

# Partnering for Sustainable Resource Management

Community  
Update  
Issue 2  
December 2004



The results of the CURA logo contest are in. First place goes to Ryan Miller for his logo (above), and second place to Ken Favrholt for his design (below). Ryan was awarded a digital camera, donated by Tl'azt'en Nation. Ken won a weekend stay at the Cinnabar Research Station and Resort, provided by the John Prince Research Forest.



## Update from Beverly Leon, Tl'azt'en CURA Coordinator

It's been a year since the CURA Project began and things are progressing. For the first year, the CURA Steering Committee focused their attention on building a strong foundation and team to ensure that CURA meets its stated milestones. The Improved Partnership Stream is busy working with student research assistants to analyze and write up interview results and is planning for an upcoming survey. The Education and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) Streams are in the process of developing their research approach, hiring research assistants, and looking for potential Graduate students. One outcome of these streams, which will benefit the community in many respects, is curriculum to transfer traditional knowledge to Tl'azt'en children and youth. Awet'za



CURA Steering Committee members: (from left to right) Beverly Bird, Erin Sherry, Deborah Page, Beverly Leon, Christine Jackson, Amelia Stark, Vincent Joseph, Sarah Parsons, Sue Grainger, and Jane Young. (Missing: Gail Fondahl).

## Students Learn About Co-management and Community Research

By John Favell and Donna Atkinson

Tanisi? (How are you?). My name is John Favell and I am from the Kawacatoose First Nation, but grew up in the small village of Canoe, BC on the sunny shores of Shuswap Lake. My major at UNBC is First Nations Studies but I also study Archaeology, Cultural Anthropology, Geography, and History. As an undergraduate Research Assistant in the *Improved Partnerships Stream* of CURA, I have been assigned a variety of duties. My first task was to conduct a literature search to find articles that look at different aspects of co-management. I also assisted with the preparation and editing of interview transcripts and summaries for archival storage with Tl'azt'en Nation and/or UNBC. In addition, I have been working on developing our upcoming survey by grouping interviewee's ideas into common themes. I hope to continue working with the CURA in the New Year, which may



John Favell, Research Assistant

entail the design of a multi-media presentation on interview results for extension and educational purposes. Participating in the CURA project is a great honour for me!

**Hello**, my name is Donna Atkinson. I am a graduate student focusing on Russian Aboriginal History at UNBC and a new Research Assistant in the *Improved Partnerships (IP Stream)* of CURA.

Over the last month I have been involved in the analysis of student surveys evaluating the Natural Resources Management Field Camp, held at the John Prince Research Forest (JPRF) in August 2004. The Field Camp offered students practical and professional training in integrated resource management and, because of its unique location, the Field Camp also introduced students to the innovative co-management partnership between Tl'azt'en Nation and UNBC. IP Stream

leaders, Dr. Erin Sherry and Beverly Leon, presented their findings to Field Camp participants on "Criteria and Indicators of Joint Forest Management" and "Critical Local Values: Guiding JPRF Management." As well, Tl'azt'en Elder Sabastian Anatole shared his knowledge and experience with the students on "Traditional Use Areas in Forestry." Students were able to utilize this information for their assignment to develop a comprehensive resource management plan that recognizes and incorporates critical local values.

When this project is complete, I will begin IP stream work on a survey of Tl'azt'en Nation and UNBC experts that will help prioritize local values concerning co-management outcomes and benefits for the JPRF.



Donna Atkinson, Research Assistant

## Update on the TI'azt'en Ecological Knowledge Stream

By Beverly Bird and Jane Young



Are you a TI'azt'en youth, currently undertaking post secondary education? Are you interested in research-related work in your community? If you'd like your resume on file, please send it and your contact information to one of our research coordinators (see below)

A two-year graduate research assistantship for an M.Sc. student is currently being advertised within the TEK stream and will work under the supervision of TEK stream co-leaders, Beverly Bird and Jane Young. The full advertisement can be found on the CURA website: <http://cura.unbc.ca/tek> and follow the link to *Graduate Research Assistantship*. This research project will involve documentation of TI'azt'en traditional medicinal plant knowledge and the botany and ecology of important plant species.

We are also hiring a research assistant (RA) to identify TI'azt'en traditional medicinal plant information. The RA will help to develop categories and/or a classification system of traditional medicinal plants information and catalogue the information for the purpose of accessing by researchers of CURA.

Another part of the position will be to work with TI'azt'en researchers and provide capacity to community researchers.

The TI'azt'en Research & Development office are currently working on transcribing and translating videos and audio tapes which will provide the RA with materials which can be used for curriculum development and various research projects. The research team at TI'azt'en Nation are coordinating the data such that an archival set up will see the video and audio tapes in one location. It is anticipated that these materials will be archived at the TI'azt'en Elders' Centre where the PRAs work. The current reference library will remain at the Research & Development office.

To date, the placenames which were mapped in 1999-2000 are being updated and verified. New information and methodol-

ogy are being incorporated into the CURA project. The placename and medicine plant data used in the JPRF study area will be used for curriculum materials. While most of the traditional territory data will be used, this process is to teach researchers how to develop research methodologies, collect data, store data, and share data. It will also be used to further the education level of TI'azt'enne.



TEK stream leaders, Dr. Jane Young and Ms. Beverly Bird

For more information, please contact CURA research coordinators:  
Erin Sherry  
(250) 960-6177  
sherry0@unbc.ca  
or  
Bev Leon  
(250) 996-0028  
bev-jprf@telus.net  
or  
Sarah Parsons  
(250) 960-6357  
parss000@unbc.ca  
We're on the web at  
<http://cura.unbc.ca>

## Moving Beyond General Approaches to Sustainability: Local Perspectives Matter

by Erin Sherry

Researchers from the *Improved Partnerships Stream* of CURA and five community researchers identified TI'azt'en forest values by analysing archived interviews with local experts. We compared local results with popular national and international frameworks for monitoring and assessing sustainable forest management (SFM). We found that:

1. National and international sustainability frameworks need to be supplemented by research that identifies *local values*. Communities define sustainability differently from each other and from experts, requiring a unique set of progress measures.

2. We learned that *analysis of archived community information* can provide valuable

context and a starting point for local sustainability monitoring and assessment. Local managers can modify the resulting initial framework as information becomes available and as community members' values, expectations, and needs change.

3. Our research demonstrates the *importance of community involvement* in attempts to



Improved Partnerships stream leaders, Ms. Sue Grainger, Ms. Beverly Leon, and Dr. Erin Sherry

develop more sustainable approaches to forest management. Results show that a 'bottom-up' approach increases relevance, buy-in, and awareness.

4. The Canadian Council of Forest Ministers' SFM framework has been criticized strongly by Aboriginal groups, including the National Aboriginal Forestry Association. Our research shows that beyond the political reasons for such rejection, *the framework has significant deficiencies*. To date, efforts have focused on environmental and economic concerns. Studies to develop understanding of effective management processes, fair and effective decision-making, social and cultural values, and non-timber values are needed.



~ Happy Holidays! ~

