

Memory, placelessness and the Geoweb. Exploring the role of locational social-networking in reimagining community.

(Presented at Digital Humanities Conference, Canberra March 2012)

Corbett, Evans and Romano



Southern Cross
University





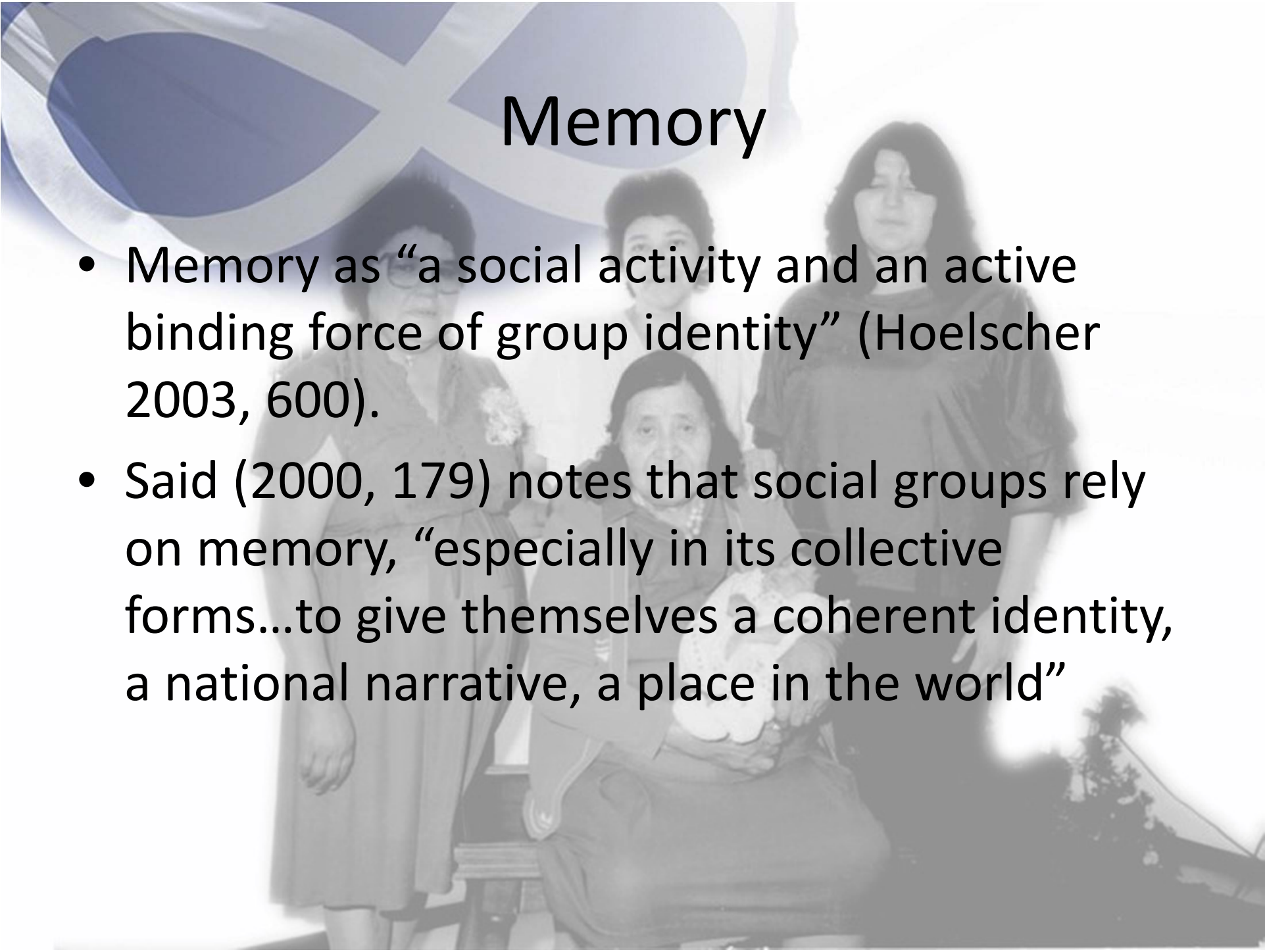


Outline

1. Memory
2. Place and placelessness
3. Geographic Information Technologies
4. The Métis in British Columbia
5. The Métis Historical Document Database
6. Discussion

Memory

- “Memory represents the past and the present as connected to each other, and consistent with each other.” (Fentress and Wickham 1992, 24).
- Our experience of the present and imagination for the future is directly influenced by our recollections of the past...



