

Trottier Institute for Science and Public Policy (TISPP)
Annual Symposium

**Managing resources sustainably: where Science – Public Policy –
Industry can meet**

Monday, November 19, 2018 14:30 – 18:30
Faculty Club Ballroom and Lounge

The Trottier Institute for Science and Public Policy (TISPP) was founded with the generous support of Lorne Trottier. Mr. Trottier has promoted science and its use in public policy in Canada, particularly in discussions related to climate change and technology. TISPP provides research grants to McGill University faculty to pursue projects that utilize science in the development, or informing, of public policy. Each year TISPP organizes a public symposium with a theme that focuses on an area where McGill faculty are actively working at the science-public policy interface. The public symposium is also an opportunity for TISPP research fellows to present their research.

This year, the first session of the TISPP symposium will explore the relationship between science, public policy and the Canadian peat industry. Canada contains about 25% of the world's peatlands: they cover 12% of Canada (1,130,000 km² in area) and contain about 150 Pg C (10¹⁵ g C), about half the carbon stored in Canada's terrestrial ecosystems. Most pristine peatlands are small but persistent sinks of atmospheric carbon dioxide and sources of atmospheric methane – the two most important carbon greenhouse gases. Canada also has an active peat moss industry that extracts peat for use in horticulture and floriculture, nurseries, and home use. This industry is worth \$750,000,000 annually and employs approximately 5,000 people. Peat extraction completely alters the hydrology, ecology and carbon functions of these ecosystems. Even though the industry has affected only a tiny fraction of Canadian peatlands (approximately 300 km², or <0.03% of Canadian peatlands), they have become a world leader in developing viable techniques for ecological restoration to ensure the re-establishment of peatland biological diversity and carbon functions equivalent to those found in pristine peatlands. These techniques have come about because of the industry's active engagement and significant support for scientific research. The Canadian industry has become a strong advocate for the use of evidence-based science to develop environmental policy and the standards and certification to ensure the sustainability of ecosystems that have been used for the extraction of peat. The first session will explore the strong links between fundamental scientific research, the economics and environmental and social responsibility of a resource industry, and an emerging and constantly changing provincial, federal and international public policy arena.

The second part of the symposium will explore science and public policy related to health in the built environment, the use of isotopes in methane mitigation, and theory and practice of emissions cap-and-trade systems.

TISPP Symposium, November 19, 2018, McGill University Faculty Club

Symposium Agenda

14:00 – 14:30 Coffee meet and greet

14:30 – 14:40 Welcome Professor Bruce Lennox, Dean of Science

14:40 – 16:00 Session 1: Addressing Sustainability and Carbon Gases within the Canadian Peat Industry

14:40 – 14:50 Introduction to the Issue of Canadian Peatlands

Nigel Roulet, James McGill Professor of Biogeoscience and Chair, Department of Geography, and Acting Director of TISPP, McGill University

14:40 – 15:05 Canadian Peat Industry and Science needs for Responsible Peatland Management

Paul Short, President of the Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association (CSPMA), St. Albert, AB

15:05 – 15:20 The Social Responsibility Journey of Canadian's Peat Moss Industry: from Research to Practices

Stephanie Boudreau, Industry Science Coordinator, Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association (CPSMA), St. Albert, AB

15:20 – 15:40 Ecological restoration for biological biodiversity.

Maria Strack, Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair Ecosystems and Climate, Department of Geography and Environmental Management, Faculty of Environment, University of Waterloo, Waterloo ON

15:40 – 16:00 Success of the restoration of peatlands' greenhouse gas and carbon functions.

Ian Strachan, Associate Professor (NRS) and Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Science, McGill University

16:00 – 16:45 Session II: TISSP Fellows' presentations

16:15 – 16:25 Does the Neighbourhood You're in Get Under Your Skin? Built environments, physical activity and cardiometabolic health

Nancy Ross, Professor, Department of Geography, and Associate Vice-Principal, Research and Innovation, McGill University

16:25 – 16:35 Using radiocarbon measurements to help characterize and mitigate Canadian methane emissions

Peter Douglas, Assistant Professor, Earth and Planetary Science, McGill University

16:35 – 16:45 **Cap-and-trade systems: experiments, theory and practice**

Adrian Vetta, Associate Professor, School of Computer Science and the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, McGill University

16:50 – 17:15 **Panel Discussion and Q&A: The Science – Public Policy – Industry Nexus**

17:15 – 18:30 **Wine and Cheese Reception**