



Dr. Greg Poelzer is a Professor in the School of Environment and Sustainability (SENS) at the University of Saskatchewan. Greg teaches ENV5 840: Renewable Energy and Energy Transitions. He is the Co-Lead of the Fulbright Arctic Initiative III program. Greg is the Co-Director of the Community Appropriate Sustainable Energy Security (CASES) Project, which spans 17 Indigenous and Northern communities across Canada, Alaska, Norway, and Sweden. Greg also leads the Renewable Energy in Remote and Indigenous Communities Flagship Initiative at the University of Saskatchewan and leads the UArctic Thematic Network on Renewable Energy. For over twenty-five years, he has engaged in research focused on comparative politics and policy as it relates to Indigenous-relations; energy and resource development; capacity-building in the North. Outside of his academic position, Greg serves as a negotiator and advisor for SaskPower on an agreement with a First Nation in Northern Saskatchewan.



Dr. Andrea Kraj is an Assistant Professor in the School of Environment and Sustainability at the University of Saskatchewan and a practicing professional engineer. She is leading the development of the curriculum in the specialty stream of Energy Security under the Master of Sustainability program and teaches ENV5 841 Renewable Energy Systems, ENV5 843 Energy Project Finance, and ENV5 844 Community Energy Planning. She completed her Ph.D. (2015), M.Sc. (2007) and B.Sc. (2003) in Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering with Aerospace Specialization and is a pioneering leader in developing sophisticated computer modeling and simulation of advanced energy systems, supporting the design, operation, and optimization of multi-renewable energy systems with storage for micro-grid networks. Andrea strives to empower communities through electrification and autonomy from fossil fuel dependence for Northern, rural, First Nation, and tropical island nations.



Gary Merasty is Senior Advisor, Indigenous and External Relations in the School of Environment and Sustainability (SENS). He is a member of the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation within Treaty 6 territory. Gary leads the delivery of two courses in the program: ENV5 886.2 Building Understanding in the Age of Reconciliation and ENV5 834 The Art and Practice of Negotiations. Gary has extensive national and international experience in negotiations for Indigenous peoples and organizations and for industry in Canada, Australia, and elsewhere. He is the Chief Development Officer and Executive Vice President at The North West Company and is the former president and CEO of the Des Nedhe Development Group. Gary is a former MP for

the federal riding of Desnethe Missinippi Churchill River and, previously, was the Grand Chief of Prince Albert Grand Council. In the energy sector, Gary has co-chaired the modernization of the National Energy Board Act and he served as Vice President: Social Responsibility, Communications & Government Relations at Cameco. In 2007, he was recognized as one of the top 100 USask Alumni of Influence. He holds an M.Ed. from the University of Saskatchewan.



Dr. Oscar Zapata (Joining SENS May 2021) holds the Centennial Chair in Community Energy Development at the Assistant Professor level in the School of Environment and Sustainability (SENS) at the University of Saskatchewan. Oscar teaches courses in the Economics of Community Energy Development (ENVS 842: Community Economic Analysis and Renewable Energy) and in Economic Valuation of Environmental Sustainability. His work focuses on understanding the broad socio-economic impacts of energy development and the value proposition for rural and remote communities, where the energy component becomes a pivotal element to promoting social change and improving living conditions. Oscar employs quantitative methodologies including statistical analysis, econometrics, economic modelling and experimental design. He has vast experience working with indigenous communities in the Amazon and the Andes of South America, and more recently with First Nations communities in Canada. Oscar holds a PhD and master's degree in Economics (University of Calgary) and a master's degree in Sustainable International Development (Brandeis University).



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