



GREEN COLLEGE INTERDISCIPLINARY AND CROSS-SECTORAL SERIES

HOPE IN THE ANTHROPOCENE

SUSTAINABILITY SOLUTIONS AND INSPIRATIONS

With humanity's creation of a new geological era marked by dominant human influences on planetary processes, the Anthropocene seems to offer little hope. And yet, the same ingenuity that enables human domination over the Earth also allows a certain genius in addressing the many rising environmental and sustainability challenges. **Hope in the Anthropocene** showcases such inspirations and solutions in tackling climate change, harnessing energy, feeding humanity, governing states, and meeting our collective water and sanitation needs all while respecting Indigenous peoples and protecting nature and its benefits for people.

Hope in the Anthropocene is a collaboration between Green College and the Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability at the University of British Columbia (IRES).



JEANNETTE ARMSTRONG

RE-INDIGENIZING THE PLANET

15-16 NOVEMBER, 2017



Jeannette Armstrong is Syilx Okanagan, a fluent speaker and teacher of the Nsyilxcn Okanagan language and a traditional knowledge keeper of the Okanagan Nation. She is a founder of En'owkin, the Okanagan Nsyilxcn language and knowledge institution of higher learning of the Syilx Okanagan Nation. She currently is Assistant Professor and Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Okanagan Philosophy at UBC Okanagan. She has a PhD in Environmental Ethics and Syilx Indigenous Literatures. She is the recipient of the EcoTrust Buffett Award for Indigenous Leadership and in 2016 of the BC George Woodcock Lifetime Achievement Award.

Photograph by: Laura Sawchuk, Photography

RE-INDIGENIZING THE PLANET IN THE ANTHROPOCENE

Coach House, Green College
Wednesday, November 15, 5 pm

Much of my life's work focuses on resistance to hopelessness as a way to find strategies that provide hopeful agency to Indigenous Peoples' efforts to continue to care for and to defend their homelands. The fundamental task before all of us is to mobilize a shift in the social paradigm toward ecological sustainability. Resituating the concept of "sustainability" toward a focus on the creation of "communities of hope" is necessary. Finding collaborative ways to create viable local community mechanisms provides a way that assists in changing the relationship of people to their environment. Such change means actualizing in communities the concept of "we are people of this place." Triggering a foundation for an ecologically sound shift takes place if there are consciously focused ways to "re-Indigenize" places that need their inhabitants to do things differently together. The human desire to be a "part of" community, when combined with immediate benefits to people with strategic long-term outcomes, may be a solution. People nourished by "place" embed long-term sustainability as a part of their lives. Hope and solutions are possible through supporting and empowering new relationships to place by finding ways to actualize "communities of change" through works that are beneficial in concrete and visible ways, for people and the environment.

Those attending talks at Green College are warmly invited to come to dinner. For information on making dinner reservations, see www.greencollege.ubc.ca/how-attend-dinner

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OF CHANGE: AN INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVE ON HOPE

IRES Seminar Series
AERL Theatre (Room 120), 2202 Main Mall, UBC
Thursday, November 16, 12:30-1:30 pm

An Indigenous perspective on hope is to understand that hope is an essential element to inspire the courage to do things differently, since doing the same things will only produce the same results. Hope inspires change. Inspirations for sustainability solutions will require opportunities to do things in new and different ways, to make the most impact and the most sense. Unless people can shift themselves away from current models of dependency on the unsustainable practices evident in a system triggering unbridled development, some fundamental questions are required. What does that "dependency" look like if unpacked? What does ecological sustainability mean for everyday working people? Where does "sustainability" begin? If hope is to be created, where can solutions that will shift the paradigm best take shape? Solutions may mean actively finding tools for "whole community change." The seminar will cover some solution-inspired ideas based on several examples providing hope.