

# **Interdisciplinary Partnerships for Conservation with the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee**

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**28 November 2014 / 12:00 – 1:00 PM**  
Room H-1267 (Hall Building)

This talk examines the trajectory of the Cree Nation toward comprehensive conservation planning for Eeyou Istchee. Eeyou Istchee is an indigenous territory comprising a large part of boreal Quebec together with adjacent waters and islands of James and Hudson Bay that lie within the jurisdiction of Nunavut). For more than a decade, a transdisciplinary program headquartered at McGill University, with researchers from Concordia and several other universities, has been working to advance a network of terrestrial and marine protected areas in Eeyou Istchee. Our work occurs in a complex inter-jurisdictional context involving provincial, federal and territorial governments, and within elaborate institutional parameters that have emerged from a series of aboriginal claims and treaty-related agreements over the past four decades. The opportunities for creative research engagement of this institutional field, as Cree institutional bodies engage the structures and policies of Quebec, Nunavut and Canadian Governments, and transnational initiatives in global conservation and development, will be explored. More particularly, the ways in which a uniquely Cree 'political ontology' shape these engagements will be addressed.

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**Presented by the Department of Geography, Planning, and Environment  
Concordia University**