



UBC REPORTS

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Climate of Concern: Where do the political parties stand on the environment?



UBC political science professor Kathryn Harrison breaks down the federal parties' environmental policies.

BY KATHRYN HARRISON
Professor, Dept. of Political Science

This fall's federal election marks the first time that environmental issues have played a prominent role in a national election in Canada. How do the Conservative, Liberal, New Democratic, and Green parties compare on the central

environmental issue of the campaign, climate change?

The parties' positions are similar in several respects. All four party leaders acknowledge that climate change is real, and all four call for deep reductions in Canada's emissions by mid-century. However, a more critical issue for voters is what targets the parties are offering in the near term, and whether their

proposed policies can credibly achieve those goals.

On that point differences begin to emerge. The Liberals, NDP, and Green Party all have proposed ambitious reductions in Canada's greenhouse gas emissions below 1990 emissions by 2020, with the Liberals calling for a 20 per cent reduction, the NDP 25 per cent, and the Greens 30 per cent. The

Conservative government's target of a 20 per cent reduction by 2020 sounds similar, but that is relative to a 2006 baseline. Since Canada's emissions increased significantly from 1990 to 2006, this amounts to just three per cent below 1990 emissions.

The parties also differ in the mix of policy tools they propose to achieve those targets. Public spending is politically easiest.

Not surprisingly, all four parties have proposed billions of dollars in expenditures.

In a climate of public concern for the environment, it is also fairly easy to regulate – as long as the regulations affect someone else. All four parties

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Re-engaging non-voters key to election victory: UBC study



Economist Werner Antweiler analyzed the movement of voters.

BY LORRAINE CHAN

The fight for the elusive swing vote may not be the key to a party's victory, says a UBC researcher. Data shows that victory rather lies in turning non-voters into voters.

In the first study of its kind, UBC economist Werner Antweiler looks at the voter migration patterns of the three most recent federal elections in Canada and the three most recent provincial elections in B.C.

His findings suggest that the real deal-breakers during a tight electoral race reside within the large pool of non-voters who are "tethered" to a party, but decide to abstain from voting.

"The swing vote alone doesn't decide elections," observes Antweiler, an associate professor at UBC's Sauder School of Business.

"In my view, it comes down to giving the people who normally vote for a party a reason why they should come out and vote

again for that party," he says. "What carries much more weight is non-voters turning into voters, and voters turning into non-voters."

More than eight million eligible voters stayed at home in each of the last three federal elections. In 2000, 2004, and 2006, only about 60 to 64 per cent of eligible voters cast their ballots.

Using sophisticated statistical techniques, Antweiler analyzed

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IN THE NEWS

Highlights of UBC media coverage in September 2008. COMPILED BY BASIL WAUGH



UBC alumnus and Olympic gold medal rower Ben Rutledge helped make Canada proud in Beijing.

UBC Political Scientists Comment on Canadian Election

UBC political science professors have featured prominently in federal election media, including *The New York Times*, *The Globe and Mail*, *CTV News* and the *CanWest News* chain.

In a *New York Times* interview, Prof. Fred Cutler said the U.S. election will have little impact on Canadian voters. "This talk of Obama energizing American voters and the contrast with 'boring Canada' is simply off the mark."

Prof. Allen Tupper's commentary ranged from Green MP Blair Wilson's re-election chances, to TV debate rules to David Emerson. "He was a minister who became well-respected for his policy and administrative capacities, of which there is not a surplus in the Harper government."

Profs. Kathryn Harrison and Philip Resnick also joined in the debate, both speaking on B.C. politics and environment issues. "It's promising to be the first time the environment has ever played a prominent role in a national election," Harrison said.

UBC Election Stock Market Opens for Trading

Media reported on the return of UBC's Election Stock Market (UBC-ESM), an online, real-time market where investors purchase and trade "shares" representing the political parties they believe will win the election.

In a *CTV* interview, Sauder School of Business Prof. Werner Antweiler said the non-profit initiative is a better predictor of an election outcome than polling. "Investing their own real money provides motivation to traders to predict the political parties' fortunes."

Past UBC-ESMs have provided accurate predictions of final vote and seat shares, including predictions within a few seats of the 2006, 2000 and 1997 federal elections.

