



**Post-doctoral opportunity - available immediately**  
**Understanding emerging health threats to northern ungulates**

We are looking for a motivated and hard-working individual to help predict and prepare for emerging threats to northern ungulate health. This position is based at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Calgary (UCVM) and is funded by the Infectious Diseases and Climate Change fund (Public Health Agency of Canada). The successful applicant will work within a dynamic, transdisciplinary team, as this project is a collaboration between Dr. Susan Kutz's research group (UCVM) and the Animal Health and Protection Branch of the Department of Environment, Government of Yukon.

Free-ranging ungulate health is increasingly vulnerable to the direct and indirect harms of environmental change. Among the species expected to be impacted are caribou, moose, elk, mule deer, thinhorn sheep, muskox, and wood bison, all critical to northern ecosystems and important in their own right. In the Yukon, these ungulates are also a key source of food for Indigenous Peoples. The changing climate in the North is resulting in alterations to landscapes and wildlife habitat, species interactions, and human activity on the land. Climate-related stressors and cumulative effects have immunological impacts, altering individual animals' susceptibility to other (including infectious) conditions. The aims of this project are to 1) describe and summarize current infectious disease threats to Yukon's wild ungulates using previously collected pathogen surveillance data, incorporating an understanding of current species population trends and concurrent threats; 2) using modelling approaches, describe top emerging disease risks to free-ranging ungulates in the Yukon under climate-driven scenarios; 3) work with partners and rights-holders to inform adaptive wildlife health management for ungulates in the Yukon, providing recommendations on current and future surveillance plans, risk mitigation approaches, and preparedness strategies.

We are seeking a culturally competent disease ecologist with excellent quantitative skills and a solid grasp of both applied wildlife management and determinants of wildlife health to analyze climate-driven health threats, including, but not limited to, infectious disease. Specifically, the successful candidate will analyze historical serological pathogen data from multiple free-ranging wildlife species to identify trends, while exploring possible climate drivers of those trends and population level effects. The candidate will also develop a prioritized list of health risks expected to expand under climate change and create a framework for recommended surveillance and strategic monitoring of these vulnerable key species. This work will involve communicating with rights-holders and local governments to support new opportunities for data collection and interpretation, while incorporating local knowledge and expertise. Outcomes will inform integrated risk mitigation and preparedness strategies.

Main project activities will take place in various Yukon communities. Given that the successful candidate will work closely with Kutz Research Group, the Yukon's Chief Veterinary Officer and Program Veterinarian (Animal Health and Protection Branch), and Indigenous partners, interpersonal skills and experience working with Indigenous communities are highly desirable. **Salary:** \$65,000 per year with benefits. **Project end date:** March 31, 2028. **Application Deadline: Applications will be reviewed beginning on May 5, 2026** with the intent of filling the position as soon as possible. If you are interested, email a one-page letter of introduction describing your research interests, experience, and motivation for applying to this position, as well as a current CV, a copy of transcripts, and names of three references to: **Dr. Kristenn Magnusson** at **Kristenn.magnusson@yukon.ca**.