




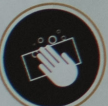


THIS IS UNBC

Fall 2020

UNBC UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

REDUCE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

 Wash hands often	 Face mask/coverings
 Cover your cough	 Practice physical distancing
 Stay home	 Clean & disinfect

unbc.ca/coronavirus

UNBC UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Q + A

Alumni reflect on time spent on front lines and UNBC. 4

Moving Online

UNBC students and faculty pivot towards online learning. 5

What is education?

The pedagogy of wonder. By Dr. Lisa Dickson. 6

Responding in uncertain times

PUBLISHER Tim Tribe, Vice-President, University Advancement
MANAGING EDITOR Matt Wood, Director of Communications & Marketing
PRODUCTION Kirk Walker, Alumni Relations Officer
WRITERS Peter James, Andrea Johnson, Sonya Kruger, Shelby Richardson
PUBLICATION DESIGN Erica Hargreaves, Kayla Hughes
PHOTOGRAPHY BergMedia, Kayla Hughes, Peter James, Andrea Johnson, Swanky Photographic, Matt Wood

CONTRIBUTOR Dr. Lisa Dickson
CONTRIBUTOR Selena Paskalidi

THIS IS UNBC

CONTACT US
Class Notes, Address Changes, Comments
 alumni@unbc.ca
 Call 250-960-5873
 1-888-WE-R-UNBC

This is UNBC Magazine is published by the UNBC's Office of University Advancement. It is distributed free of charge to UNBC alumni and friends.

All material is copyright © 2020, University of Northern British Columbia, and may be reprinted only with written permission.

Opinions expressed in the magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the University of Northern British Columbia.

SUBMISSIONS
 kirk.walker@unbc.ca

UNBC.CA/MAGAZINE

Office of University Advancement
 3333 University Way
 Prince George, BC V2N 4Z9



This is UNBC is produced by UNBC's Office of University Advancement in the Spring and Fall and printed on FSC certified paper.

A message from UNBC Interim President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Geoff Payne

When I took on the role of Interim President of the University of Northern British Columbia earlier this year, I, like many of you I imagine, did not see a global pandemic coming our way. Yet by mid-March, institutions, businesses, families and entire communities were forced to make massive change, and UNBC was no different.

To write my first message for *This is UNBC* magazine, I reflected on the year that has been 2020, and I can say that our University's response to date has been exceptional. Our students adapted marvelously, and even more encouraging was that they returned to us this fall in even greater numbers than last year. Our faculty adapted quickly, finishing the last half of the winter semester using new or enhanced virtual teaching tools. And our staff began working from home and are working diligently to support our academic mission. It is inspiring!

I'm fond of telling people that of all the lemons we've been served this year, some lemonade will come of them. UNBC's adaptability, responsiveness, and dedication to the communities we are proud to serve positions us as a leader in the global response to this pandemic, along with other significant issues. Be it confronting vile incidences of racism to contributing to research and scholarship in many areas, your University is ready for the challenge.

Finally, I have witnessed multiple occasions in which our graduates are contributing positively to global initiatives and conversations, some of which you'll read about inside. You are tremendous ambassadors of our University – thank you!



A most useful leader

Remembering the life of Chancellor Joseph Gosnell Sr.

A fisherman, a carver, a leader, a negotiator, a Chancellor. Joseph Gosnell Sr. lived a full life.

Gosnell, UNBC's seventh Chancellor, died in the early morning hours of Aug. 18 at the age of 84.

"The world has lost a tremendous leader, a man who repeatedly demonstrated a love for his community, his people, education and a commitment to enhancing the lives of others," said UNBC Interim President and Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Geoffrey Payne. "His dedication to education was evident during his time as Chancellor. He brought dignity and respect to all proceedings, and spoke thoughtfully, inspiring our graduates at Convocation. He will be dearly missed."

A fluent speaker of the Nisga'a language, Gosnell's hereditary chief name is Sim'oogit Hleek, the most senior name in the House. It means "well-used" or "most useful," and in the manner that the Nation uses his wisdom, strength, and knowledge of culture to inform everything

they do on the land. Gosnell grew up in the communities of Gitwinksihlkw and Gitlaxt'aamiks, in the Nass River Valley, about 100 kilometres north of Terrace. As a young man, he worked as a commercial fisher, carpenter and traditional carver, and would eventually become a band Councillor and Chief of the Gitlaxt'aamiks Band. He was the first elected President of the Nisga'a Lisims Government and was instrumental in bringing modern medical care, education and resource management to his Nation.

The highlight amongst a long list of notable accomplishments was his role as the lead Nisga'a representative in negotiations that led to the Nisga'a Treaty signing in 1998. The Nisga'a Treaty was the first modern treaty between a B.C. First Nation, British Columbia and Canada.

Gosnell began his term as Chancellor in 2019 and continued in the position until he died.

"It was an honour that a man as influential and well respected as Dr.

Gosnell would be Chancellor for our University, and we are deeply saddened at such a

profound loss," said UNBC Board of Governors Chair Aaron Ekman. "The University community extends our heartfelt sympathy to his wife Audrey Adele, their seven children, numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and all those who reside in the Nisga'a Nation. For decades they looked to this great man for his wisdom and leadership, and he led the way fearlessly and with compassion."

Gosnell's death comes nearly eight months after former Chancellor John MacDonald died. MacDonald, who served as Chancellor from 2010-2016, was an engineer and entrepreneur. He died on Dec. 26, 2019 at the age of 83.

"The world has lost a tremendous leader, a man who repeatedly demonstrated a love for his community, his people, education and a commitment to enhancing the lives of others."

