

Peter Fortna

DOB: 29 September 1979

Email: peter@willowsspringsss.com

Website: www.willowsspringsss.com

Publications: <https://willowsspringsss.academia.edu/PeterFortna>

Principal Consultant

Willow Springs Strategic Solutions Inc.

Professional Consulting Services

2012-Present

As a research and management consultant I strive to help communities and clients find strategic solutions to complex and interrelated problems. To find solutions, I incorporate community-based research methodologies that empower the community to make informed decisions and to develop meaningful programs.

A full list of services offered by WSSS can be viewed at: www.willowsspringsss.com

Other Professional Work Experience

Jan. 2011-Feb. 2012

Fort McKay Métis Community

Manager of Sustainable Development

May 2010-Dec. 2010

Métis Liaison

Fort McKay Industrial Relations Corporation (FM IRC)

Jan. 2010-May 2010

Social Science Bibliographer, Athabasca River Basin Research Institute (ARBRI)

Athabasca University, Fort McMurray, Alberta

Jan. 2009-Dec. 2010

Sessional Instructor

Keyano College, Fort McMurray, Alberta

Jan. 2008-Dec. 2009

Research Coordinator

Métis Nation of Alberta Local 1935, Fort McMurray, Alberta

Education

2011-2013

Certificate of Aboriginal Leadership, Governance, and Management Excellence

Aboriginal Leadership and Management, Banff Centre, Banff, Alberta

- Completed Four of Six Courses:

2004-2008

PhD Candidate (History and Classics)

University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta

- Subjects of expertise: Aboriginal History, Canadian History, Environmental History, Public and National Parks History
- Voluntarily withdrawn after completing comprehensive exams.

2002-2003

MA (History)

Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, Newfoundland

- Subjects of expertise: Public History, Aboriginal History, Cultural Geography

1998-2002

BA (History, Minor in Museum and Heritage Studies)

University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta

- Subjects of expertise: Public History, Aboriginal History, Cultural Geography

Research and Publications

Ongoing Research

Fortna, Peter

"A Moral if Not Legal Obligation:" A History of Métis and Non-Status First Nation Land Tenure in Northern Alberta, 1900-2000

The quote comes from policy guidelines developed by the Alberta Ad Hoc Committee on Métis Land Tenure in the early 1970s when it was considering how best to address the future for Indigenous land tenure in the province. The goal of the policy was to, once and for all, "resolve the long-standing grievances of natives and non-natives regarding land tenure;" however, as the manuscript will show, the established policies contributed to the institutionalized poverty experienced in these communities to this day.

Books

Fortna, Peter

Contracted *Fort McKay Métis Nation: A Community History*
University of Calgary Press. (Expected to be published in late 2024).

Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation with Sabina Trimble, Peter Fortna

2023 [*Remembering Our Relations: Dènesuḡiné Oral Histories of Wood Buffalo National Park*](#)
University of Calgary Press. 352 pages

Finkel Alvin, Sarah Carter, and Peter Fortna eds.

2010 [*The West and Beyond: New Perspectives on an Imagined Region*](#). Edmonton: Athabasca University Press. 461 pages.

Book Chapters

Finkel, Alvin, Sarah Carter and Peter Fortna

2010 "[Introduction](#)" in Alvin Finkel, Sarah Carter and Peter Fortna eds., *The West and Beyond: New Perspectives on an Imagined Region*. Edmonton: Athabasca University Press, June 2010. xi-xxv.

Fortna, Peter
2007 “‘For the Possible if not Probable Future of the Land’: Henry Youle Hind’s Rediscovery of Rupert’s Land.” Len Kuffert, ed., *The Prairies: Lost and Found*. Winnipeg: St. John’s College Press, 2007. 149-165.

Articles

Fortna, Peter
2022 “[‘Wahkootowin, and Keemooch: History of the Conklin Métis Community, 1886-2000.’](#) *Prairie History* 8 (Summer 2022) 55-72.

Fortna, Peter
2006 “[‘A Firm Referee that Will Make Both Sides Adhere By the Rules’: Gentlemanly Status and Hockey Referees in Edmonton Alberta, 1893-1907.’](#) *Past Imperfect* 12, (2006): 1-26.

