

UPDATE



Fulfilling the Promise...

> of more
northern doctors
and nurses.

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development.

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> of increased
opportunity.

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> of community-building
through research.

Back cover



UNBC keeps opening doors just as I'm ready to step through them.

Heather Smith

ON CHOOSING THE NORTH

UNBC keeps opening doors just as I'm ready to step through them. I grew up in Prince George and always dreamed of being a doctor. At the same time that never seemed possible because I wanted to remain in the North. When I was ready for my post-secondary education, UNBC opened the doors on its first full year of classes. Later, when I was about to complete my UNBC master's degree I heard the NMP was coming to the North. Just as one door of my education was closing, UNBC and the NMP opened another.

ON HOW RURAL CLINICAL PLACEMENT INFLUENCED HER EXPERIENCE

My rural placement was on Quadra Island, and it shaped my experience by giving me a broad array of skills to hone while still in training. In smaller communities, there aren't as many physicians to meet a wide range of health needs so general practitioners have to increase their skill-set to meet the demand. I liked that well-rounded and holistic approach so I would absolutely say it bore an influence on my career.

ON THE EXCITEMENT OF BEING A NORTHERN PHYSICIAN

I love the breadth of practice you are afforded here. You can widen your skill-set to cope with many more aspects of medicine, whereas in the big city, you are much more likely to be forced into a narrower area that might not be your first choice. Here you have freedom to choose. I also find great fulfillment in attending to underserved populations such as the homeless, prison inmates, and to people in some of the more remote areas where access to health care is intermittent.

ON FULFILLING THE PROMISE OF THE NORTHERN MEDICAL PROGRAM

I believe I'm fulfilling the promise of the NMP by ensuring that northerners, particularly those who often fall through the cracks, have easier access to good-quality, dependable health care. That's my role: helping others overcome their barriers to a healthy life.

Shona Penhale

ON CHOOSING THE NORTH

My husband and I used to be paramedics in Vancouver. I knew from what I had seen of the medical students there that you really don't have a ratio of students to teachers that is very favourable to the student. So I looked into the Northern Medical Program and realized it would be better for me. I also knew about the need for northern doctors, which was something that also appealed to me.

ON HOW RURAL CLINICAL PLACEMENT INFLUENCED HER EXPERIENCE

My rural clinical placement was a real eye-opener for me, in terms of the crucial role general practitioners play in the medical system, particularly in northern and rural areas. I never saw that as a paramedic in a relatively large city. I did two placements in Williams Lake and learned that GPs do everything from conducting rounds at the hospital, to treating a cough, to removing potential skin tumors, or even delivering babies. Northern GPs really get to be full-service physicians.

ON THE EXCITEMENT OF BEING A NORTHERN PHYSICIAN

I would have to say that from beginning to end, the aspect of being a northern doctor that really excites me is the community. This includes the community of doctors and other health workers, as well as the community at large. Doctors in northern BC are amazing. They have such a wide skill-set and work so hard, and yet jump at the chance to help NMP students or even their fellow doctors. In the North, you are made to feel like you are a vital member of the community.

ON FULFILLING THE PROMISE OF THE NORTHERN MEDICAL PROGRAM

I have only been out of the NMP for 3 years, but I'm already supervising 2nd and 3rd year students in emergency medicine at the University Hospital of Northern BC. The fact that the doctors who tutored me were so happy to help and would go so far out of their way to teach me makes me eager to give back to the students in the same way. I think that it is in this way that the promise of the Northern Medical Program will be realized.



I looked into the Northern Medical Program and realized it would be better for me.

Fulfilling the Promise

Today, UNBC has more than 8,000 alumni, more than half of whom live and work in northern BC.

When UNBC was established two decades ago, it was to be nothing less than a catalyst for the transformation of northern BC. The University was to achieve this through not only research and education but through the contribution of its greatest asset: its graduates. It was also predicted that UNBC's greatest effect would be felt through the contributions of its graduates, those skilled and confident people who are fundamental to the success of communities throughout northern BC and similar regions around the world.

