

Peter Fortna

DOB: 29 September 1979

Email: peter@willowsspringsss.com

Website: www.willowsspringsss.com

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.

Specific Skills Summary:

- Organizational planning at the strategic, tactical, and operational level.
- Managing community consultation.
- Managing oral history, traditional land use and traditional knowledge projects.
- Providing support to leaders when negotiating long-term impact benefit agreements.
- Providing training in community based research methodologies.
- Coordinating historical research projects.
- Completing project evaluations.
- Facilitating meetings with Aboriginal groups.

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

- As the Manager of Sustainable Development I was responsible for the supervision of all social and environmental programs undertaken on behalf of the Fort McKay Métis Community. Specific duties included establishing organizational by-laws, policies and procedures; providing technical and strategic advice to leadership during long-term impact benefit agreement negotiations, developing a communications and government relations strategy, organizing and facilitating community meetings and developing a strategic, tactical, and operational plan and budget.

May 2010-Dec. 2010

Métis Liaison

Fort McKay Industrial Relations Corporation (FM IRC)

- As the Métis Liaison, I was responsible for building awareness within the Fort McKay Métis community of community-industry and community-government partnerships and programs under the auspices of the FM IRC as well as providing strategic advice and support for Métis specific land-use and cultural projects and programs

Jan. 2010-May 2010

Social Science Bibliographer, Athabasca River Basin Research Institute (ARBRI)
Athabasca University, Fort McMurray, Alberta

- As Social Science Bibliographer I was responsible for expanding an existing bibliography of the social science research done on the Athabasca River Basin (ARB), as part of the larger ARBRI Bibliography Project. In the process I helped input over 2,500 entries concerning Social Science Research. The bibliography is now available at <http://www.barbau.ca>

Jan. 2009-Dec. 2010

Sessional Instructor

Keyano College, Fort McMurray, Alberta

- Responsible for teaching Pre and Post-Confederation Canadian History

Jan. 2008-Dec. 2009

Research Coordinator

Métis Nation of Alberta Local 1935, Fort McMurray, Alberta

- My primary duty was to manage the community based research project “The Mark of the Métis: The Métis Heritage Land Occupancy Relationship Study,” where I completed over 80 Elder interviews and the associated socioeconomic research including: the GIS mapping of traditional knowledge, historical research, genealogical research, applied research and the creation of a referential qualitative and quantitative database.

July 2007-July 2008

Conference Organizer, West and Beyond:

University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta

- With Dr. Sarah Carter, I helped to organize The West And Beyond: Historians Past, Present, Future a Western Canadian Studies Conference. July 2008.

July 2007 – August 2007

Sessional Instructor, “Canadian History in Practice – Issues in Canadian Public History”

University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta

- The fourth year seminar course dealt with issues related to public history in Canada.

May 2005-May 2007

Research Assistant, University of Alberta Centennial Project

University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta

- Under the supervision of Dr. Rod Macleod, I assisted with organization, maintenance and management of data related to the University’s history.

May 2005 - Sept. 2005

Museum Advisor Internship with the Alberta Museums Association

Alberta Museums Association, Edmonton, Alberta

- Under the supervision of the Museum Advisor, I provided expert advice to small to medium sized museums regarding their cultural resource management.

Education

2011-2013

Certificate of Aboriginal Leadership, Governance, and Management Excellence
Aboriginal Leadership and Management, Banff Centre, Banff, Alberta

- Completed Four of Six Courses:
 - Aboriginal Leadership and Management Development
 - Establishing Institutions of Good Governance
 - Negotiations Skills Training
 - Strategic Planning

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

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

Major Scholarly Awards

2011-2012 Banff Centre Scholarships, \$12,000.

2006-2007 Roger Soderstrom Scholarship, \$3,000.

2006-2007 Eleanor Luxton Historical Foundation Fellowship, \$5,000.

2004-2006 University of Alberta, Graduate Internship Scholarship, \$16,000.

2003 Memorial University of Newfoundland, Fellow of the School of Graduate Studies.

Fellowship awarded in recognition of outstanding academic achievement throughout a graduate program.

2002-2003 Memorial University of Newfoundland, Graduate Fellowship, \$10,000.

Professional Service

2014-Present Vice President of the Wood Buffalo Environmental Association Governance Committee (WBEA GC) representing the Conklin Resource Development Advisory Committee. Responsible for all governance decisions made by WBEA, duties include providing input into strategic direction, budgets, and other related tasks.

2015-Present Chair of the WBEA Traditional Knowledge Committee Representing the Conklin Resource Development Advisory Committee (CRDAC). Responsible for coordinating the development of monitoring programs in the region that utilize traditional knowledge and that follow the principles of community based monitoring.

