

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

The Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board

And

The University of Northern British Columbia



Part I: Introduction

The Muskwa-Kechika Management Area, *Muskwa-Kechika Management Plan Regulation* and Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board were established in December 1997 pursuant to recommendations from the Fort St. John and Fort Nelson Land and Resource Management Plans and Order-In-Council 1367. The *Muskwa-Kechika Management Area Act* was enacted in 1999. In 2001, the *Act* was amended to include a portion of the Mackenzie Land and Resource Management Plan within the Management Area.

The Advisory Board and the University of Northern British Columbia have had a long-term partnership and working relationship that dates to a Letter of Understanding signed in 1999 between the President of UNBC and the Advisory Board Chair. In 1999, a Contribution Agreement between the Government of British Columbia and UNBC transferred \$900,000.00 to the University, of which \$500,000.00 was used to establish the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area Endowment Fund. In 2007 a further \$100,000.00 was transferred from the Government of British Columbia to the Endowment Fund.

The partnership and working relationship between UNBC and the Advisory Board were founded on a joint vision for the research needs and priorities of the Management Area during the first decade of the new millennium. Appendix 1 provides an historical overview of the accomplishments and research that resulted from the 1999 Letter of Understanding and subsequent Agreements between the Advisory Board and UNBC.

More than twenty years have now passed since the original Letter of Understanding was signed. Significant changes have taken place with the Advisory Board, UNBC and in northern British Columbia more broadly. Pursuant to this Partnership Agreement, the Advisory Board and UNBC will continue our partnership and working relationship pertaining to the Management Area. We will support and implement research that builds on the past and looks to the future in meeting the educational, management, economic and social needs of both the Management Area and northern British Columbia.

Part II: Background

Management Area

Comprising 6.4 million hectares, the Management Area is situated in the heart of northern British Columbia. The Management Area is located within portions of the traditional territories of Treaty 8, Kaska Dena and Tsay Keh Dene First Nations. Notably, Indigenous Communities were not formally engaged or consulted during the development and approval of the LRMPs or the creation of legislation giving effect to the Management Area and Advisory Board. The Management Area is known for its large, intact and globally significant natural ecosystems. The Management Area also has potential for non-renewable resource development, renewable energy development and eco-tourism.

The Management Area includes both Protected Areas (25 percent of the land base) and Resource Management Zones (75 percent of the land base). The Protected Areas will not see any industrial development. The Resource Management Zones allow for timber harvesting, mineral exploration and mining, oil and gas exploration and development and other resource development activities, as long as the Management Area ecosystems and ecosystem goods and

services - including wilderness, wildlife and cultural values - are maintained in perpetuity. As such, the vision for the establishment of the Management Area was founded on setting - at that time - a world-class model for land and resource management.

In areas where industrial activities are allowed, the long-term objective is to return the lands to their natural state as development activities are completed. The long-term maintenance of natural ecosystems and the goods and services they provide in both the Protected Areas and Resource Management Zones is critical to the cultural well-being of Indigenous Communities who consider all or a portion of the Management Area part of their traditional territories.

Compared to lands adjacent to the Management Area in both the Northeast and Omineca Resource Regions, the Management Area continues to be relatively undeveloped by large-scale, contemporary human-caused disturbances. As a result, the Advisory Board and UNBC believe there are significant opportunities to work with Indigenous Communities, local non-Indigenous Communities, industry, academia, and the Government of British Columbia to explore the development of models and pathways to implement a shared decision-making and co-stewardship regime for the Management Area.

Once established, the new co-stewardship regime for the Management Area will address cumulative effects, climate change and the protection of biodiversity - including species at risk. As a result, the model may have applicability in other more developed areas of the Province, strengthening the Government of British Columbia's commitment to land use policy and planning and bringing clarity, certainty, and predictability to the land base by confirming social choices on the land through inclusive Government-to-Government and multi-stakeholder processes.

Advisory Board

The Advisory Board was created pursuant to the *Act* and *Regulation* to advise the Government of British Columbia on natural resource management within the Management Area and to ensure that proposed activities are consistent with the objectives of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Plan. The *Regulation* provides the Premier with the ability to appoint up to 17 members to the Advisory Board. Advisory Board members are individuals noted for their experience and expertise in Indigenous relations, land use planning, governance, renewable and non-renewable resource management and consensus-based decision-making. As of June 1, 2023, the Advisory Board is comprised of 9 members - two of whom are from the Kaska Dena First Nation.