How true. Today, UNBC has more than 8,000 alumni, more than half of whom live and work in northern BC. The rest have spread throughout the world making contributions in their own ways and bringing the spirit of northern BC with them. What remarkable

ambassadors they are for UNBC and our province. Every time I travel through BC and around the world, I meet our grads and hear of their achievements. Their stories and their passions are the inspiration for a major part of our new University Plan that seeks to enable them to be even more of a transformative force. This issue of Update magazine is about a few UNBC alumni who emblemize the positive change they are all affecting. It's also about the steps organizations, individuals, and corporations throughout the region and beyond are taking to help current students become successful and engaged alumni. They are our future doctors, nurses, entrepreneurs, inventors, and leaders. Investing in them is investing in the future of our region.

BREAKING NEWS!

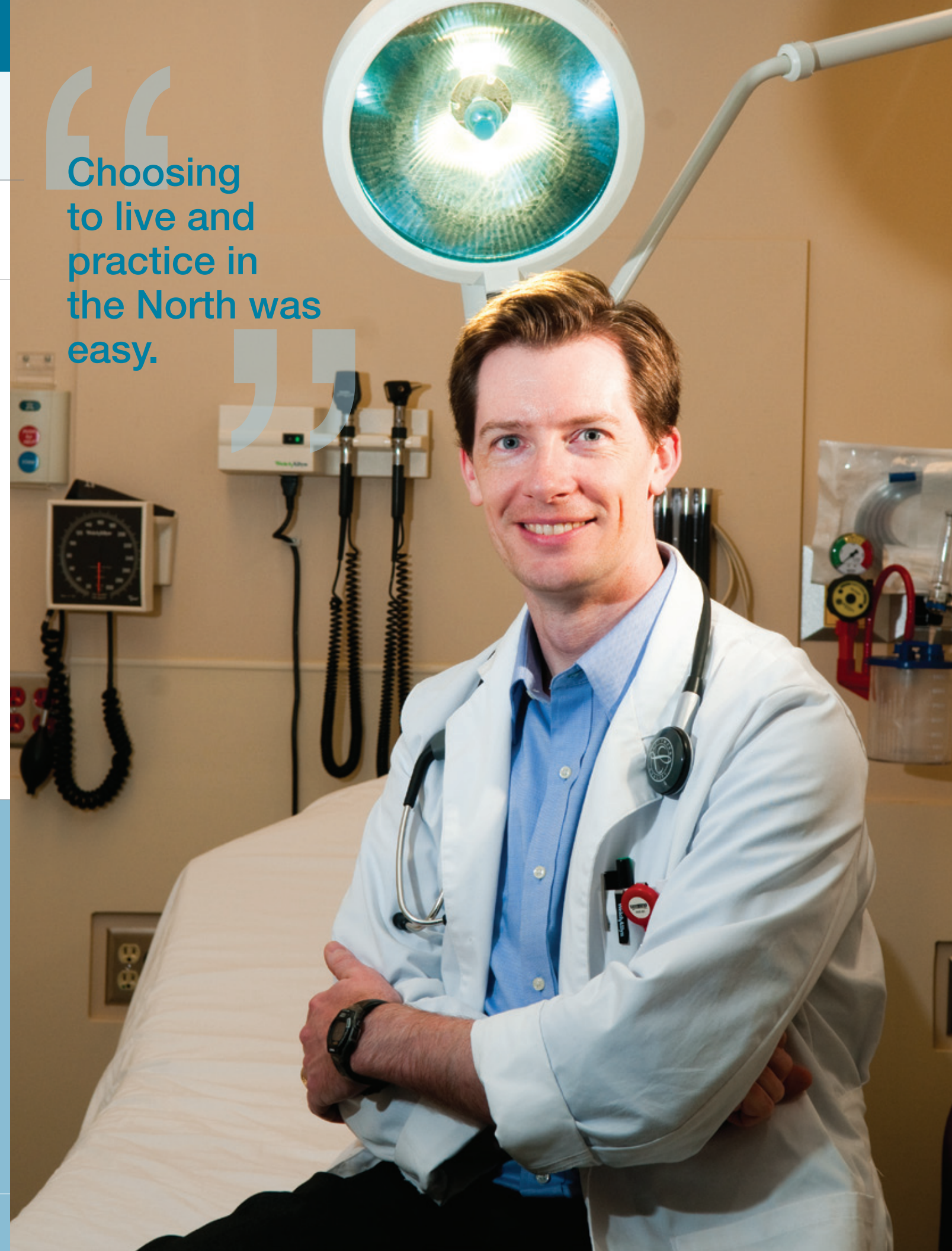


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Choosing to live and practice in the North was easy.