Videos, Websites and Podcasts

Fortna, Peter (Producer)
2018 Video: [Voices Around the Fire: An Indigenous Wildfire Story](#).

Fortna, Peter, Grace Richards and Stacey Atkinson
2018 Video: [How Much Longer? Homelessness in Conklin, Alberta](#), at Canadian Rural & Remote Housing and Homelessness Symposium in Canmore, Alberta.

Fortna, Peter, Gillian Donald, Darcy Picard and Tim Clark.
2015 Audio: [The McMurray Métis' Cumulative Effects Management Strategy: Connecting Métis, Social Scientific and Scientific Research Methodologies to Monitor the Effects of Oil Sands Development](#). University of Aberdeen. Aberdeen, Scotland.

Fortna, Peter
2015 Video: “[Do these Deskmen think a Trapper with a Family Can Afford Beef? Traplines, Métis Land-Use and Aboriginal Rights, 1940-1980.](#)” Metis Rights, Land Use and Consultation Seminar at the Fort McMurray Public Library. Fort McMurray, Alberta.

Fortna, Peter, Sarah Carter, and Alvin Finkel eds.
2010 Website: [West and Beyond: Historians Past Present Future – Conference Podcast Collection](#). Athabasca University Digital Library.

Fortna, Peter
2008 Audio: “[Possessing No Local Knowledge of this Region”: Imperialism and Resistance in the Canadian Rocky Mountains.](#)” *The Network in Canadian History and Environment*.

Museum Exhibits

Fortna, Peter
2010 “The Creation of the Metis Nation in Northeastern Alberta: Through Historical Photographs.” Completed with support from the Metis Nation of Alberta, Region One and the Cumulative Environmental Management Association. Hosted at Heritage Park, Fort McMurray, Alberta.

Conference Proceedings

Fortna, Peter

- 2004 “Rupert’s Land Rediscovered: The Appropriation of Landscape in the Travel Narratives of James Carnegie and Henry Youle Hind.” in *Papers of the Rupert’s Land Colloquium 2004*, compiled by D.G. Malaher. Winnipeg: Centre for Rupert’s Land Studies, University of Winnipeg. 391-409.

Book Reviews

Fortna, Peter

- 2011 [Review of Graham A. MacDonald, *The Beaver Hills: A History of Land and Life*. Edmonton: Athabasca University, 2009.](#) *The Canadian Historical Review* 92 (June 2011): 369-371.

Blog Posts

Trimble, Sabina, Peter Fortna, ACFN Elders

- 2022 “[‘For our Relatives to be Remembered’: Dënesųłné Oral Testimony and Wood Buffalo National Park.](#)” Niche: Network in Canadian History & Environment”.

Fortna, Peter

- 2021 “[Rhizomes: An Interview with Peter Fortna.](#)” Niche: Network in Canadian History & Environment”.

Trimble, Sabina and Peter Fortna

- 2021 “[Honouring Oral Histories: Wood Buffalo National Park and the Dënesųłné.](#)” Niche: Network in Canadian History & Environment”.

Trimble, Sabina, Peter Fortna, William TD Wadsworth

- 2021 “[Research, Recovery, and Reparations: Oral History and Community-Engaged Archaeology.](#)” Niche: Network in Canadian History & Environment.”

Fortna, Peter

- 2016 “[Elsie Yanik’s Lesson of Kindness.](#)” Willow Springs Strategic Solutions.

Other Select Research Reports

Fortna, Peter and Emma Wallace

- 2023 “[Conklin: Housing and Service Needs Estimation: Community Report.](#)” Edmonton: Rural Development Network.

Trimble, Sabina and Peter Fortna

- 2021 “[A History of Wood Buffalo National Park’s Relations with the Denésuliné.](#)” Fort Chipewyan: Willow Springs Strategic Solutions.

Fortna, Peter

- 2018 “[‘How Much Longer?’ A Preliminary Assessment of Homelessness in Conklin, Alberta.](#)” Fort McMurray: Willow Springs Strategic Solutions.

Clark, Timothy David, Dermot O’Connor and Peter Fortna,

- 2015 “[Fort McMurray: Historic and Contemporary Rights-Bearing Métis Community.](#)” Fort McMurray: McMurray Métis.

