

Jason W. Johnston – Masters Showcase Abstract

"My research will focus on improving consultation processes between Jasper National Park and its Indigenous partners, in developing interpretative programming, signage, and policy focused on Indigenous cultures and histories in the area of the park. Lack of consultation creates negative stereotypes about Indigenous peoples and histories, while taking control away from Indigenous peoples to direct their own cultural representation. Traditional Indigenous knowledge of the wildlife and ecosystems in and around Jasper has been developed over millennia, as many Indigenous groups have lived, hunted, foraged, and managed these areas since time immemorial. This traditional ecological knowledge is invaluable in managing and maintaining the health of the park's natural resources. I will be conducting interviews with members of the Jasper Aboriginal Forum and Jasper National Park staff and management. These interviews will allow me to determine where the shortfalls lie and what the negative implications of this lack of consultation are, based on opinions from Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. This will allow me to hopefully create a co-management plan to address these issues in a practical and respectful way. The culmination of my project will see me develop a plan, with members of the Aboriginal Forum and Jasper staff, to increase the level of consultation and incorporation of Indigenous culture into park programming. "