Training Young Brains to Behave

The New York Times reported on research by a UBC developmental cognitive scientist who says mental exercises can teach children to become more self-possessed at earlier ages, reducing stress levels at home and improving their experience in school.

Prof. Adele Diamond is researching three "executive

functions": the ability to resist distractions or delay gratification to finish a job, working memory and cognitive flexibility, the presence of mind to adapt when demands change.

"Some people will ask, 'Why are you trying to improve prefrontal abilities when the prefrontal cortex is not fully developed until the 20s?'" said Diamond. "I tell them that 2-year-olds have legs, too, which will not reach full length for 10 years or more – but they can still walk and run and benefit from exercise."

Housing Prices in Most Canadian Markets are Overpriced and Likely to Decline: UBC Study

Homeowners in most Canadian urban centres should be prepared for the possibility of housing market price declines, according to a UBC Sauder School of Business study.

Prof. Tsur Somerville found that, with the exception of Toronto and Edmonton, houses in Canada's major cities are overvalued, priced up to 25 per cent higher than they should be to balance with rents.

"The decade long boom in Canadian markets is over," said Somerville. His study was covered by news media across Canada.

UBC REPORTS

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Study reveals B.C. patients' concerns

BY CATHERINE LOIACONO

A UBC study has shed light on patients' priorities for primary health care. According to the research, six issues are top-of-mind for British Columbians when interacting with family physicians: accessibility, continuity of care, responsiveness, interpersonal communication, technical effectiveness and whole-person care.

"We want to understand whether there are disparities in healthcare delivery from the patient's perspective, and if so, what is of most concern to the patient," says Sabrina Wong, assistant professor and faculty at UBC's School of Nursing and Centre for Health Services and Policy Research. "Information about a patient's views and experiences on what could be improved could be used to identify priorities for quality improvement."

The study, funded by the B.C. Ministry of Health inquires about patients' experiences in the primary healthcare system and which parts of the system work or fail to meet their needs. Seventy-five people were recruited to participate in 11 focus groups held across British Columbia. Each focus group was asked about the features of care that were important to them when making an appointment and visiting a healthcare provider.

"Increasingly, healthcare decision makers are actively seeking public and patient involvement in health policy decisions," says Wong, who is lead author of the study. "Public reports on healthcare system performance are more likely to be useful when they include patient priorities as indicators for improvement."

The participants were asked about the features of care important to them when visiting a healthcare provider.

Accessibility relates to geographic location and timeliness of appointments. "This



Assist. Prof. Sabrina Wong asked what features of health care are important.

came up as the most important issue," says Wong. "Participants agreed that waiting more than one week to visit their provider

not otherwise feel comfortable sharing. "Developing a relationship will build trust and respect," says Wong. "In doing

it works and sometimes it doesn't."

Participants identified gaps in communication and information among providers, stating that information technology that permitted access to their health information at any point of care would make efficient use of time. "Why doesn't the hospital have access to the files at my doctor's office, and how come the doctor's office can't access the hospital computer?" said a participant.

The study also reveals that information continuity of care is, in some cases, more important than privacy. "Patients, particularly those who are chronically ill, would rather have their medical documents accessible to providers who were assisting in managing their care," says Wong.

Research suggests that patients are open to seeing qualified alternative health care professionals. "We are finding that patients are open to seeing other healthcare providers

such as a midwife or nurse practitioner and recognize that some types of primary healthcare do not necessarily need a family physician," says Wong.

"Measuring quality of healthcare is complex because it is a multifaceted concept that requires many different perspectives," says Wong. "The results provided by studies such as ours augment discussions on measuring the performance of Canada's healthcare system."

"They highlight the quality of care from patients' perspectives rather than only examining the technical quality, both of which are useful for improving processes of care," says Wong. "These priority domains should be addressed in reports to the public on the performance of the primary healthcare sector."

Wong and her team have received additional funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to do a similar study in English, French, Chinese and Punjabi. **R**

"We are finding that patients are open to seeing other healthcare providers such as a midwife or nurse practitioner and recognize that some types of primary healthcare do not necessarily need a family physician."

or waiting extended periods of time in a waiting room is unacceptable. Also, participants living in smaller communities found that their geographic location often affected access to necessary health care services."

