

## Panel discussion

### *Challenges in Conserving Biodiversity*



#### *James McKenzie*

*Principal, Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development, Office of the Auditor General of Canada*

**Date:** Thursday, February 27th

**Time:** 7:00-9:00 p.m.

**Place:** Senate Chamber, E3-262 Engineering Building

*Join the University of Manitoba and a panel of four experts who will discuss challenges to the conservation of biodiversity in Canada.*

- How do we define biodiversity and why is it important?*
- What role do people play in the conservation of biodiversity?*

## Panelists:

#### *Dr. Stephen Petersen, Head of Conservation and Research for Assiniboine Park Zoo and the International Polar Bear Conservation Centre*

Dr. Petersen serves as a member of the Terrestrial Mammal sub-committee to COSEWIC, the scientific panel that assesses the status of Canadian Wildlife. At Assiniboine Park Zoo, his department conducts a variety of research ranging from population genetics of marine mammals to the incorporation of Traditional Ecological Knowledge into ecological research to studying the behaviour of captive species.

#### *Dr. Nicky Koper, Associate Professor and Associate Head, Natural Resources Institute*

Dr. Koper's area of expertise includes conservation of numerous species of birds in Canada, including Sprague's pipits, chestnut-collared longspurs, bobolinks and Savannah sparrows. She has also worked towards the conservation of a variety of other species, including caribou, turtles and skinks. is currently on the Scientific Advisory Committee for the Manitoba office of the Nature Conservancy of Canada, and the Technical Committee for the Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas.

#### *Dr. James Duncan, Director of the Wildlife Branch of Manitoba Conservation*

Dr. Duncan has researched owls for over 30 years and has published scientific papers, books and symposium proceedings on owls from around the world. He is active in local, national and international biodiversity conservation initiatives including species at risk. He has worked as a conservation zoologist for the Saskatchewan and Manitoba Conservation Data Centres.

#### *Dr. Fikret Berkes, Distinguished Professor and Canada Research Chair in Community-based Resource Management, Natural Resources Institute*

Dr. Berkes has authored some 250 peer-reviewed journal papers and chapters, including nine books. His research in the area of interrelated and interconnected human-environment systems (or social-ecological systems) deals with commons theory, resilience and traditional ecological knowledge. He has participated in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment; the UNDP Equator Initiative in conservation-development; and Canadian Biodiversity: Ecosystem Status and Trends.