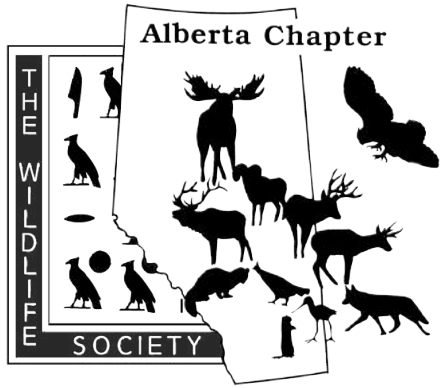


# ALBERTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY CONFERENCE AND AGM 2020



## SPECIES ON THE MOVE

*“Nature provides exceptions to every rule.”*  
- Margaret Fuller



2019 LARRY COMIN PHOTO CONTEST WINNING PHOTO BY PHIL WALKER

# ACTWS CONFERENCE 2020 - CAMROSE, AB

## CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

**Conference Chair:** Alex Beatty

**General Planning Committee:** Glynnis Hood, Dee Patriquin, John Wilmshurst, Jessica Melsted, Sarah Elmeligi, Chuck Priestley, Everett Hanna, Andrea Morehouse, Alyssa Bohart, Alex Beatty

**Open Paper Program:** Kara MacAulay, Robin Gutsell, Robb Stavne, Thea Carpenter

**Plenary:** Everett Hanna, John Wilmshurst

**Symposium:** Chuck Priestley

**Public Talk:** Alex Beatty

**Field Trip and Workshops:** Alex Beatty

**Student Conclave and Student Lunch:** Nikki Paskar

**Professional Awards:** Glynnis Hood, Beth MacCallum, Margo Pybus, Bill Samuel

**Student Presentation Awards:** Alyssa Bohart

**Scholarships and Travel Grants:** Jessica Melsted, Nikki Paskar, Gillian Fraser, Jacalyn Normandeau

**Auction:** Dragomir Vujnovic, Erin Cawthorn

**Sponsorship:** Cindy Kemper, Grace Enns

**Registration:** Alyssa Bohart

**Website:** Layla Neufeld, Lucas Habib

**Communications and MC:** John Wilmshurst, Sarah Elmeligi

**Program:** Alex Beatty

In addition to these committees, we want to extend our gratitude to **all** volunteers who helped make this conference possible!



2019 LARRY COMIN PHOTO CONTEST SUBMISSION PHOTO BY TAYLOR LUND

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## ACTWS President's Message Dr. Andrea Morehouse

Welcome to the 2020 Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society Conference and AGM! The conference planning team has put together what is sure to be an exciting event. This year's theme, *Species on the Move*, prompts us to think critically about some of the current challenges facing wildlife. The conference is always a fantastic opportunity to reconnect with old friends and colleagues as well as to make new connections and discuss new ideas. I encourage you to take full advantage of all that the conference has to offer – from the public talk on Thursday evening, to the workshops and AGM on Friday, and the open paper program, plenary, and symposium on Saturday and Sunday. And of course, you won't want to miss Saturday evening's banquet, auction, and entertainment. As you may have heard, I will not be attending this year's conference as life has other plans. I am currently pregnant with baby boy number two and due about one week after the conference. While I will be sad to miss the opportunity to connect face to face with our membership, my doctor and I decided it would be best for me to stay closer to home. With our tremendous executive board, I have no doubt that the AGM and conference will be a success. It has been a pleasure leading this organization the past year. The ACTWS is a wonderful organization and one that I have been proud to be part of. I wish you all a happy and successful 2020 conference!



# CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

## **Thursday, March 12**

1900 – 2100 Public Talk, Bill Snow and Wes Olson (Salon C)

## **Friday, March 13**

1000 – 1700 Conference Registration (Lobby)

0800 – 2300 Field Trip and Workshops (various times and locations)

1700 – 1900 ACTWS Annual General Meeting (Salon A2)

1900 – 2200 Mixer/Cash Bar and Student Conclave (Salon B)

## **Saturday, March 14**

0800 – 1200 Conference Registration (Lobby)

0830 – 0900 Conference Welcome (Salon B/C)

0900 – 1200 Conference Plenary (Salon B/C)

1200 – 1300 Lunch (provided in Salon B/C)

1300 – 1400 Special Presentation: Cumulative effects and conservation priorities in Alberta's southern east slopes (Salon B/C)

1400 – 1600 Open paper program, concurrent sessions (Salons A1 & A2)

1630 – 1730 Poster Session, cash bar (Salon B/C)

1730 – 2400 Banquet  
Scholarships  
Awards  
Live and Silent Auctions  
DJ Entertainment and Dance

## **Sunday, March 15**

0830 – 1015 Symposium (Salon B/C)

1030 – 1200 Open paper program, concurrent sessions (Salons A1 & A2)

1200 – 1300 Lunch (provided in Salon B/C)

1300 – 1415 Open paper program, concurrent sessions (Salons A1 & A2)

1415 – 1500 Open paper program, speed talks (Salon B/C)

1500 – 1530 Student presentation awards, closing remarks (Salon B/C)

# PUBLIC TALK

Thursday, March 12

We are hosting a public talk on bison for the 2020 ACTWS Conference. Join us for an evening of two interesting presentations by Bill Snow and Wes Olson.

**1900 – 2100**

PUBLIC TALK

NORSEMEN INN, SALON C

Cultural Perspective on the Bison Reintroduction

**Bill Snow**, Consultation Manager, Stoney Nakoda First Nation

The Ecological Buffalo: Following the trail of a keystone species

**Wes Olson**, Wes Olson, Author and National Park Warden (Retired)



PHOTO BY ALEX BEATTY

# REGISTRATION AND WORKSHOPS

## Friday, March 13

All events are at the Norsemen Inn unless otherwise noted

Conference participants are responsible for their own meals on Friday

1000 – 1700 Conference Registration (Lobby)

0930 – 1530 Miquelon Provincial Park and Ministik Bird Sanctuary Field Trip (off site, meet in lobby, a bagged lunch is included)  
Margo Pybus, Alberta Fish and Wildlife  
Glen Lawrence, County of Strathcona

## WORKSHOPS

0800 – 1100 **Alberta Trapping** (Salon A1)

Mark Boyce, University of Alberta

1130 – 1200 **How to Prepare for and Pass Oral Exams** (Salon A1)

Lee Foote, University of Alberta

0900 – 1200 **Winter Mammal Tracking** (Research Station\*)

Joseph Litke, Fiera Biological Consulting

Stephen Olson, STRIX Ecological

1300 – 1500 **Aquatic Invasive Species** (Salon A1)

Cindy Sawchuk, Alberta Environment and Parks

1300 – 1600 **Wildlife Necropsy** (Research Station\*)

Dayna Goldsmith, University of Calgary

1645 – 2300 **Owl Field Techniques** (Salon A1 and off site)

Lisa Takats-Priestley and Chuck Priestley, STRIX Ecological

1700 – 1900 ACTWS AGM (Salon A2)

1900 – 2200 Mixer/Cash Bar and Student Conclave (Salon B)

\*Directions to Augustana Miquelon Lake Research Station  
From Edmonton

Take Hwy 14 east; turn south onto Hwy 21; turn east onto Hwy 623 and follow it to the Park. Turn left into Miquelon Lake Provincial Park. Follow directional signs beginning at the registration booth which will guide you to the Research Station.

From Camrose

Take Hwy 833 north; turn west onto Hwy 617; turn north onto Hwy 623 towards Miquelon Lake. Turn right into Miquelon Lake Provincial Park. Follow directional signs beginning at the registration booth which will guide you to the Research Station.