Continuity and whole-person care emerged as two other important issues. Participants identified building a long-term relationship with the healthcare professional as important as it enables them to share personal health habits that they would

so, participants feel this will help them address the underlying causes of their health problems instead of treating symptoms."

"It's no good seeing somebody different every time—you start all over again, and they change your medication. It is important to have ongoing care," said one participant. "That's why I don't really like to go to walk-in clinics because you get a different doctor all the time," said another participant. "They give you a different treatment – sometimes

ENVIRONMENT

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have proposed to control large industrial sources through a "cap and trade" system. Cap and trade builds on the traditional approach of limiting individual factories' emissions, but then authorizes polluters to achieve their emissions "caps" at lower cost by trading permits among themselves.

The parties differ most dramatically in their willingness to employ taxation. The lightning rod for environmental debate during the campaign clearly is the Liberal Party's proposal for a revenue-neutral carbon tax.

The Liberal plan has two parts. The first, the carbon tax, would start at \$10 per tonne of carbon dioxide produced, increasing to \$40 per tonne over four years. Gasoline would be exempt for all four years on

the grounds that the federal excise tax on gasoline is already equivalent to \$40 per tonne. The logic behind a carbon tax is that if fuels are taxed based on their relative contribution

and to vulnerable business sectors.

Two key strengths of the Liberal proposal are that it would provide incentives for emissions reductions

The parties differ most dramatically in their willingness to employ taxation.

to climate change, consumers and businesses will respond to that price signal by finding ways to conserve energy and shift to cleaner fuels.

The second part of the "Green Shift" is a commitment that a Liberal government would give back as much money through tax deductions as they collect from the new carbon tax, with special attention to low income, rural, and Northern Canadians,

immediately, and that it would apply across virtually the entire economy. In contrast, cap and trade proposals apply only to large industrial sources, which account for just half of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions.

The Conservative Party has been highly critical of the Liberal proposal, emphasizing the costs of the tax to Canadian families and questioning whether the promised tax cuts

will ever materialize. While the Conservatives have yet to release a detailed election platform, their government's Turning the Corner plan proposes to substitute more realistic and balanced targets in place of the unattainable goal of compliance with Canada's targets under the Kyoto Protocol.

The centerpiece of the Turning the Corner plan is a cap and trade program for large industrial sources, though premised on potentially misleading "emissions intensity" targets rather than absolute emissions caps. The plan relies heavily on underground storage of carbon dioxide, a technology as yet unproven on such a large scale.

The New Democratic Party's "Green Agenda" proposes to make "big polluters pay their share." Their proposed cap and trade program would entail both absolute emissions caps

and significantly deeper cuts than the Conservatives' plan. However, the federal NDP, like their provincial counterparts in B.C., have rejected the idea of a carbon tax. The NDP proposals to a large degree substitute public spending, in the form of subsidies for both individuals and business, for carbon taxation. The risk with subsidies, however, is that taxpayers will end up compensating many individuals or firms for actions they would have taken anyway.

The Green Party has offered a climate change plan that is both detailed and ambitious. Like the Liberals, the Greens propose a revenue-neutral carbon tax, but set at \$50 per tonne initially and increasing to \$100 per tonne by 2020. The Green Party's plan also proposes targets for industry under a cap and trade program comparable to those of the NDP. **R**

UBC dig uncovers Roman mystery



Archeologist Roger Wilson pulls out the day amphora from its 1,500 year hiding place.

BY LORRAINE CHAN

UBC archaeologists have dug up a mystery worthy of Indiana Jones, one that includes a tomb, skeletons and burial rites with both Christian and pagan elements.

This summer, Prof. Roger Wilson led excavations at Kaukana, an ancient Roman village located near Punta Secca, a small town in the south-eastern province of Ragusa in Sicily.

Combing through the sand-buried site, the 15-member team made a series of startling

discoveries. Central to the mystery was finding a tomb inside a room in a house dating from the sixth century AD.

Wilson explains that tombs during this period are normally found only in cemeteries outside the built-up area of a town, or around the apse of a church. And since the building was substantial with mortared walls and internal plaster, this would have been likely a tomb for the wealthy.