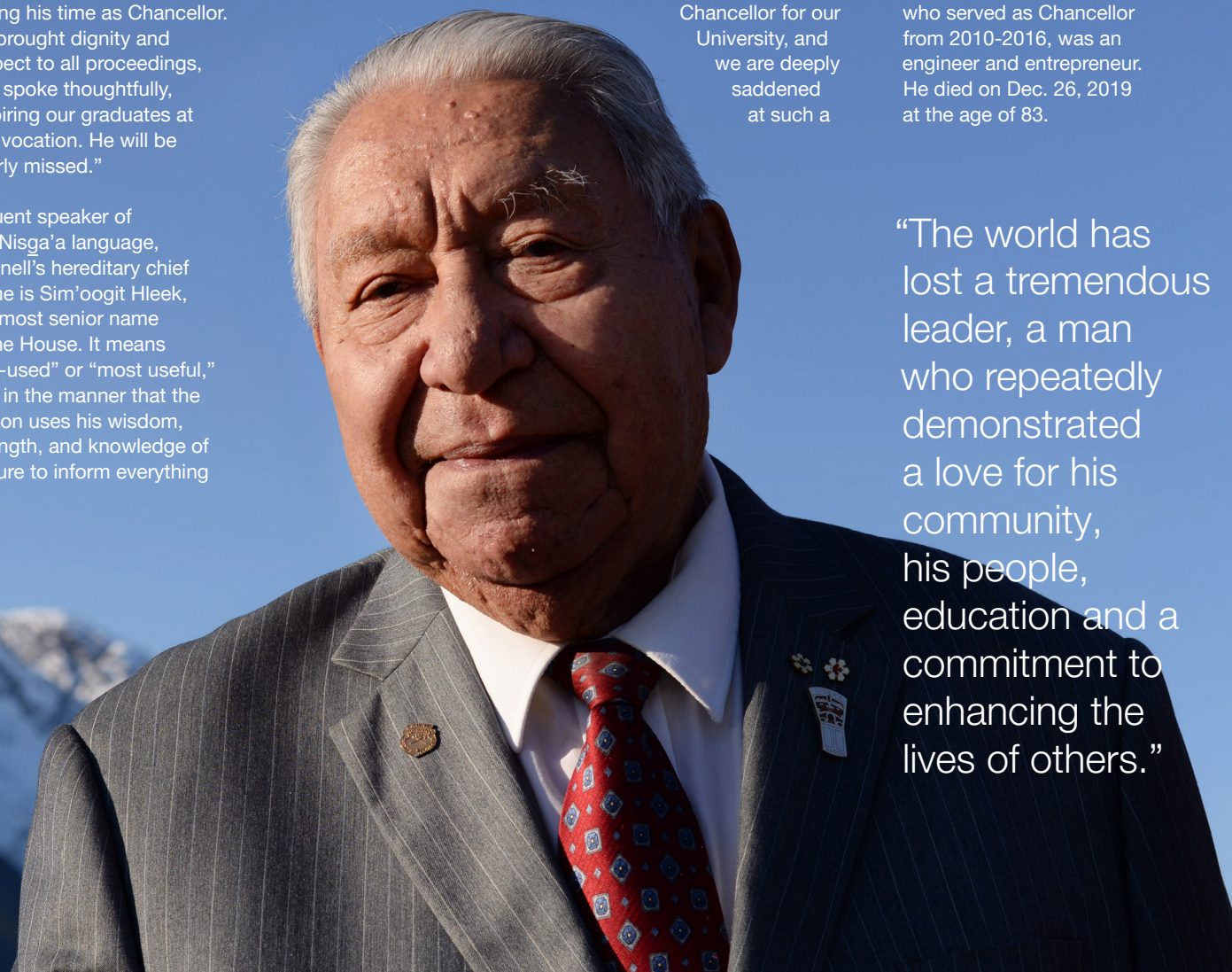




Photo courtesy of Jennifer Nguyen and Dr. Geoff Johnson

Moving Online

UNBC students and faculty pivot towards online learning

UNBC students, faculty, staff and supporters have all worked together to navigate the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the sweeping shift to alternate modes of course and service delivery earlier this year.

UNBC students have shown remarkable adaptability in moving towards an increasingly virtual campus experience. The first day of virtual learning included 3,377 active users on learn.unbc.ca, UNBC's online learning platform. Morning Yoga, Trivia Tuesday and Leadership Development workshops are offered online by UNBC Student Life. And a new Virtual Learning Commons provides a one-stop-shop for students needing key supports such as tutoring, career help and student technology troubleshooters.

“Learning isn’t going to look much different, but how you get there might look different.”

As students move into their new learning environments, faculty and staff have been working hard to create innovative and instructive online content. The Centre for Teaching, Learning and Technology has done tremendous work to support faculty and graduate students by providing Facilitated Online Learning (FLO) events in conjunction with BCcampus to help instructors prepare for courses. FLO events assist faculty in designing and facilitating their online course material, including creating accessible learning resources, designing assessment rubrics and using inclusive dialog.

These are just some of the amazing initiatives that our students, faculty and staff here at UNBC are tackling. This continual cultivation of online learning and support initiatives demonstrates that we are all learning together, moving forward and adapting to the challenges of COVID-19 as a community.

The University is exploring the positive effects of this pedagogical transition and Ecosystem Science and Management Associate Professor Dr. Lisa Poirier sees an opportunity for increased student engagement.

Poirier says online learning opens the gates to conversation for students, creating more engagement and space for discussion. Her courses have been made available online this semester for asynchronous learning – meaning students can login anytime, not tied to a strict schedule. This provides students who are working from home and in various locations more flexibility in terms of time restraints.

“Learning isn’t going to look much different, but how you get there might look different,” Poirier says, explaining that instructors are learning too and that “we are all in this together.”



Q + A

Alumni reflect on time spent on front lines and UNBC

Jennifer Nguyen and her husband Dr. Geoff Johnson are just two UNBC alumni who are serving on the health-care front lines during the COVID-19 pandemic.

They met at UNBC in 2009 while pursuing their master’s degrees in Community Health Sciences.

Nguyen is now a midwife at both B.C. Women’s Hospital and Burnaby General Hospital. Johnson is working at B.C. Women’s Hospital as the Chief Obstetrics Gynaecology resident at BCWH. He also graduated from UBC’s Northern Medical Program (NMP) in 2016.

Their practices have adapted in the face of COVID-19.