Pursuant to the *Act* and *Regulation*, the mandate and mission of the Advisory Board is to: (a) provide advice to the Government of British Columbia on natural resource management within the Management Area to ensure that activities are consistent with the objectives of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Plan; (b) annually report to the Premier and the public on the status of the Management Area regarding resource management issues; (c) act as a catalyst, convener, facilitator and partner in achieving the vision for the Management Area; and (d) ensure that the dynamic Management Area ecosystems and the goods and services they provide to both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities are maintained in perpetuity.

The Advisory Board's vision for the Management Area is “a globally significant area of wilderness, wildlife and cultures, to be maintained in perpetuity, where world class integrated

resource management and decision-making is practiced ensuring that resource development and other human activities take place in harmony with wilderness quality, wildlife and the dynamic ecosystems on which they depend”.

One of the values of the Advisory Board is its ability to find cross-sectoral solutions to potential resource management issues or concerns. In today's world of social media and alternative news sources, issues often become quickly polarized. Advisory Board members, however, have a fiduciary and strategic responsibility to the Management Area and a 25-year track record of providing positive, consensus-based decisions, recommendations and advice to Government.

UNBC

UNBC is a university both in and for the North and this mission has instilled a strong sense of ownership, purpose, and adventure among students, alumni, faculty, staff and the communities served. The UNBC motto *En Cha Huná* from the Dakelh/Carrier Elders translated as “respecting all forms of life” encapsulates UNBC’s spirit of academic freedom, respect for others, willingness to recognize different perspectives and its intention to foster the rich cultural diversity of northern British Columbia and its people. In particular, UNBC acknowledges a special responsibility to the well-being of the North’s communities and to the sustainability of the environments that support them.

The Prince George campus of UNBC is situated on the unceded territory of the Lheidli T’enneh Nation. UNBC has regional campuses, including in Fort St. John on Treaty 8 Territory, in Terrace on Ts’mSYen Territory of the Kitsumkalum and Kitselas First Nations, in Prince Rupert on Ts’mSYen Territory of the Lax Kw’alaams Band and Metlakatla First Nation and in Quesnel on the territories of the Lhtako Dene Nation, Nazko First Nation, Lhoosk’uz Dené Nation and ?Esdilagh First Nation.

UNBC provides outstanding undergraduate and graduate learning opportunities that explore cultures, health, economies, sciences and the environment. The vision for UNBC is *“to be Canada’s leading destination University, personal in character, that transforms lives and communities in the North and around the world”.*

The UNBC mission is: *“to inspire leaders for tomorrow by influencing the world today”.* In achieving this mission, UNBC aims to provide a safe and challenging learning environment for students to gain leadership skills and stretch their boundaries through academic discussion and debate as well as through opportunities to work on research projects and a wide range of initiatives that improve student life or contribute to a need in the community, the region or far beyond. UNBC delivers the research component of its mission through the following four interdisciplinary strategic research areas: First Nations and Indigenous Peoples, Environment and Natural Resources, Community Development and Northern, Rural, and Environmental Health.

Regarding the Management Area, UNBC established the Ian McTaggart Cowan Muskwa-Kechika Research Professorship in 2000. Ian McTaggart Cowan was one of the foremost wildlife ecologists in British Columbia. He provided a unique perspective on the natural world over almost a century of environmental change. In his honour, the Research Professor emphasizes research on wildlife species and the ecosystems on which they depend. The individual holding

this position conducts research in support of the vision for the Management Area and helps to maintain linkages between the Advisory Board and UNBC. Monies from the Endowment Fund support the Research Professor's work in the Management Area.

