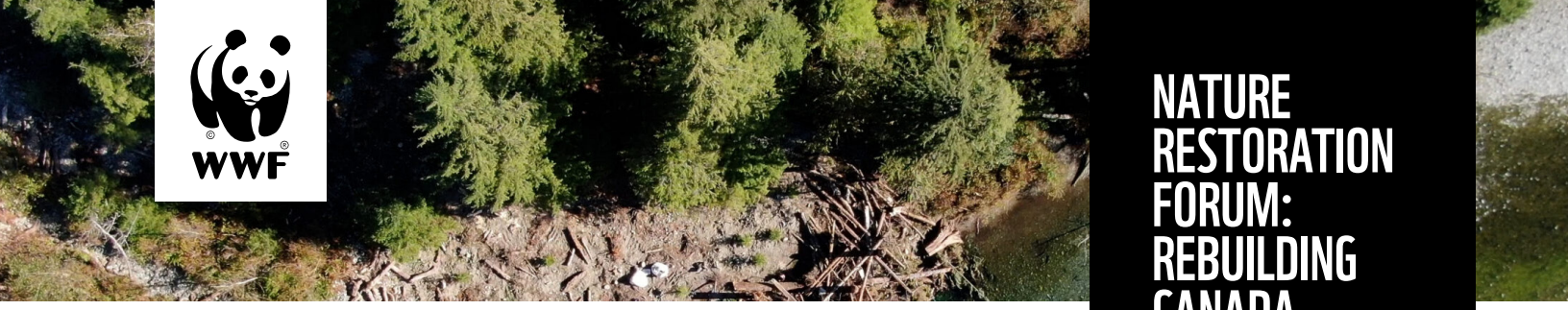


NATURE RESTORATION FORUM: REBUILDING CANADA

OCT. 29-30, 2025
MARRIOTT HOTEL, OTTAWA

SPEAKERS

REFLECTIONS ON RESTORATION

RICK BAILEY

Councilor, Katzie First Nation

I am a hunter and a fisherman. I started fishing for food with my grandfather in a canoe at age six. At 16, I became a commercial fisherman fishing the Fraser River and the coastal waters of B.C. I was gillnetting salmon from the mid-70s into the 90s. I have participated in several commercial fisheries as a deckhand or crewman on different vessels. I have seen and participated in different fishing techniques firsthand, from gillnet salmon to seine salmon, troll salmon, longline halibut, herring gillnet and seine groundfish trawl. I recently gave up my commercial fishing license. Today, I mainly hunt in the traditional territory of Katzie First Nation for food, deer, elk, ducks and geese. I am married, have three children and six grandchildren.

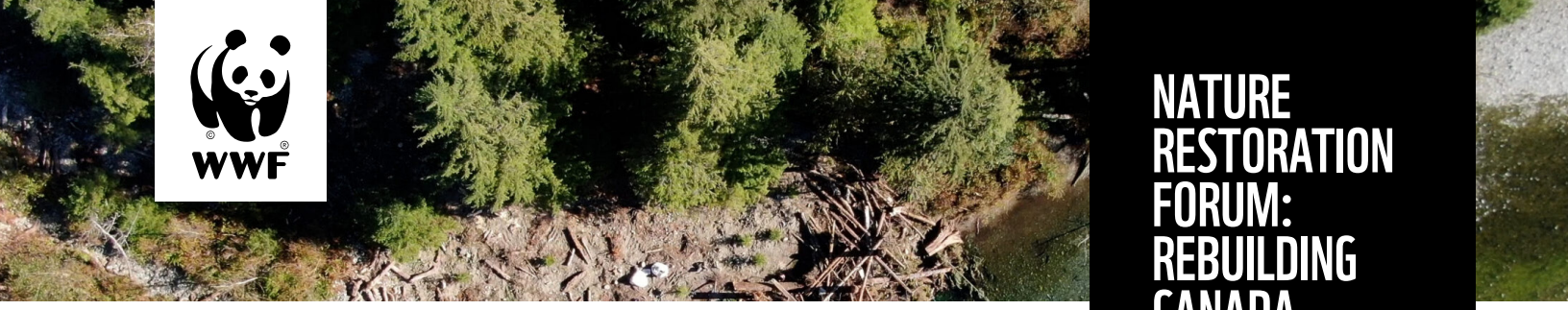
FEDERAL LEADERSHIP IN NATURE RESTORATION