On The Cover

Jennifer Parker, one of the first graduates of the Northern Medical Program, was quick to make her mark in northern BC. Within days of officially completing her residency in family practice, Jennifer opened a brand-new practice in Fort St. John, providing a full range of services including maternity, palliative care, and emergency medicine. "I've wanted to be a doctor since I was six so this is a dream come true for me," says Dr.

Parker. "I'm Cree Metis, born in Fort Nelson, and raised in both Chetwynd and Fort Nelson. I love being from a small town and my plan is to stay in the North."

Jennifer is one of a dozen Northern Medical Program students who became the Program's first grads in 2008 and recently completed their residencies. In the following pages you will learn about a few of them who are staying in the region to contribute to health care. They're among those who are fulfilling the promise of education that is both in and for the North.

Brian Hillhouse

ON CHOOSING THE NORTH

I really enjoy the northern lifestyle and I was hopeful that the Northern Medical Program would give me training tailored to the medical environment in the region. The community and the doctors here in Prince George were very excited about the prospect of having a medical program so I knew that I would get a very high quality of training. In addition, my wife and I wanted to raise a family, which is much easier to do with the family supports and affordable housing to be found in the North.

ON HOW RURAL CLINICAL PLACEMENT INFLUENCED HIS EXPERIENCE

My first clinical exposure was a rural rotation in Port Alberni on Vancouver Island. For two months, I worked with a very busy family doctor who did everything from family practice, in-patient care, caesarian sections, emergency shifts, and visits to outpost clinics. It was inspiring to see the diversity of rural family practice. I was so impressed that I later arranged for an elective in Fraser Lake. There too I was amazed by the variety of opportunities.

ON THE EXCITEMENT OF BEING A NORTHERN PHYSICIAN

I really enjoy the range of opportunities that are available to family doctors in the North. In more urban areas it is very unusual for family doctors to work in emergency departments, or provide hospital and obstetrical care. There is also a lot of community support for medical care in the North, and as a result there are things that you wouldn't see anywhere else, such as our successful medical and residency programs, and now the establishment of the northern cancer clinic.

ON FULFILLING THE PROMISE OF THE NORTHERN MEDICAL PROGRAM

I have always wanted to live and work in Prince George and it has been easy to do with the training I received from the NMP. Had I been trained in a big city, I would have been mentored by doctors working in specialized practices and it would have been a major transition to relocate and adapt to a different medical environment. For me, choosing to live and practice in the North was easy.

Nurse Practitioners: A new group of professionals

Within days of the first Northern Medical Program graduation, the University's first students in the Family Nurse Practitioner program also became alumni. To date, the program has produced 16 grads but the cohort is growing fast. In fact, the program currently has 32 students.

"Nurse Practitioners are relatively new to BC; we only hired our first one in this region in 2005," says Gayle Anton, Northern Health's Regional Director for Primary Health Care. "Today, there are 15 NPs in the region and UNBC grads have worked in Prince Rupert, Burns Lake, Fort St. John, and Prince George."

Family Nurse Practitioners are registered nurses with advanced education and skills to provide a broad range of health care services – all especially vital in communities with otherwise limited access to services. They are involved in diagnosing illnesses, prescribing treatments, ordering diagnostic tests, and managing diseases and disorders. Meanwhile, the undergraduate Nursing program has become one of UNBC's largest programs and graduated more majors in 2010 than any other UNBC degree. The total number of UNBC Nursing grads now stands at 657 and surveys of UNBC alumni show that Nursing grads stay in northern BC at a higher rate than the graduates of any other UNBC degree.



