



**Federal – Provincial MPB Research Forum**  
**Coast Edmonton Plaza Hotel, 10155 105th St.**  
**Edmonton, AB T5J 1E2**

**DRAFT AGENDA**

**Tuesday, October 24, 2023**  
 Evening – 4:00PM – 8:00PM  
 Valley Ballroom and Foyer, Coast Edmonton Plaza Hotel  
 Registration, Reception, Poster setup

**Day 1 – Q1: Wednesday, October 25, 2023**  
 Valley Ballroom, Coast Edmonton Plaza Hotel

Time		Topic	Speaker
7:00	7:45	<b>Hot Breakfast</b>	Valley Ballroom
7:45	8:00	Welcoming remarks, and an outlook to the future	<b>Dr. Barry White</b> , Executive Director, fRI Research
8:00	8:15	Welcome and scope of the Federal-Provincial MPB Research Partnership (FPRP)  Description of the day and Forum objectives	<b>Dr. Keith McClain</b> , MPB Research Program Lead, fRI Research <b>Caroline Whitehouse</b> , Forest Health Specialist, Forest Health and Adaptation Section, Ministry of Forestry, Parks, and Tourism and Chair of FPRP



**Day 1 – Q1: Wednesday, October 25, 2023**

Valley Ballroom, Coast Edmonton Plaza Hotel

Time		Topic	Speaker
8:15	8:45	Reflections on MPB research in Alberta and its impact on management over the past twenty years	<b>Daniel Lux</b> , ADM, Forestry Division, Ministry of Forestry, Parks, and Tourism
8:45	9:30	VIDEO – Evaluating the efficacy of science: Cosmic zoom: How do we know if science is making a difference? Originally presented at the MPB Research Forum 2017. (Video is 30min)	<b>Dr. Stanford Blade</b> , Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Alberta
9:30	9:45	<b><i>Introduction and Facilitation of Research Theme 1: MPB Biology</i></b>	<b>Caroline Whitehouse</b> , Forest Health Specialist, Forest Health and Adaptation Section, Ministry of Forestry, Parks, and Tourism
9:45	10:00	<b><i>Health Break</i></b>	
10:00	10:30	Modelling eastern spread risk of mountain pine beetle using host genetic ancestry	<b>Dr. Catherine Cullingham</b> , Carleton University
10:30	11:00	The physiological costs and consequences of overwintering in MPB	<b>Dr. Heath MacMillan</b> , Carleton University
11:00	11:30	Improving monitoring tools to detect mountain pine beetle at low densities in novel habitats: incorporating host-tree stress and fungal volatiles in beetle attraction	<b>Dr. Nadir Erbilgin</b> , University of Alberta
11:30	12:00	Modelling long-term dynamics of MPB in Alberta under climate change	<b>Dr. Mark Lewis</b> , University of Victoria
12:00	12:15	Plenary Discussion	
12:15	1:00	<b><i>Lunch</i></b>	



**Day 1 – Q2: Wednesday, October 25, 2023**

Valley Ballroom, Coast Edmonton Plaza Hotel

1:00	1:15	<b>Introduction and Facilitation of Research Themes 2 &amp; 3 – MPB Dispersal, spread and detection of MPB</b>	<b>Dr. Rory McIntosh</b> , Provincial Forest Entomologist and Pathologist, Government of Saskatchewan
1:15	1:45	Assessment of eastern spread risk of MPB through studies on beetle dispersal and host colonization	<b>Dr. Maya Evenden</b> , University of Alberta
1:45	2:15	Dynamic species distribution modelling to predict mountain pine beetle boreal invasion	<b>Dr. Allan Carroll</b> , University of British Columbia
2:15	2:45	Efficient monitoring of mountain pine beetle outbreak spots using artificial intelligence applied to drone thermal imagery	<b>Dr. Nadir Erbilgin</b> , University of Alberta
2:45	3:30	Effects of mountain pine beetle outbreaks on population dynamics of secondary bark and ambrosia beetles	<b>Dr. Nadir Erbilgin</b> , University of Alberta
3:30	3:45	<b>Health Break</b>	
3:45	4:15	Toward pre-emptive management of future outbreaks: predicting the distribution of post-epidemic mountain pine beetle populations in the western boreal forest – <b>a long view</b>	<b>Dr. Allan Carroll</b> , University of British Columbia
4:00	4:45	Plenary Discussion	
4:45	8:00	<b>Reception and Posters</b>	Valley Ballroom