CHRISTIAN MALOUIN

Domestic Biodiversity and Stewardship, Canadian Wildlife Service – Environment and Climate Change Canada

Christian Malouin brings over 20 years of experience in Canada's federal public service, specializing in biodiversity conservation. He currently manages key domestic biodiversity and stewardship initiatives at Environment and Climate Change Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service. His portfolio includes implementing the Pan-Canadian Approach's Priority Species initiative, overseeing the Habitat Stewardship Program, advancing habitat restoration under NRCan's 2 Billion Trees Program and supporting Canada's Bonn Challenge commitment.

Previously, Christian held leadership and advisory roles in other science-based departments, including Associate Director of the Ottawa Research and Development Centre at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Science Advisor with Natural Resources Canada's Canadian Forest Service. He holds a Master's degree in Environmental Sciences (M. Env.) from Université de Sherbrooke and a B. Sc. in Environmental Sciences from the University of Ottawa.



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SPEAKERS

APPROACHES TO OBSERVING AND UNDERSTANDING THE BENEFITS OF RESTORATION

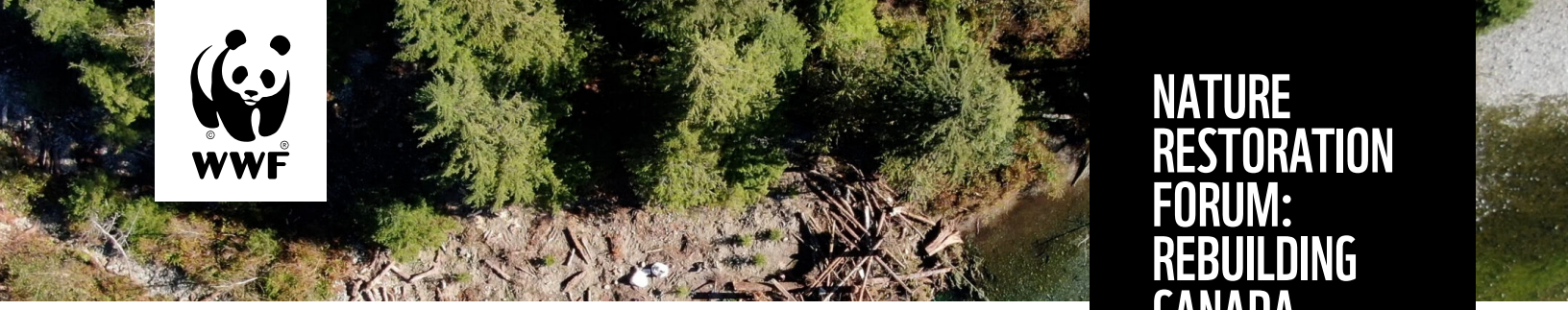
ADAM SUBJECT

Lands Manager, Sioux Valley Dakota Nation

ASHLEE PREVOST

Habitat Restoration Department Head, Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance

Ashlee Prevost is the Head of the Habitat and Restoration Department at the Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance (LFFA), a First Nations-led organization in B.C. dedicated to advancing the collective fisheries interests of Lower Fraser First Nations, supporting collaborative stewardship and restoring salmon and their habitats throughout the Lower Fraser watershed. Ashlee holds a Master of Science degree from Concordia University in Montréal, where her research on Atlantic salmon reproductive success and habitat preference sparked her passion for habitat restoration and applied fisheries science. Since joining the LFFA in 2019 in the Resource Management Department, she has led projects focused on eulachon assessments, coho salmon escapement and Lower Fraser white sturgeon management. In her current role, Ashlee helps bridge community priorities with restoration efforts, providing technical guidance and coordination to support First Nations-led projects that enhance the health and resilience of aquatic ecosystems across the Lower Fraser.