# PLENARY

Saturday, March 14 – Morning  
SALON B/C

CONFERENCE WELCOME

**0830 – 0900**

**Myrna Yellowbird**, Elder, Samson  
Cree Nation

**Jackie Lovely**, MLA Camrose

**Marlin Schmidt**, MLA Edmonton  
Gold Bar, Environment Critic

**Norman Mayer**, Mayor of  
Camrose

**Andrea Morehouse**, ACTWS  
President

**0900 – 1200** PLENARY  
SPECIES ON THE MOVE

Moderator: Cesar Estevo  
AV Volunteer: Isobel Phoebus

**0900 – 0910**

Introduction

**Cesar Estevo**, University of  
Alberta

**0910 – 0940**

KEYNOTE

Temperate Mountain Bird  
Responses to Climate Change  
influences

**Kathy Martin**, Professor,  
University of British Columbia

**0940 – 1000**

An accidental icon: climate  
change and polar bears

**Andrew Derocher**, Professor,  
University of Alberta

**1000 – 1020** COFFEE BREAK  
(Provided in Banquet Hallway)

**1020 – 1040**

Conservation and management  
of western boreal birds in a  
changing climate: What do we  
expect, what have we observed,  
and what do we do about it?

**Diana Stralberg**, Research  
Scientist, University of Alberta



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SUBMISSION PHOTO BY MEGHAN BEALE

Abstracts for all oral and poster presentations are available for download and printing online:  
<https://www.actws.ca/conference/>

# PLENARY

## Saturday, March 14 – Afternoon\*

PLENARY CONTINUED  
SALON B/C

### 1040 – 1100

Of hosts, parasites, migration and climate change: what can long term studies tell us?

**Kathreen Ruckstuhl**, Professor, University of Calgary

### 1100 – 1120

Avian Passerines on the Move

**Geoff Holroyd**, Chair, Beaverhill Bird Observatory

### 1120 – 1200

Panel Discussion

**1200 – 1300 LUNCH BREAK**  
**STUDENT-MENTOR LUNCH**  
(Provided in Salon B/C)

\*conference registration open  
0800 – 1200 in lobby

SPECIAL PRESENTATION  
SALON B/C

### 1300 – 1330

Cumulative effects and conservation priorities in Alberta's southern east slopes

**Sarah Milligan**, Integral Ecology Group

### 1330 – 1345

ACTWS perspectives on C5 Report  
**Sarah Emeligi**, ACTWS Executive Director

**1345 – 1400 COFFEE BREAK**  
(Provided in Banquet Hallway)





## CONCURRENT SESSIONS

### Saturday, March 14 – Afternoon

SESSION 2A - SALON A1

#### **Comparing methods**

Moderator: Brittany Woelk  
AV Volunteer: Maria Dobbin

#### **1400 – 1415**

Estimating feeding relationships of sharp-tailed grouse using stable isotopes

**Sejer Meyhoff**, University of Lethbridge

#### **1415 – 1430**

Estimating density of wildlife with camera traps: Spatially explicit capture-recapture and time in front of the camera

**Camille Warbington**, University of Alberta

#### **1430 – 1445**

Do you only get what you pay for? Comparing low-cost recording units to the field standard.

**Tyne Baker**, A/Vian Eco

#### **1445 – 1500**

Five years of monitoring mammals in Alberta by remote camera: Current applications and future directions

**Marcus Becker**, ABMI

**1500 – 1515 COFFEE BREAK**

SESSION 2B - SALON A2

#### **Sharing the landscape (I): ecology of human infrastructure**

Moderator: Megan Maier  
AV Volunteer: Baily McCulloch

#### **1400 – 1415**

From Butterflies to Bears: Developing standards for road ecology across Canada

**D.L. (Dee) Patriquin**, WSP Canada

#### **1415 – 1430**

Assessing the impacts of threats to the survival of the Plains Sucker (*Pantosteus jordanii*) in the Milk River

**Taylor MacLeod**, University of Alberta

#### **1430 – 1445**

Railway mortality for several mammal species increases in areas with poor sight lines and escape terrain.

**Colleen Cassady St. Clair**, University of Alberta

#### **1445 – 1500**

Spatial distribution and factors affecting anthropogenic cougar mortality in Alberta

**Alexa MacPherson**, University of Alberta

**1500 – 1515 COFFEE BREAK**

# CONCURRENT SESSIONS

## Saturday, March 14 – Afternoon

SESSION 3A - SALON A1

### **A shifting climate: changes in environmental and social conditions**

Moderator: Erin Low

AV Volunteer: Aidan Sheppard

#### **1515 – 1530**

A hill has many faces: The influence of topography on microclimates, vegetation and boreal songbirds

**Cesar Estevo**, University of Alberta

#### **1530 – 1545**

Elucidating the distribution of a non-native species of katydid in Alberta using bioacoustics

**Alexandre Caouette**, MacEwan University

#### **1545 – 1600**

The human dimensions of waterfowl hunting participation: Understanding Albertan waterfowl hunting retention, recruitment, and reactivation.