Linda van Pelt, who came to UNBC from the Yukon, was among the first graduates from the Family Nurse Practitioner program in 2008. She is now a professor in the Nursing program and works as a part-time Nurse Practitioner in Prince George.

The Northern Decade

Written by: Janine North

“Rural and northern BC is made up of people who drive the provincial economy and who want to believe that the decade after the 2010 Olympics will be the Northern Decade.”

Those words are from a speech I gave at the 2009 northern economic summit in Prince George. Attention was focused on the upcoming 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver, and while I believed in the many opportunities related to the Games, I was insistent that we make a quick

transition after the Olympics to focus on the whole province. Now, I'm more convinced than ever that this must be the northern decade.

The idea of “the Northern Decade” is not without parallel. In 1986, Vancouver hosted a wildly successful World Exposition, but it

was followed by a deliberate focus on development outside of the Lower Mainland. In fact, it was out of this history that UNBC was born. Today, on the heels of Vancouver's Olympic success, government – and the citizens of this region –

can do much to advance opportunities here for the benefit of the entire province. This is what the Northern Decade is all about.

“... now is the time to focus on the next 10 years.”

This region owns UNBC and takes its success personally. In the early 1990s, an Angus Reid survey famously stated that more people in the region were supportive of UNBC than would agree on what day of the week it was. An exaggeration of course, but there was no doubt: northern BC wanted its university. More recently, all of the communities of the region contributed to the Charles Jago Northern Sport Centre and the Northern Medical Programs Trust. Such regional support can't be bought. It must be earned.

Fellow alumni, this is where you come in. How will you take on the responsibility of being a champion of the region and an ambassador of this University? In your professional life, how will you contribute to making northern BC a knowledge-based resource economy connected to the world? How will you contribute to the diversity and sustainability of northern communities and industry? If you are reading this UPDATE magazine and are one of the 50% of graduates employed outside of this region, how will you bolster the North's vitality from wherever you are?

I have spent my entire career in central and northern BC. It has been incredibly rewarding. I am lucky to have two daughters attending UNBC, one of whom will graduate in a few short months. But now is the time to focus on the next 10 years. Alumni have the responsibility of taking UNBC and this region to the next level. This is our decade: the Northern Decade. The alumni of this university will make it happen.

Northern Ambassadors

UNBC grads Evan van Dyk (right), Kelly Bryan (far right), and Derek Baker have big ambitions for northern communities. All three have completed internships with the Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) and are now the youngest economic development officers in the province.



Van Dyk is working in Terrace, while Baker is in Prince Rupert and Bryan is in Tumbler Ridge. “I am very excited to be back in my hometown, working to increase industry opportunities and overall optimism,” says van Dyk. He credits his student experience with JDC West and work term with NDIT for giving him the foundation for success in his new position. “My time at NDIT gave me valuable exposure and insight into northern BC's communities.”

It's this positive outlook and relevant education that will give van Dyk, Bryan and Baker the tools to succeed according to fellow UNBC grad Dennis Callaghan of Prince George. As Chief Financial Officer of NDIT, Callaghan is in charge of programs that promote sustainable practices and projects with local business, especially those that receive NDIT funds. “I originally came to UNBC because it was the only option for me and my family,” says Callaghan, who is also a director of the Alumni Association and VP of the MBA Alumni Chapter. “Now, I realize it was also the best option because of my interests and what I want to achieve in my career. It's great to see new grads go out and make a difference.”

Janine North is the founding CEO of the Northern Development Initiative Trust, the premier economic development organization in central and northern BC. She was named an honorary member of the Alumni Association of UNBC in 2010 for her commitment to UNBC and the region it serves.

Pipeline to the North: Spectra Energy

For more than fifteen years, natural gas company Spectra Energy has been pumping fuel into a pipeline connected directly to the educational, research, and health care needs of northern BC and to the industrial development of the region.

