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# New documentary web-series to profile scientists working the Canadian Arctic

In the dawn of industrial development in the North, now is a crucial moment to be doing research in the Canadian Arctic. *Profiles from the Arctic*, a documentary web-series by Katriina O’Kane exploring research in the Canadian Arctic, will be released March 31st at [www.arcticprofiles.ca](http://www.arcticprofiles.ca).

The series will feature 40 prominent scientists, students, and staff who work around the Polar Continental Shelf Program, an important research facility and logistics’ center in the Canadian high Arctic. They will discuss their research, their field stories, and value of conducting research in this challenging environment. Through a series of 25 profiles released regularly, the audience can engage with audio clips, short videos, and photographs that capture the work done around the facility.

A key message of the series is the urgent need for more research in the Canadian Arctic. There remains large knowledge gaps in understanding how landscapes and animals in the Arctic will respond to incoming industrial development. “There’s something inherently frightening about making decisions that have consequences that we don’t understand. That’s irresponsible,” explains seabird biologist Mark Maftai, a scientist profiled in the web-documentary.

The scientists are working to fill those gaps, studying subjects like contaminants, bacteria, permafrost, glaciers, sharks, lakes, a meteor impact, narwhals, and more. Their field work exposes them to encounters with polar bears and wolves, and offers them a chance to visit some of the most spectacular landscapes in Canada. This documentary web-series is a rare chance to get an intimate view of what scientists do, and the challenges they face.

*Profiles from the Arctic* is produced and directed Katriina O’Kane, and supported by the Canadian Polar Commission. Katriina is a young independent documentary maker, who became passionate about research and the Arctic after being involved in it herself during her studies at Queen’s University. The Canadian Polar Commission is Canada’s polar knowledge hub, tasked with monitoring, promoting, and disseminating knowledge about the polar regions.

RELATED LINKS: [www.arcticprofiles.ca](http://www.arcticprofiles.ca) [www.katriinaokane.com](http://www.katriinaokane.com) <http://www.polarcom.gc.ca> <http://pcsp.nrcan.gc.ca/>

**CONTACT:**

Katriina O’Kane [katriinaokane@me.com](mailto:katriinaokane@me.com) (514) 261 - 2557

**About Katriina O’Kane**

Katriina is a young independent documentary maker. While studying Environmental Science and Geography at Queen’s University, she became involved in research in the Arctic and sub-Arctic. Following graduation, she turned to documentary making to bring attention to the importance of doing research, particularly in the North. *Profiles from the Arctic* is her first major work.  
[www.katriinaokane.com](http://www.katriinaokane.com)

**About the Canadian Polar Commission**

Established in 1991, the Commission is is tasked with: monitoring polar knowledge in Canada and around the world; working with Canadian and international institutions to determine scientific and other priorities; encouraging support for Canadian polar research; communicating research information to Canadians; and fostering international co-operation in the advancement of polar knowledge.  
<http://www.polarcom.gc.ca>

**About the Polar Continental Shelf Program**

Established in 1958, the Polar Continental Shelf Program (PCSP) assists scientists from around the world to better understand the Canadian arctic. Managed and co-directed by Natural Resources Canada, the PCSP provides Canadian and international scientists and research teams with cost- effective logistics, consulting, and support servies.  
<http://pcsp.nrcan.gc.ca/>

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