Memory

- Memory as “a social activity and an active binding force of group identity” (Hoelscher 2003, 600).
- Said (2000, 179) notes that social groups rely on memory, “especially in its collective forms...to give themselves a coherent identity, a national narrative, a place in the world”

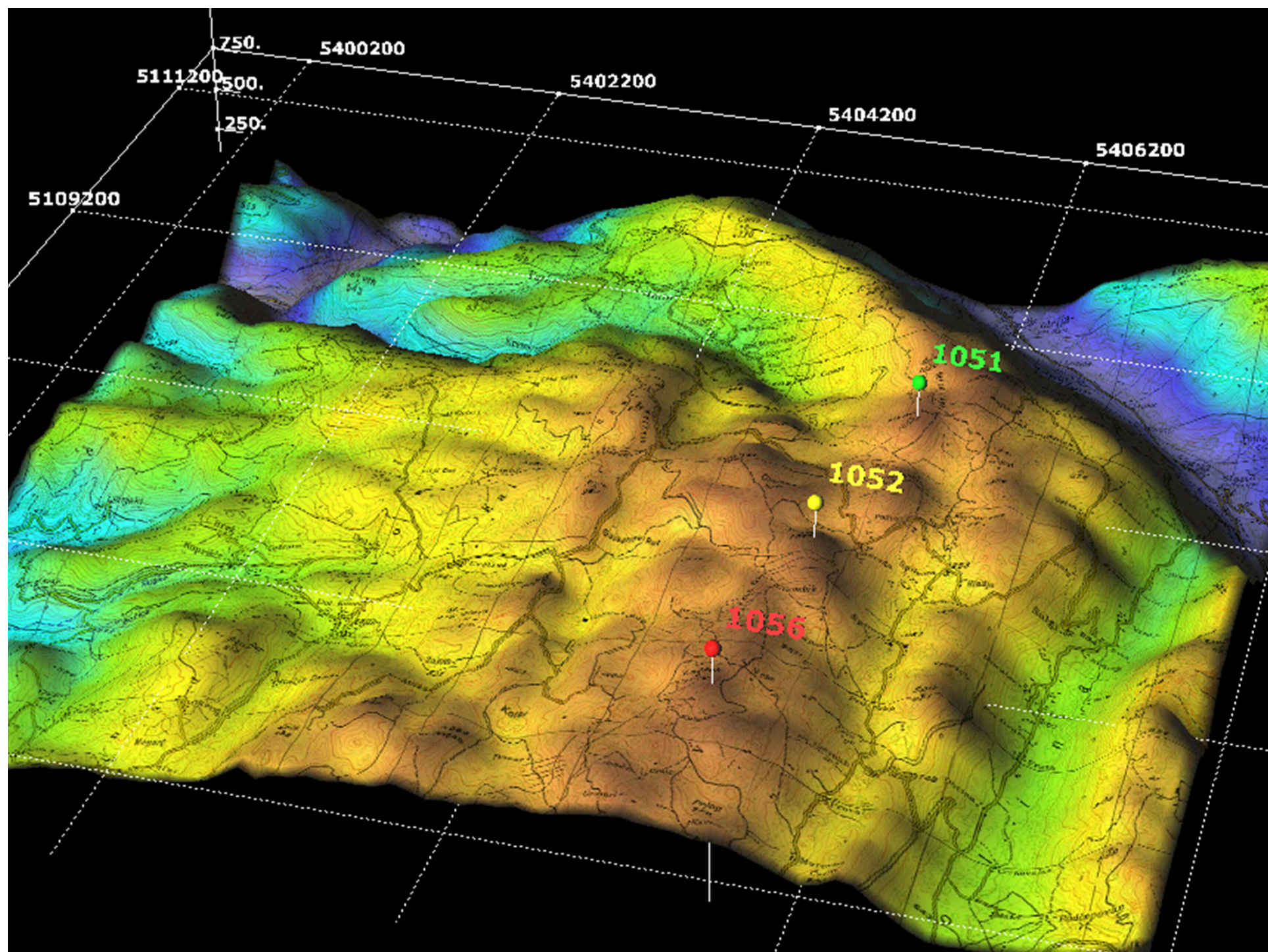
Place and placelessness

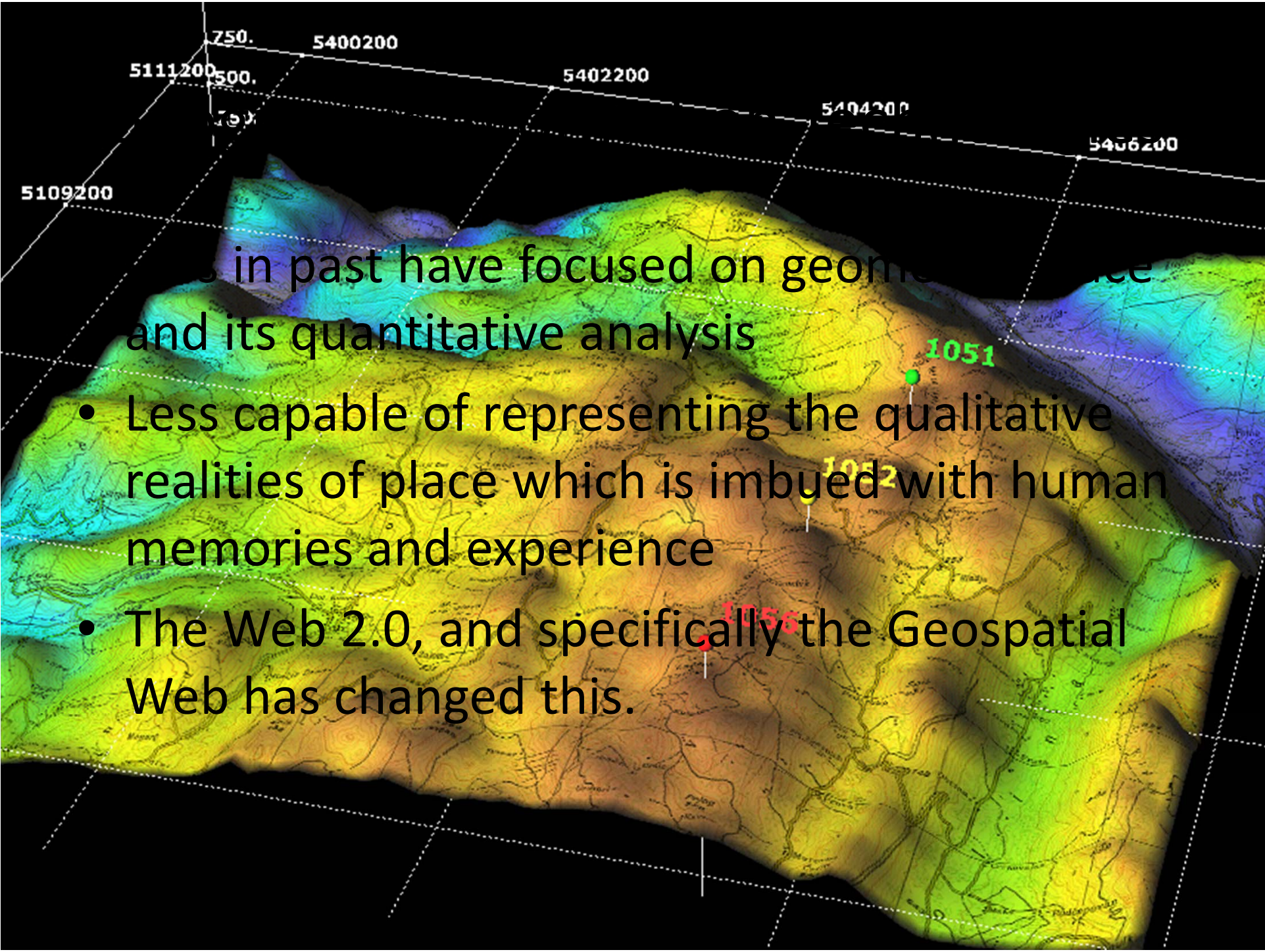
- Said argues that memory is increasingly called on to reestablish identity, culture, and language, and, in post-colonial contexts, to re-appropriate historically contested places.
- Especially in the case of displacement and diaspora



Fig. 66. Métis camp and hunters. ROM946.15.70; CRIV-69.

COURTESY ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM,





Maps in past have focused on geometric space and its quantitative analysis

- Less capable of representing the qualitative realities of place which is imbued with human memories and experience
- The Web 2.0, and specifically the Geospatial Web has changed this.