**Howie Harshaw**, University of Alberta

#### **1600 – 1630 BREAK**

SESSION 3B - SALON A2

### **Sharing the landscape (II): Wildlife in human environments**

Moderator: Megan Brownlee

AV Volunteer: Emilie Toews

#### **1515 – 1530**

A 20-year retrospective of aversive conditioning of grizzly bears in Kananaskis Country, Alberta, Canada.

**John Paczkowski**, Alberta Environment and Parks

#### **1530 – 1545**

Poor-quality diet correlates with increased *Echinococcus multilocularis* infection in urban coyotes (*Canis latrans*)

**Deanna Steckler**, University of Alberta

#### **1545 – 1600**

Do fireworks impact bat activity?

**Brendan Roy**, Lethbridge College

#### **1600 – 1630 BREAK**



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PHOTO BY EMILIA HOUSCH

# ACTWS CONFERENCE 2020 - CAMROSE, AB

Saturday, March 14 – Evening

SALON B/C

**1630 – 1730** POSTER SESSION  
and cash bar

*A list of contributed posters is  
available at the end of the  
program*

**1730 – 1845** BANQUET DINNER  
Music provided by Stephen Olson

**1845 – 1900** SCHOLARSHIPS  
Jessica Melsted

**1900 – 1915** AWARDS  
Glynnis Hood

**1915 – 2000** LIVE AUCTION  
Matt Besko

**2000 – 2400** DJ by Equinox Sound

Sunday, March 15 – Morning

SALON B/C

**0830 – 1015** SYMPOSIUM  
Moderator: Bill Abercrombie  
AV Volunteer: Kaegan Finn

THE ROLE THAT HUNTING,  
TRAPPING, AND FISHING CAN PLAY  
IN HELPING US UNDERSTAND  
WILDLIFE MOVEMENTS AND  
CONSERVATION

**0830 – 0850**  
**Lee Foote**, University of Alberta

**0850 – 0910**  
**Brad Stelfox**, ALCES Group

**0910 – 0930**  
**Matt Besko**, Alberta Environment  
and Parks

**0930 – 0950**  
**Todd Zimmerling**, Alberta  
Conservation Association

**0950 – 1015**  
Panel Discussion

**1015 – 1030** COFFEE BREAK  
(Provided in Banquet Hallway)



2017 LARRY COMIN PHOTO CONTEST WINNING  
PHOTO BY CONNOR CHARCHUK

# CONCURRENT SESSIONS

## Sunday, March 15 – Morning

SESSION 5A - SALON A1

### **Managing for Caribou Recovery**

Moderator: Caroline Seip

AV Volunteer: Peter Thompson

#### **1030 – 1045**

Moving genes around:

Considerations for caribou breeding and translocation programs

**Maria Cavedon**, University of Calgary

#### **1045 – 1100**

Recovery actions for woodland caribou: Predicting and testing the efficacy of habitat restoration

**Melanie Dickie**, ABMI

#### **1100 – 1115**

Facilitating understanding between Western-based science and Indigenous Traditional Knowledge for the conservation of species-at-risk in northwestern Alberta, within the context of a proposed Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA)

**Matthew Munson**, Dene Tha' First Nation

#### **1115 – 1130**

Partial Cutting: Changing the timber harvest paradigm in Alberta to conserve mountain caribou.