“It’s extremely unusual to find an elite burial set inside a house in the middle of a settlement,

even as late as the sixth century,” says Wilson, who heads UBC’s Department of Classical, Near Eastern and Religious Studies.

The UBC initiative – in collaboration with Prof. Giovanni Di Stefano of the Superintendency for the Cultural Heritage of Ragusa – is the first major exploration of this historic site since 1972.

Locals first stumbled upon the late Roman village during the 1960s when a bulldozer preparing for new houses uncovered the tops of some 24 ancient buildings. Only a few, among them a church, were explored at the time, by renowned Italian archaeologist Paola Pelagatti.

Wilson directed students from UBC and Sicily in their painstaking work, focusing

on what proved to be an “exceptionally well-preserved” structure on the south side of Kaukana, only yards from the beach. The walls uncovered stand nearly six feet high.

Once the cover was lifted off the tomb, one team member spent 10 days sieving the contents with great care. Two skeletons were found. One was of a woman between the ages of 25 and 30, with teeth in excellent condition and no signs of arthritis.

“She was in pretty good nick, so we know this wasn’t a peasant working in the field,” says Wilson.

The other skeleton was a child of indeterminate sex between

archaeologists was learning that the tomb was opened one further time, an intrusion that disturbed the bones of the child and caused its skull to be placed upside down. Wilson says he wondered whether it was grave robbers in search of expensive jewelry or other loot.

“But the tomb was tidied up again afterwards.”

Around the tomb was plentiful evidence of periodic feasting in honour of the dead. The archaeologists found cooking pots, glass and several large clay containers (amphorae), of which one is virtually intact. These would have been used to carry oil and wine to the site. The team also found the remains of two

“It’s extremely unusual to find an elite burial set inside a house in the middle of a settlement, even as late as the sixth century.”

the ages of five and seven. The position of their bones showed that the woman had been laid to rest first. The tomb was then re-opened to bury the child and the woman’s spinal column was pushed to one side. A hole in the stone slab covering the tomb allowed visitors to pour libations for the dead.

“This shows that the long-established, originally pagan, rite of offering libations to the dead clearly continued into early Byzantine times,” observes Wilson.

Yet, the presence of a Christian cross on a lamp found in the room and on the underside of a grave slab suggests that the deceased were Christian. As well, the skeletons were wrapped in plaster, a practice believed to be Christian for preserving the body for resurrection.

“It is the first plaster burial recorded in Sicily, although the practice is known from Christian communities in North Africa,” says Wilson.

What also intrigued the

hearths where meals had been prepared.

As well, the room was designed with niches along one wall. Wilson says a knife, seafood, and fragments of stemmed goblets and other glass vessels were left on these shelves, “as though placed there after the last party.”

UBC’s snapshot of late Roman and early Byzantine life has stirred considerable interest among the Italian media and historians worldwide. With support for three years of study from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Wilson says the team is eager to further unravel the skeins of history.

When they return to Kaukana next summer, they will attempt to solve the riddles encountered this first year. “Along with questions of when the house was built and whether it was still occupied when the tomb was inserted, we want to find out why the woman and child were buried in the tomb at all.” **R**

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Under the grave slab were the skeletons of a woman and child.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF ROGER WILSON

PHOTO: COURTESY OF ROGER WILSON

UBC earns top sustainability marks in Canada Places third overall in North America

BY BRIAN LIN

UBC has brought home a report card it can be proud of. The Sustainable Endowments Institute recently released its third annual College Sustainability Report Card, giving UBC top marks for its sustainability initiatives.

Based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the Sustainability Endowments Institute is a non-profit organization funded by the Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors. It surveyed 300 universities and colleges in the U.S. and Canada on 43 indicators.

UBC is the only Canadian school – and one of 15 in North America – to earn an A-, the highest grade designated this year, ranking ahead of Columbia, Harvard, University of Washington and Stanford University.

“The Report Card assessed a broad set of indicators, including green building initiatives, recycling programs, administrative leadership and endowment investment policies,” says UBC President Stephen Toope, who earlier this year established the President’s Advisory Council on Sustainability to coordinate and advance the university’s operational and academic efforts. “It is especially gratifying to see efforts in all areas of our community recognized.”