Part III: Partnership Agreement Context

Since the signing of our 2019 Partnership Agreement several significant changes have taken place pertaining to the Government of British Columbia, the Advisory Board, UNBC and northern British Columbia. These changes provide the context and foundation for our Partnership Agreement:

1. With the enactment of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* in 2019, the Government of British Columbia committed to building a new vision for land and resource management within the Province by embracing a model of shared decision-making on the land base and the co-management of resources. This commitment was necessary in the advancement of meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, ensuring a sustainable environment and growing the economy. Shared decision-making and the co-management of resources were not, however, a priority when the Management Area and Advisory Board were established in 1997.
2. The first Ian McTaggart Cowan Muskwa-Kechika Research Professor, Dr. Katherine Parker, retired in 2019 after serving in this role for 20 years. Dr. Heather Bryan was hired by UNBC in 2019 as an Assistant Professor and has now taken on the role of the Ian McTaggart Cowan Muskwa-Kechika Research Professor.
3. After almost sixteen years of litigation, in 2021, the location of the western boundary of Treaty 8 was affirmed in law by a Supreme Court of Canada decision to be along the height of land that divides the Pacific watershed from the Arctic watershed. As a result, the Courts have confirmed that all of the Management Area is located within Treaty 8.
4. Indigenous Peoples and their Communities are increasingly asserting their rights and responsibilities as stewards of lands and waters within their territories. In 2021, the Kaska Dena publicly announced their proposal to protect Dene K'éh Kusān, an area greater than 40,000 km² of ancestral lands. If approved by the Government of British Columbia, the Kaska proposed Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area would span a large portion of the Management Area providing additional land protection as well as the creation of new jobs related to conservation and eco-tourism.
5. In 2023 a restructuring of the Provincial Government resulted in the creation of the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship which is now responsible and accountable for the Advisory Board. The Ministry works with other natural resource sector ministries to achieve British Columbia's goals of reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, economic development and environmental sustainability. The Ministry is directly responsible for the effective development of water, land and marine use policy and planning as well as biodiversity and ecosystem health - including species at risk policy and program management. The Ministry is also responsible for developing a new vision for water and resource management with First Nations that will embrace

shared decision-making as part of reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples in the Province.

6. In January 2023, the Government of British Columbia and four Treaty 8 First Nations (Fort Nelson, Sauleau, Halfway River, and Doig River) reached a consensus that sets a framework for collaboration on land and resource planning in northeastern British Columbia within Treaty 8 Territory. The consensus follows a 2021 British Columbia Supreme Court Ruling that the cumulative effects of industrial development authorized by the Province compromised the constitutionally protected Treaty 8 rights of the Blueberry River First Nations. Following the Ruling, the Government of British Columbia and Treaty 8 First Nations worked together to develop a set of initiatives that address: (a) the cumulative effects of industrial development on the rights of Treaty 8 members; (b) land restoration; and (c) predictability of access for industry.
7. In 2023, Phil Zacharatos, the Advisory Board's long-time Executive Director and champion of support for the Management Area, passed away from cancer. In honour of Phil's overwhelming support for the Management Area, UNBC and the Advisory Board established a \$2,500.00 scholarship for students or technicians conducting research related to the Management Area. The scholarship will be awarded annually by the Ian McTaggart Cowan Muskwa-Kechika Research Professor from the Endowment Fund recommended spending amount.

Issues such as indicators of climate change, the implications of cumulative environmental impacts from resource development and the assertion and recognition of Indigenous Peoples' rights in resource management decision-making have become present-day realities for policy-makers, regulatory decision-makers, developers and the public. Domestic growth and global demands for natural resources - oil, gas, minerals and timber - have brought focus to northern British Columbia as a provider of those resources to both North American and offshore markets. In addition, there is significant interest both in and immediately adjacent to the Management Area for renewable forms of energy development such as wind power.

As well, there has been an evolution in thinking regarding land and resource management since the Management Area and Advisory Board were created. An evolution that recognizes the need for the 'stewardship' of Crown land and resources not just the 'management'. An evolution in thinking that ensures issues such as climate change and cumulative effects are addressed as part of building a strong sustainable Provincial economy. It is now also widely recognized that to ensure Government's capacity to manage complex issues such as climate change and cumulative effects evidence-based policy and decision-making are required. And that this requirement can best be met through the inclusion of traditional ecological knowledge from Indigenous Peoples coupled with western science and local non-Indigenous Community knowledge.

Both the Advisory Board and UNBC recognize that environmental, social and local community concerns and issues are important components in maintaining the Advisory Board's vision for the Management Area. Despite fiscal and social constraints associated with recent economic downturns and pressures for economic recovery, conservation efforts have increased both locally and globally. Public awareness of the human footprint on the planet, citizen science and

a general social conscience for environmental sustainability on working landscapes have never been higher or as active.

