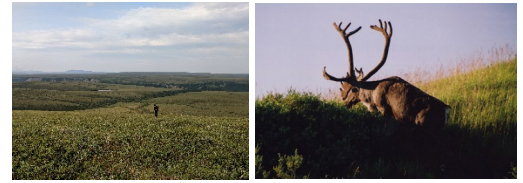


Funded PhD or MSc Opportunity. The Arctic Landscape Ecology Lab at the University of Victoria is seeking a PhD (or MSc) student to lead a project exploring vegetation change across the Yukon North Slope.



Recent analysis of the Landsat satellite archive shows that vegetation productivity is increasing across the northern Yukon, but additional research is required to determine: 1) how these changes relate to plot-scale vegetation structure and composition, and 2) to identify the terrain factors influencing the rate of change. Tundra vegetation change is concerning because it will impact wildlife habitat and regional ecological processes (surface energy balance, thaw depth, etc.). This research project will combine the analysis of satellite imagery, repeat photography, and plot-based fieldwork to characterize changes in tundra community composition associated with regional greening. This project is part of a research hub exploring ecological change in the summer range of the Porcupine caribou herd and will also involve collaborations to examine the impact of vegetation change on wildlife movement and habitat use recorded by satellite GPS collars.

Interested applicants should have degrees (BSc & MSc) in geography, environmental science or related fields and a background in remote sensing and geomatics. Applicants must be self-motivated, have strong communication skills, the ability to manage multiple tasks, and be willing to travel to for fieldwork. The student will be supervised by Dr. Trevor Lantz (UVic) and be based in the [School of Environmental Studies](#) at the University of Victoria. Stipend funding of \$21,000 per year is guaranteed for four years and support for travel and research in the Western Canadian Arctic is also in place. To apply, please email a cover letter describing your qualifications and interest in this project, a complete CV, and unofficial transcripts to tlantz@uvic.ca. Application review will begin on November 8, 2021, but submissions will be accepted until a suitable candidate is found. The start date for this position is September, 2022.

Our Research Hub is a partnership between the Porcupine Caribou Management Board, the Wildlife Management Advisory Committee, the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, the Vuntut Gwitchin Government, the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, Environment Yukon, Parks Canada, the University of Victoria, McGill and the University of Edinburgh. The successful applicant will work closely with members of some of these organizations to plan project activities and develop outreach and reporting products. Applicants should expect to contribute to field work, meet with community organizations to guide the project, and maintain two-way communication with all project partners.

The Arctic Landscape Ecology Lab and the University of Victoria are strongly committed to fostering diversity as a source of excellence, cultural enrichment, and social strength. We welcome those who would contribute to further diversification including, but not limited to women; visible minorities; First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples; persons with disabilities; and persons of any sexual orientation or gender identity and expression.