The Geoweb



Crowdsourcing





History Métis in BC

Animated map by: Stephen Foster





Encampment Foot of the Rocky Mountains

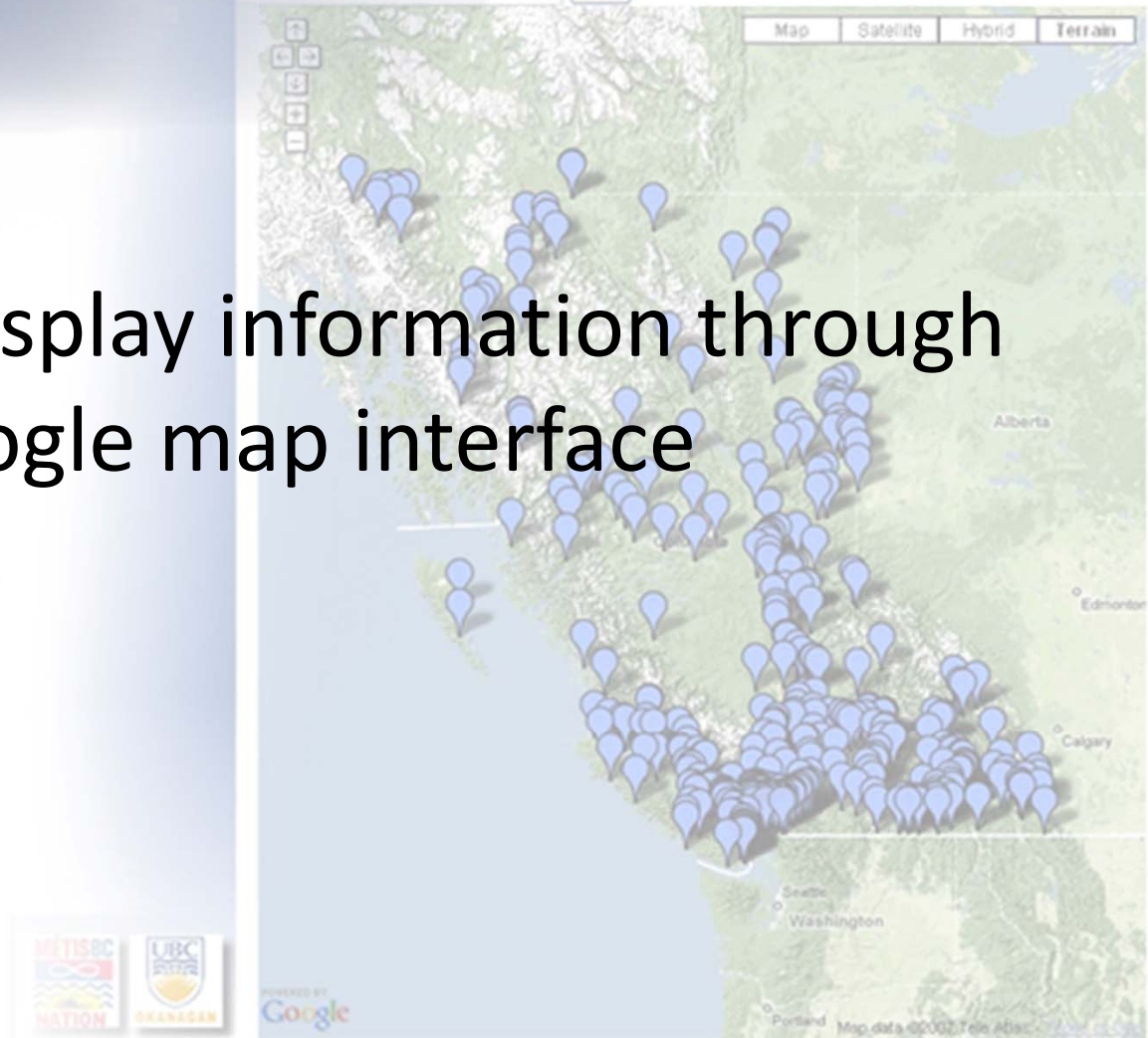


Project aim...

Develop the capacity to create and share historic
and present-day Métis BC community
information using Google Maps

Project objectives...

Locate and display information through
a Google map interface





R vs Willison (June 16, 2004)

Type: Published Material



Information Fields

General - Historical Documents

Comments: Transcript of Court Case/ Decision
Date of Document(s): 2004
Date Range End: 2004
Date Range Start: 2004
Name: R v Willison (June16, 2004)

Published Material

Author: Provincial Court of British Columbia
Date of Publication: 2004
Keywords: Justice, Harvesting
Place of Publication: Vernon, BC
Publisher Name: Provincial Court of British Columbia
Title: R vs Willison
Volume ID: File no 15482-1

Type of Document

Primary or Secondary Source: Secondary Source

Tags

Patronyms

- Bourget
- Brent
- Fraser
- Howse
- Klyne
- Laffeur
- Lafontaine
- LaFrance
- Lolo
- Macdonald
- McLaughlin
- Nunn