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SPEAKERS

APPROACHES TO OBSERVING AND UNDERSTANDING THE BENEFITS OF RESTORATION

KRISTINA BOERDER

Lead Scientist, Dalhousie University and Community Eelgrass Restoration Initiative

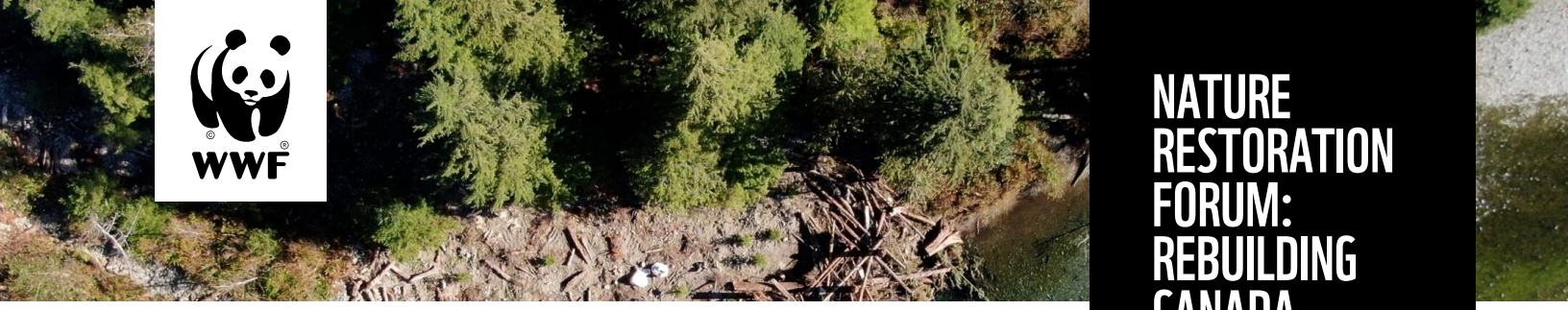
Dr. Kristina Boerder, originally from Germany, is a Senior Research Scientist at Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada, working in the Future of Marine Ecosystems lab with Dr. Derek Tittensor on marine conservation, fisheries and the impacts of climate change on marine biodiversity and ecosystems. She holds a PhD in marine conservation and is currently spearheading the new Community Eelgrass Restoration Initiative (CERI), working to restore eelgrass meadows across Nova Scotia and assess their role for biodiversity and blue carbon storage. When she is not sticking her head into eelgrass meadows, she likes to sail, talk about science and knit outfits for her cat.

MIKE WONG

IUCN WCPA member; former Executive Director at Parks Canada(retired), Birds Canada Board member; CPAWS Board member

Mike Wong has over 30 years of experience with the federal public service of Canada as a scientist and senior executive at Environment Canada and Parks Canada. As the Executive Director for Ecological Integrity at Parks Canada, he directed the development and implementation of natural resource conservation programs for Canada's national parks, marine conservation areas and other protected areas, including UNESCO World Heritage Sites. As the Regional Chair for North America for the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (2012-2023), he provided leadership in the 2014 World Parks Congress and co-chaired the IUCN Task Force for #NatureforAll.

He is a recipient of the 125th Anniversary Confederation of Canada Medal as well as the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal honouring Canadians who have made significant contributions to their community or to the country.



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APPROACHES TO OBSERVING AND UNDERSTANDING THE BENEFITS OF RESTORATION

VAL DEZIEL

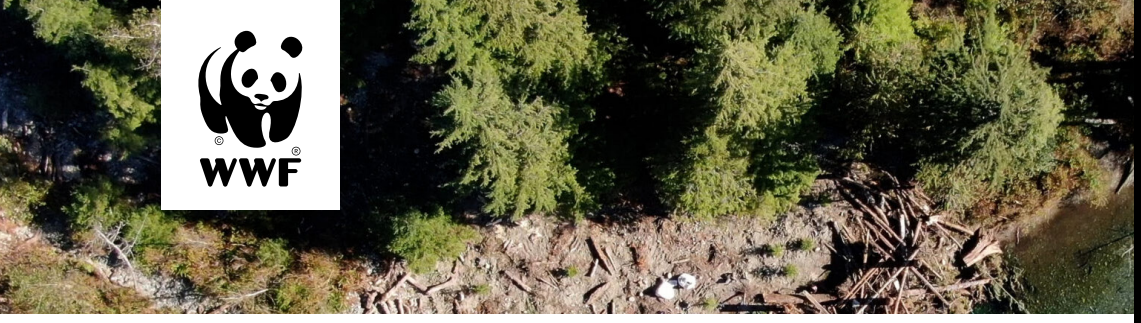
Director of Restoration Program, Forests Canada

Val Deziel leads Forests Canada's restoration programs, focusing on restoring degraded habitat and supporting species recovery. She brings expertise from over a decade at The Nature Conservancy of Canada, where she managed forest and tallgrass prairie restoration in Ontario's Rice Lake Plains. Val began her career in 2008 as a tree planter with the Ganaraska Conservation Authority after earning her B. Sc. in Restoration Ecology from Trent University. She is committed to building partnerships, engaging communities, and applying ecological science to large-scale recovery efforts.