**Day 2 – Q3: Thursday, October 26, 2023**

Valley Ballroom, Coast Edmonton Plaza Hotel

7:00	7:45	<b>Hot Breakfast</b>	Valley Ballroom
7:45	8:00	Opening Remarks	<b>Dr. Keith McClain / Caroline Whitehouse</b>
8:00	8:15	<b>Introduction and Facilitation of Research Theme 4: Social Impact of MPB &amp; managing for resilience</b>	<b>John Stadt</b> , Provincial Forest Ecologist, Strategic Forestry Initiatives Section, Ministry of Forestry, Parks, and Rural Development
8:15	8:45	Gene conservation to mitigate impacts of mountain pine beetle on endangered Whitebark Pine at its northern limit in Alberta	<b>Jodie Krakowski</b> , Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation of Canada
8:45	9:15	Development of fine spatial resolution tree species information for MPB-impacted ecosystems for species-at-risk habitat assessment	<b>Dr. Nicholas Coops</b> , University of British Columbia
9:15	9:45	Using innovative techniques to understand how mountain pine beetle is shifting ecosystem composition and configuration in Jasper National Park.	<b>Dr. Eric Higgs</b> , University of Victoria
9:45	10:15	<b>Health Break</b>	
10:15	10:45	Soil carbon stocks in forests recovering from mountain pine beetle outbreak: a possible C sink?	<b>Dr. Justine Karst</b> , University of Alberta
10:45	11:15	Wildlife responses to forest stands impacted by mountain pine beetle in western Canada	<b>Dr. Laura Finnegan</b> , fRI Research
11:15	11:45	Using novel approaches to understand mountain pine beetle impacts on upper elevation sites in Jasper National Park	<b>Dr. Eric Higgs</b> , University of Victoria
11:45	12:30	<b>Lunch</b>	
12:30	1:00	Impacts of the MPB on the snow hydrology of the Peace and Athabasca River basins	<b>Dr. Siraj ul Islam</b> , University of Northern British Columbia





**Day 2 – Q3: Thursday, October 26, 2023**

Valley Ballroom, Coast Edmonton Plaza Hotel

1:00	1:30	Community and First Nation Resilience to Mountain Pine Beetle and Environmental Change	<b>Dr. Rob Friberg</b> , New Forest Outlook Ltd.
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**Day 2 – Q4: Thursday, October 26, 2023**

Valley Ballroom, Edmonton Plaza Hotel

1:30	1:45	<b><i>Introduction: Research Theme 5: Wildfire behaviour in beetle killed forests</i></b>	<b>Maria Sharpe</b> , Fire Science Manager, Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre
1:45	2:15	Generation of tree level fire fuel information across MPB Infestation mosaics	<b>Dr. Nicholas Coops</b> , University of British Columbia
2:15	2:40	Assessment of risk factors influencing landscape level fire in MPB forests	<b>Dr. Christopher Bone</b> , University of Victoria
2:40	3:10	Quantifying spatio-temporal variability in post-mountain pine beetle outbreak fuels, in Jasper National Park, using terrestrial laser scanning, and bi-temporal multi-spectral airborne LIDAR	<b>Dr. Christopher Hopkinson</b> , University of Lethbridge <b>Dr. Laura Chasmer</b> , University of Lethbridge
3:10	3:35	Understanding fire behaviour in mountain pine beetle disturbed vs. managed fuel complexes using novel data sources	<b>Dr. Laura Chasmer</b> , University of Lethbridge
3:35	4:05	How do the spatial legacies of mountain pine beetle outbreaks affect fire severity in Canadian lodgepole pine forests?	<b>Dr. Patrick James</b> , University of Toronto
4:05	4:30	Influence of a widespread mountain pine beetle outbreak on fire likelihood in British Columbia 2002-2021, and implications for Alberta.	<b>Dr. Chris Stockdale</b> , Canadian Forest Service, Northern Forestry Centre
4:30	4:45	Plenary Discussion and closing remarks	TBD (KM/CW)