Places

- British Columbia
- Columbia Department
- Fort Alexandria
- Fort Okanagan
- Kamloops
- Okanagan Mission
- Red River Settlement
- Salmon Arm
- Snake Country
- Walla Walla

Subjects

- Aboriginal Rights
- Canadian Constitution
- clothing
- Community
- Constitution Act, 1982
- Criminal Code
- Family History/ Genealogy
- Fishing
- Fraser, Simon
- Fur Trade
- Government Policy
- Harvesting

Links

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Recent Comments

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Indexed BC Metis Documents

Results:

Criteria: **Fur Trade**
Total Places: **864**
Total Unique Documents: **1584**

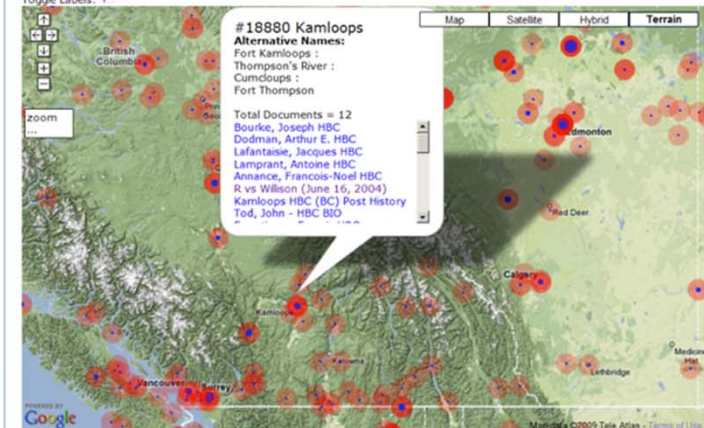
Patronym (Family Name)

Subject

Fur Trade

Submit

Toggle Labels: ☐



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Search for documents by name, type, or relevant di



Métis Historic Document Map

View a map of documents according to their index
(This map contains a large amount of data and may take a mi



Contribute Files

Upload any old photos, letters or documents from your family collection for inclusion in the Historical Document Database.

Harvester Survey and Mapping

With the help of local Métis leadership, we are surveying hundreds of Métis harvesters across BC in order to understand the scope and density of harvesting practices in BC.

Relationships between family members harvest practices are being surveyed and mapped. This project will help us understand how harvesting practices and traditional knowledge are passed on from generation to generation.



Harvest Areas by Age and Species Group

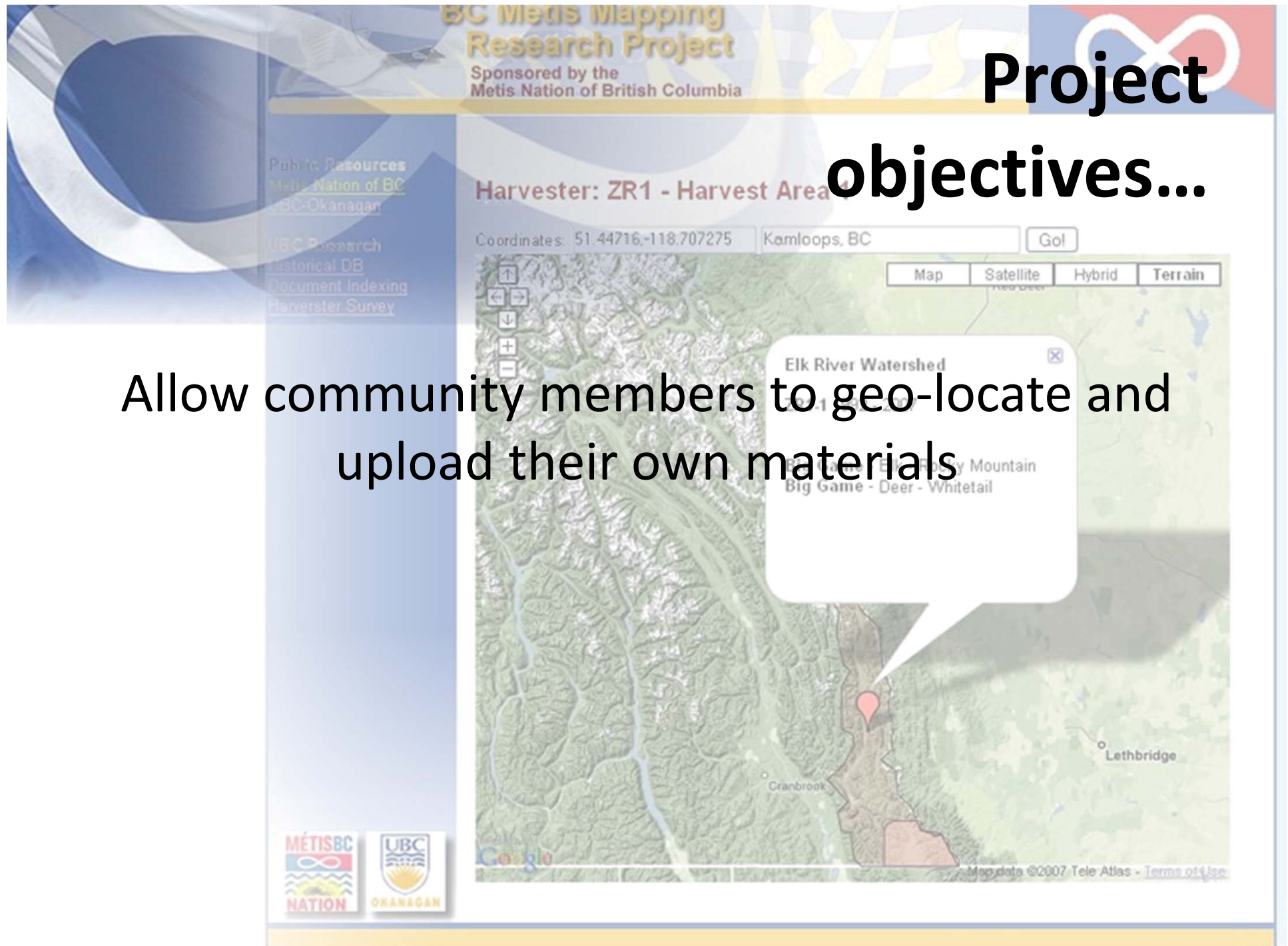
This map shows harvesting frequency in BC from the initial survey information.