Nguyen says her practice’s homebirth numbers have skyrocketed and early discharge from hospital is possible with midwives provide extensive follow up and postpartum/newborn care at home. Johnson is working hard with his fellow residents to manage how they work in the hospital to minimize exposure to both their patients and themselves.

Nguyen and Johnson answered some questions about their time at UNBC and their careers. Their answers have been edited; a full Q & A excerpt can be found online at unbc.ca/magazine

Jennifer Nguyen

Q. What did you love about UNBC?

A. “My time at UNBC was filled with so many wonderful people and a community of friends that I still connect with on a regular basis. I was involved at UNBC as a student, a leader, a teacher, and as staff. I can say with confidence that some of the best years of my life were spent in Prince George.”

Q. What attracted you to a career in midwifery?

A. “It wasn’t until my master’s research working with Indigenous women sharing their stories of accessing health care that I learned of the disparities that rural women face when it comes to maternity care. Following this, midwifery seemed like the best avenue for me to help address these barriers and inequities.”

Geoff Johnson

Q. What inspired you to pursue a career in medicine?

A. “My master’s research was focused on health care access on First Nations’ reserves. Two of the greatest barriers to health care are physical location of services and lack of access to culturally appropriate care. My desire to do something useful for my community, combined with growing up in Nuuchah-nulth territory, led me to become a physician so that I could bring culturally appropriate care back to my community.”

Q. What is your favourite NMP memory?

A. “Skinning a moose on the side of a logging road! On the drive out to a remote clinic, a couple of men had just shot a moose but forgot their skinning knife at home. Of course, I never leave home without my trusty pocketknife, so we made fast friends and helped them to skin, quarter and load the moose into their truck.”

What is education?

The pedagogy of wonder

By Dr. Lisa Dickson
Associate Professor, English

In 2019 I was asked to stand on the iconic red dot and give a TEDx talk. I was given 18 minutes to talk about one important idea worth sharing.

An educator at heart, I spoke about how jumping out of a plane helped me to understand my vocation. Skydiving is about putting yourself on the line, trusting in the preparation of your guide and being willing to step out of a perfectly good plane and into the air. It's the place where preparation and the radically new come together to enable an experience of wonder.

When I ask myself that foundational question of my vocation—What is education?—I point to my skydiving experience and my answer is this: Education is a wonder engine. Education is, at its best, a site where the transformations of wonder can be harnessed, for students and teachers alike.

Tandem skydiving and education have a lot in common. At the centre of the Venn Diagram is wonder, an experience that suspends our preconceptions, introduces us to new perspectives, and makes us

reimagine our habitual ways of being in the world. Once you jump out of a plane, you will always be someone who has jumped out of a plane, and you can never quite look at all the pointy trees around you the same way again. Wonder transforms us.

It's a tall order, living in wonder. A pedagogy of wonder demands that we share with our students the risks and the rewards of transformation. When I was a baby academic, still green and leaning heavily on the "Dr." as an unassailable sign of my power and expertise, a student stopped me after the class and asked me: "How do you get out of bed every day knowing what you know?" Freaked out by the way that her university experience kept pulling the rug out from under her, this student was struggling with the idea that the world, which before had seemed predictable and comfortable, was not at all like she thought it was. How, in the face of this existential crisis, she wondered, could I be so calm? This student was in the freefall of transformation. She was looking for a parachute.

In that moment, I recognized something I had never really understood before: the tremendous courage it takes to be a learner, how brave our students are to come to our classrooms and say by their very presence there, "I am willing to be different—in an hour, a semester, in four years—than I am now." Students put their selves on the line and that can be a profoundly unsettling experience.

I would never be the same after this encounter. The student's question made me look at my comfortable world

of professorial authority from a new perspective, from the point of view of learners who were knocked sideways daily by their education. I answered her: "I'm here because you're here." In that moment of wonder—which felt a lot like being thrown out of plane—I found my answer to the question: What is education? I realized that, if our students are to leap joyfully and wisely into their transformation, we need to provide more than content and "marketable skills." At its best, the wonder engine provides both the occasion for transformation and the framework that students need to develop a wonder mindset: resiliency, agency, and a sense of their own courage.

This was the moment I committed to a pedagogy of wonder. To cultivate agency, learners need to have a say in the design of my courses and in the model of assessment. To embrace transformation and build resiliency, we work together to make space in the curriculum for freefall and disorientation and we demonstrate their value as part of the process of growth by constructing assignments that allow learners to document their transformation. We rethink together the practice of ranking students, of encouraging competition, and of valuing grades as the only currency of success. Instead, we place the emphasis on the collaborative production of knowledge and reflection on our learning. In such a space, I have to work hard to resist the temptation of my own status and power and the comfort of entrenched hierarchy and authority. Instead, I have to commit to the idea that we are all tandem skydivers, partners, fellow travelers whose preparation makes freefall safe enough

to be glorious. A pedagogy of wonder demands that I honour my students' courage with my own.

If education is the wonder engine, I'm the one with the parachute, the one who gets to go along on this journey through wonder with each student while they learn to fly. It's a privilege and a humbling, daunting responsibility. And it's the most hopeful thing I can do with my life.

"In that moment, I recognized something I had never really understood before: the tremendous courage it takes to be a learner."



Alumna streams into the digital media industry

Selena Paskalidis (BComm 2009) helps content creators distribute with her company dotStudioPRO

When I chose UNBC, I hoped my degree would help me go places, but I never dreamed I'd end up here. I studied marketing and international business before the world had any idea how it would embrace digital alternatives to our way of life. Now I'm a co-founder, co-owner and the chief financial officer of a tech firm that's leading the way in content streaming. It's a job I couldn't have made up when I took my first steps on campus as a UNBC student.

Before starting my company, I worked in long-form drama and television. Production companies then were figuring out how to "go digital." Digital was so new it was only taking hold in music where people were holding seminars about how iTunes would disrupt the way people interacted with music. The company I worked for tasked me with a mission: find out more about this trend.