“Since the beginning of our relationship in 1995, UNBC and Spectra Energy have been successfully working together to support the University’s vision of programming and instruction that reflects our unique region of the province,” says Manager of Community and Aboriginal Relations, Spectra Energy Transmission West, Steve Henderson, who is based in Prince George. “Northerners benefit from the presence of UNBC, as it attracts world class instructors in many technical and professional programs

to the region. UNBC has proven its value in providing excellent education that is attuned to our needs.”

Since Spectra Energy’s first gift in 1995, 73 UNBC students have benefited from the company’s generosity in the form of scholarships and bursaries. In 1998, the company pledged to support the Northern Advancement Program for Aboriginal students. In 2002, Spectra Energy made a donation to the Northern Health Sciences Centre to support northern health care services. And then in 2007, Spectra Energy established additional bursaries supporting Aboriginal students. The company is

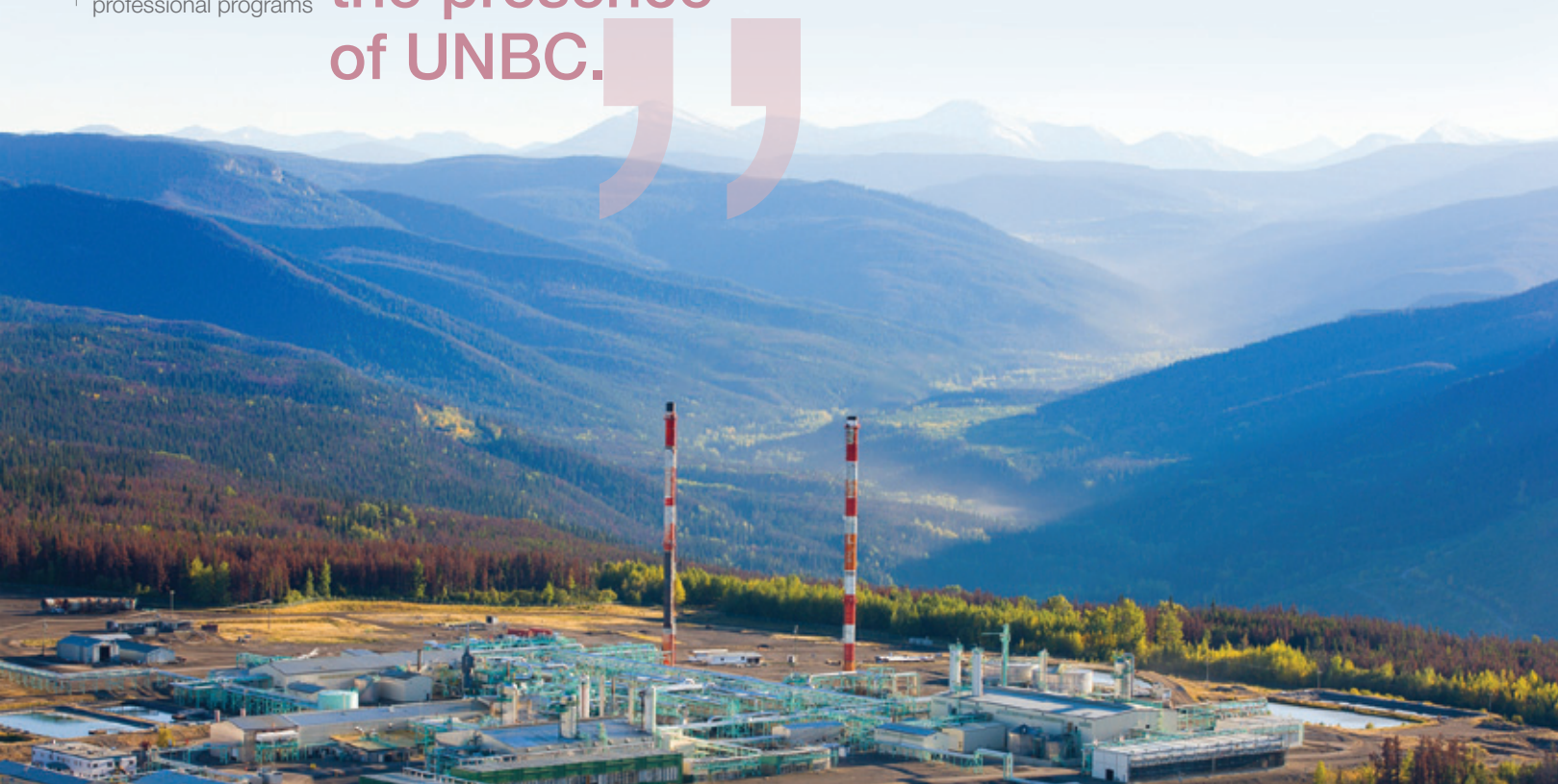
continuing to keep fuel in the northern pipeline. With a recent contribution of more