JAMES CASEY (MODERATOR)

Senior Specialist, Restoration and Regeneration, WWF-Canada

Born in the Skeena Watershed in coastal B.C., James supports WWF-Canada's Restoration and Regeneration team by providing strategic guidance on the delivery of both large-scale restoration projects and the management of the Nature and Climate Grant Program for WWF-Canada. In addition to an academic background in international environmental agreements, James draws on more than 20 years of experience working across coastal and riverine ecosystems to inform WWF-Canada's current efforts to restore habitats and ecosystem across the country.



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SPEAKERS

INTRODUCTION TO THE SER COMMUNITY

LINE ROCHEFORT

Chair, Society for Ecological Restoration Chapter Relationship Committee (CRC)

Line Rochefort is a professor at Université Laval and she serves as the director of the Peatland Ecology Research Group (PERG), or Groupe de recherche en écologie des tourbières (GRET) in French. She is also the founder and co-chair of the Eastern Canada chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER-EC). She is a lead author of the Global Peatlands Assessment (UNEP 2022) and represents North America on the board of the International Mire Conservation Group (IMCG). Since 2019, she has served as the National Correspondent for Canada to the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) of the Ramsar Convention. In 2023, she further assumed the role of regional and technical expert for North America on the Management Working Group of the STRP's Standing Committee.

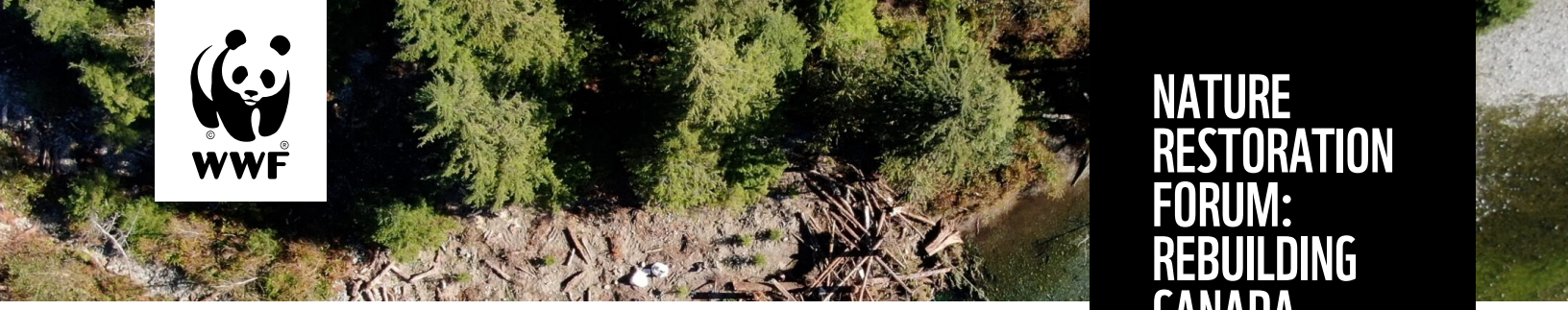
Her research centers on bryophyte ecology in disturbed northern ecosystems, with a significant portion of her career dedicated to studying the biology of Sphagnum mosses. This expertise has positioned her as a leading figure in peatland ecological restoration in Canada and a global pioneer in the field.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

CATHERINE PAQUETTE

Specialist, Restoration and Regeneration, WWF-Canada

Since 2014, Catherine Paquette has been involved in WWF-Canada's freshwater projects, such as the Watershed Reports, while raising the profile of community-based water monitoring in Canada through capacity building, co-authoring reports and participating in working groups and consultations. Currently, her work is focused on supporting restoration projects in a variety of ecosystems throughout southern Ontario and Québec and implementing the findings of the Priority Threat Management analysis for the Lake Simcoe-Rideau ecoregion. She holds a Master's degree in Physical Geography from the University of Ottawa.