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Project objectives...

Allow community members to geo-locate and upload their own materials



Project objectives...

BC Metis Mapping Research Project

Sponsored by the Metis Nation of British Columbia

Public Resources
Metis Nation of BC
BC-Okanagan

Harvester: ZR1 - Harvest Area 4

Coordinates: 51.44716 -118.707275

Kamloops, BC

Map Satellite Hybrid Terrain

Elk River Watershed

ZR1-1 1992 - 2007

Big Game - Elk - Rocky Mountain
Big Game - Deer - Whitetail

BC Metis Natural Resource Management System

Sponsored by the Metis Nation British Columbia

Public Resources
Metis Nation BC
BC Metis Mapping Research Project

Harvest System
Application Instructions
Online Application
Harvester Card Application Form

Survey Home | Introduction | Harvest Types | Add Areas | List Areas | Confirm (navigate)

•Big Game (details) •Trapping •Plants •(add)

Harvester Survey - Big Game Details

MU 3-31 Bonaparte

click for larger image or see bottom of page



Harvesting Frequency in British Columbia

This map shows harvest frequency data gathered from our initial survey of members of the Metis Community throughout BC. Results are organized by watershed regions.

First select the harvest product you would like to view information for, then click the appropriate age range button.

Data Selection

Harvest Product:

- ☐ All
- ☐ Deer
- ☐ Sheep/Goats
- ☐ Bear
- ☐ Elk
- ☐ Small Game/Trapping
- ☐ Birds
- ☐ Fish
- ☐ Timber/Forewood
- ☐ Bison
- ☐ Moose
- ☐ Caribou
- ☐ Non-Timber Products

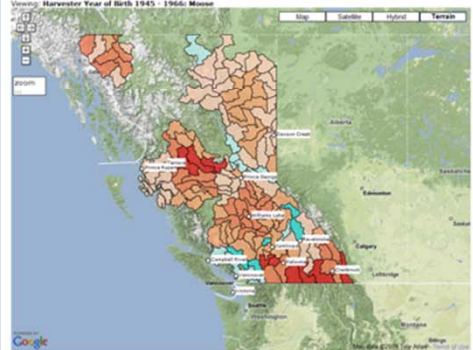
Harvester Age:

☐ Born before 1945 ☐ Born 1945 to 1966 ☐ Born after 1966 ☐ All Ages

Harvests Per Watershed

Less More

Viewing: Harvester Year of Birth 1945 - 1966: Moose



Map Satellite Hybrid Terrain

pm000

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Legend:

- #1 Elk River: 1031 Harvests
- #4 Bull River: 505 Harvests
- #11 Upper Shuswap: 297 Harvests
- #18 Okanagan River: 844 Harvests
- #28 Kettle River: 1367 Harvests
- #31 South Thompson River: 481 Harvests

Bighorn Sheep

Sheep 1

Save and Continue



Some statistics...