Steve Henderson is Manager of Community and Aboriginal Relations for Spectra Energy Transmission West. Steve lives with his family in Prince George and both of his children attend UNBC.

than \$90,000 to the Northern Medical Programs Trust, Spectra Energy is further investing in the health care infrastructure of the North. This gift brings Spectra Energy’s total giving to UNBC to nearly \$1 million.

Northerners benefit from the presence of UNBC.



Spectra Energy’s Pine River gas plant near Chetwynd BC.

Spectra Energy has provided more awards to Aboriginal students than any other UNBC donor.

Lorraine Naziel
BA Geography 2008

I’m passionate about empowering Aboriginal women by helping them understand our history and how to live sustainably. My Spectra Energy Scholarship is helping me complete my master’s degree, which I might not have otherwise been able to afford. I am on the board of The Aboriginal Women’s Leadership Association of BC and I’m very concerned about the environment and its importance to our communities.



Christine Creyke
BA Geography 2006

The Spectra Energy Bursary is helping me offset the cost of traveling between Prince George and Old Crow YT where I am conducting research on incorporating traditional knowledge into resource development policy. Thanks for helping me reach my goals.

Jeremy Belyea
MEd Counselling 2008

My bursary was a very important part of my education because it allowed me to concentrate on my studies and not worry so much about the financial side of things. Now I am giving back to my community by working with children and youth as a Clinical Counselor for the Lake Babine Nation. Thank you, Spectra Energy!



Miranda Seymour
Geography student

Receiving the Spectra Energy Scholarship was a big relief for me. I didn’t have to worry so much about applying for loans and it allowed me to just buckle down and study. I want to give back by studying Aboriginal law so I can represent my mother’s band, the Lheidli T’enneh, on treaty rights and negotiations. Thanks Spectra Energy.

UNBC Donations

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We are located in Room 1065 on the main floor of the Administration building.



Health Care Rally Anniversary

This year, UNBC hosted an event to mark the 10th anniversary of the Health Care Rally that took place in 2000. Nearly 7000 people attended the rally at the CN Centre in Prince George to protest the state of health care in northern BC. The event laid the groundwork for the Northern Medical Program, the \$6.5 million trust that supports students, and health science program expansion at UNBC. To date, UNBC has produced 657 nurses, 16 nurse practitioners, and 70 graduates from the Northern Medical Program.

Thank you to the 2010 Class Gift donors

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|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
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UNBC in the News

MSc Business Administration

For the first time, UNBC is offering an MSc in Business Administration. The graduate degree builds on UNBC's undergraduate Commerce program by providing post-graduate education in accounting, finance, human resources

management, marketing, and international business. The degree differs from UNBC's MBA program in that it is research and thesis-based as opposed to the MBA, which is a course-based degree. (Above: Han Donker, Chair of UNBC's School of Business)



The Gathering Place

With the recent opening of the Gathering Place, Aboriginal students at UNBC have more support to help them succeed at their post-secondary education. The Gathering Place, or *Lhuhuhwhezdel*, provides opportunities for ceremonial and

cultural events as well as conferences and workshops for local First Nations and Aboriginal people from across the North.