It was 2009. I was working on an MTV series about 20-something-year-olds in Whistler. A revolutionary show for its time. New sponsorship deals were popping up for MTV's online content and I realized that's where the audience was. We were still shooting on tapes at the time, but the writing was on the wall. Digital technology was democratizing the way we made content.

From MTV, I went on to develop digital strategies for shows airing on the Food Network, History Channel and Discovery. I learned to build content that engaged audiences on interactive websites and mobile apps. It was my first foray into merging two industries: tech and entertainment. I was in the thick of things when content owners were just gaining direct access to their audiences. And we were successful. An app I produced for a show called Eat St. had the most downloads in two weeks and held the

#1 spot for lifestyle apps in the U.S. and Canada even longer.

I was also producing my own content and wanted to take control of distribution and understand how audiences were consuming my films. The frustrating reality then was that there were so many gatekeepers. When YouTube exploded, it was game-changing, but YouTube had creators give their content over to the platform.

In 2011, I met some like-minded people who also wanted to democratize streaming—to marry content with content producers' branding. That year, with my new partners Joe Pascual and Phoenix Gonzalez, I co-founded dotstudioPRO in Vancouver.

Our company allows content owners to manage, distribute and monetize their content through applications like Roku, AppleTV and Google Play. Users can also syndicate their content to digital network providers like PlutoTV and Xumo. Put simply, our platform gives people the opportunity to launch their own Netflix and send their content to branded networks. We make it easy and affordable to deliver content to the consumer.

I'm proud of what we've built. DotstudioPRO helps clients reach more viewers and turn a profit faster. We're efficient and use the best tech. Our software vastly reduces the cost of launching and helps our clients, which include the Minnesota Vikings, Laugh Out Loud and American Beauty Star, to manage different distribution points and monetization opportunities. As CFO, I'm also excited about what we're doing with standardized reporting, which might sound boring, but it's important as we focus on creating a deeper level of customer engagement with the content

and each other, rather than just being the next Hulu or Netflix.

Ten years ago, it was about the bandwidth and streaming content seamlessly. Now, more streaming services. The marketplace is so complex and flooded with content. We're challenged to get those streaming services discovered and help them stand out.

Looking forward, at dotstudioPRO, our focus is to make sure viewers find our clients' content. We're doing this by using our system to pass on enriched meta data to the platforms people are using. It's basically search engine optimization for content streaming—and we're paving the way.

As a student, I never guessed I would end up in entertainment, nor did I think that I would own and operate a technology company. But the education I received from UNBC has been the foundation for building a small start-up of three people into a 15+ company, and we're growing.



Déry named UNBC's first Industrial Research Chair

From its headwaters in the Coast Mountains to its mouth in Prince George, the Nechako River is a key artery that flows through British Columbia's Interior Plateau. Home to iconic species such as the Nechako white sturgeon and an important stop for migrating waterfowl, the river is also embraced by canoeists and anglers.

However, rising temperatures associated with climate change are diminishing seasonal snowpacks and glaciers, which in turn influence the entire Nechako River watershed. UNBC Environmental Science Professor Dr. Stephen Déry is an expert on the impact that climate variability and change is having on the Nechako River and with the help of federal and industry funding he launched the latest phase of research.

As the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada/Rio Tinto Senior Industrial Research Chair in Climate Change and Water Security, Déry is leading a team of scientists who are examining the role of climate change and the management of water resources on the Nechako River basin's water supply.

The five-year, \$1.5 million project, includes monitoring water temperatures in regulated and unregulated sites across the Nechako Watershed, rainfall gauges to measure the difference in precipitation from the wet Coast Mountains to the drier

Interior Plateau, and the installation of a comprehensive weather station to monitor storms in the upper Nechako Watershed. The station is equipped with sensors to measure and record temperature, relative humidity, precipitation, snow depth, wind speed/direction, incoming solar radiation and barometric pressure.

Results collected from all of these sites, along with simulations from computer models currently in development, will be shared with communities.

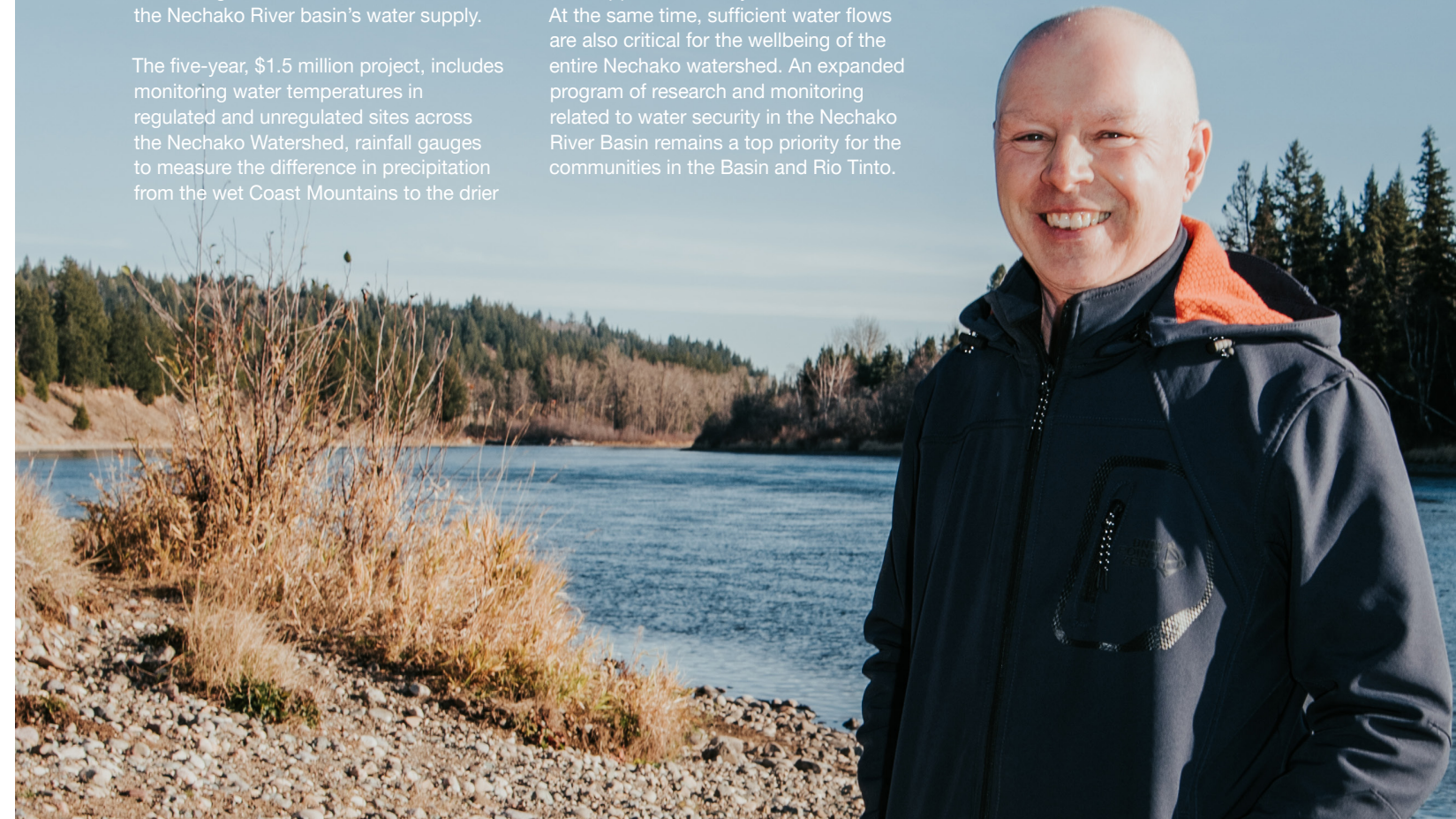
"Our climate and environment are in a rapid state of transition and the IRC program of research is at the forefront of understanding these complex and pervasive issues along with their impacts on ecosystems and communities across the Nechako Watershed," Déry says.