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SPEAKERS

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

KATE LANDRY

Senior Manager, Community Action, WWF-Canada

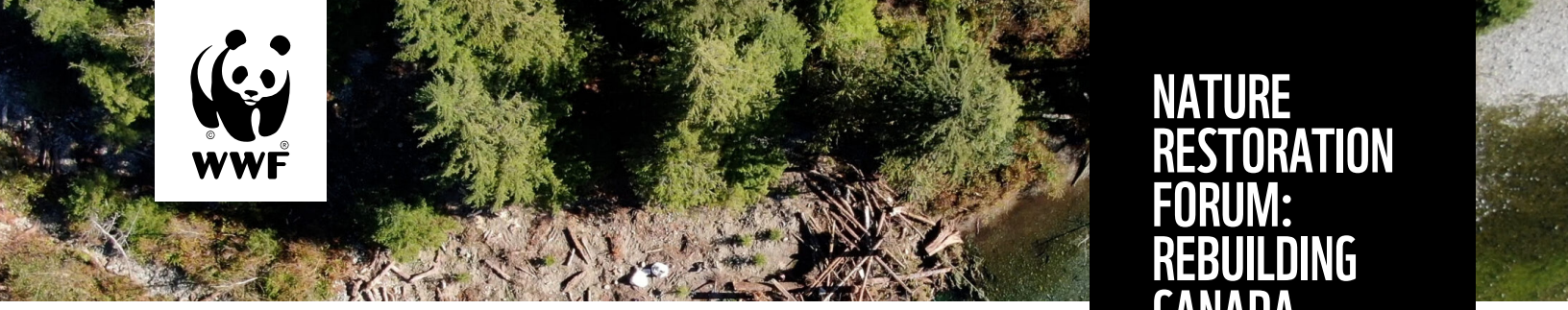
Kate Landry leads WWF-Canada's national bilingual community action programs to help reverse wildlife loss, increase biodiversity and restore habitats across Canada. She develops strategy and oversees the implementation of projects to mobilize individuals, communities, schools, campuses and governments to take measurable conservation action. Prior to joining WWF-Canada, Kate worked internationally in conflict- and disaster-prone areas, primarily focusing on engaging communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change and build their resilience to disasters.

PAOLA SÁNCHEZ

Manager, Mission Restoration, WWF-Canada

Paola Sánchez leads WWF-Canada's Mission Restoration program, an effort that brings together lands and rights-holders across Canada to track, monitor, and accelerate restoration of lands, freshwater and coastal zones in line with national and international biodiversity targets. With nearly nine years of experience advancing conservation and restoration initiatives, she brings together people from diverse backgrounds to understand how conservation can become an integral part of our shared actions for nature and climate, ensuring that Canada's collective story of restoration is recognized and strengthened through collaboration.

Paola's experience spans international restoration projects in the Amazon and Neotropical high-mountain biomes, where she has witnessed the power of cooperation to heal both ecosystems and relationships. She holds a Master's in Environment, Culture and Society from the University of Edinburgh and an undergraduate degree in Government and International Relations, grounding her work in both global understanding and local action.