PG Sawmill to Provide Biofuel for Bioenergy

Prince George sawmill Lakeland Mills will be providing mill residues to UNBC to fuel a bioenergy facility that will be unique in Canada. Lakeland will be supplying bark and sawdust to fuel a biomass

gasification system at the PG campus that is being installed by Nexterra Systems Corp. When operating, it's expected that the system will reduce UNBC's reliance on fossil fuels by 85% and give the University the smallest carbon footprint of any university core campus in Canada.



Dr. Robert Olson on the site of the BC Cancer Agency Centre for the North

Cancer Doc in the NMP

Robert Olson, the first physician to be hired for the BC Cancer Agency Centre for the North, has also been appointed an assistant professor with the Northern Medical Program. His academic responsibilities will be teaching and research within the NMP. Dr. Olson will begin his role with the Program in September, 2011.

Dr. Olson, a radiation oncologist, will be part of the provincial Radiation Therapy Program, which will bring service to the North for the first time when the new centre opens. The centre, currently under construction, is expected to begin accepting patients by the end of 2012.

Dr. Olson received his medical degree from the University of Calgary and completed his five-year residency and training in oncology at the BC Cancer Agency through the University of British Columbia. In addition, he has a Master of Science degree in epidemiology from Harvard University. Dr. Olson began regular consultation visits to the North this Fall.

People in the News

UN Climate Change Meeting

UNBC student Adam Thomas was selected recently to represent Canada at the United Nations Climate Change meeting in Mexico. Thomas, who is a member of the Grouse Clan from Saik'uz First Nation, will join 29 other young Canadians at the event in Cancun in November. Thomas is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Environmental Planning at UNBC.



Youth of the Year

Second-year UNBC Health Sciences student Sufey Chen was named Youth of the Year recently by the City of Prince George. The 16-year old takes part in musical theatre, speech arts, and plays and teaches piano. She is also a Chinese lion dancer, a figure skater,

and was the founder and co-ordinator of the recent 'PG's Got Talent' showcase. She has also volunteered with the Red Cross, Exploration Place, Prince George Symphony Orchestra, YMCA, and an anti-human trafficking initiative.



Rising Star of research

Fourth-year UNBC Biochemistry and Molecular Biology student, Randi Woodbeck, won a top prize among 120 other university students recently at a national research contest in Vancouver. Woodbeck won the award at the Rising Stars of Research

competition. "I just went there thinking I would just try to have a good time and enjoy meeting fellow students – which I did – so actually winning the award came as big, and obviously pleasant surprise," says Woodbeck, who is from Houston, BC.

Award for Pine Beetle Research

UNBC professor and Canada Research Chair Dezene Huber, who is involved in research on the DNA of the mountain pine beetle, has been honoured by the Entomological Society of Canada for his efforts and activities in the field of entomology – the scientific study of insects. The prestigious C. Gordon Hewitt Award is a peer-nominated honour presented each year by the Society to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to entomology in Canada before the age of 40.



Athletic Additions

UNBC bolstered its athletic ranks recently with the addition of a new Athletic Director and a new coach for the men's basketball team. Jason Kerswill (right) takes on the role of Athletic Director after spending five years in Calgary with a prestigious sports school,



most recently as Director of Athletics, overseeing high-performance academies in four sports. New coach Todd Jordan comes off a year working as head coach of the women's basketball team at Quest University in Squamish, BC. Jordan, a UNBC grad, previously played for the Timberwolves and spent four years as an assistant coach for both the UNBC men's and women's teams.



Order of Canada

Former UNBC Chancellor and professor emeritus Alex Michalos was named a Member of the Order of Canada in 2010 for his significant contributions to education throughout his career. Dr. Michalos is an international pioneer in the study of quality of life and

happiness. He brought this expertise to Prince George, where he conducted many surveys of local quality of life issues, which have led to enhanced local service provision.