Balancing the industrial activities of sustainable economic development in and adjacent to the Management Area with the globally significant environmental values of the Management Area creates a unique set of challenges for maintaining the vision and management intent for the Management Area itself. At the same time, the lessons learned in making balanced and informed resource management decisions within the Management Area potentially have broader application for provincial and federal policy and for regulatory decision-makers.

Part IV: Scope of the Agreement

The Advisory Board and UNBC recognize that through a continued collaborative partnership and working relationship we can work together in different areas of research and community service in the best interests of both the Management Area and northern British Columbia. It is important to appropriately apply public policy documents and plans, acknowledging their uncertainties, to the specifics of on-the-ground implementation within the Management Area that has many different and inherent values.

The vision of our collaborative partnership and working relationship for supporting and implementing research that looks to the future in meeting the educational, management, economic and social needs of both the Management Area and northern British Columbia is: *to be regional, provincial and world leaders in developing and implementing targeted and timely research that advances environmental sustainability, options for renewable and non-renewable resource management and cultural resiliency within the Management Area and the region.*

Building on existing, prior Management Area-related research and without giving priority, the Advisory Board and UNBC will focus on but not limit our research efforts to the following areas:

1. support the development of a shared and common Vision for the Management Area that incorporates input from Indigenous Communities, local non-Indigenous Communities, industry, the Advisory Board, academia and the Government of British Columbia
2. support the integration of approved Provincial policies within the Management Area (Wildlife Management Plan) and newer Provincial initiatives such as the Together For Wildlife Strategy
3. promote and support Indigenous Community led Management Area research that combines traditional ecological knowledge with western science and local community knowledge
4. advocate for the meaningful involvement of Indigenous Communities on the Advisory Board whose traditional territories encompass portions of the Management Area - in particular Treaty 8 and Tsay Keh Dene First Nations
5. support the development of a new governance structure for the Management Area that aligns with the Government of British Columbia's commitment to shared decision-making and co-stewardship of resources with Indigenous Communities

Part V: Implementation

A small Working Group of Advisory Board and UNBC representatives, co-chaired by the Advisory Board Vice-Chair and the Ian McTaggart Cowan Muskwa-Kechika Research Professor provide oversight for the implementation of this Agreement. The Working Group will meet semi-annually in the Spring and Fall of the year to:

1. identify research challenges and opportunities as they relate to the vision for the collaborative partnership and working relationship
2. facilitate and communicate opportunities for potential research initiatives aligned with the priorities of the Advisory Board's Strategic Direction and Operational Business Plan
3. develop strategies and plans to secure funding in support of specific, identified research opportunities
4. monitor and review research results to ensure that the educational, management, economic and social research needs of both the MK Management Area and northern British Columbia are met
5. develop strategies and plans for the augmentation of the Muskwa-Kechika Endowment Fund held at UNBC.

Part VI: General Provisions

Nothing in this Agreement affects UNBC, its faculty or students from applying for project funding from other granting bodies or the Advisory Board and UNBC from establishing other agreements or partnerships in the pursuit of their respective mandates.

The Agreement will commence on the date of signing by both parties and have a term of three years. Either party may terminate the Agreement with a minimum of 90 days written notice to the other.


Signed on behalf of the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board



Date: August 4, 2023

Chair, Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board
Stephanie Killam

Signed on behalf of the University of Northern British Columbia



Date: August 8, 2023

Vice President, Research and Innovation
Dr. Kathy Lewis

Appendix 1
University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) and
Muskwa-Kechika (MK) Advisory Board Partnership
Historical Overview
1999 – 2023

1999

- Discussions between BC Land Use Coordination Office – LUCO (Warren Mitchell), MK Program Manager (Ron Rutledge), Ministry of Environment – MOE (Jim Walker), MK Advisory Board (John Cashore, appointed as MK Advisory Board Chair, and Brian Churchill, former MK Coordinator), and UNBC (Dr. Max Blouw, Vice President for Research, and Dr. Robert Pfister, former Director of the Northern Land Use Institute – NLUI).
- Letter of Understanding signed between UNBC and the MK Advisory Board (Feb 10, 1999).
- Contribution Agreement signed, transferring monies from the MK Trust Fund to UNBC (Mar 1999).
 - Contributed \$400,000 to NLUI for community presentations, student projects, a research professorship (MK Research Professor), and long-term involvement in MK Management Area research and wilderness planning.
 - Contributed \$500,000 to the UNBC/NLUI Endowment fund. Letter of Understanding (LOU) requirements included:
 - ◆ Establishment of an MK component in the NLUI Endowment Fund; eligible to be matched by other UNBC partnership donors.
 - ◆ Building of this fund would provide resources and focus long-term involvement in MK related research and scientific wilderness management.
 - ◆ The fund must be built to \$1 million to support a substantive contribution to wilderness research and planning in perpetuity.
 - ◆ UNBC through NLUI to request further endowments from the MK Trust Fund to build capacity.
- NLUI developed a comprehensive computer-based annotated bibliography of reports and printed documents in the MK Management Area (up to 1998); funded by the MK Trust Fund.

