

**Northern Notes****Study Climate Change Policy in the Yukon!**

Katrine Frese  
Yukon College

Be at the forefront of climate change decision making! Yukon College—Yukon University from May 2020—has offered a unique ten-month, part-time, post-degree Certificate in Climate Change Policy (CCPC) since Fall 2017. This graduate-level program is delivered online, but is augmented by an in-person experiential field-school component.

The CCPC is designed for mid-career professionals, graduate students, and/or policy practitioners, and has been developed to attract students of diverse disciplinary backgrounds. The result has been a conversation enriched by the variety of viewpoints and experience.

In four courses and the field school, students explore science, policy, and Indigenous world views to understand the causes, economics, and impacts of climate change, and to learn how to shape contemporary climate change policy. Main topics include climate change science, climate change adaptation and mitigation, policy process, Indigenous world views, governance, strategic planning, leadership, communication, education, and Yukon First Nations core competency.

Guest speakers, many of whom are professionals in a variety of relevant fields and enterprises, bring real-world experience to the courses. Students benefit greatly from the diversity of views (see below for biographies of all 2019-2020 lecturers). Instruction is asynchronous, by online lecture, but also includes weekly online discussion forums, self-directed and team assignments, and readings. The in-person field school takes place in the

Yukon and runs for two weeks in an excursion-style format—visiting specific sites and connecting with communities to illustrate climate change and related policy needs and initiatives in the North. Students who do not wish to pursue the certificate may take any two of the online courses (but not the field school).

The certificate comprises the following courses (each 3 credits):

- Climate Change and Policy Literacy
- Policy Responses & Options
- Strategic Planning for Climate Change Adaptation & Mitigation
- Leading Sustainable Change – From Knowledge to Action
- Climate Change Policy Field School

Further details, including course outlines, can be found online at <https://yukoncollege.yk.ca/programs/climate-change-policy>.

Tuition is \$1,500 per course (3 credits @ \$500/credit, correct as of Winter 2020).

Yukon College will admit an international student who meets the admission requirements (see <https://yukoncollege.yk.ca/international/index.php>). The international student will need to apply for a study permit to cover the two-week field school.

For further information, please contact either of the following:

**Dr. Katrine Frese,**

Instructor/Coordinator

Climate Change Policy

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Yukon College (Yukon University from May 2020)

**Amanda Graham**

Chair

School of Liberal Arts

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### **Instructor/Coordinator**

**Katrine Frese, PhD**, has developed curriculum for Yukon College's Post-Degree Certificate in Climate Change Policy since 2015, and was the instructor/coordinator when it launched in 2017. She has lived, worked, and played in the Yukon for more than ten years. Katrine holds a master's degree in geology from RWTH Aachen, Germany, and a doctoral degree in natural sciences from the ETH Zurich, Switzerland. <http://scholar.yukoncollege.yk.ca/kfrese/>

## Guest Speakers

**Math'ieya Alatini, Whitehorse**, is a Kluane First Nation (KFN) citizen and is the chief strategist at GSD Consulting. She also teaches the courses “Sharing Experience and Knowledge of Power and Politics” and “Finance and Accountability” at Yukon College. Math'ieya was Chief of KFN from 2010 to 2016. She is an experienced leader, promoting partnerships and always working to “create a Yukon that will support opportunities for growth and maintain the environment for our children and future generations.” She holds a commerce degree from the University of Victoria.

**Kirsten Burrows, Whitehorse**, is an intergovernmental relations officer with the Government of Yukon. She was previously a climate change analyst with the territory's Climate Change Secretariat. She holds a BA Hons. in environmental policy from the University of Toronto and a master's degree in sustainable architecture from New York University. Before moving to the Yukon, Kirsten worked as a sustainability consultant in London, England.

**Steve Caram, Whitehorse**, holds a BSc. in environmental science from the University of Guelph, is a long-term Yukoner, and has been working in the field of environmental assessment for more than ten years. He is the project assessment manager for the executive committee of the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board.

**Wade Carpenter, Yellowknife**, is an alternative energy specialist with the Department of Infrastructure at the Government of the Northwest Territories. Most recently, Wade was involved in the development of the Northwest Territories' 2030 Energy Strategy, which sets out the GNWT's long-term approach to supporting secure, affordable, and sustainable energy supply and use in the NWT.

