



For Immediate Release

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## **UBC researcher receives an \$80,000 research award**

### **Dr. John Innes leads a regional research team to find a better way to understand and manage cumulative development impacts on Treaty 8 lands**

Vancouver, British Columbia . . . Principal Investigator Dr. John Innes has received an \$80,000 research award to find a way to more accurately understand the cumulative impacts of industrial development on Treaty 8 First Nations communities. Overall, Innes' research will address two issues: Obtaining a better understanding of the ways in which various treaties are interpreted by the parties, and developing a decision support tool to assess the cumulative impacts of resource development at both the regional and local levels.

From a research perspective, Innes and his research team have dissected the challenge into three manageable parts. The team will first work with First Nations communities to identify major concerns regarding the impacts of industrial development on their communities. The team will then enhance a modeling framework, created in a pilot project, to include various social, cultural, economic and ecological impacts of development on forest dependent communities within British Columbia. Once refined, the model will be applied to communities outside the province to forecast and assess the cumulative impacts associated with industrial development on forested lands.

Dr. Innes' proposal went through an extensive scientific peer-review process. His project received significant support from Government of British Columbia, Government of Alberta, Tembec Inc. and the Little Red River Cree Nation in Alberta.

Dr. Innes will be supported by Drs. John Nelson and Ron Trosper, University of British Columbia, Dr. James Frideres and Dr. Monique Ross, University of Calgary, and Dr. Brenda Parlee, University of Alberta along with eight other research collaborators.

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