Statistics as of Aug 2010

Public page visits (All users not including Research Team)

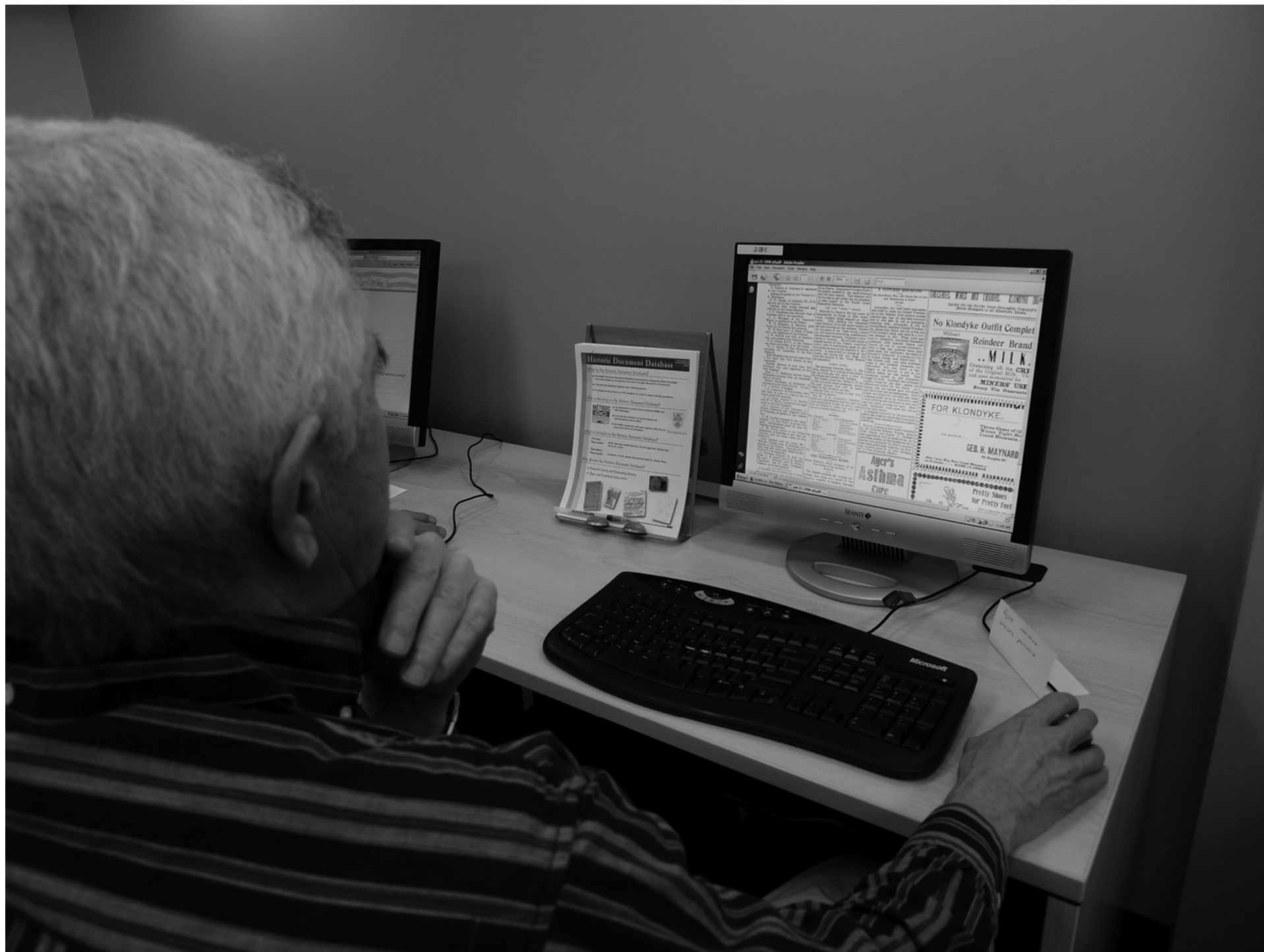
Total Documents	15,556	Aug 08 - Jan 09	77,110
Accessible Documents	7,829	Feb 09 - July 09	170,630
Indexed Documents	7,062	Aug 09 - Jan 10	54,123
Place Indices	6,784	Feb 10 - July 10	42,492



Discussion ...place

- Different actors have different motivations...





