



The Arctic Institute of North America presents the
2015–2016

Arctic Speaker Series

Can we avoid the trap without being cursed? Resource development in Canada's North

Who: Chris Southcott | **Date:** Wednesday, April 20, 2016 | **Time:** 4:00 – 5:00 pm | **Location:** University of Calgary; Engineering A 101

Resource exploitation remains the primary source of potential economic and social sustainability of northern communities. Yet while Arctic resources have the potential to produce great wealth in the future, past experience has showed that most of these communities have benefited little from extractive industries. Arctic communities have experienced enormous social and economic challenges over the past century linked to impacts of past resource exploitation. There is some indication that the worst aspects of resource dependence can be countered through the introduction of new policies and models of development that increase local control and ensure a higher share of resource rents are passed on to communities. While this means that possibilities exist to escape the staples trap, the presence of increased revenues in the region brings up the potential dangers of the resource curse. This presentation will examine recent data from the Resources and Sustainable Development in the Arctic (ReSDA) project, and other sources, to examine the likelihood of Canada's North being able to escape the staples trap only to be negatively impacted by the resource curse.



Biography: Chris Southcott is a professor at Lakehead University and the Principal Investigator for the SSHRC MCRI-sponsored research network Resources and Sustainable Development in the Arctic (ReSDA). Its mandate is to develop ways to ensure that a larger share of resource development benefits stay in the region for the people of North with fewer costs to communities. Raised in Northern Canada he has been involved in community-based research in the Circumpolar North for over 28 years. During these years he has published over 100 scientific reports, books, book chapters, and articles dealing with social and economic change in Northern Canada and the rest of the

circumpolar world. Over the past 10 years he has led several major Canadian and international research initiatives dealing with social and economic development in northern regions and has played a leading role in research development for the University of the Arctic.

This event is **free and open to the public**

There will be a reception in the AINA offices (ES-1040) immediately following the presentation

For the full speaker series schedule, please visit the website.

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