

AINA NEWS

Kluane Lake Research Station: Summer 2024

The Kluane Lake Research Station (KLRS) will shut down operations for the 2024 season at the end of September. The station hosted 1535 overnight users and 130 day use visitors, facilitating over 450 different guests from 46 groups. Users included researchers, students, teachers, government scientists and officials, artists, and community members.

The KLRS staff team consisted of three full-time staff and three part-time staff, five of whom were local Yukoners. Weekly community nights were hosted all summer to bring together researchers and members of the surrounding communities (Fig. 1). Talks presented were by local Indigenous artists, interpreters, scholars, and storytellers. With guidance from Kluane First Nation (KFN) and feedback from Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN), KLRS created a document to help researchers prioritize First Nation consultation and community engagement. A map was also created and shared with local communities to outline the fieldwork areas of all researchers staying at the station. Accommodation for KFN's Uyinji Nātsāt Yu Women's Land and Wellness retreat was also based at the station.



FIG. 1. Aurora hangs over the Kluane Research Station, Kluane Lake, Yukon.

Outreach and education were prioritized in 2024. The station welcomed primary and secondary schools from the Yukon (Destruction Bay, Haines Junction, Whitehorse) and Calgary. Yukon University, CAFN Youth Centre, and BGC Yukon brought youth campers to KLRS. The station manager and visiting researchers led presentations and hands-on activities to teach students about natural sciences. Two artists were hosted at KLRS for the Kluane National Park Artist Residency, in partnership with Parks Canada and the Yukon Arts Centre. Each artist had a two-week residency and held multiple public art workshops at the station.

Groups from thirteen Canadian universities (University of Calgary, Yukon University, Simon Fraser University, University of British Columbia, University of Ottawa, University of Waterloo, Queen's University, York University, Université de Montréal, ÉTS Montréal, McGill University, University of Toronto Mississauga, University of Saskatchewan) and ten international universities (University of Maine, Colby College, Ohio State University, Cardiff University, Exeter University, Uppsala University, Université Grenoble Alps, Bielefeld University, University of Turku, Polytechnic University of Turin) visited KLRS in 2024 for research, field courses, and tours. Partnership with the International Network for Terrestrial Research and Monitoring in the Arctic provided transnational access for two research teams from Finland and the United States/Sweden. Beginning in May and running until September, long-term studies were continued, and new research was conducted. Topics included glacier dynamics, hydro-glaciology, virtual geology, wind erosion, dust emissions, earthquake-induced landslides, boreal forest ecology, subarctic phenology, vegetation mapping, insect herbivory, and community climate priorities.

Canadian Polar Data Workshop V

The Arctic Institute of North America, as part of the Canadian Consortium for Arctic Data Interoperability, led and sponsored the Canadian Polar Data Workshop V (CPDW5), held May 27–31, in Halifax, Canada. The workshop was a hybrid event, welcoming attendees in person and online (Fig. 2).

The workshop included two keynotes: Joshua Stribbell of Pinnguaq Inc., “Strengthening Allyship to Protect Data Sovereignty in Inuit Communities,” and Matt Jones of the National Science Foundation's Arctic Research Centre, “Supporting Arctic Data Access and Interoperability Across Systems.” The workshop also included sessions devoted to knowledge mobilization and decision-making, community-led research and Indigenous data sovereignty, logistical resource and information management, life science data, FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable, reusable) data, vocabularies and semantic interoperability, modelling and remote sensing data, and data frontiers, which included new areas such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, and data storytelling. In association with



FIG. 2. Shannon McAllister and Peter Pulsifer present at the Canadian Polar Data Workshop V.

the conference, a genomics workshop was also held on the first two days: Genomics Workshop: Incorporating Applied Genomics and DNA based Tools into an Ecosystem Level Framework to Manage Arctic Marine Biota.

A forum for supporting and advancing polar data initiatives in Canada, the Canadian Polar Data Workshops, are structured to reach specific outcomes that help develop Canada's national polar data strategies and further national objectives in the areas of data discovery, federated search, data interoperability, knowledge transfer, and Indigenous data sovereignty.

The next Canadian Polar Data Workshop is planned for 2026 with location to be determined. If you are interested in learning more about this workshop or in assisting to organize it, please visit <http://canadianpolardataworkshop.ca> or contact Shannon McAllister at shannon.mcallister@ucalgary.ca.

Arctic Discovery & Access

Embark on an exploration of Canada's Arctic, its history, peoples, cultures, and current scientific research (Fig. 3). Enter ADA: Arctic Information Discovery & Access (<https://ada.ucalgary.ca>), an online educational experience that includes access to scientific research publications; research projects derived from license and permit information; project portals for ArcticNet, the Northern Contaminants Program, and the Kluane Lake Research

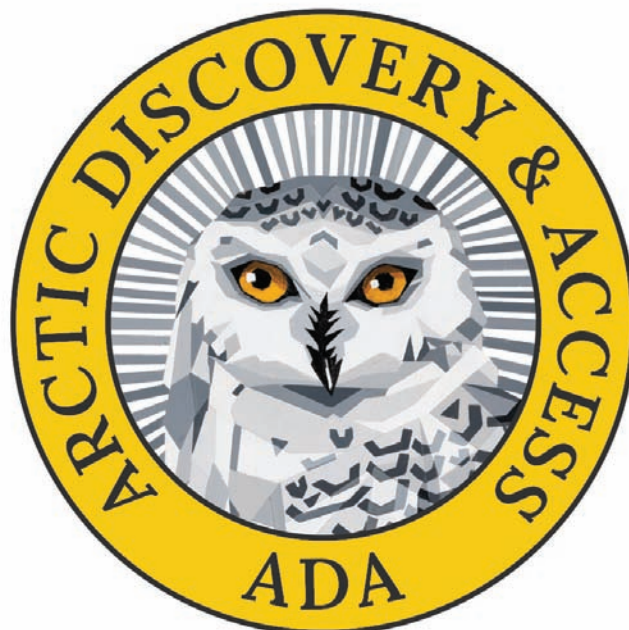


FIG. 3. Arctic Discovery & Access logo designed by Alexandra Tremblay.

Station; data management resources for researchers; K-12 educational resources; virtual exhibits; and the Arctic Institute of North America's online archives and special collections.

ADA expands upon the former ASTIS database, which was already well regarded by Arctic researchers as an online information resource and publications database for the Government of Canada's Northern Contaminants Program and the Beaufort Regional Environmental Assessment, the ArcticNet Network of Centres of Excellence Canada program, and the Canadian International Polar Year program. In addition to professional, peer-reviewed publications and research project information, the database contained valuable grey literature that is difficult to find elsewhere. ADA expands on ASTIS's records to include archival materials, primarily from AINA's library collection. This collection includes rare and unique photographs, art, artefacts, film, and audio materials. ADA is continually expanding and adding new features.

Postdoctoral Researcher Presentation

Arctic Genomics Project researcher, Dr. Shivangi Mishra, has been selected to present her lecture, "Bird migration, range expansion, and zoonotic disease transmission in a rapidly warming High Arctic: Observations from Indigenous perspectives," at the Annual Conference of Raptor Research Foundation 2024 to be held in Charlotte, North Carolina, 21–26 October 2024.