

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES SEMINAR SERIES, **WINTER 2025**

Date(s): Feb 20, Feb 27

Speaker: Dr Claire Singer

Title: Use of indigenous and scientific knowledge in species at risk assessments in the Northwest Territories

Abstract: In 2020, the Northwest Territories Species at Risk Committee put in place a new system of dual species at risk assessments, based in Indigenous and scientific knowledge, respectively, and guided by instructions and assessment criteria tailored to each knowledge system. The final species at risk assessment is informed by both knowledge systems, as possible. Additionally, the new Indigenous knowledge criteria include the capacity to assess a species as at risk in the Northwest Territories where Indigenous cultures or traditional ways of life are adversely affected as a result of declines in the species. The goals of this new structure were to ensure the meaningful consideration of all best available information in species at risk assessments, enhance the capacity for all Species at Risk Committee members to participate in species at risk assessments effectively, and to reduce the potential for extractive use of Indigenous knowledge.