**Kirby Smith**

#### **1130 – 1145**

Caribou on the move: Identifying migratory behaviours to preserve intraspecies diversity

**Jessica Theoret**, University of Calgary

#### **1145 – 1200**

Woodland caribou calving fidelity in northern Ontario

**Phil Walker**, University of Alberta

**1200 – 1300 LUNCH BREAK**  
(Provided in Salon B/C)



# CONCURRENT SESSIONS

## Sunday, March 15 – Morning

SESSION 5B - SALON A2

### **Understanding distribution and selection**

Moderator: Ian Gazeley

AV Volunteer: Alexa MacPherson

#### **1030 – 1045**

Effects of forest fire on the bat community in Waterton Lakes National Park

**Erin Low**, University of Calgary

#### **1045 – 1100**

Year-round northern saw-whet owl movements through a banding station in central Alberta, Canada

**Lisa Takats-Priestley**, STRIX Ecological Consulting

#### **1100 – 1115**

If you were a ewe, where would you give birth?

**Grace Enns**, University of Alberta

#### **1115 – 1130**

Tracking Burrowing Owls to Determine Population Dynamics and Conservation Needs in Prairie Canada

**Geoff Holroyd**, Beaverhill Bird Observatory

#### **1130 – 1145**

Biotic communities change throughout Alberta along major climatic gradients, and in relation to subtle habitat and taxonomic differences.

**Jim Schieck**, ABMI

#### **1145 – 1200**

Characteristics of wolverine dens in the lowland boreal forest of north-central Alberta

**Robert Anderson**, Alberta Conservation Association

**1200 – 1300 LUNCH BREAK**  
(Provided in Salon B/C)



2019 LARRY COMIN PHOTO CONTEST SUBMISSION PHOTO BY ALEXA MACPHERSON

# CONCURRENT SESSIONS

## Sunday, March 15 – Afternoon

SESSION 6A - SALON A1

### **Cascading impacts: community dynamics and landscape genetics**

Moderator: Taylor MacLeod  
AV Volunteer: Jonathan Farr

#### **1300 – 1315**

The new top dogs? Mesopredator response to wolf removal in a changing landscape

**Baily McCulloch**, University of Alberta

#### **1315 – 1330**

Ecological compromise: Can alternative beaver management maintain biodiversity?

**Glynnis Hood**, University of Alberta

#### **1330 – 1345**

Mammalian responses to caribou recovery activities in west-central Alberta

**Caroline Seip**, Government of Alberta/University of British Columbia

#### **1345 – 1400**

Species reintroductions and population bottlenecks: Conservation genetics of Roosevelt Elk in southwest British Columbia

**Ian Gazeley**, University of Lethbridge

#### **1400 – 1415 COFFEE BREAK**

SESSION 6B - SALON A2

### **Parasite and disease transmission**

Moderator: Victoria Van Mierlo  
AV Volunteer: Madeline Trottier

#### **1300 – 1315**

Contact rates for disease transmission: Do metrics matter?

**Maria Dobbin**, University of Alberta

#### **1315 – 1330**

Chronic Wasting Disease and where to find it: Modelling spread of infection in Alberta

**Peter Smolko**, University of Alberta

#### **1330 – 1345**

Wildlife and domestic animal overlap and parasitic infections: the *Echinococcus multilocularis* case

**Emilie Toews**, University of Calgary

#### **1400 – 1415 COFFEE BREAK**



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PHOTO BY ASHTON BRADLEY

# SPEED TALKS

## Sunday, March 15 – Afternoon

SESSION 7 - SALON B/C

SPEED TALKS

Moderator: Larissa Thelin

AV Volunteer: Larissa Clayton

### 1415 – 1420

Remote cameras reveal species-specific performance of ecological indices used for urban planning

**Cassandra Stevenson**, University of Alberta

### 1420 – 1425

Why hunt sharp-tailed grouse? Hunter motivation and satisfaction in Alberta, Canada

**Eric Smith**, University of Alberta

### 1425 – 1430

The effects of artificial light on relative abundance of Common Nighthawks (*Chordeiles minor*)

**Carrie Ann Adams**, University of Alberta

### 1430 – 1435

Bison movement ecology as a model for livestock grazing management

**Tawnee Dupuis**, University of Alberta

### 1435 – 1440

Wildlife Identification: The Hair Scale Guide to Terrestrial Mammalian Carnivores of Canada

**Justin Keszei**, Sault College

### 1440 – 1445

What makes elk tick: hair loss and winter ticks in collared and uncollared elk

**Jacalyn Normandeau**, University of Alberta

### 1445 – 1500 QUESTION PERIOD

### 1500 – 1515 PRESENTATION AWARDS

### 1515 – 1530 CLOSING REMARKS



2017 LARRY COMIN PHOTO CONTEST SUBMISSION  
PHOTO BY DELANEY SCHLEMKO

# POSTERS

## CONTRIBUTED POSTERS

### SALON B/C

*Posters must be removed by the end of the conference on Sunday*

1. Evaluating the effects of a woodland caribou recovery strategy on grey wolf resource selection in northeastern Alberta ~**Katherine Baillie-David**
2. Estimating sitatunga (*Tragelaphus spekii*) density using time in front of the camera ~**Megan Brownlee**
3. Post-disturbance patterns in *Cladonia arbuscula ssp. mitis* growth rates in the boreal forest of Alberta, Canada ~**Larissa Clayton**
4. Defining and measuring success of aversive conditioning and hazing programs for bears: a review ~**Claire Edwards**
5. Effect of passive integrated transponders (PITs) on black-capped chickadees (*Poecile atricapillus*) ~**Jonathan Farr**
6. The isotope ecology of freshwater fish and their parasites ~**Kaegan Finn**
7. Evaluating density and spatiotemporal changes of five sympatric ungulates ~**Jennifer Foca**
8. Individual-based modelling of chronic wasting disease ~**Kelsey Gritter**
9. Anthropogenic diet correlates with parasite prevalence in urban and peri-urban coyotes (*Canis latrans*) ~**Arya Horon**
10. Modelling the spread of chronic wasting disease in mule deer based on their home range behavior ~**Jingjing Xu**
11. Summer diet of wolves (*Canis lupus*) using DNA and hair-based approaches in the south Slave Lake region, Northwest Territories ~**Anna Jovtoulia**
12. The effect of temporal trends in sea ice freeze-up on polar bear migration in the western Hudson Bay ~**Erin Miller**
13. What we caribout: a tool for landscape assessment to support caribou conservation ~**Mariana Nagy-Reis**
14. Bat roost monitoring and citizen science in Alberta ~**Cory Olson**
15. Winter ecology of the Ronald Lake wood bison herd ~**Aidan Sheppard**
16. Canada warbler (*Cardellina canadensis*) breeding ecology at the edge of the range in western Alberta ~**Lisa Takats-Priestley**
17. The benefits and costs of coursing ~**Ryan Tate**



# POSTERS

## CONTRIBUTED POSTERS SALON B/C

18. Walking the line: investigating ecological characteristics relating to wildlife linear feature use ~**Erin Tattersall**
19. Hydro acoustic surveys in shallow northern boreal lakes: improving non-lethal sampling techniques, exploring the potential of hydro acoustic surveys and acknowledging its limitations and potential biases ~**Sebastian Theis**
20. Habitat suitability models and climate change: projecting habitat changes for the polar bears of Davis Strait ~**Larissa Thelin**
21. Migration and movement dynamics of polar bears (*Ursus maritimus*) in western Hudson Bay ~**Alyssa M. Bohart**
22. Identifying memory-based movement patterns in Arctic grizzly bears ~**Peter Thompson**
23. Comparing expert-ranked and model-estimated risk of incidental take of forest birds and their nests by logging operations ~**Laura Marie Trout**
24. Understanding the impacts of invasive northern crayfish (*Orconectes virilis*) on native piscivorous fish species in the North Saskatchewan River watershed ~**Victoria Van Mierlo**
25. Increased tracking ability when using backpack-mounted VHF transmitters on post-fledge raptors ~**Ronena Wolach**
26. Disparity in elk (*Cervus canadensis*) behaviour following different migratory tactics on a sympatric winter range ~**Madeline Trottier**



