

## Kiri Staples, PhD

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### SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS

- Strong academic and applied foundation in sustainability assessment, cumulative effects, Indigenous co-governance and co-management, socio-economic and socio-cultural research, and natural resource management in the North
- Over a decade of planning, executing, collaborating on, and leading qualitative research projects involving northern communities, non-government organizations, Indigenous nations, territorial and provincial governments, and co-management institutions
- Extensive experience analyzing and summarizing large sets of qualitative data
- Ability to design, support, and facilitate multi-party processes involving diverse perspectives to address complex issues and questions
- Strong communicator, including with academic, technical, and lay audiences

### WORK EXPERIENCE

#### **Principal, Northwest Research & Consulting Group – Whitehorse, YT (Aug. 2017 – present)**

- Offer analysis, research, expert advice for Indigenous governments and co-management organizations on issues of sustainability assessment, socio-economic and socio-cultural impacts of resource development, co-governance and co-management, and cumulative effects.
- Design and facilitate collaborative, multi-party processes (e.g., meetings, workshops, roundtables, forums), in-person and online, on issues related to natural resource management and stewardship.
- Provide support for the development of grant applications and community-driven research projects, as well as provide expertise in qualitative data collection, data analysis, knowledge translation, and knowledge mobilization.
- Clients have included Yukon University, Taku River Tlingit First Nation, Alaska Conservation Society, Yukon Government, Yukon First Nations Chamber of Commerce, Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board, T'akhu Â Tlèn Conservancy, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, Carcross Tagish First Nation, Selkirk First Nation, First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government, Yukon Forum Fish and Wildlife Steering Committee, the Council of Yukon First Nations, the Aullaviat/Anguniarvik Working Group, Yukon Land Use Planning Council, and Environment and Climate Change Canada.
- Examples of recent projects:

#### **Selkirk First Nation (SFN)**

**Technical Team** (2023 – present)

- Provide support to SFN's technical engagement process related to various mining projects, including the proposed Casino Mine and Selkirk

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|                                                                                                                              | <p>Copper Mine, as well as the Faro Mine Remediation Project, contributing expertise in socio-economic and cultural impacts, socio-economic monitoring, community engagement, and cumulative effects.</p>                                                                                                                                                              |
| <p><b>Ecological Cumulative Effects Framework — Working Sessions (2026)</b></p>                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Facilitated a meeting involving First Nations and co-management boards and committees to provide feedback and guidance on the Ecological Cumulative Effects Framework developed by the Government of Yukon.</li> </ul>                                                                                                        |
| <p><b>Southern Lakes Moose Working Group (2024 – 2025)</b></p>                                                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Facilitated a working group of First Nation government, territorial government, and co-management board representatives on the development of an action plan for moose co-management in the Southern Lakes.</li> </ul>                                                                                                        |
| <p><b>Aullaviat/Anguniarvik Traditional Conservation Area Workshop (2024 – 2025)</b></p>                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Designed and facilitated a workshop for the Aullaviat/Anguniarvik Working Group to advance conversations related to lessons learned from the North Slope Conference, work planning, operational planning, and other matters related to the implementation of their Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA).</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Draft Co-management Agreement for Migratory Bird Sanctuaries in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (2024 – 2025)</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Worked with a committee of Indigenous boards and authorities and territorial and federal government representatives to develop a draft co-management agreement for Migratory Bird Sanctuaries in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region.</li> </ul>                                                                                 |
| <p><b>Tagish River Habitat Protection Area — Implementation Workplan (2024 – 2025)</b></p>                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Worked with a committee of First Nation, territorial, and federal governments and related councils to develop a workplan for implementing management actions within the protected area.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                            |
| <p><b>Survey of Community-Based Monitoring and Indigenous Knowledge in a Changing Arctic (2024 – 2025)</b></p>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Analyzed survey data for the Atlas of Community-Based Monitoring and Indigenous Knowledge in a Changing Arctic — a searchable, online inventory of monitoring programs. Conducted qualitative and quantitative analysis, created data visualizations, and produced an accessible summary report.</li> </ul>                   |
| <p><b>Yukon Hunter Effort Survey: Qualitative Data Summary (2023, 2024)</b></p>                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Analyzed qualitative data for the annual Yukon Hunter Effort Survey and prepared a summary report of key themes.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

**Regional Scan of Conservation and Planning Initiatives in Yukon South Beringia** (2023 – 2024)

- Conducted a regional scan of conservation and planning initiatives for the Priority Place Initiative – Yukon South Beringia, including identifying gaps in the existing conservation and planning landscape.

**Cumulative Effects Working Group — Dawson Regional Land Use Plan** (2021 – 2024)

- Represented Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in as a participant on the Working Group (2021–2022), contributing expertise in socio-economic and cultural impacts and cumulative effects.
- Facilitated the Working Group (2024) to develop recommendations for definitions, processes, and guidelines related to cumulative effects.

**Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) planning - Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in** (2022 – 2023)

- Worked with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in staff to develop options for an IPCA in their traditional territory.

