



The Arctic Institute of North America presents the 2020 – 2021

Arctic Speaker Series

Plastic pollution in the Arctic, tracking, monitoring and assessing plastic pollution at the pan-Arctic level

Speaker:

Jennifer
Provencher

Date:

Thursday,
November 19, 2020

Time:

12:00 – 1:00 pm
Mountain Time

Location:

[Live Stream on YouTube](#)



Iqaluit Beach Cleanup

Plastic pollution has become ubiquitous in the environment, even in the Arctic. Plastic pollution in the Arctic can range in size from microplastics that are ingested by zooplankton, to large megaplastics such as abandoned, lost and discarded fishing gear weighing tons per net. In response to this emerging environmental issue the current Icelandic chairmanship of the Arctic Council has listed Litter and Microplastics as a priority theme for the working groups to address. In support of these efforts, Canada has been leading and contributing to litter and microplastic projects in three of the Arctic Council working groups; the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP)

working group, the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) working group, and the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) working group. Projects span from literature and policy reviews to assess the current state of knowledge to regional action plans to reduce litter and microplastics in the environment, from technical guidance documents to the development of multi compartment monitoring plans. This presentation will review how these different initiatives are working together to contribute to Canadian and international efforts on plastic pollution, and how these efforts will result in a greater understanding of litter and microplastics in the future.

Biography: Dr. Jennifer Provencher is a Research Scientist in the Ecotoxicology and Wildlife Health Division of the Science and Technology Branch of Environment and Climate Change Canada. Her work focuses on issues affecting the conservation of wildlife species with partners and has primarily focused on Arctic ecosystems. She has worked in northern Canada since 2007 when she became involved in Arctic research during the last International Polar Year. Her work currently focuses on projects with partners that aim to increase our understanding of how diseases and contaminants can affect wildlife with a focus on migratory birds.

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

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