2000

- Beginning of the Muskwa-Kechika /UNBC Community Lecture Series. Sixteen different research presentations were delivered by UNBC faculty members or students between January 2000 and March 2005 in the communities of Fort St John and Fort Nelson, with some presentations also given in Mackenzie, Toad River, and Prophet River. Public turnout improved over time with increased advertising and a location change in Fort St John from the North Peace Cultural Centre to Northern Lights College.
- A long-term “Framework for Strategic Research Plan” was developed to advance legislative requirements of the *MK Management Area Act* (Feb 2000). Components included: ecosystem relationships and maintenance, predator-prey relationships, restoration of

ecosystem components, recreation management, and historical and cultural processes. Objectives for the framework were to:

- ❑ Provide direction for the scientific community interested in conducting research in the MK Management Area.
- ❑ Develop the knowledge needed to assist resource managers to maintain wilderness and ecological characteristics of the area.
- ❑ Communicate the knowledge to resource managers, resource user groups, and the public.
- University-based Research in the MK; by Dr. Kathy Parker and Dr. Michael Gillingham (June 2000)
 - ❑ Report that identified strategies and priorities.
- Draft Research Plan underway; completion anticipated (Aug 2000)
- Research survey results sent to the MK Advisory Board (Aug 2000)
- Integrated Research Committee; Dr. Kathy Parker, Dr. Alex Hawley, and Al Sanderson developed strategic priorities for the fall 2000 call for proposals from the MK Advisory Board (Sept 2000)
- Proposal reviews by technical committee; coordinated by NLUI Director, consisting of: UNBC academic faculty, MOE personnel, and resource extraction industry representatives.
- Evaluation form developed to rank objectives, methodology, feasibility, application qualifications, and relevance to the goals and objectives of the MK Trust Fund.
- Establishment of the Ian McTaggart Cowan MK Research Professorship (Sept 2000) Dr. Kathy Parker appointed in this professorship.
 - ❑ Responsible for coordinating the UNBC-MK Community Lecture Series, establishing linkages with MK Program Manager and MK Advisory Board Coordinator, and meeting with BC Ministry personnel to initiate research projects in the MK Management Area.
- Competitive grant opportunities for graduate students working in the MK Management Area; students submitted applications to a biannual call for proposals; research monies were sponsored by the MK Trust Fund.

2001

- Projects undertaken from 1999 to 2001 were listed in a table by Dr. Kathy Parker (Feb 2001).
- Ross Peck, appointed as MK Advisory Board Chair, June 2001.

2002-2006

- Interim Letter of Understanding (LOU) was extended in 2004 and 2006.
- Partnership recommendations were prepared by Dr. Kathy Parker, MK Research Professor, and Ross Peck, MK Advisory Board Chair (Mar 31, 2006):
 - ❑ That an action plan is developed re: promotional, educational and research activities to coincide with the recently completed MK Advisory Board Strategic and Business Plans.
 - ❑ That a joint vision statement be approved that compliments research and extension goals in the Knowledge and Understanding Program Area.

- That the MK Advisory Board) contribute to an overarching MK Management Area framework, and ii) identify key areas for research investments.
- That meetings be held with UNBC Vice President of Research, Development Officer and MK Research Professor, the MK Advisory Board Chair and a representative of BC Integrated Land Management Bureau – ILMB to develop strategies to secure funds enabling continued faculty and grad contributions to the MK Management Area.
- That the Knowledge and Understanding Committee develop review and evaluation procedures.
- That mechanisms be established to profile the purpose, scope and outcomes of MK research.
- That research findings be disseminated to local communities, decision makers, and professional societies and institutions.
- The collaborative Geographic Valuation Project between UNBC (Dr. Alex Hawley, student Nancy Elliott) and Halfway River First Nations was completed in 2006.

