



INVASIVE SPECIES & CLIMATE CHANGE

2022 NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

JUNE 7 – 8, 2022
FINAL REPORT

Symposium Summary

The Canadian Council on Invasive Species (CCIS) and the Invasive Species Council of BC (ISCBC) hosted the first National Invasive Species and Climate Change (NISCC) symposium from June 7 to 8, 2022. The virtual symposium gathered policymakers, researchers, and practitioners to examine risks magnified by the interaction of climate change and invasive species.

200 participants from across Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom shared their knowledge and discussed strategies to address climate change and invasive species.

By the end of the symposium, attendees determined that the next step was to develop a collaborative multi-sector network, like the Regional Invasive Species and Climate Change (RISCC) Network in the United States.

Together, we can prevent future invasions and learn how to reduce the combined impacts of invasive species and climate change.

Carrie Brown-Lima Director,
New York Invasive Species Research Institute

The success of conservation in Canada relies on the collaborative approach that respects Indigenous rights and responsibilities.

Nathan Cardinal
Senior Advisor of Indigenous Relations,
Nature Conservancy Canada

Symposium Snapshot

199
Attendees

15%



Federal

11%



Provincial/
State

10%



Research/
Academia

8%



Municipal

50%



NGO

>1%



Industry

>1%



Indigenous Gov/
Organization

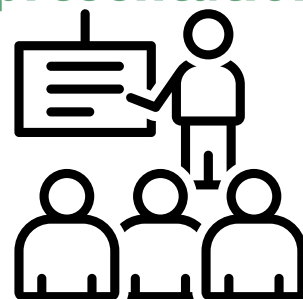
>1%



Other

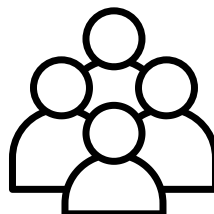


16 presentations



**hearing from
18 speakers**

5,400



24
posts



Day 1 Highlights

Dave Walkem, Councillor with Cooks Ferry Indian Band and CCIS Board Member offered a warm welcome to the symposium with a territorial acknowledgement.

Dr. Laura Meyerson, Professor at the University of Rhode Island, delivered an inspiring opening keynote address on biological invasions and the strategies to manage them.



Carrie Brown-Lima, Director of the NYISRI: *"Climate change creates new risks from invasive species, but it also creates opportunities to work together and share knowledge."*



"Canada is composed of vast, diverse landscapes, all dependent on plants. The urgency of protecting plant health is daunting. However, addressing the risks to plant health is achievable and essential to our collective future."

Dr. Deborah Buszard, Council of Canadian Academies

The links and risks between aquatic invasive species and climate change were described in detail by **Dr. Tom Therriault**, Research Scientist with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

Dr. Christian MacQuarrie, Canadian Forestry Service Research Scientist, described the work his team has done to estimate the cold tolerance in Emerald ash borer, and the implications for its management.

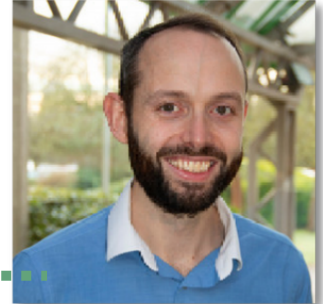


Dr. Jeremy Fyke, Data Products Office Coordinator within Environment and Climate Change Canada, summarized the availability of national climate information and data that can be used for integration into invasive species studies.

Day 2 Highlights

Dr. Ryan Brook, University of Saskatchewan: "One of the big, burning questions that we're just starting to get into now is this notion of feral pigs moving north into the boreal forests."

Jonathan Casey, Climate Change Manager with the Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International, delivered the day two keynote address and discussed international policy for climate change adaptation and invasive species management strategies.



Brendan Quirion, biologist with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, described the reduction of carbon sequestration capacity of forests damaged by insects and disease.



