

HEATHER EXNER-PIROT, PHD

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EDUCATION

PhD in Political Science University of Calgary, Calgary AB	2011
Master of Arts in Political Science Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's NF	2002
Bachelor of Arts in International Studies (High Honours) University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon SK	2000

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Consultant on Indigenous Governance & Economic Development **2019-**
Exner-Pirot Consulting Inc. & Morris Interactive Inc.

- Develop reports and provide advocacy and communications support to First Nation groups including Indian Resource Council, Indigenous Resource Network and First Nations Major Projects Coalition
- Conduct feasibility studies, environmental scans and strategic planning for First Nations and Métis governments and economic corporations
- Provide governance and leadership training to Band Councils and administrators
- Conduct research on Indigenous economic and social development best practices, indicators and outcomes, including industry partnerships

Strategist for Outreach and Indigenous Engagement **2013-19**
College of Nursing, University of Saskatchewan

- Improved the Indigenous undergraduate student proportion from 9.2% in 2012/13 to 19.9% in 2018/19 - the highest of any nursing or professional health science college in the country.
- Developed and maintained health and education related initiatives with diverse stakeholders provincially, nationally and internationally.
- Implemented innovative and progressive recruitment and support strategies to achieve a retention rate of 89% amongst Indigenous undergraduate students.
- Established a Northern Nursing Education Network with 12 institutions from 7 countries to share best practices in rural/remote nursing workforce development.
- Led a team of advisors to implement student support strategies and community outreach efforts to our campuses in Regina, Prince Albert, La Ronge, Ile a la Crosse and Yorkton.

Post-Doctoral Fellow **2012-13**
Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Saskatchewan

- Identified taxation challenges and opportunities in First Nation and northern jurisdictions in order to promote revenue generation and financial independence.

Graduate and Research Officer **2010-12**
International Centre for Northern Governance and Development, University of Saskatchewan

- Managed community driven research initiatives, including development of internship placements, field research planning, funder relations, and communication of findings.
- Responsible for the graduate student experience including facilitating distance learning opportunities for northerners.

Program Assistant

2003-05

Office of Undergraduate Studies, University of the Arctic

- Promoted distance learning opportunities and increased the scope of offerings for northern students on behalf of a large consortium of universities and colleges across Canada, Alaska, Greenland, the Nordic countries and northern Russia.

CURRENT ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEADERSHIP ROLES

Fellow, Macdonald Laurier Institute

2021-

- Contribute op-eds and author reports focused on Indigenous, northern and rural development

Global Fellow, Wilson Center

2021-

- Contribute to and author reports focused on Arctic governance and regional affairs; participate and present at Wilson Center Polar Institute events

Board Member, Saskatchewan Indigenous Economic Development Network

2012-

- Oversee financial and strategic direction of the organization
- Responsible for communications including newsletter, blog and social media.
- Assist with event planning and partnership development to build capacity of Indigenous entrepreneurs and Economic Development Corporations.

Board Member, Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation

2020-

- Oversee financial and strategic direction of the organization
- Provide research, peer reviews and stakeholder engagement

Managing Editor, Arctic Yearbook

2013-

- Administer the copyediting, design, publication and marketing of an open access, international peer-reviewed volume.

Chair, Canadian Northern Studies Trust

2017- 2020

- Select and manage a national, interdisciplinary adjudication committee, and oversee evaluation of 170+ scholarship applications for \$1.5 million in awards.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH

- Lectured in various Political Studies and Northern Studies courses at the University of Calgary and University of Saskatchewan since 2008
- Authored or co-authored over 40 peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, and edited volumes, focused on issues related to northern, Arctic and Indigenous governance, economic development, education and health
- Presented at over 50 conferences and events nationally and internationally, and chaired numerous provincial and national conferences and workshops