The full report is available at www.greenreportcard.org. Some of UBC’s key achievements highlighted by the Report Card include:

- UBC is a signatory to the Talloires Declaration. It has integrated sustainability into its vision statement and strategic plan and formed a President’s Advisory Council on Sustainability.
- UBC recently finished a capital upgrade campaign that rebuilt or retrofitted nearly 300 buildings on campus to increase energy



PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

The report card highlights programs like the student ambassadors initiative.

- and water efficiency and reduce emissions.
- Initiatives of the UBC Sustainability Office – first of its kind in a Canadian university when it opened in 1998 – reduce carbon emissions by 14,000 tonnes annually.
- UBC has created an advisory committee of faculty, staff, students and alumni on socially responsible

- investing. The committee advises the Board of Governors on issues of transparency, proxy votes, and socially responsible investment practices.
- UBC’s dining services exclusively serves local eggs, poultry and milk.
- In addition to the numerous green building on campus, all new construction is required to achieve LEED

- Gold certification and all new residential constructions follows equivalent residential construction guidelines set forth in UBC’s Residential Environmental Assessment Program.
- Initiatives such as the Student Ambassadors Initiative, Sustainability Pledge Program and Student Environment Centre fully engage students in sustainable living.

Other highlights of UBC’s sustainability efforts include:

- In 1997, UBC became Canada’s first university to adopt a sustainable development policy.
- In 2003, 2005 and 2006, UBC was Canada’s first and only university to receive Green Campus Recognition from the U.S.-based National Wildlife Federation.
- Through programs such as EcoTrek and U-Pass, UBC’s Vancouver campus surpasses Canada’s 2012 Kyoto Protocol targets, having reduced over the past 16 years greenhouse gas emissions by 25 per cent in 2006.
- In 2007, UBC added 21 targets to the initial 68 in the sustainability strategy, representing commitments made by UBC’s Okanagan campus in Kelowna, B.C. The first progress report against the initial strategy was also published (see www.sustain.ubc.ca/pdfs/ar/UBC-Sustainability_Report_2006-2007-final.pdf).
- UBC currently offers more than 300 sustainability-related courses.
- Toope and University of Alberta President Indira Samarasekera were instrumental in committing some of the most influential universities in the world to high sustainability standards at the G8 University Summit in Sapporo last June.
- Also in 2008, Toope initiated the B.C. Climate Action Statement, signed by all B.C. research university presidents, pledging to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

For more on sustainability at UBC, visit: www.sustain.ubc.ca

ELECTION

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aggregate riding-by-riding election data to track the inflow and outflow of voters from each party and from the pool of non-voters. His findings were recently published in the journal Electoral Studies.

Antweiler says previous research shows that Canadian voters tend to exhibit a degree of “tethered partisanship.”

“People’s political choices don’t change much over their lifetime. They would rather abstain than switch support to a less-favoured party. Most voters don’t float and drift; they’re tethered.” To test his theory, Antweiler looked at the 1996, 2001 and 2005 provincial elections in B.C. He found that in 2001, disaffected NDP voters did not massively switch their preferences to other parties, but merely abstained. That year, 124,000 of the people

who voted NDP in 1996 stayed home. However, the NDP regained much of its vote in the following provincial election in 2005. About 208,000 voters who sat out on the previous 2001 election turned up to vote, or voted for the first time. The 2001 non-voters who voted in the 2005 provincial election split their preferences roughly 30 per

elections yielded much more complex findings, says Antweiler. Voter migration patterns varied widely from region to region. In addition, the 2004 merger between the Progressive Conservative Party and the Canadian Alliance Party birthed the Conservative Party of Canada.

This “severed” tether forced

for the Liberal Party, however, was offset by 13 per cent of its 2000 voters staying at home in 2004. In Western Canada, the disruption for the new Conservative Party was even more significant, but it mattered less for seats in the House of Commons. About 13 per cent of Canadian Alliance voters simply abstained, “presumably unhappy or uncertain about the direction of the new merged party,” says Antweiler. More dramatically, the base of the Progressive Conservatives collapsed in Western Canada. Only about 36 per cent of those who voted Progressive Conservative in 2000 cast their ballot for the new Conservative Party in 2004; the rest went elsewhere or abstained. Antweiler says the high volatility of the vote in Quebec means that many federal elections are won and lost in this province. His findings show that in 2006, only about 60 per

cent of Liberal Party voters in 2004 cast their ballot again for the Liberal Party in 2006, while another 23 per cent withdrew their support by not voting.