**Jesse Devost, Whitehorse**, is director of communications for Government of Yukon's Department of Energy Mines and Resources. However, he is speaking from his own perspective in his role as a guest speaker, and not representing the Government of Yukon. Jesse has contributed to the CCPC in sharing how communication works within government from various perspectives.

**Paul Fontaine, PhD, Vancouver**, holds a PhD in communication studies from McGill University, and is an instructor in Journalism and Communication Studies at the University of the Fraser Valley & University Canada West. Paul's PhD research centred on diasporic communication networks in Canada. Currently, he is researching organizational communication and the important role(s) that communication plays in sparking institutional change. He has previously written on the role of print journalism outlets in the process of negotiating identity and maintaining transnational economic, political, and social ties.

**John Glynn Morris, Whitehorse**, is an independent public engagement specialist with a background in land-use planning, recreation, and community development. He trained through the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) and believes meaningful public engagement can lead to better decision-making, greater staff motivation, and—most importantly—trust between citizens and the institutions that serve them.

**Carmen Gustafson, LLB, Whitehorse**, has a strong background in environmental policy and law from a public interest perspective. She is a lawyer in private practice and previously was executive director of the Yukon Public Legal Education Association. Carmen also holds a BSc. in environmental and conservation sciences.

**Bronwyn Hancock, PhD, Whitehorse**, is the associate vice-president for research development at Yukon College where she is responsible for the planning, development, and implementation of research, and for the development of positive relationships with the broader research community in support of northern research. She also oversees research activities at the Yukon Research Centre (<https://www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/research>). Bronwyn holds a PhD in earth sciences from the University of Waterloo, and she has worked on projects related to climate change for over a decade.

**Chris Henderson, Ottawa**, has been a Canadian eco-entrepreneur, community leader, and environmental innovator for the past thirty years. He is executive director of a pan-Canadian collaborative energy futures platform, Indigenous Clean Energy (ICE) Social Enterprise, and president of Lumos Clean Energy Advisors, which provides expert advice to First Nations, Métis, and Inuit leaders on inclusion and participation in Canada's clean energy economy (<https://www.lumosenergy.com>). He is also lead mentor with the 20/20 Catalysts Program, and chair of the GLOBE Series.

**Ryan Hennessey, Whitehorse**, is a Registered Professional Planner (RPP) with the Planning Institute of British Columbia. Currently, he is employed by Government of Yukon Energy Branch as a senior energy planner. Ryan is a long-term Yukoner and has been working in the field of climate change adaptation, mitigation, and sustainable development for the last fifteen years.

**Brian Horton, Whitehorse**, is the manager of the Northern Climate ExChange, the climate change research group at the Yukon Research Centre, Yukon College. Over the years, Brian has partnered with communities, industry, First Nations, academics, and government officials to explore and respond to climate change impacts on communities and their infrastructure across Canada's North. Brian holds an MSc. in geography and a BSc. in earth science from the University of Calgary.

**Heather Jirousek, Whitehorse**, is director of the Government of Yukon's Water Resources Branch, Department of Environment. Heather holds a BPA in governance, law and management from Athabasca University and has more than fifteen years of experience in the field of water and environmental issues in the North. In various roles, she was part of developing the Yukon Water Strategy.

**Jen Jones, Whitehorse**, is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Guelph. She has a master's of public health and twenty years of experience working in the North as a consultant and employee for First Nation governments, the Government of Yukon, and non-government organizations in the area of health and community well-being.

**Annie Levasseur, PhD, Montreal**, is an associate professor at the Faculty of Engineering and Construction at École de Technologie Supérieure in Montreal. For more than ten years, she has devoted her efforts to developing diagnostic tools based on life cycle analysis, which allows for a global assessment of the environmental impact of engineering activities in general, and their impact on climate change in particular.

**Andrew MacNeil, Whitehorse**, is a policy analyst with Government of Yukon's Department of Environment. He is involved with a variety of projects, often on the more technical side, and he has been part of Government of Yukon's team on the Joint Planning Committee for the Whitehorse and Southern Lakes Forest Resources Management Plan.