**Yukon Wetland Policy — Public Engagement Workshop** (2021 – 2022)

- Designed and co-facilitated a workshop to discuss a draft wetlands policy with government, NGO, and industry representatives. Prepared workshop materials and a qualitative analysis to inform the final policy report.

**Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB)/Yukon Land Use Planning Council (YLUPC) Workshop** (2021 – 2022)

- Designed and facilitated a workshop with YESAB and YLUPC staff to address gaps and uncertainties between development assessment and regional land use planning, focussing on the Dawson Regional Land Use Plan. Prepared a summary of key discussion points, gaps, and questions.

**Łingít Kusteeyí: Revitalizing Tlingit Law** (2021 – 2022)

- Supported Taku River Tlingit (TRT) First Nation and T'akhu Â Tlèn Conservancy in conducting interviews with TRT citizens about Tlingit law to inform TRT's ongoing work on revitalizing their laws related to lands and wildlife.

**Äshèyi Research Project — Champagne & Aishihik First Nation (CAFN)** (2021 – 2022)

- Collaborated with CAFN to explore the history of Äshèyi/Aishihik Lake through archival research at Yukon Archives and CAFN archives, as well as with archival researchers in Ottawa. Prepared research reports and related materials for CAFN leaders.

**Taku River Tlingit  
Sustainability Assessment —  
Atlin Hydro Expansion (2020  
– 2022)**

- Worked with TRTFN staff, leaders, and community to build a sustainability assessment framework supporting the First Nation's analysis of the proposed project's potential benefits and adverse impacts.

**Technical Advisory  
Committee — Faro Mine  
Remediation Project (2020 –  
2022)**

- Co-facilitated a series of online technical sessions for parties involved in the Faro Mine remediation assessment, including affected First Nations, Government of Canada, Government of Yukon, and YESAB. Drafted agendas, prepared meeting summaries, and organized sessions.

**YESAA Forum on Cumulative  
Effects (2020 – 2021)**

- Worked with the forum's organizing committee to design the agenda for a three-day workshop bringing together experts on cumulative effects assessment, management, and monitoring. Facilitated the forum and authored a report providing concrete recommendations for advancing Yukon's approach to cumulative effects.

**Yukon First Nation Chamber  
of Commerce Community  
Travel Project (2020 – 2021)**

- Organized and facilitated a series of Yukon-wide online community engagement workshops that explored the challenges of inter-community transportation. Analyzed data from the engagements, identifying themes to inform a final report for the Yukon First Nation Chamber of Commerce.

**Yukon Land Use Planning  
Forum: Total Impact (2019)**

- Co-developed a forum on cumulative effects for the Yukon Land Use Planning Council bringing together planners, First Nation and territorial government representatives, and others. Prepared a report summarizing key themes from the event.

**Selkirk First Nation  
Traditional Land Use Study  
(2017 – 2019)**

- Analyzed traditional land use study interview data to identify key themes.

**Sessional instructor, Yukon University - Whitehorse, YT (Sept. – Dec. 2021)**

- Instructed a course on intergovernmental relations within the Indigenous Governance program, including course design, lecture preparation and delivery, marking, student mentorship, and related responsibilities.

**Teaching assistant and research assistant, University of Waterloo** – Waterloo, ON (*Sept. 2016 – Apr. 2017*)

- Led seminars, provided student mentorship, and carried out related responsibilities for courses on environmental assessment and sustainability.
- Provided research and editorial support for several collaborative research projects on topics related to sustainability, regional and strategic assessment, and climate change.

**Project Manager, University of Saskatchewan** - Saskatoon, SK (*Oct. 2014 – May 2017*)

- Coordinated and maintained communication between community partners, researchers, and students in five communities across the Northwest Territories, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba.
- Created and tracked project budget (~\$100,000).
- Hired and managed two northern community coordinators and two research assistants, including providing training in community-based research and data analysis.
- Assisted in the development of knowledge translation strategies for academic and lay audiences.

**Research Assistant, Yukon Research Centre** – Whitehorse, YT (*May 2009 – Aug. 2012*)

- Supported two pan-northern, social science research projects, including conducting data collection, leading knowledge mobilization activities, organizing community-based workshops across the North, and related responsibilities.

### EDUCATION AND SELECT AWARDS

**PhD in Ecological and Social Sustainability**, School of Environment, Resources and Sustainability, University of Waterloo - Waterloo, ON (*Sept. 2016 – May 2022*)

- Dissertation focussed on sustainability, co-governance, and cumulative effects of resource development in the Yukon
- Received a Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship, a W. Garfield Weston Fellowship, and the Provost Doctoral Entrance Award for Women

**Master of Environment and Sustainability**, School of Environment and Sustainability, University of Saskatchewan - Saskatoon, SK (*Sept. 2012 – Sept. 2014*)

- Thesis focussed on gender, decision-making, and co-management boards in the Yukon
- Received a Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship, a Northern Resident Scholarship, and a Prize for the Best Paper or Article by the Society of Policy Sciences.

**Bachelor of Arts (Honours)**, International Development Studies, Trent University - Peterborough, ON (*Sept. 2007 – May 2011*)

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REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST