

WILDLIFE EVOLUTIONARY ECOLOGY in a CHANGING WORLD



Graduate school is a formative moment. For many of us it represents a time of intellectual and personal growth that helps us go on to achieve our personal and professional goals. Our research opportunities, our community, and the geography in which we choose to study shape our growth and trajectories.

The [Wildlife Evolutionary Ecology Lab](#) is a diverse and inclusive research community located at Memorial University in St. John's, Newfoundland. Our lab occurs on the ancestral homelands of the Beothuk and Mi'kmaq peoples, and our projects span a myriad of traditional Lands across Canada.

We are looking to recruit a cohort of **up to four students at either the PhD or MSc level** and anticipate start dates between May 2024 and January 2025. We are willing to wait for the applicants with the best fit. We fully fund positions at a living wage in St. John's (~4 year PhD and ~2 year MSc). We will support and encourage the successful applicants to apply for internal and external funding.

We will tailor projects to the interests of successful applicants. Projects, however, will likely occur within our established research systems and with the support of our current and legacy collaborators. For example, we hope to recruit students that will be interested in:

- (1) Studying the social ecology, movement ecology, and zoogeochemistry of caribou in response to environmental change in Newfoundland. Some recent papers: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#).
- (2) Studying the influence of climate change on northern species, for example coat-colour mismatch in snowshoe hares. Our hare system in Newfoundland shares collaborators in the Pan-Canadian Hare Network. Some recent papers: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#).
- (3) Studying large mammal movement, population and predator-prey dynamics in our longer-term monitoring studies in Manitoba. Some recent papers: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#).
- (4) Metapopulation and range expansion ecology of wood bison in the Yukon.

Training Opportunity: The projects will provide excellent opportunities for active training and developing skills for employment or further graduate studies. For example, (1) Fundamentals: critical thinking, experimental design, practicing and communicating science; (2) Field skills: biotelemetry; behavioural observation of wildlife; (3) Analytical: lab-skills, advanced GIS, programming statistical and spatial models; (4) Building a better community: learning about, and contributing to, the ongoing development of lab inclusivity practices, mental health awareness, and Indigenization through organized discussions, workshops, and seminars.

Qualifications: We seek applicants with the following qualities. (1) A passion for nature, ecological and evolutionary theory. (2) An interest, commitment, and aptitude for research in the field (however, we will provide accommodations for individuals who cannot study in the field). (3) Quantitative skills in GIS, statistical programming in R, and experience or interest in modeling. (4) A demonstrated commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion. (5) And foremost, evidence of kindness and teamwork. We assess merit via both traditional and non-traditional indicators in our candidate selection. Applicants are encouraged to contact any past or present students in the [WEEL group](#) to obtain an informed opinion of the experience provided by positions in our community.

Memorial University's mission, code, and values reflect its commitment to [diversity and inclusivity](#). While everyone is responsible for upholding these values, we have a responsibility to lead and foster equity initiatives within our lab and department given the importance of inclusion in scholarship.

To apply, please email your applications to me (eric.vanderwal@mun.ca). We would appreciate if the application was a single *.pdf document. Please include a cover letter outlining your background, aspirations, interests, desired research questions or system, any equity considerations you are comfortable sharing, and a current CV including the names of two references.

Thank you in advance.

~Eric and the WEEL community