

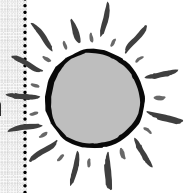
# Partnering for Sustainable Resource Management

Community  
Update  
Issue 3  
June 2005



## CURA presentations in Tache on Aboriginal Day

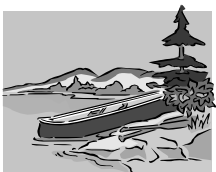
All four CURA research streams will be presenting posters on their research at the National Aboriginal Day celebrations held at Tache. We plan to let community members know about our plans and results to date and hear what Tl'azt'enne have to say. Hope to see you there!



## ECOTOURISM STREAM GETS AN EARLY START

The CURA Steering Committee is excited to announce that Dr. Pamela Wright will be the Ecotourism Stream Leader from UNBC. She has been getting to know Tl'azt'en community perspectives through her involvement with the Improved Partnerships Stream, and we are pleased to have her join the CURA team. A Tl'azt'en leader will be selected later on this year.

Pam and UNBC Research Assistant Kate Reade will present a poster at Aboriginal Day celebrations in Tache, and are looking forward to hearing presentations from Tl'azt'en Economic Development students later on this summer. The early stages of this research will focus on experiences gained by other communities developing culturally-based ecotourism. Look for their Bios on the CURA website later this summer.



Beverly Leon, Chris Jackson, and Sophia Raby presented posters at an conference in Winnipeg, MB.

## Aboriginal Education Research Forum

On June 1-3, CURA researchers attended and presented at the Aboriginal Education Research Forum in Winnipeg, Manitoba. They presented one poster on CURA, and several on IP stream research. The conference focused on the importance of carrying out aboriginal research that is respectful, has integrity, and is inclusive of aboriginal values.

According to Beverly Leon, "The Forum was a great

opportunity to learn what other Aboriginal communities are doing. Many are involved in similar work to the Tl'azt'en Nation-UNBC CURA Project. By involving the community, the benefits stay in the community."

The conference focused on Education, but much of the discussion involved other types of community-based research being undertaken in Aboriginal communities across Canada.

## Education Research Stream

For learning to be meaningful, it must come from who you are and what you believe. This summer, the Education Stream will be commencing work in the community through the project, *Strengthening Science Literacy through TEK (SSLtTEK)*, which will help the Stream better understand and communicate Tl'azt'en educational goals, values and philosophy. *SSLtTEK* is part of the Tl'azt'en-UNBC CURA research project and involves Debbie Page, Christine Jackson, Beverly Leon, Amelia Stark and Sophia Raby. We are also

anticipating the assistance of two Tl'azt'en research assistants for this project.

Tl'azt'en resource and community sustainability requires resource management that integrates TEK with contemporary science. We are interested in finding out how the Tl'azt'en community can improve Tl'azt'en TEK and contemporary science learning for Tl'azt'en children and youth. We anticipate designing educational programs that, not only integrate Tl'azt'en TEK and science, but are also community-supported and address the

learning styles of Tl'azt'enne. *SSLtTEK* will use discussion groups to brainstorm these issues. We plan to talk to:

- Tl'azt'en Elders
- Tl'azt'en parents/guardians
- Professionals/Educators
- Tl'azt'en youth
- Tl'azt'en children

You will hear more about the project this summer and may be even asked to participate in one of the discussion groups! For more information, come see us on Aboriginal day, or contact CURA Research Coordinators.

## Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) Research Stream



Beverly Bird and Laura Hoskin on the shore of Stuart Lake in Tache.

*Technical plants are those used for practical uses, such as making baskets, mats, dyes and tools.*

Fieldwork for the *Medicinal and Technical Plants Research* began this month. Biology student Laura Hoskin was hired as a research assistant, and will be working throughout the summer under the supervision of Dr. Jane Young. Laura and Jane came to our community in May to identify areas of interest for this research stream. Laura will focus on curriculum and research using the medicinal and technical plant gathering areas so that we can protect these areas for future use. Although the curriculum is important for us, so too is the development of our resource management plan. We also

want to identify the types of areas where people gather so that we can examine restoration regimes. Laura's study area will be in the John Prince Research Forest.

Laura was in our community for the week of June 6<sup>th</sup>, and went into the field with Beverly and some Keyoh Holders. She heard about where people go to gather certain medicines, where they gather birch for making baskets, and what is significant about the area. Laura noted the ecology of plant gathering areas and learned about how important plants may be impacted by management activities. She will use this

information to compare high and low impact sites. Laura also spent time reviewing materials in the Tl'azt'en Archives and Tl'azt'en Learning Circle.

Karen Heikkila, who has been carrying out research on Tl'azt'en placenames in the John Prince Research Forest, has nearly completed her MA thesis, and plans to defend in fall 2005. Read more about her work in our next Newsletter.

The TEK stream is planning to begin research on Forest Health this fall. Kathy Lewis is the research leader on this project, and is currently seeking a graduate student.



## Improving Partnerships Research Stream

Sarah Parsons' field research on Tl'azt'en measures of co-management will begin this month. Questions will focus on how Tl'azt'enne measure JPRF success. Most often, people from outside the community define measures of success which might not reflect community values, and may be designed more in the interests of others, such as forestry companies. This project will develop and test a method for Tl'azt'enne to develop measures that reflect Tl'azt'en values.

Beverly Leon and Sarah will be conducting up to 15 interviews with Tl'azt'enne. In

the fall, participants will also be asked to work in focus groups to come to agreement on the best measures for the JPRF. One Research Assistant will be hired to assist with this project.

Throughout the summer, Erin Sherry and IP Research Assistant Donna Atkinson will be analyzing local perspectives on the process of effective forest co-management from interviews conducted with 56 local experts from Tl'azt'en Nation, UNBC, Fort St. James, and the Nak'azdli First Nation. So far, participants have identified a number of

key elements such as relationship building, communication, community participation and support, and representation. Donna is also taking part in two new IP projects: one documenting the forest management history of the JPRF since 1940, and another examining the nature and distribution of co-management outcomes by gender, affiliation, and ethnicity.

We would also like to note that preparation of interview materials is complete for archiving at UNBC and Tl'azt'en Nation.

For more information, please contact CURA research coordinators:  
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Best wishes to Erin Sherry, who is due to have her first baby at the end of June. Thanks for your continuing hard work on the project, and we can't wait to meet the newest addition to your family!