Kasey Stirling, MSc candidate with the University of British Columbia Centre for Indigenous Fisheries, presented her research "Weaving Together Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Western Science".

In the Addressing Climate Change and Invasive Species through Indigenous Leadership session, **Nathan Cardinal**, NCC, advocated for reimagining conservation through a framework of Reconciliation, Prosperity and Wellbeing.

Fuselight Creative's inspiring live graphic recording of the **Carbon Sequestration: Impacts of Invasive Species** session.



Top Invasive Species of concern



over 90%
found the
symposium
valuable

Favorite Topic

Dr. Ryan Brook,
Assistant Professor, USASK,
presentation of feral pigs.



Recommended Next Steps

Information needs

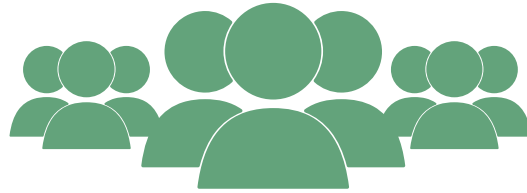
- Sharing research, knowledge, tools, and strategies
- Relationship-building and collaboration
- Translating research into applied action
- Advocacy for ensuring leaders recognize the connection between climate change and invasive species
- Identifying funding opportunities
- Informing policy and decision-making

Priority actions

- Working groups to address key priorities and solutions on specific topics
- An on-line knowledge hub sharing current information
- Workshops (virtual) on specific topics
- A national voice for action

Survey Statistics

CCIS's 2022 survey explored the potential for a Canadian National Invasive Species and Climate Change (NISCC) network. Here are some of the findings.



89 respondents



DEMOGRAPHICS



across 10
provinces & territories

2/3

heavily involved in
invasive
species

heavily involved
in **BOTH**
invasive species
& climate change

16%

top area of focus
**education
& awareness**



Knowledge & Awareness

89%

have **little** information relating
to the intersection of invasive
species and climate change



29%



Unaware

of national networks
addressing **BOTH** invasive
species and climate change

TOP recommendations



Ensure **transboundary
collaboration**

.....

Be inclusive

.....

Develop tools/outreach for a
diverse audience, incl. **youth**

.....

Think carefully about the
network's structure

.....

Advocate for **funding**

Networking

support for **ALL** networking forms



Knowledge Hub

Working Groups

Symposiums

National voice for action

Newsletters

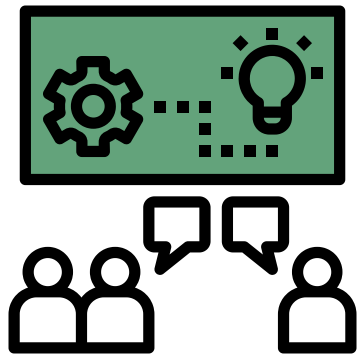
National Invasive Species and Climate Change Network Workshop

The Symposium was followed by a workshop to plan for the establishment of a Canadian knowledge-sharing network.

Ken Donnelly, CCIS Board member began the workshop by welcoming participants and reflecting that after two days of learning from international experts, it was time to roll up our sleeves and focus on action.

After discussion, invited participants agreed that a climate change and invasive species network was needed, and established objectives and next steps.

27 attendees



Network Objectives

A national network linking climate change and invasive species science, research, and knowledge across all government and non-governmental sectors, including First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples.

Provide an information hub on best management practices informed by the latest research on climate change and invasive species.

Determine priorities for research and management.

Include Western science and traditional knowledge.

Next Steps

- Develop clear objectives and focus.
- Collaborate with USA’s RISCCs to build on their experience and success.
- Connect managers and researchers to establish funding priorities.
- Assess needs for resources and commitment.
- Invite the public as participants.
- Consider if there should be one national organization or a series of smaller regional ones.



Lead Agency

Participants asked the **Canadian Council on Invasive Species** to take the lead in establishing the network.

Thanks To Our Many Supporters