Water is of primary importance for the day-to-day operation of Rio Tinto's aluminum smelter in Kitimat, B.C. Water is diverted from the river to fill the Nechako Reservoir, which in turn powers the Kemano hydroelectric generating station and supplies electricity to the smelter. At the same time, sufficient water flows are also critical for the wellbeing of the entire Nechako watershed. An expanded program of research and monitoring related to water security in the Nechako River Basin remains a top priority for the communities in the Basin and Rio Tinto.

"This partnership will build on Rio Tinto's long-standing support for the UNBC and commitment to managing the Nechako watershed responsibly," said Rio Tinto BC Works general manager Affonso Bizon. "We share UNBC's commitment to advancing education and research in the region and look forward to seeing the findings from this work to build on our environmental management program for the Nechako."

The objective of this Industrial Research Chair is to better understand the impacts of climate change and human activity on the long-term water security of the Nechako watershed.

"It is important to collaborate with a private sector partner such as Rio Tinto, with a view to seeing our research findings applied to help manage the environmental impacts of industrial activity, especially in the face of climate change," says Déry.



Two faculty members receive recognition for professional excellence

The Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society (CMOS) bestowed Environmental Science Professor Dr. Peter Jackson with the title Fellow of the Society. CMOS awards the honour to members who have provided exceptional long-term service and support to the Society, and/or who have made outstanding contributions to the scientific, professional, educational, forecasting or broadcasting fields in atmospheric or ocean sciences in Canada.

School of Education Lecturer Deborah Koehn received the Association of BC Deans of Education 2020 Teacher Educator award. It is presented annually to a teacher educator who has distinguished themselves in partnering with a teacher education program in British Columbia.

UNBC Board elects new Chair

Aaron Ekman, a well-known figure in B.C.'s labour relations sphere, is the new Chair of UNBC's Board of Governors.

Ekman began his service on the board in May 2018 as a provincially appointed representative and was reappointed in July 2019 for an additional two-year term.

Ekman hails from Terrace and moved to Prince George in 2009, the same year he was elected president of the Prince George & District Labour Council. In 2011, while representing and negotiating on behalf of provincial public servants and health-care workers across northern B.C., became the founding president of the North Central Labour Council. In 2014, Ekman was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the British Columbia Federation of Labour, and served two terms.

NMP faculty member honoured with two teaching awards

Dr. Sean Maurice, a senior lab instructor with the Northern Medical Program (NMP), has been recognized with two prestigious teaching awards. He was honoured for his dedication to teaching with the 2019-20 Robert W. Tait Annual Lecture on Implementing Teaching Excellence Award at UNBC, and a 2019-20 Killam Teaching Prize from the University of British Columbia (UBC).

"It's humbling to have received these awards from UNBC and UBC," said Maurice. "It means that both institutions value teaching as well educational leadership, and that teaching is not something static, but something that requires effort, sincerity, and ongoing attention. Teaching at many levels and in many venues is important to ensure the institutions meet the needs of their various stakeholders, and their social accountability mandates to the community.

The NMP is a distributed site of UBC's Faculty of Medicine MD Undergraduate Program, delivered in partnership with UNBC.

UNBC Stories

Our students, faculty, alumni and staff are making headlines for their work on campus and in the community. To learn more about these stories, please visit our website. unbc.ca/newsroom

Vanier Scholar examines UN goals

Christiana Onabola, a Health Sciences PhD student, has earned a federally-funded Vanier Scholarship. The award is for her research that focuses on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and how they are relevant to local populations and communities along the Nechako Watershed and Niger Delta in Nigeria in order to strengthen the goals' tenet of leaving no one behind.

In 2015, world leaders at the United Nations put together the 17 SDGs, a set of global goals to tackle economic, social and environmental challenges that are local and global in nature.

"There are, however, concerns about how these goals interact and what happens when, for instance, a goal related to health and the environment is traded off in order to meet another tailored towards economic development," explains Onabola.

Meanwhile, Dr. Nadezhda (Nadia) Mamontova joined UNBC this fall as a Banting Postdoctoral Fellow as she explores the legacy of ethnographer and linguist Glafira Vasilevich and what her 20th-century cartography project means for the Evenki people in Siberia.