Conference Presentations

Fortna, Peter

2021 “‘A moral if not legal responsibility’: Métis and Land Tenure in Northern Alberta, 1965-2020.” 2021 Canadian Historical Association Annual Meeting. 31 May – 2 June 2021.

Fortna, Peter

2019 “Our future is tied to the land question just as thoroughly as our past has been tied to the land question”: Métis and Land Tenure in Northeastern Alberta, 1970-2018. Joint meeting of the American Anthropological Association and the Canadian Anthropology Society. 20 November 2019.

Fortna, Peter, Grace Richards and Stacey Atkinson

2018 “How Much Longer? A Preliminary Assessment of Homelessness in Conklin, Alberta” Canadian Rural and Remote Housing and Homelessness Symposium. Canmore, Alberta.

Fortna, Peter, Gillian Donald, Darcy Picard and Tim Clark.

2017 “The McMurray Métis' Cumulative Effects Management Strategy: Connecting Métis, Social Scientific and Scientific Research Methodologies to Monitor the Effects of Oil Sands Development.” 2017 International Association of Impact Assessments. Montreal, Quebec.

Fortna, Peter and Jennifer Gerbrandt

2016 “Creating a Research Ethic: Community Based Research as a tool for Strategic Decision Making.” 2016 Annual Meeting of Environmental Studies Association of Canada. Calgary, Alberta.

Fortna, Peter, Gillian Donald, Darcy Picard and Tim Clark.

2015 “The McMurray Métis' Cumulative Effects Management Strategy: Connecting Métis, Social Scientific and Scientific Research Methodologies to Monitor the Effects of Oil Sands Development.” University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, Scotland.

Fortna, Peter

2015 “The McMurray Métis' Cumulative Effects Management Strategy.” Canadian Prairie & Northern Section Annual Conference: Monitoring, Assessment and Management of Environmental Quality: Challenges and Opportunities.” Edmonton, Alberta.

Fortna, Peter

2015 “‘Do these Deskmen think a Trapper with a Family Can Afford Beef?’ Traplines, Métis Land-Use and Aboriginal Rights, 1940-1980.” Metis Rights, Land Use and Consultation Seminar at the Fort McMurray Public Library. Fort McMurray, Alberta.

Fortna, Peter

2015 “Métis Traditional Land-Use and the Development of an Alberta Métis Consultation Policy” Métis Rights & Economic Development Symposium. Fort McMurray, Alberta.

- Fortna, Peter, Hereward Longley Tara Joly and Bori Arrobo
 2014 “Video and Roundtable Presentation: ‘Moose Lake: Home and Refuge’”
 Energy in the Americas: Critical Reflections on Energy & History. Calgary, Alberta.
- Fortna, Peter, and Dermot O’Connor
 2013 “Maitow Sakahhikanihk (Lac Ste. Anne) Métis Oral History Project Information Session &
 Research Workshop.” Wabamun, Alberta.
- Fortna, Peter, Gillian Donald, Deborah Simmons, Glenda McNeilly, Matthew Whitehead & Kim Dertien
 2013 “Utilizing Indigenous research methodologies in Environmental Impact Assessments.”
 International Association for Impact Assessments, Impact Assessment: The Next Generation.
 Calgary, Alberta.
- Fortna, Peter, Dermot O’Connor, Melina Scoville, Diane Scoville, and Trevor Weis
 2012 “Métis Environmental Knowledge Research in Northeastern Alberta: Developing a Community
 Based Process.” Directions West: The Third Biennial Western Canadian Studies Conference.
 Calgary, Alberta.
- Fortna, Peter and Matthew Whitehead
 2012 “Developing a Community Based Research Methodology in Aboriginal Communities
 in Northeastern Alberta.” Keyano College Aboriginal Awareness Days. Fort
 McMurray, Alberta.
- Fortna Peter and Alice Martin
 2010 “Renewing the Health of Our Forests: The Two Road Approach to Understanding the
 Biodiversity Traditional Knowledge of the Oil Sands Region.” Unwrap the Research: What Now
 for Fort McMurray and Wood Buffalo. Fort McMurray, Alberta.
- Fortna, Peter and Tereasa Maillie
 2010 “‘Do these Deskmen think a Trapper with a Family Can Afford Beef?’ Métis Historical use of
 Traplines 1900-1980.” Place and Replace: A joint meeting of Western Canadian Studies and the
 St John’s College Prairies Conference. Winnipeg, Manitoba.
- Fortna, Peter and James R. Dragon
 2009 “The Mighty Athabasca: Applied Métis Environmental and Historical Research.”
 Fur Trade and Métis History: Patterns of Ethnogenesis Mini-Conference. Ottawa,
 Ontario.
- Fortna, Peter
 2009 “The Mark of the Métis in the Wood Buffalo Region: Through the Eyes of Our Elders.”
 Honouring our Elders, Celebrating our Future: 2009 Aboriginal Awareness Day. Fort McMurray,
 Alberta.
- Fortna, Peter
 2008 “‘Possessing No Local Knowledge of this Region’: Imperialism and Resistance in the Canadian
 Rocky Mountains.” The West and Beyond: Historians Past, Present, Future. Edmonton, Alberta.

