



PH. D. IN ANIMAL ECOLOGY POSITION

Influence of road construction and use on the behavior of wild vertebrates

While the response of certain animal species to road construction has been well documented, many vertebrate species, including those of great interest to Indigenous communities, have not been sufficiently studied. Specifically, the direct response of these species following road construction or changes in road use remains poorly understood. In collaboration with Cree and Anishnaabeg communities and Stornoway Diamonds, this project aims to quantify how the home ranges and behavior of culturally salient species are influenced by road proximity, use, and characteristics.

This project integrates repeated monitoring of large vertebrates associated with the Renard Mine project, an array of 72 automated camera traps, and traditional knowledge reconstructed using participatory mapping and semi-structured interviews. Specifically, we will investigate a) whether home ranges have shifted, b) whether seasonal and daily activity patterns have changed, and c) whether changes in road use have altered its ecological role as both barrier and corridor for wildlife. This will help us better understand how mining roads have impacted wildlife and, indirectly, local communities. This 3 years project is fully funded at **\$24,000 CAD per year** and will be supervised by Gabriel Pigeon (IRF, UQAT), Limoilou-Amélie Renaud (IRF, UQAT), and Hugo Asselin (School of Indigenous Studies, UQAT)



Desired profile:

- Master's degree in biology, ecology, environmental sciences, or a related field.
- Skills in spatial analysis, telemetry, or camera trap data analysis are an asset.
- Interest in applied ecology research and the environmental issues facing Indigenous communities.
- Ability to work collaboratively with Indigenous communities and industrial partners.

To apply:

We encourage all interested individuals to apply. Please submit your CV, a cover letter detailing your interest and relevant experience, and the contact information for two academic references to gabriel.pigeon@uqat.ca.

The application deadline is **November 30th**.

Gabriel Pigeon, Ph. D.

Institut de recherche sur les forêts (IRF)

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