

MSc Opportunity

Quantifying wildlife community dynamics across the Northwest Territories, Canada

Frances Stewart, Wilfrid Laurier University

Brad Woodworth, Government of the Northwest Territories

The WILDlab at Wilfrid Laurier University and Government of Northwest Territories (GNWT) are seeking one fully-funded (\$25,000/year) MSc student to study wildlife community dynamics in the Northwest Territories (starting September 2023, potential field work in summer 2023).

Project activities include:

- Help to implement and analyze data from wildlife surveys using cameras or recordings.
- Work with local partners to co-develop research questions of interest, communicate research results, and establish the potential for long-term biodiversity monitoring.
- MSc goals include: quantifying the spatial distribution of wildlife species of interest, and producing models to predict their distributional shifts with climate change.

The position will be supervised by Dr. Frances Stewart (www.StewartResearch.ca) with support from multi-agency collaborators, including territorial, federal, and NWT Indigenous governments part of the [NWT Biodiversity Monitoring Program](#). The ideal candidate will have a BSc in a relevant discipline (e.g., ecology, forestry, environmental science, biostatistics), remote field experience, and data management skills. Experience with R, GIS, and spatial statistics are assets. The successful applicant will receive support to apply for external scholarships, annual workshops, and conferences.

Diversity and Inclusion: Priority will be given to Indigenous individuals from the Northwest Territories, followed by other northern residents; hybrid learning options may be possible. Laurier looks to support northern and Indigenous students through varied funding, community, and [educational supports](#). To learn more please contact iscwaterloo@wlu.ca. The impact of leaves (e.g. parental leave, illness, etc.) will be carefully considered when reviewing candidates' eligibility and record of research achievement. Candidates are encouraged to explain in their cover letter how career interruptions may have impacted them and whether they identify as a minority, or equity-seeking, group. We encourage applications from members of groups that have been marginalized, including sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, racialization, disability, political belief, religion, marital or family status, and/or age. To learn more about support for equity seeking groups at Laurier please contact equity@wlu.ca.

To apply please send a single PDF document that includes: a cover letter, CV, unofficial transcripts, names and contact information for two references to fstewart@wlu.ca, subject "NWT MSc position", by February 19th, 2023. Interviews will happen shortly thereafter.