NRG: The Human Dimension of Northern Research

Written by: Sonja Ostertag, Kate Hrinkevich, Becky Cadsand, and Anke Krey

For UNBC's Northern Research Group, community-based research is a big part of fulfilling the University's promise

Sonja: "The sound of several gunshots woke me up in the middle of the night. The midnight sun was shining into my tent, but I still needed a moment to remember my whereabouts: an Inuit hunter's camp on remote Hendrickson Island in the Western Canadian Arctic. For the rest of the night and most of the following day, I conducted one of the more "hands-on" aspects of my research: collecting brain samples from whales that had been harvested by Inuit hunters. This was one of many days I spent doing my doctoral research alongside northerners, scientists, and youth as part of my study into the effects of contaminants such as mercury on beluga whales. It was also part of a multi-faceted research program meant to build partnerships among researchers and community members from Tuktoyaktuk."

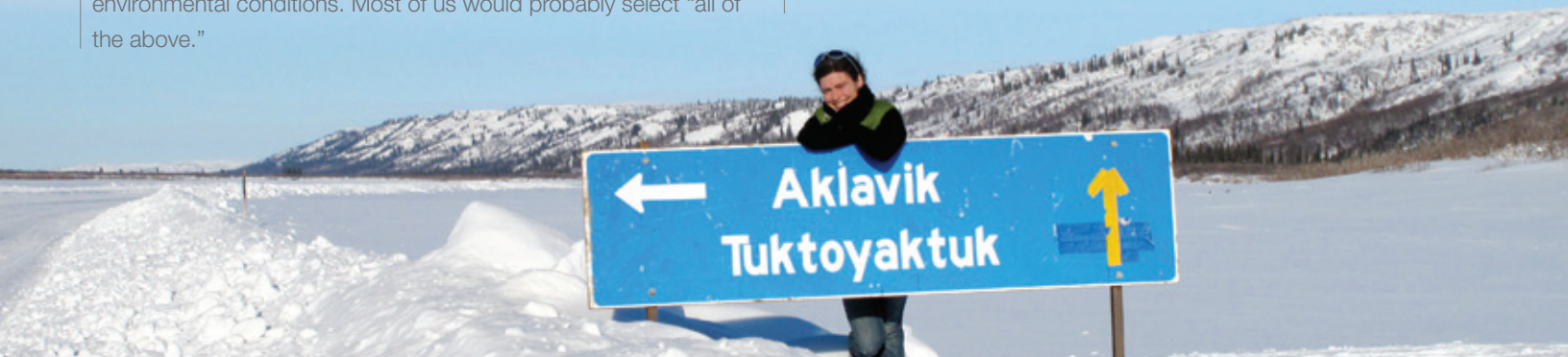
Kate: "I'm also involved in northern research at UNBC and a member of the Northern Research Group. We all come from different disciplines and from many parts of the world, each with our own reasons for wanting to spend time in the North. Some of us are fascinated by the extreme ecosystem or admire the people who live there. Others embrace the beauty of the northern landscape or appreciate the adventure of working in harsh environmental conditions. Most of us would probably select "all of the above."



Becky: "All of us share a passion for research that takes us out of our comfort zones and lets us grow as researchers and as people. But there is also a significant cultural component to working in the North. This "human dimension" of research involves the participation of Inuit and First Nations people to ensure that research is conducted in a culturally appropriate manner, which respects the needs of all stakeholders. Since we often work on traditional territory, we usually need community support for our studies before we begin. This encourages us to interact with northerners, which often leads to unique opportunities to broaden the understanding of issues that are directly applicable to the people of the Canadian North."

We have the opportunity to rethink the way research is conducted in the North.

Anke: "Northern research is desperately needed. I came here from Germany and have come to appreciate just how northern Canada is, with 40% of its landmass north of 60 degrees latitude. Climate change, environmental contaminants, and resource extraction are influencing northern ecosystems and having a profound effect on people who are deeply connected to the land and the sea. As researchers, we have the opportunity to rethink the way research is conducted in the North. This is why the NRG was formed: to create a forum for sharing experiences and expectations about northern research and to make a difference for northern communities and for UNBC."



Sonja Ostertag (above) founded UNBC's Northern Research Group in 2008. The group now has graduate students Anke Krey, Becky Cadsand, and Kate Hrinkevich (top right) among its members. To learn more about the Northern Research Group, visit their website: http://www.unbc.ca/northernstudies/northern_research_group/index.html