Discussion

...reimagining community

- User contribution is not focused on a hypothetical 'community' agency, rather it is motivated in repositioning individuals and their families as members of the nation





Discussion ...geoweb

The process of crowdsourcing is a unique way of enabling individuals to both research their own genealogies and share their information with others





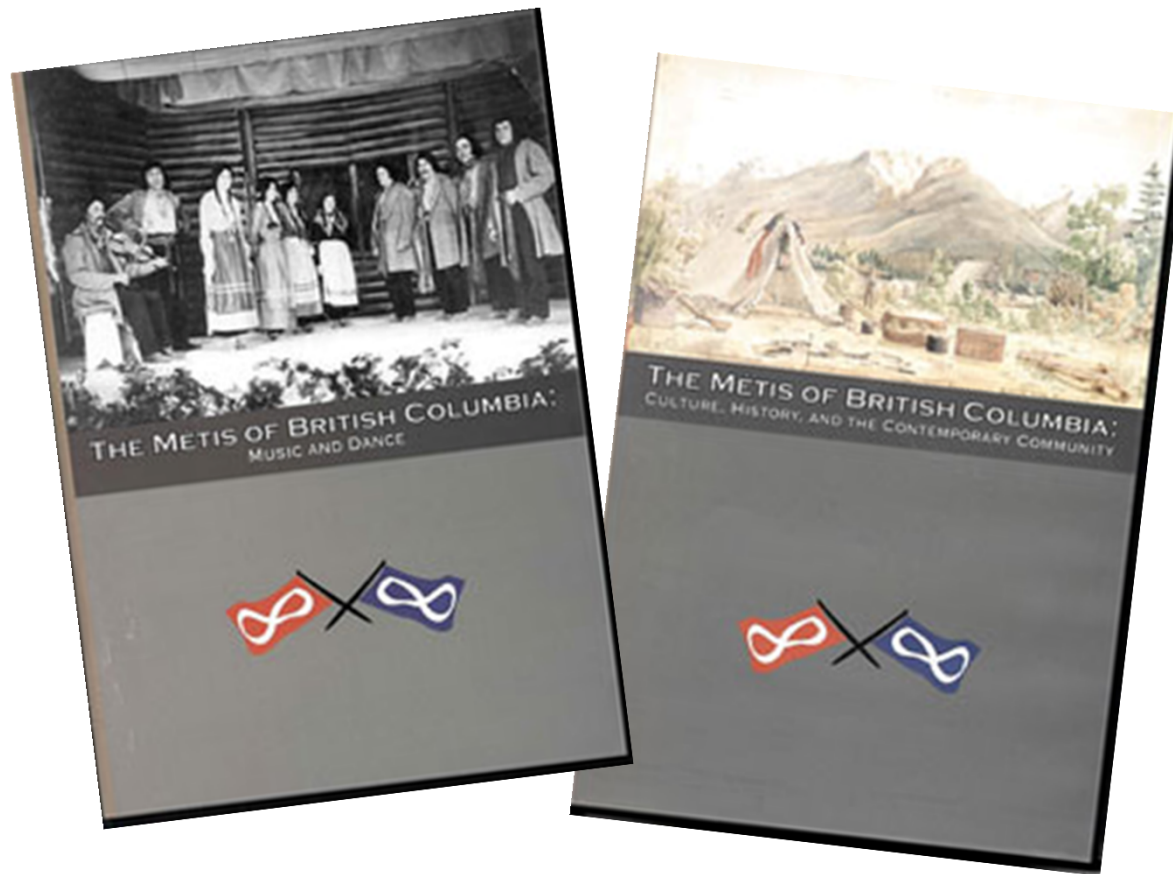
There is an interesting comparison
here to the MNC database

<http://tomcat.sunsite.ualberta.ca/MNC/index.jsp>



Sites of Interest:

<http://document.bcmetiscitizen.ca/>



Metis History DVD:
<http://ubc.bcmmetis.ca/dvd/>

MNBC and UBC Okanagan Collaborative Research Program

Mike Evans (Principal Investigator)	Gary Ducommun (MNBC Staff)
Jon Corbett (Co-Investigator)	Dean Tremblay (MNBC Staff)
Stephen Foster (Co-Investigator)	Laurel Katernick (MNBC Registrar)
Erin Dolmage (Research Associate)	Kasondra White (Research Associate)
Zach Romano (Research Associate)	Gabrielle Legault (Research Associate)