



PUBLIC PRESENTATION



Protecting Indigenous Relationships with the Land through IPCAs

Guest Presenter: Jonaki Bhattacharyya, PhD
Dasiqox Nexwagwez'an, Elemental Stewardship Consulting

Presentation Summary:

Working to establish Dasiqox Nexwagwez'an, a Tsilhqot'in IPCA initiative, is a journey full of twists and turns. A new term for very old relationships, Dasiqox Nexwagwez'an has its roots in the waters and lands that are cared for by Xeni Gwet'in and Yunesit'in. Yet the work of establishing an IPCA is a complex and challenging process that plays out amidst the noise and turmoil of contemporary politics and economics. How do we translate Indigenous ways of life and governance – not only in language but in stewardship practices, local economies, jurisdictional relationships – without undermining their fundamental nature? The story of Dasiqox Nexwagwez'an is one of many contemporary tales of Indigenous resurgence through IPCA initiatives, and the hard work happening behind the scenes to realize the workable, desired futures that Indigenous communities choose for themselves.

Jonaki Bhattacharyya is an ethnoecologist who does applied biocultural research, specializing in Indigenous-led stewardship and planning. An independent consultant and researcher, Jonaki works primarily for community-based initiatives, providing technical support and facilitation services to Indigenous nations and their partners. She earned her PhD (University of Waterloo, 2012) by learning from Tsilhqot'in – listening, walking and camping on the land. Jonaki draws on diverse interdisciplinary and cultural experiences in her work, and has provided technical services to support multiple Indigenous communities and First Nations throughout Canada. She is part of the core team working to establish Dasiqox Nexwagwez'an (Tsilhqot'in Protected Area) since 2014, a recipient of the Wilburforce Fellowship in Conservation Science (2015) and serves on the board of West Coast Environmental Law.

All are welcome to participate. There is no cost to attend but pre-registration via the link to the left is required to participate online. The Natural Resources & Environmental Studies Institute at the University of Northern British Columbia, together with its partners, invite those with interest in learning more about this topic to participate in this presentation and discussion in-person or online.

This event is funded by the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP). The FWCP is a partnership between BC Hydro, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, First Nations, Public Stakeholders, and the Province of BC, to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife in watersheds impacted by existing BC Hydro dams.



Guests are invited to a reception with light refreshments and posters featuring FWCP- funded research immediately following the talk

Friday, Feb 13th,
2026

3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

(Rm 8-166)

Please register if
you plan to attend
online:

[https://unbc.zoom.us/
webinar/register/WN_8
Fviu7_dSyGjTQiq5c4h
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