Fortna, Peter

2005 “Hegemony and Resistance in the Travel Accounts of Early Canadian Mountaineers.” History and Classics Graduate Students Association Research Colloquium. Edmonton, Alberta.

Fortna, Peter

2005 “Locating the Voice of Red Crow.” 84th Meeting of the Canadian Historical Association. London, Ontario.

Fortna, Peter

2004 “‘For the Possible if not Probable Future of the Land’: Henry Youle Hind’s Rupert’s Land.” At Prairies Lost And Found: A Multidisciplinary Conference. Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Fortna, Peter

2004 “Rupert’s Land Rediscovered: The Appropriation of Landscape in the Travel Narratives of James Carnegie and Henry Youle Hind.” The Centre for Rupert’s Land Studies Biennial Colloquium. Kenora, Ontario.

Poster Presentations

Fortna, Peter, Matthew Whitehead, Kim Dertein

2013 “Developing a Traditional Knowledge Management Framework in the Alberta Oilsands.” Impact Assessment The Next Generation: International Association of Impact Assessments Conference. Calgary, Alberta

Facilitated Meetings

Fortna, Peter

2017 Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action Symposium. Fort McMurray, Alberta.

Professional Service

2021-Present Co-Chair of the Oil Sands Monitoring Program’s Indigenous Community Based Monitoring Advisory Committee Representing the Conklin Resource Development Advisory Committee (CRDAC).

2014-2022 Vice President of the Wood Buffalo Environmental Association Governance Committee (WBEA GC) representing the Conklin Resource Development Advisory Committee.

2015-2020 Chair of the WBEA Traditional Knowledge Committee Representing CRDAC.

2012-2015 Co-Chair on the Cumulative Environmental Management Association’s (CEMA) Traditional Knowledge Working Group (TKWG) representing the Fort McKay Métis Community.

2014 Member, Toxicology Component Advisory Committee within the Joint Oil Sands Monitoring Program.

2014 Integrated Resource Management System (IRMS) Multi-stakeholder Working Group.

- 2012-2014 Treasurer/Secretary of the WBEA GC representing the Fort McKay Métis Community.
- 2010-2014 Member of the CEMA Aboriginal Caucus and Coordinating Committee representing the Fort McKay Metis Community.
- 2012-2013 Member of the Wood Buffalo Environmental Association (WBEA) Human Exposure Monitoring Program representing the Fort McKay Métis Community.
- 2010-2012 Member of the CEMA Traditional Environmental Knowledge Advisory Committee (TEKAC) Representing the Fort McKay Métis Community.
- 2009 Representative for Métis Local 1935 on the CEMA Reclamation Working Group.
- 2008-2009 Member of CEMA Aboriginal Roundtable, 2008-2009.

Community Service

- 2020-Present Friends of the Cochrane Public Library
- 2017-2019 Member of the Keyano College Board of Governors
- 2016-2019 Member of the Board of Directors, Wood Buffalo Housing and Development Corporation (WBHDC).
- 2017-2018 Founding Member of the Board of Directors, Wood Buffalo Community Foundation (WBCF).
- 2007-2017 Steering Committee, Western Canadian Studies Conference.

References Available Upon Request