2007

- \$100,000 MK Funds was transferred to the NLUI/UNBC Endowment (Mar 2007). The Northern Land Use Institute was later disbanded at UNBC; comparable research interests are now associated with the Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Institute (NRESi). The MK monies are known as the UNBC Muskwa-Kechika Endowment.
- UNBC Besa-Prophet Ecosystem multi-year project was completed (Dr. Kathy Parker and students Dave Gustine, Brian Milakovic, Andrew Walker; work by Jeremy Ayotte on mineral licks in Northern Rockies Park finished in 2005).
- Tom Briggs, appointed as MK Advisory Board Chair, May 1, 2007.

2008

- Revised 4-year Memorandum of Understanding between UNBC and MK Advisory Board, operating under the following vision statement:
 - *“The MK Advisory Board and UNBC seek to establish and maintain a valued and complementary role in the MK Management Area for enabling targeted and timely research to advance the understanding of ecosystem function and renewable/non-renewable resource management within the MK Management Area.”*
- BC Premier's Award for government (ILMB) – MK Advisory Board - UNBC Partnership.

2012-2015

- Stephanie Killam, appointed MK Advisory Board Chair, March 2012.
- Three-year Collaborative Partnership Agreement between UNBC and MK Advisory Board signed on May 22, 2012, operating under the following vision statement:
 - *“to be regional, provincial and world leaders in developing and implementing targeted and timely research that advances environmental sustainability, options for renewable and non-renewable resource management, and cultural resiliency within the MK Management Area and the region.”*

- Establishment of a Working Group of UNBC (Drs. Kathy Parker, Mike Gillingham, Pam Wright) and MK Advisory Board (Stephanie Killam, David Luff, Juergen Puetter) representatives, June 2012.
- Support from UNBC's VP Research (Dr. Gail Fondahl) to allow one-time spending from the MK Endowment that would permit it to drop to \$800,000. The original intent for the MK Endowment was to avoid spending until it reached \$1M, but this was delayed because of weak financial markets. Spending from any UNBC endowment is on investment returns, but not capital. The current capital adjusted for inflation in the MK Endowment is \$800,000. For all UNBC endowments, the current allowed spending rate is 3.5% of the market value of the endowment based on a 3-year rolling average.
- First use of UNBC's MK Endowment Funds began in September 2013, with the hiring of a Research Associate (Nobi Suzuki) to develop visualization tools that assess possible conflict between conservation of wildlife habitats and natural resource development in the MK Management Area; and in 2014 to support graduate research (by Lindi Anderson) on mapping wilderness values.

2015-2019

- Revised four-year Collaborative Partnership Agreement between UNBC and the MK Advisory Board signed on May 28, 2015.
- Partnership exchange among the same members of the UNBC-MK Working Group.
- UNBC's MK Endowment continued to support Research Associate Nobi Suzuki and graduate student Lindi Anderson. It also supported new graduate student Odinn Steinsson working to understand wilderness perceptions of visitors to the MK Management Area and Rachelle Linde, who examined the role of awareness and engagement in safeguarding the MK Management Area.

2019-2023

- Revised four-year Collaborative Partnership Agreement between UNBC and MK Advisory Board signed May 21, 2019
- Retirement of M-K Professor Dr. Kathy Parker and hiring of new M-K Professor Dr. Heather Bryan in 2019
- Annual meetings between the Advisory Board Working Group (Stephanie Killam, David Luff, Juergen Puetter, and Wayne Sawchuck) and Heather Bryan
- Annual presentations by Dr. Bryan at the yearly Advisory Board meeting
- UNBC's MK Endowment has a market value of >\$1.2 million and generates approximately \$40,000/year based on a spending policy rate of 3.5% .
- Funds from the Endowment have supported initial visits by Dr. Bryan to the M-KMA, research expenses related to the effects of prescribed burns on Stone's sheep, technician support, lab equipment and supplies for wildlife health research in the M-KMA, cameras and technical support for a collaborative project with the Halfway River First Nation, and equipment and stipend for Josh Green, a graduate student undertaking an eDNA monitoring program in collaboration with Chu Cho Environmental and the Tsay Keh Dene Nation.

Substantial additional funds have been leveraged for these projects through a variety of other funding sources.