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CONCURRENT SESSIONS

RYAN GODFREY

Senior Specialist, Community Action, WWF-Canada

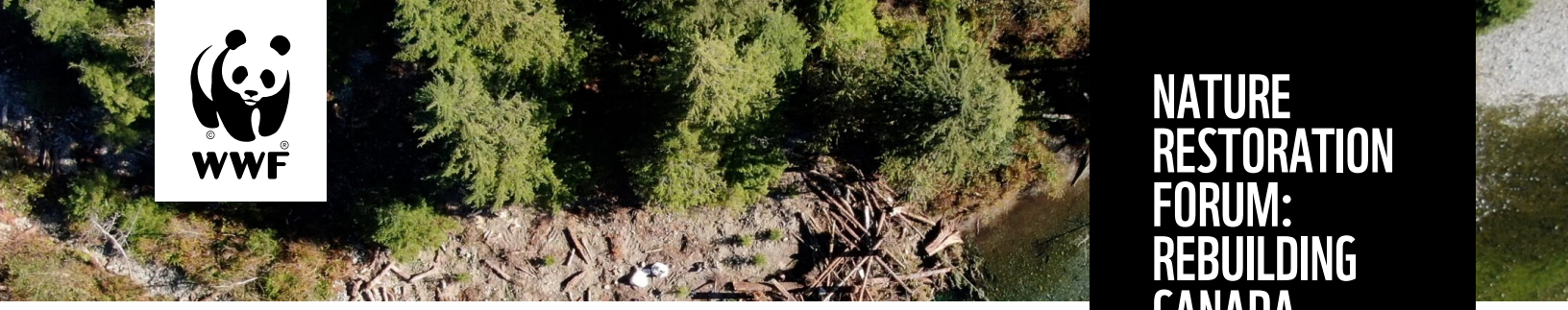
Ryan is a Senior Specialist on the Community Action team within the Restoration and Regeneration practice at WWF-Canada, and he supports projects across the organization as their resident botanist. Ryan brings his knowledge and experience from academia, environmental consulting, gardening for wildlife, and as a certified seed collector to his work on community engagement and urban ecological restoration. He also develops educational resources, gives talks and holds workshops for gardeners of all levels. His work aims to strengthen the reciprocal connections between humans, plants and wildlife.

RESTORATION PROGRAMS SUPPORTED BY WWF-CANADA

JESSICA HUTCHINSON

Executive Director, Redd Fish Restoration Society

Jessica Hutchinson is a restoration and fisheries expert with over 20 years of experience restoring ecosystems on Canada's west coast. Her work focuses on Pacific salmon recovery, riparian restoration, and forest ecology. With a Master's degree in restoration ecology, she has an advanced understanding of how habitat enhancement supports ecological resilience. Jessica leads Chinook Freshwater Risk Assessments, supports Marine Risk Assessments for Vancouver Island's west coast, and co-chairs the Clayoquot Salmon Round Table. Partnering with Nuučaanuł Nations, she develops watershed restoration plans to improve salmon habitat and ecosystem health. As Executive Director of Redd Fish Restoration Society — one of British Columbia's leading voices for ecological restoration — she champions collaborative, community-driven conservation. Redd Fish's work spans the restoration of kelp forests to freshwater river restoration and landslide stabilization. Across all these efforts, Jessica is known for integrating traditional knowledge with science to promote innovative, holistic restoration and ensure the long-term sustainability of wild Pacific salmon.



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RESTORATION PROGRAMS SUPPORTED BY WWF-CANADA

ALLYSON HEUSTIS

Executive Director, Nashwaak Watershed Association Inc.

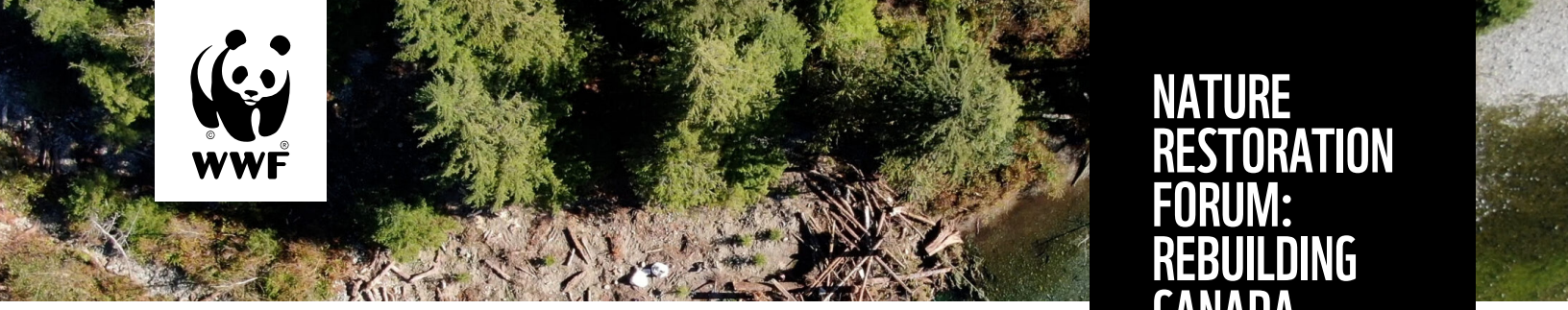
Allyson Heustis is the Executive Director for the Nashwaak Watershed Association Inc. She completed her undergraduate degree in Biology from St. Francis Xavier University, and a Master's of Science from the University of New Brunswick Fredericton where she studied an invasive insect species in Nova Scotia. Growing up in rural New Brunswick, she acquired a passion for outdoor activities and enjoys being active in the community. Allyson enjoys spending free time playing piano, painting, teaching her dog Bonnie new tricks, and adventuring with her family.