The project, titled Vernacular Geography and Indigenous Participatory Mapping in Soviet Russia: Examining the Legacy of Glafira Vasilevich's Cartographic Project, will explore the methods Vasilevich used to collect the maps, examine her motivations and trace the legacy of the place names she used.

Recreational access boosted through community collaboration

Working together with Spinal Cord Injury BC's Access BC team, Drs. Mark Groulx, Shannon Freeman and Pamela Wright are supporting work to create more barrier-free outdoor destinations.

With support from a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Partnership Engage grant, audits were completed at outdoor tourism and recreation sites around B.C. in conjunction with ongoing work Access BC undertakes to collect data on accessibility needs. Audits consider various potential barriers that may exist at sites, such as path widths, trail slopes, and washroom sink/toilet heights.

Their research has led to the development of a new digital tool that will help Access BC in further streamlining of processes and collation of data for reports that can be shared with recreational, municipal and tourism stakeholders.

unbc.ca/newsroom

Bouchard wins renowned national book prize

Anthropology Professor Dr. Michel Bouchard is the first UNBC researcher to win one of Canada's most prestigious national academic book prizes.

Bouchard won the Prix du Canada en sciences humaines et sociales, for his book *Les Bois-Brûlés de l'Outaouais*. The Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences awards the prize to the best French-language book in the humanities and social sciences published in Canada each year.

Bouchard shares the award with his co-authors Dr. Sébastien Malette, an Associate Professor in the Department of Law and Legal Studies at Carleton University, and independent researcher Guillaume Marcotte.

"It was quite a shock when I first received the letter notifying us that we had won the award," Bouchard says. "It's an incredible honour, given the distinguished academics who have received this prize in the past."

According to Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, the winning book makes an exceptional contribution to scholarship, is engagingly written, and enriches the social, cultural and intellectual life of Canada. The award comes with a \$10,000 prize.

The book makes the argument that a historical Métis community exists in the Outaouais region of western Québec and points to cultural similarities and ancestral linkages to established Métis communities in western Canada.

An English language version of the book, *Bois-Brûlés: The Untold Story of the Métis of Western Québec*, is available from UBC Press.

Class Notes

Be part of Class Notes: unbc.ca/alumni

1998

Todd Romaine (BA Environmental Studies and BSc Environmental Planning 2001) was part of the Model UN during his time at UNBC, and participated in the 1998 Harvard debate representing Eritrea in Africa. Little did he know at that time that he would go on to work for Danakali Limited out of Perth, Australia, as their Chief Sustainability Officer overseeing Environmental Social Governance and Investor Relations for a high grade sulphate and potash deposit in the Danakal region of Eritrea. This project will be one of the first mining projects designed to align with the UN Sustainability Goals and will play a considerable role in increasing food production in Africa. Todd has been working in Eritrea since 2012.

Megan Klammer (BScN) is a Clinical Nurse Specialist with Island Health based in Victoria.

1999

Christine Slanz (BSc Environmental Planning / Masters of Natural Resources and Environmental Management, 2004) works for the SkeenaWild Conservation Trust as an Education Coordinator, developing their education program for K-12 students in communities in northwest B.C. Her goal is to educate students about salmon life cycles and habitat, watersheds and water quality, and climate change from a Skeena Watershed focus using hands-on demonstrations and activities. She describes her work as her dream job!

2001

Darla Bain (Bachelor of Social Work) currently works for the Prince George Native Friendship Centre as an Adult Addictions Counsellor.

2002

A.J. Delisle (Bachelor of Commerce) is the Director of Real Estate at RBC, and is managing a portfolio of 25 complex commercial clients out of Vancouver. A.J. was recently recognized with a 2019 Leo Award – the highest form of recognition at RBC.

2003

Corey Walker (BA English and History) is working for the Sinneave Family Foundation of Calgary on a project titled “Building Canada’s Inclusive Workforce.” He is examining the evidence-based barriers and best practices for employing autistic adults in Canada by consulting public and private employers.

Jessica Madrid (BScN / MSc 2014) is President of the Canadian Association of Nurses for the Environment, as well as a Primary Care Nurse with Northern Health. She is presently on maternity leave with her young son and resides on Haida Gwaii.

2004

Julian Buck (BSc Mathematics) just moved back to B.C. from South Carolina where he was an Associate Professor at Francis Marion University.

He is now a term faculty member at Okanagan College in the Mathematics & Statistics Department.

Moezine Hasham (BA International Studies) recently became a member of the NHL’s Youth Inclusion Committee which was created to work against the diversity issues seen in the league and the sport of hockey in general. He will advise the NHL on how to make hockey more inclusive and welcoming to kids of diverse backgrounds. Moezine is also the founder of Hockey 4 Youth, a charitable foundation that works “to increase social inclusion for new Canadian and high-priority youth through [their] free ice hockey and off-ice life skills T.E.A.C.H. program.” His passion for these projects comes from his own love of hockey which began at age six, and his experiences of racism on the ice as a young person.



2006

Candice Dyck (BA English) is working as an Instructor in the Administrative and Information Technologies programs at the College of New Caledonia in Prince George.

Lisa Emmerton (BA English/ MA English, 2008) is the Senior Educational Administrator at the Canadian Vocational Training Centre. Outside of her day job, Lisa and her husband—who she met as a fellow

first-year undergrad at UNBC—own and operate College Heights Fitness in Prince George.

Tullia Upton (MSc Natural Resources and Environmental Studies, Geography) just launched Sunshine Coast Materials Testing Ltd. The company tests materials for construction and engineering projects, including concrete, asphalt, and soils/aggregates to ensure they meet municipal and/or provincial standards. After moving to Oregon to work on a PhD upon receiving a Fullbright scholarship, Tullia made the difficult decision to give up her doctoral degree and pursue a second master’s degree, which has now led her to start her business.

2007

Joshua Gordon (BA History) is a Scotiabank Branch Manager in Calgary.

