services of a Network Scientific Director for which no revenue or expense is recognized in these financial statements.



## 6 Financial instruments

Financial instruments consist of cash, grants receivable, due from Network Host and accounts payable and accrued liabilities. Due to the short-term nature of these instruments, the carrying value approximates fair value. The Network is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments. The following provides a measure of the Network's exposures and concentrations as at March 31, 2020. Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that the Network is not exposed to significant credit, liquidity or interest rate risk.

### Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk the Network will not be able to meet its obligations as they fall due or to fund any commitments the Network has planned. The Network is exposed to this risk mainly in respect of its accounts payable and accrued liabilities. The Network manages liquidity risk through management of its capital structure in conjunction with cash flow forecasting including anticipated investing and financing activities.

### Credit risk

The Network is exposed to credit risk related to due from Network Host and other grants receivable. The Network monitors the balance due from Network Host and other grantors and does not consider that it is exposed to significant credit risk due to the creditworthiness of the Network Host or other grantors.

## 7 Economic dependence

The operations of the Network are primarily dependent on NCE funding received from the Government of Canada and ongoing support from the University of Alberta in its role as the Network Host. The current funding agreement with NCE and the Network Host will end on March 31, 2024. Management is currently working collaboratively with the Board of Directors to evaluate sustainable funding models for the organization based on NCE precedents and other identified opportunities.

## 8 Subsequent event

In March 2020, the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). COVID-19 has resulted in numerous health advisories and restrictions imposed by health officials, which in turn has reduced or cancelled certain activities provided by the Network including field research activities and in-person conferences. These events are anticipated to reduce revenue and expenses incurred during fiscal 2021.

The full impact of COVID-19 on the financial performance of the Network will depend on future developments, including the duration and spread of the outbreak and related advisories and restrictions imposed by health officials.



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