ANGELA KANE

CEO, Secwepemcúl'ecw Restoration and Stewardship Society

Angela Kane serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the Secwepemcúl'ecw Restoration and Stewardship Society (SRSS), an organization committed to the restoration of wildfire impacted forests within the unceded traditional Secwépemc territory. With over 35 years of expertise in the financial and business sectors, Angela brings a wealth of knowledge and a diverse skill set to her leadership role.

For the past three decades, Angela has worked closely with numerous B.C. First Nation communities, fostering economic development initiatives and establishing corporate structures to support their growth and sustainability. Her dedication to collaboration and community empowerment has been a cornerstone of her career. Angela's leadership and commitment to restoration, stewardship, and community development continue to make a lasting impact.



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SPEAKERS

LEVERAGING FUNDING FOR RESTORATION

JILL WEAVER

Director of Partnerships, ALUS

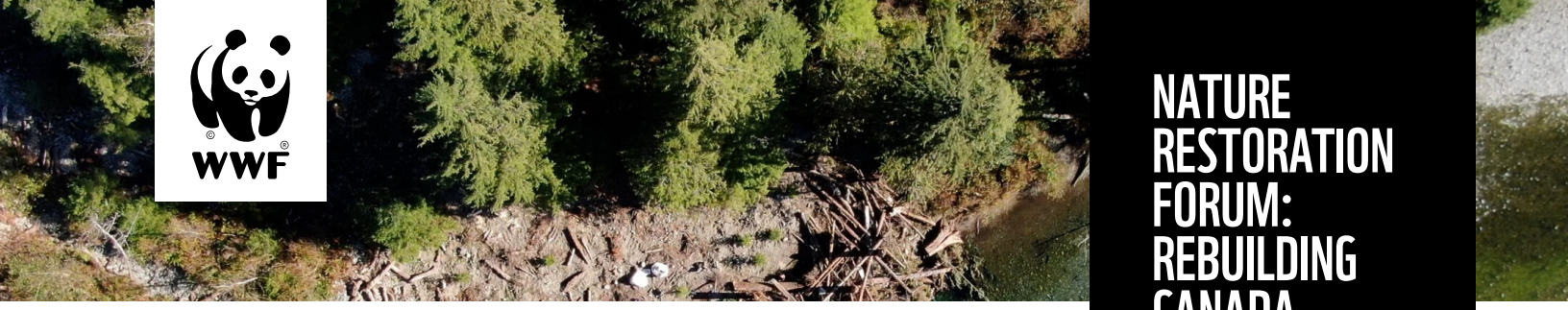
Jill Weaver is Director of Partnerships at ALUS, where she leads corporate engagement to support farmer-led, community-driven stewardship. Since joining ALUS in 2020, she has cultivated national relationships with corporate funders, government and community partners. Her background includes non-profit leadership at the Centre for Family Business and founding Stock Exchange Bone Broth, a values-driven food enterprise sourcing from regenerative farms. Jill brings a collaborative, practical approach to building partnerships that connect corporate priorities with rural communities to keep nature on the land.

JIM SHINKEWSKI

Director of Grants and Community Programs, Pacific Salmon Foundation

Jim's current role as Director of Grants and Community Programs, oversees all elements of Pacific Salmon Foundation's grantmaking programs, including the flagship Community Salmon Program, Stewardship Bursary, Partnered Initiatives and other strategic functions within the Foundation. His department works closely with Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Salmonid Enhancement Program and the network of over 30,000 salmon stewards throughout B.C. and the Yukon.

Jim worked previously at two of B.C.'s most prominent public aquariums in scientific, education, and management roles. He also currently serves as president of the provincial Salmon Enhancement and Habitat Advisory Board.