Joseph Landry (BSc Biochemistry and Molecular Biology) is a Senior Analyst with the Peace and Stabilization Operations Program at Global Affairs Canada. He was responsible for the co-ordination and development of the Programs 2019-2022 Strategy, and recently for preparing Canada’s United Nations Security Council bid. Joseph is also an adjunct lecturer at Carleton University, having completed a PhD in International Conflict Analysis and Management from the Norman Patterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University. Joseph was recently named as a fellow at the Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies.

2008

Dyan McMinn (BScN) is employed by Fraser Health as a Critical Care Nurse in the ICU at Burnaby Hospital.

Charlene Mattson (BA History & Political Science) is an instructor at the Canadian Vocational Training

Centre in Prince George, teaching adults looking to get back into the workforce the skills they need to pursue employment. She wears many hats at the centre, having served as the manager for several years in the past, and currently working as a writer and editor for the school, as well as in IT.

2009

Chris Nickerson (Masters Business Administration) is the Director of Acute Care Access and Policy for Alberta Health based in Spruce Grove, Alta.

Mark Stephens (BSc in Geography) is the Manager of Emergency Programs for the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary. Mark maintains the emergency plans, runs the operations centre when it is activated, and runs the support services program for the region. He is also an on-call firefighter.

2010

Jenny Plouffe (Bachelor of Social Work) is working as a Therapist & Clinical Supervisor with Intersect Youth and Family Services in Prince George, as well as serving as the co-chair of the Northern Attachment Network Advisory. The organization has partnered with the UNBC Psychology and Social Work departments to host four Lighting the Way Conferences. Jenny has also completed her MSW at University of Calgary and was supervised by UNBC’s own Dr. Joanna Pierce.

Chris Calder (Bachelor of Commerce, Accounting and Finance) is the General Manager of Financial Services for the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George.

Domenico Santomauro (Master of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies) is a Senior

Project Manager and Environmental Planner with Triton Environmental Consultants. He oversees a regional portfolio of projects from the company’s Calgary office. He is also responsible for the development of relationships with Indigenous communities in Alberta and beyond. He is the recent owner of a 1995 motorhome named “Goldilocks” because of its original colour.

Tae Yang Kim (BSc in Applied Science, Environmental Engineering) is a Technical Sales Representative for John Crane Canada Inc.

Amanda Weber (Toombs) (BA History/BEEd Secondary Education, 2014) works for School District 78 as a primary and intermediate teacher in Boston Bar.

2011

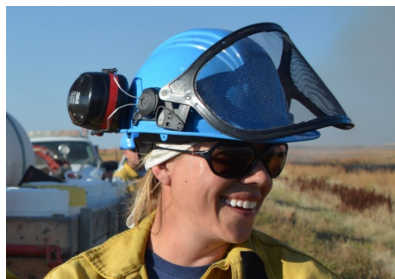
Dustin Renaud (Bachelor of Commerce) is the Human Resources Manager at Geotech Drilling Services Ltd. in Prince George.

2012

Kimberly Lawyer (BSc Physics/ MSc Physics, 2016) is a Physics Assistant with BC Cancer at Prince George’s Centre for the North. In this role she is responsible for performing quality assurance on the two Varian TrueBeam medical linear accelerators in the radiation oncology/medical physics department. She also assists in performing quality assurance on the CT simulator and develops new analyses and techniques for quality control.

Erin Tassell (BSc Natural Resource Management) is the Regional Leader of Fire Management for the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions in the Kimberley Region of Western Australia. Her position includes strategic outcomes and broad scale visions for planning, prescribed fire,

and fire suppression. Her degree allowed her to develop her career in fire management and grow her operational fire background from the ground up. The balance of skills and education facilitated her transition to Australia and her combination of education and experience was well received in her new position.



2014

Jacqueline Weldon (BA History) is a Sign Language Interpreter working for School District 71 in the Comox Valley facilitating communications between deaf and hard of hearing students and staff.

Anya Richter (BA General Studies) is currently living and working in Mühlthal, Hesse, Germany as a Professional Gardener with Gärtnerei Löwer.



Meghan Kort (BA History and Political Science) is the Assistant Editor for Christian Courier. After graduating from UNBC she completed an MA in History from UVIC. While working as a research assistant and travelling in Europe with her husband, she started a blog and rediscovered the joy of writing.

Pieter Buttenaar (Bachelor of Commerce) is the owner and founder of Optimum Home Care Inc., which delivers compassionate, service driven care to seniors in British Columbia. Pieter works with community partners to ensure seniors can receive the care they need to stay home longer.

Farhana Hoque (MSc Computer Science) is currently employed by Constellation Software Inc. as an Oracle PL/SQL Developer.

2015

Dr. Siraj UI Islam (PhD in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies) is the newest Associate Professor for UNBC's Department of Environmental Science. Siraj is a hydroclimatologist, with research interests spanning a broad spectrum of environmental science including climate dynamics and prediction, snow hydrology, data analysis, and numerical modeling. Dr. Islam previously worked as a Research Associate as part of UNBC's Northern Hydrometeorology Group and as an Adjunct Professor in the Environmental Science program.

Caitlin Crick (BScN) is the Clinical Practice Lead for the Northern Health Authority at the Dawson Creek and District Regional Hospital. She looks forward to continuing to support front line staff by providing mentorship and support, and increasing their educational opportunities in a new role she will be starting soon as a Clinical Nurse Educator.

Megan Parisotto (BA Political Science) is an Articling Student with Engineers and Geoscientists British

Columbia and plans to get called to the British Columbia Bar in early 2021.



Lina Gasser (Bachelor of Arts) is the Chief Administrative Officer for the Village of Hazelton. Passionate about the north, she believes Hazelton is an incredible hidden gem in northern B.C. and is excited to be working with the Village Council to better the community and region.

Milad Fathi (MSc Business Administration) is the Regional Manager of Strategic Analytics for Northern Health. Milad manages a team of analysts who support the strategic management of Northern Health with descriptive, prescriptive and predictive analytics, and also provides the Ministry of Health with health care insight when needed.