**Sujata Manandhar, PhD, Whitehorse/Saskatoon**, is a postdoctoral research fellow with the School of Environment and Sustainability at the University of Saskatchewan and the Northern Climate ExChange at the Yukon Research Centre. She has extensive working experience on climate change adaptation, water resources management, and community-based development. She received her PhD in integrated river basin management from the University of Yamanashi, Japan, and her master's in natural resources management from the Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand.

**Kate Neville, PhD, Atlin, BC, and Toronto**, is assistant professor at the Department of Political Science and School of the Environment, University of Toronto. Kate's work focuses primarily on the political economy of energy, water governance, and environmental activism. She is passionate about global environmental politics and interested in the insights that international relations and contentious politics can bring to discussions of ecological protection, sustainability, and environmental justice.

**Aynsle Ogden, PhD, Whitehorse**, has been involved in leading and coordinating research in the larger field of climate change in the Yukon for more than fifteen years. She has been the Government of Yukon's senior science advisor since October 2010, and her research interests have been to work collaboratively on research projects that address local information needs in support of decision making. Aynsle is a registered professional forester, agrologist, and biologist (BC). She holds a PhD in forestry from University of British Columbia. Aynsle teaches "Science Policy and the Canadian North" at Yukon College, and was the first coordinator of the Yukon Research Centre's Northern Climate ExChange when it was established in 2000.

**Kala Pendakur, Ottawa**, has worked with northern and Indigenous issues across the country in her academic as well as professional career. She is currently employed as a sector specialist, Strategy and Stakeholder Engagement Branch with the Standards Council of Canada, more specifically with the Northern Infrastructure Standard Initiative. Kala holds a master's in economics from McGill University.

**Alison Perrin, Whitehorse**, is currently a doctoral student in the Department of Geography at Carleton University. Her research interests lie in climate change impacts and adaptations, science policy in the North, and human-environment relationships. She lives in the Yukon and works at the Northern Climate ExChange at the Yukon Research Centre. Alison holds an MA in environmental education and communications from Royal Roads University.

**Finella Pescott, Haines Junction**, holds a master's of forest ecosystem science from the University of Melbourne, Australia, and a BA with a political science major. Her range of professional experience includes work as a forest policy advisor with Government of Yukon's Forest Management Branch and as a forest policy officer with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations based in the Asia Pacific region. Finella has taught the course "Introduction to Land Management" at Yukon College.

**Inga Petri, Whitehorse/Ottawa**, has designed and implemented research programs, strategic plans, and marketing campaigns for organizations in the private, not-for-profit, and public sectors since 1990. She has employed collaborative approaches that rallies participants around common objectives. She is a Certified Marketing Research Professional (CMRP), and the founder and principal of Strategic Moves, an independent consultancy serving clients across Canada.

**Stephen Roddick, Whitehorse**, has worked in climate change adaptation and mitigation, Indigenous governance, and geopolitical analysis over the years. He currently is a City of Whitehorse councillor. Prior to this role he was a climate change adaptation analyst for Government of Yukon. Stephen has a background in political science and holds an MA in public and international affairs from the University of Ottawa.

**Hon. John Streicker, Whitehorse**, is an engineer specializing in climate change impacts in the Canadian North, with a focus on sustainability for northern communities. John is a past lecturer and science advisor on climate change at Yukon College. He also served a term on Whitehorse City Council. Currently, John is the Minister of Community Services, Minister responsible for the Yukon Liquor Corporation, Yukon Cannabis Corporation & Yukon Lotteries Commission, et aussi le ministre responsable de la Direction des services en français.

**Maciej Stetkiewicz, Whitehorse**, is the climate change and northern hydrology project coordinator at the Northern Climate ExChange at the Yukon Research Centre. He works on a wide array of projects ranging from climate change policy to hydrological modelling. Maciej holds a BSc. in geography from the University of Victoria and a master's of sustainable environmental management from the University of Saskatchewan.

**Rebecca World, Whitehorse**, is the director of engagement for the Canadian Institute for Climate Choices. Prior to this role, she worked for the Government of Yukon in the field of climate change for about a decade. For the past six years she was the director of Government of Yukon's Climate Change Secretariat. Rebecca has a background in education and holds a bachelor's degree in education, English and history from University of Toronto and an MA in environmental education and communication from Royal Roads University.