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SPEAKERS

LEVERAGING FUNDING FOR RESTORATION

KATHRIN MAJIC (Moderator)

Senior Vice-President, Development, WWF-Canada

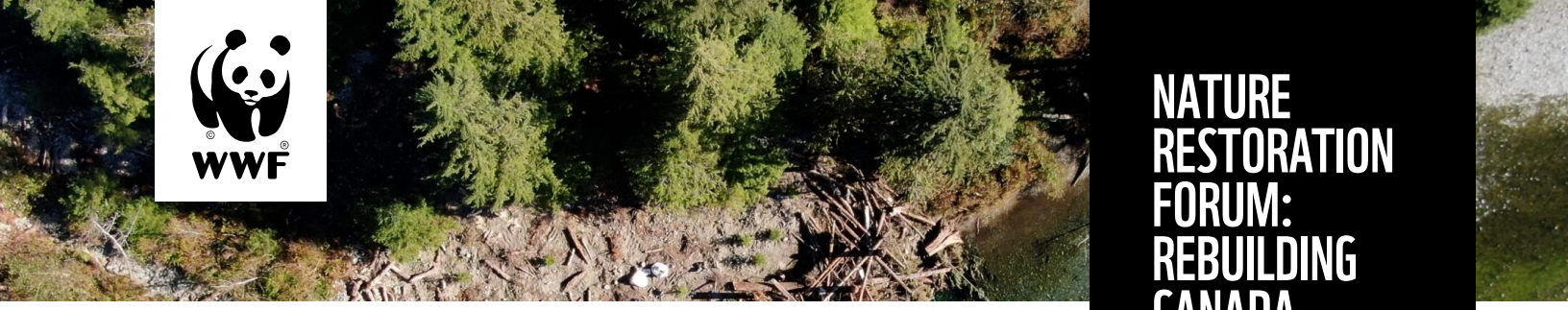
As the Senior Vice-President of Development at WWF-Canada, Kathrin oversees the management of major gifts fundraising and strategy, building on the organization's long tradition of working with individuals, foundations, businesses and governments to achieve return on investment for funders through positive conservation outcomes. Her experience includes working at the Canadian Olympic Committee and the David Suzuki Foundation, building and managing partnerships with funders and partners from local to global levels to achieve impact. She has an undergraduate degree in international relations and a certificate in environmental management.

MARK CULLEN

Chair of Trees for Life and Director of the Barrett Family Foundation

Mark Cullen is the Director of the Barrett Family Foundation and the Volunteer Chair of Trees For Life, a charity dedicated to maximizing the Canadian urban tree canopy. He is a best-selling author and one of Canada's most prolific garden writers, with 23 books including two biographies under his belt.

In 2016, he was awarded the Order of Canada for his contributions to promoting and developing horticulture education in Canada and for his ability to explain how Canadians can protect the environment.



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SPEAKERS

WORKSHOP: CO-DESIGNING A NATIONAL RESTORATION NETWORK

Elizabeth Hendriks

Elizabeth Hendriks is the Vice-President of Restoration and Regeneration at WWF-Canada, where she leads initiatives focused on the restoration of ecosystems and the regeneration of natural habitats. With over 15 years of experience in conservation and environmental management, Elizabeth has been instrumental in shaping policies that promote freshwater sustainability and biodiversity. Her undergraduate degree in International Development from Dalhousie University and Master's degree in Environment and Resource Studies from the University of Waterloo, coupled with her passion for nature, drives her commitment to protecting and restoring Canada's rich ecosystems.

Under her leadership, WWF-Canada has launched several successful programs aimed at engaging communities and stakeholders in conservation efforts, ensuring a collaborative approach to environmental stewardship coupled with innovative technologies. An example is the first national assessment of health and threats to Canada's freshwater and the protection of ten of Canada's longest wild rivers in the Navigable Waters Act.

BARB SWEAZEY

Barb Sweazey is a Certified Professional Facilitator (CPF) with the International Association of Facilitators (IAF). She has more than 25 years of consulting experience in organizational effectiveness, sustainability and natural resource management. A former Partner at Stratos Inc., she is recognized as a creative and energetic leader who helps organizations strengthen culture, collaboration and performance.

Barb brings extensive expertise in designing and facilitating workshops, strategic planning processes and multi-interest dialogues — often in complex contexts where perspectives differ or conflict. She is especially skilled at creating inclusive processes that enable groups to clarify priorities, solve problems and make decisions that lead to sustainable results.

She holds an undergraduate degree in Environmental and Resource Studies from the University of Waterloo with a minor in Peace and Conflict Studies.