Jennifer Fraser (BA Women's Studies/ Bachelor of Social Work 2017) is currently providing services in Watson Lake as a Regional Social Worker for the Yukon Government.

Jennifer Nguyen (MSc Community Health Science) and husband Geoff Johnson (MSc Community Health, 2012) met at UNBC in 2009 when they were both enrolled in the MSc Community Health Science program. Geoff is also a graduate of the Northern Medical Program. They both currently work in the BC Women's Hospital in Vancouver with Jennifer also working at Burnaby General Hospital. As a midwife, Jennifer has worked with her practice to focus on client care during the pandemic. They have utilized virtual visits where possible and continue to see people at home while wearing full PPE. The homebirth numbers have skyrocketed, and early

discharge has been made possible as her and other midwives are able to do lots of follow up and postpartum and newborn care with patients who are at home. As the chief OBGYN resident at BC Women's Hospital, Geoff has been working hard alongside his fellow residents to overhaul how they work in the hospital in order to minimize exposure to their patients and themselves. Jennifer and Geoff sometimes see each other more at the hospital than they do at home! #babieswaitfornoone.

2016

Majed Alkthlan (Bachelor of Commerce) is working as a Financial Analyst for the Banque Saudi Fransi in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Isla Tanaka (MNRES) is working for the City of Edmonton as the Winter City Planner. She is the project manager for the implementation of the 10-year Winter City Strategy.

Anson Hardjojo (Bachelor of Applied Science – Environmental Engineering) is employed as the Solid Waste & Waste Diversion Co-ordinator with the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George.

Daniel Lukac (BA Political Science) has been named one of 10 parliamentary interns for this year and is working on Parliament Hill.



David Schroeter (BA Political Science) is the Chief Administration Officer of the District of Fort St. James. He has been serving as the Acting CAO since April 2020, and began the permanent position on Sept. 1, 2020.



Aishat Oguntola (MA Development Economics) is the Store Manager at Money Mart in Prince George.

2019

Nicole Pearson (Bachelor of Social Work) is working for the Calgary John Howard Society as a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Specialist. Nicole serves as an advocate in the court system for justice involved adults with FASD and also participates in a community management table assisting in the launch of a new Indigenous Court in Calgary.

Tanelle Smith (BSc Biochemistry and Molecular Biology) has banded together with three other medical students to form the Kelowna Women's Safety Initiative, in partnership with the Kelowna Women's Shelter. The Shelter provides shelter, food, counselling, safety planning, and outreach support for survivors of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV). The group wanted to support the shelter in their loss of revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and raise awareness for the increase in IPV, especially in the context of the pandemic and social isolation. Together they raised more than \$9,000 and have been successful in a number of awareness campaigns directed at both victims and survivors, and

physicians with particular emphasis on virtual and tele-health interactions.

Sarah Leach (BA History) has been working alongside her mother in Ladysmith, B.C. to sew masks to aid her community during the COVID-19 pandemic. So far, 475 masks have been sewn and 300 distributed – free of charge.

Alice Won (BSc Biochemistry and Molecular Biology) is a Manufacturing Operations Associate in Material Management with Stemcell Technologies in Vancouver.

2020

Chantal Wentland (Bachelors of Northern and Rural Community Planning, and Certificate in Traditional Environmental Knowledge) is part of Protective Services for the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako, creating plans and measures to ensure the Regional District can continue to provide vital services and safeguard critical infrastructure during emergency events

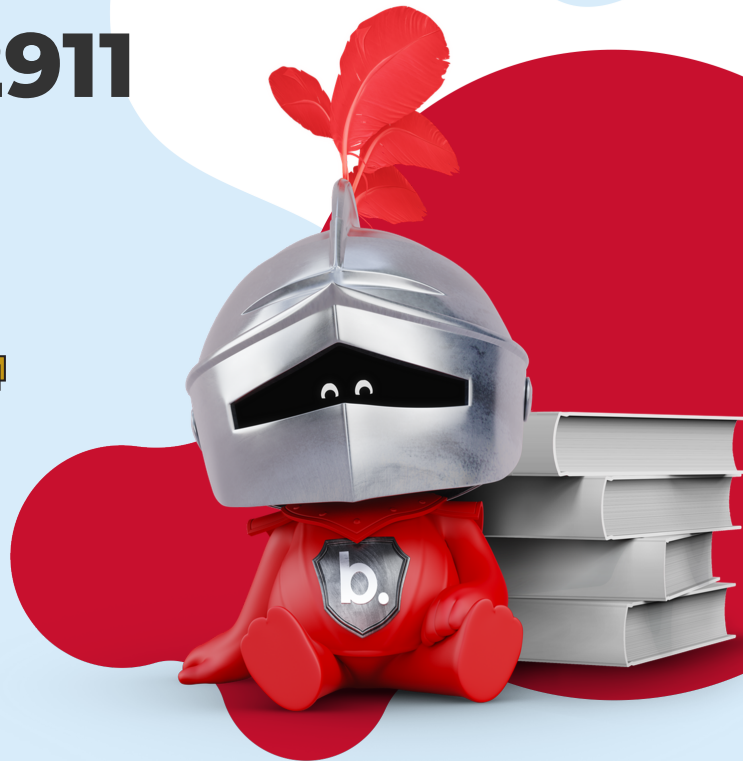
unbc.ca/alumni

UNBC graduates save more on home, condo and tenant insurance at belairdirect.

Call 1 833 294.2911

and mention you are a UNBC alumni to get your exclusive premium.

belairdirect.
insurance. simplified.®



Offers may change without notice. Certain conditions, limitations, exclusions and eligibility requirements apply to all offers. Not everyone will qualify for a phone or online quote. Belairdirect offers car and home insurance in Alberta and home insurance only in British Columbia. Visit belairdirect.com for more details. Insurance products underwritten by Belair Insurance Company Inc. Services provided by belairdirect Agency Inc. ©2020 belairdirect Agency Inc. All rights reserved. @belairdirect, and @Little Knight Design are registered trademarks of Belair Insurance Company Inc.

The UNBC Design is a trademark of the University of Northern British Columbia, used under license.