In comparison, the Conservative Party gained new support by attracting more than 500,000 votes from the pool of 2004 non-voters and new voters in Quebec.

Antweiler cautions that the relatively large simultaneous gains and losses of voters for the Conservative Party in Quebec also signify the party’s lack of consolidation in this province.

“Given the unsettled state of voter preferences in Quebec, it is more likely than not that Quebec will be the key political battleground during the forthcoming federal election.” For more information about voter migration research, visit: <http://strategy.sauder.ubc.ca/antweiler/votermigration/>

Most voters don’t float and drift; they’re tethered.

cent and 70 per cent between the B.C. Liberals and the NDP, respectively. “The results indicate that NDP sympathizers who abstained in 2001 returned to their original preference in 2005.”

Compared to the B.C. provincial scene, the federal

voters to find new homes, notes Antweiler.

In Ontario, most of the Canadian Alliance voters shifted loyalties to the new Conservative Party, but about 30 per cent of the Progressive Conservative voters in 2000 drifted to the Liberal Party in 2004. This gain

New Campus Jewel: UBC Thunderbird Arena

This summer UBC and the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC), in partnership with the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia, announced that UBC Thunderbird Arena is the first indoor competition venue in the host region to complete construction.


Construction on the UBC Thunderbird Arena began in April 2006, and involved refurbishing the Father Bauer Arena, built in 1963, and the construction of two new rinks: a practice rink and a 7,500-seat competition arena.

The new facility is home to the UBC Thunderbirds' varsity



Thunderbird Arena will host UBC's 2008 Annual General Meeting on November 4.


hockey program, student and staff programs, and community programs. The venue will host the men's and women's ice hockey, as well as the men's ice sledge hockey competitions during the 2010 Winter Games.

The arena was designed to be highly accessible for athletes and spectators with a disability, and constructed with attention to sustainability and energy conservation. Built to be equivalent to LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green Building Rating System) silver certification, highlights of the venue's environmentally friendly design include the use of an Eco-Chill system (which recycles waste energy used to maintain the ice to heat the building) and the use of energy-efficient lighting. 



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UBC Climate Action Symposium



Go Beyond is a youth-led program designed to engage students to make carbon smart lifestyles.

PHOTO COURTESY: GO BEYOND

Going Above and Beyond for the Environment

BY BASIL WAUGH

Earlier this year, UBC and four other B.C. universities signed Canada's first Climate Change Statement of Action, committing to a leadership role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

UBC, as part of this commitment, is launching two climate action initiatives this month: the UBC Climate Action Symposium on Oct. 2, a day of

for the Province."

The symposium will update the campus community on UBC's climate action planning and provide opportunities for dialogue around targets and strategies for reducing campus emissions. It will also showcase UBC's leadership in climate change research, climate solutions, policy contributions and campus sustainability.

The symposium will feature

and Thomson Rivers University before it expands to other B.C. institutions in 2009. Funded by the B.C. government and B.C. Hydro, the program will engage students through lectures, workshops, presentations and challenges to take climate action – as individuals, on campus and in their community.

"Students are integral to shaping a sustainable future, and UBC is extremely pleased to support campus leaders through Go Beyond," said Charlene Easton, Director of Sustainability at UBC. "This project will provide students with the knowledge, the resources, and most importantly, the ways to meaningfully engage and take action on the climate agenda."

Students can sign up for the program at www.campusclimatenetwork.org/wiki, which offers students training and tools to reduce their emissions and to encourage their peers and schools to do the same. It also provides a forum to share best climate action practices across institutions. Participants will be emailed regular challenges related to energy and water conservation and food security.

For more information on UBC's integrated climate action plan, visit www.sustain.ubc.ca/climate.html. **R**

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dialogue and learning on UBC research and activities around climate change, and Go Beyond, a youth-led program designed to engage students to make carbon smart lifestyle choices.