# NOTES

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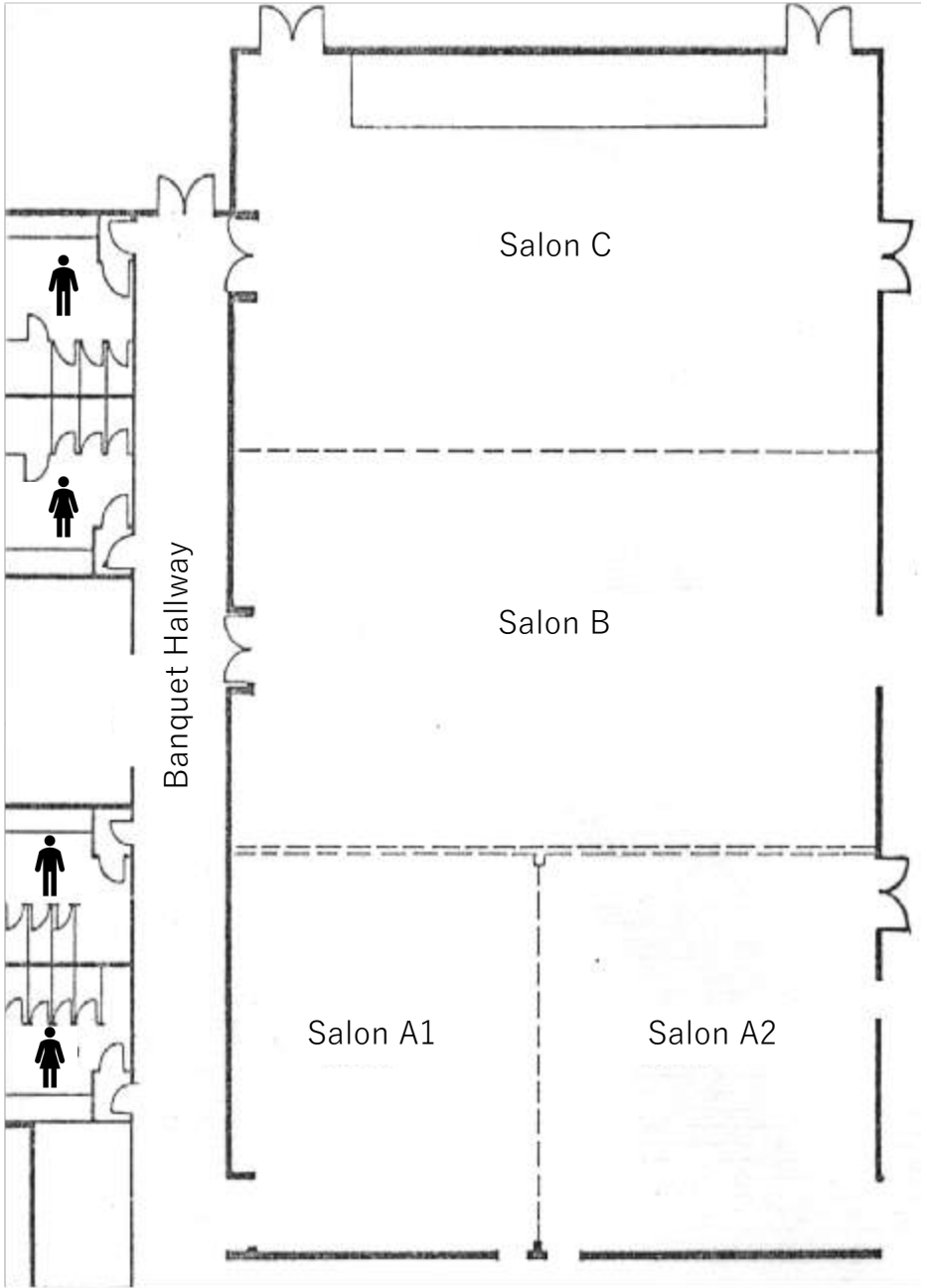
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# MAP



ACTWS CONFERENCE 2020 - CAMROSE, AB

ACTWS EXTENDS A SINCERE  
**THANK YOU** TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS!



**ALBERTA  
PACIFIC**  
FOREST INDUSTRIES INC



**UNIVERSITY OF  
ALBERTA**

AUGUSTANA CAMPUS