- 2012-2015 Co-Chair on the Cumulative Environmental Management Association's (CEMA) Traditional Knowledge Working Group (TKWG) representing the Fort McKay Métis Community. This Committee is responsible for developing and supervising CEMA projects that utilize traditional knowledge. As Co-Chair I was responsible for developing, supervising and managing projects, liaising with other CEMA working groups, chairing Committee meetings, and representing the TKWG at larger CEMA meetings.
- 2014 Member, Toxicology Component Advisory Committee within the Joint Oil Sands Monitoring Program. Work with other technical experts to develop a work plan for the Toxicology program within the Joint Oil Sands Monitoring Program.
- 2014 Integrated Resource Management System (IRMS) Multi-stakeholder Working Group. Participated on a Government of Alberta led ad hoc committee to provide input into the role of Multi-stakeholder groups within the IRMS process.
- 2012-2014 Treasurer/Secretary of the WBEA GC representing the Fort McKay Métis Community. Responsible for all governance decisions made by WBEA, duties include providing input into strategic direction, budgets, and other related tasks.
- 2010-2014 Member of the CEMA Aboriginal Caucus and Coordinating Committee representing the Fort McKay Metis Community. This caucus is responsible for determining policy and strategic plans for CEMA on behalf of Aboriginal member organizations.
- 2012-2013 Member of the Wood Buffalo Environmental Association (WBEA) Human Exposure Monitoring Program representing the Fort McKay Métis Community. This committee studies the health implications of air quality attempting to quantify the impact that odours and poor air quality can have on the general public.
- 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. This working group is responsible for establishing guidelines for the reclamation of industrial mine sites.
- 2008-2009 Member of CEMA Aboriginal Roundtable, 2008-2009. In this position I was responsible for providing support to the Roundtable and helping to facilitate group meetings.

Community Service

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

- 2009- 2014 Colonial Commons Learning Circle
- 2009- 2014 Indigenous Mapping Network
- 2008- 2014 Northern Research Network
- 2005- 2014 Network of Canadian Environmental History
- 2011-2012 Board Secretary, Nistawoyou Native Friendship Centre – Fort McMurray.
- 2010-2012 Member of the Board of Directors, Fort McMurray Historical Society.
- 2008-2011 Community Identification Committee, Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo
- 2007-2008 Institutional/Individual Grants Program Adjudicator, Alberta Museums Association.
- 2007-2008 Member, Alberta Graduate Council.
- 2007-2008 Member, Department of History and Classics Unit Review Working Group.
- 2005-2008 Member, Graduate Student Association Communications Strategy Committee.
- 2006-2008 University of Alberta Graduate Student Representative, Canadian Historical Association.
- 2005-2006 Graduate Student Association Representative, History and Classics Graduate Students Association.

Research and Publications

Books

Finkel Alvin, Sarah Carter, and Peter Fortna eds.

- 2010 *The West and Beyond: New Perspectives on an Imagined Region*. Edmonton: Athabasca University Press, May 2010. <http://www.aupress.ca/index.php/books/120176>.

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. http://www.aupress.ca/books/120176/ebook/00D_Finkel_et_al_2010-West_and_Beyond.pdf.

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

- 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. https://www.academia.edu/371663/A_Firm_Referee_That_Will_Make_Both_Sides_Adhere_By_The_Rules_Gentlemanly_Status_And_Hockey_Referees_In_Edmonton_Alberta.

Videos, Websites and Podcasts

Fortna, Peter (Producer)

- 2018 Video: Voices Around the Fire: An Indigenous Wildfire Story. <https://youtu.be/hLAmh5x1y-0>

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. <https://youtu.be/lkdycucXHOY>

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.
<http://www.willowssprings.com/blog/the-mcmurray-metis-cumulative-effects-management-strategy-connecting-metis-social-scientific-and-scientific-research-methodologies-to-monitor-the-effects-of-oil-sands-development>.

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.
https://youtu.be/LIZkTB455_4.

Fortna, Peter and Alice Martin

2010 Video: “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.
<https://www.ualberta.ca/city-region-studies-centre/community-engagement/events/unwrap-the-research>

Fortna, Peter, Sarah Carter, and Alvin Finkel eds.

2010 Website: West and Beyond: Historians Past Present Future – Conference Podcast Collection. Athabasca University Digital Library. <http://digiport.athabascau.ca/wcsc>.

Fortna, Peter

2008 Podcast: “Possessing No Local Knowledge of this Region”: Imperialism and Resistance in the Canadian Rocky Mountains.” The Network in Canadian History and Environment <http://niche-canada.org/resources/conference-workshop-archive/western-canadian-studies-conference-the-west-and-beyond-historians-past-present-future/>.

Fortna, Peter, Doug McColl and Martina King

2002 Website: “Conversations with Campus Culture: A Walking Tour of the University of Calgary Campus.” Calgary: The Nickle Arts Museum, 2002.
http://people.ucalgary.ca/~nickle/Old_site/campusculture/campusculture.html.

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 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.
<https://muse.jhu.edu/article/435167>.

Other Select Research Reports

Fortna, Peter

- 2018 “How Much Longer? A Preliminary Assessment of Homelessness in Conklin, Alberta” Fort McMurray: Willow Springs Strategic Solutions, 2018. <https://bit.ly/2Hj9jHQ>.

Fortna, Peter and Tara Joly

- 2016 “Realizing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Alberta and Canada: Briefing Report Prepared for the McMurray Métis.” Fort McMurray: McMurray Métis.
<https://mcmurraymetis.wordpress.com/2016/03/24/realizing-the-united-nations-declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples-in-alberta-and-canada/>.

- Clark, Timothy David, Dermot O’Connor and Peter Fortna, “Fort McMurray: Historic and Contemporary Rights-Bearing Métis Community.” Fort McMurray: McMurray Métis, 2015.
<https://www.scribd.com/document/271067017/Mark-of-the-Metis-Fort-McMurray-Historic-and-Contemporary-Rights-Bearing-Metis-Community>.

Conference Presentations

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.

Research Reports

Willow Springs Strategic Solutions has completed over 100 research reports since 2012. A select listing
of completed research reports can be viewed at www.willowsspringsss.com.

References Available Upon Request