"It is important, as institutions of higher learning and research, that we lead by example in addressing the challenges of climate change," says UBC President Stephen Toope, who will kick off the symposium with a keynote on sustainability and leadership. "Our actions will also help Premier Campbell achieve the ambitious targets he has set

a number of leading climate change and sustainability experts at UBC, including: geographer Simon Donner, who is researching how coral reefs can inform climate policy; soil scientist Andrew Black, who researches forest-based carbon sequestering; engineer Naoko Ellis, who is exploring biofuels, and utilities director Dave Woodson, who is exploring how to heat UBC with clean energy.

The second initiative is student engagement program Go Beyond, which is being piloted at UBC, University of Victoria

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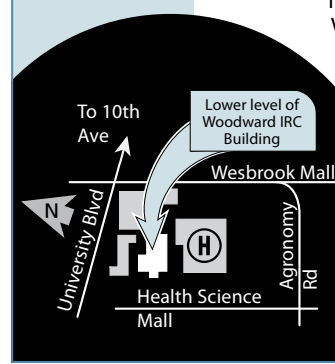
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People dig the way these guys teach Community learns about long lost labour camps



Maury Williams, UBC Okanagan associate professor of history, overlooks an area of Myra Canyon that was devastated by forest fire in 2003.

BY JODY JACOB

Crouched in small, segmented squares of land, lost in a world of dirt and artifacts, history unfolds before their eyes. Slowly, they unearth clues about the lives of the people who stood in that same spot nearly a century ago. For many here, this is their first -- and likely their last -- archaeological dig.

Welcome to the UBC Okanagan field school in the rugged hills overlooking Kelowna, set up by Richard Garvin, associate professor of archaeology, and Maury Williams, associate professor of history. Grab a shovel and pull up a stump. Everyone's invited.

"As UBC professors, we feel it's part of our job to educate

and engage the community and involve our students," says Garvin. "We wanted to see UBC Okanagan actively involved with history and anthropology work in the Okanagan Valley."

That's why Garvin and Williams included university students and community members in their summer school. It's part of a four-year archaeological research project that explores the long-lost camps of the labourers who built the legendary Kettle Valley Railway. The camps were discovered in 2003, after a devastating forest fire burned through the difficult terrain of Myra Canyon, destroying magnificent wooden trestles but also the dense underbrush that had been hiding historically

significant labour camp foundations, trails, bread ovens and more.

Through a partnership with the Kelowna Museums and the Penticton Museum and Archives, Garvin and Williams hosted a series of community digs this summer that brought more than 100 people to their active research site. Participants were given a guided historic tour of Myra Canyon's soaring trestles and a brief archeology orientation before getting the chance to uncover history themselves.

Not only did the digs capture the public's imagination, they also gave the 12 students a chance to act as tour guides and share the knowledge they gained during the dig.

"Students love the hands-on aspect -- the sense of discovery is really something that stays with them for a long time," Williams says.

Students who completed the field school received nine credits -- six in anthropology and three in history. Most of the students are neither history nor anthropology majors.

"It is a very eclectic program," Garvin says. "Students do a little of everything: they use chainsaws, they work on mapping and surveying,

field school. She became involved again this year through her work at the Penticton Museum and Archives, where she helped coordinate the museum's participation in the community dig.

"As a student I got a lot out of the experience," says Black. "I gained a whole new appreciation for history. Working with your professors is a great advantage. The paper I wrote for my final project is being published in The Okanagan Historical Society's annual report."

The camps were discovered in 2003, after a devastating forest fire burned through the difficult terrain of Myra Canyon, destroying magnificent wooden trestles but also the dense underbrush that had been hiding historically significant labour camp foundations.

they have to write papers and communicate orally with the public, they are taught the more refined skills of digging, and they learn conservation of items and cultural resource management, too."

UBC Okanagan alumnus Ashley Black, who graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in international relations in 2008, was one of six students who completed last year's summer

To ensure archeological and historical work will continue in the Okanagan Valley, Williams is donating the proceeds from his new book *Myra's Men* -- which chronicles the development of the Kettle Valley Railway and explores the lives of the people who built it -- to a fund that can be accessed by students, faculty, and the public to help support local archeological or historical research. **R**



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