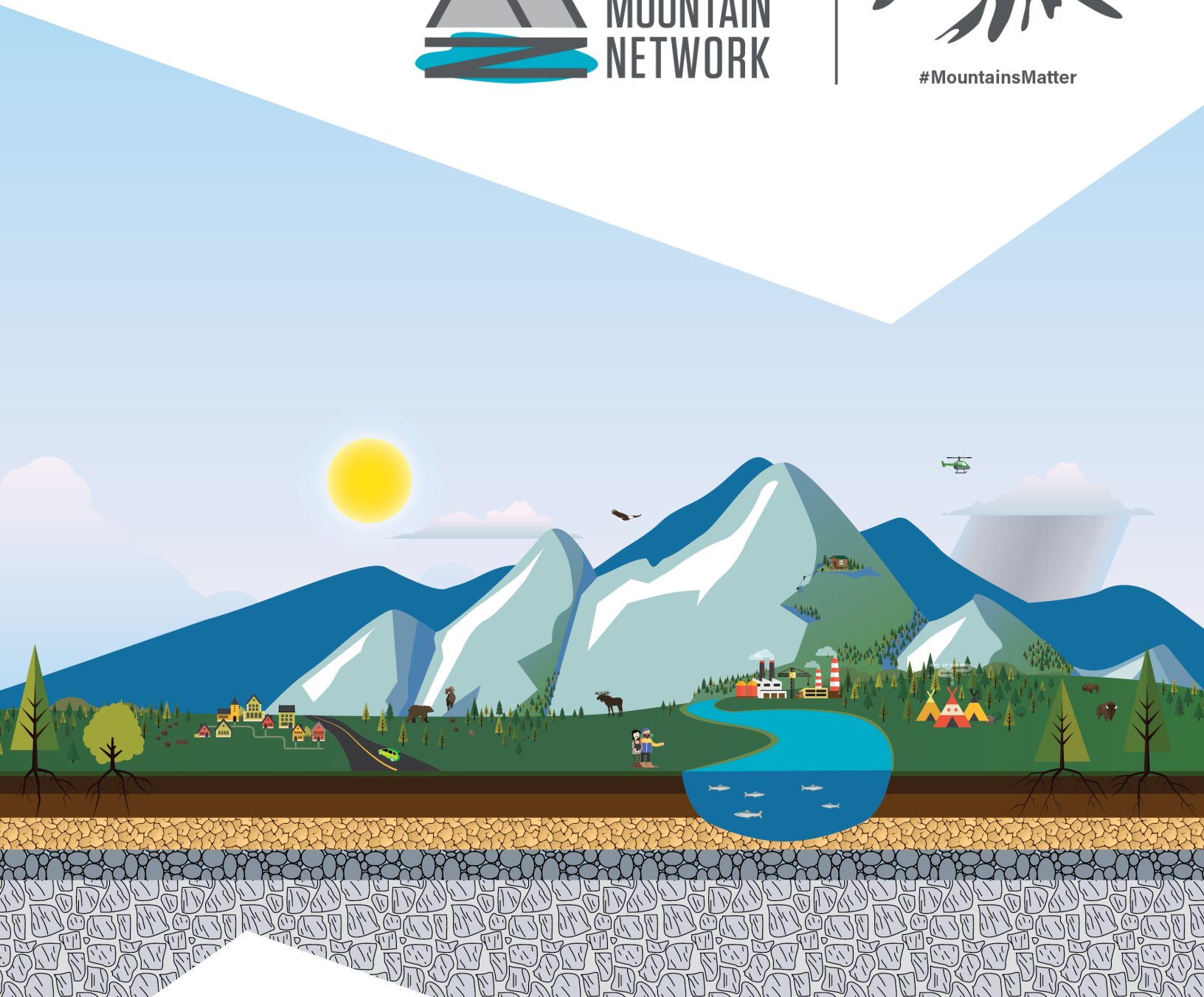




#MountainsMatter



Supporting the resilience and health of Canada's mountain peoples and places through research partnerships based on Indigenous and Western ways of knowing that inform decision-making and action.

THE CANADIAN MOUNTAIN NETWORK

The Canadian Mountain Network (CMN) was established in 2019 with the generous support of Canada's research granting agencies through a five-year, \$18.3 million grant from the Networks of Centres of Excellence program. Combined with contributions from diverse partner organizations,

this funding represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to position Canada as a global leader in mountain systems research at a time when Canada's mountain systems are undergoing rapid and uncertain change.

CMN's four integrated programs



Research



Training



Knowledge mobilization



Networking & partnerships



Goals

1

Enhance our understanding of the impacts of rapid environmental, economic and social change on the resilience of mountain systems.

2

Decision-making and actions at multiple levels are informed by both Indigenous and Western ways of knowing.

3

A diverse and collaborative community of mountain systems researchers, including academic and non-academic Indigenous trainees, is supported to co-design and co-deliver projects with knowledge users.

4

Innovative models for partnerships across sectors exist and are shared that empower, respect, and, where useful, bring together Indigenous and Western knowledges and research approaches.

5

Enhanced funding for mountain systems research by improving public and policymaker understanding and appreciation of the importance of mountain systems.

WHY STUDY MOUNTAIN SYSTEMS?

Canada's extensive mountain systems provide a wide range of benefits to Canadians such as fresh water, biodiversity/biocultural diversity, natural resources, energy, shelter, recreation, and cultural and spiritual connection and healing. These benefits and values are delivered far beyond mountain landscapes and into the valleys, lowlands, and coasts to which mountains are meteorologically, hydrologically, biologically, and culturally connected.

Mountain systems also serve as Sentinels of Change at multiple levels – from local to global. In Canada and around the world, mountain systems are experiencing rapid and disruptive change that foreshadows serious impacts that will be felt more broadly over time.

While Canada has considerable expertise in mountain systems research, at present it is

not coordinated, research collaborations are limited, non-academics are not consistently involved in its prioritization, design, and implementation, and there exist substantial hurdles to its uptake.

Furthermore, Indigenous knowledge and research approaches and methodologies have historically been devalued and constrained in an institutional context dominated by Western research approaches. For these reasons, our capacity to comprehensively observe, study, forecast, and adapt to rapid changing mountain systems remains limited.

The Canadian Mountain Network will develop and implement an integrated, solutions-oriented research, training, and knowledge mobilization agenda with its partners and participants.

Why do #MountainsMatter for global sustainable development?



60-80%

of all freshwater resources are sourced from mountain headwaters.



>40%

of mountain areas are covered by forests.



>80%

of Canada's mountain glaciers, the source of many of the great prairie, Pacific, and Northern rivers, may disappear this century.



50%

of the world's biodiversity hotspots are concentrated in mountains.



15-20%

of global tourism takes place in mountain regions.

Research priorities



1. Exploring how Indigenous Peoples apply Indigenous culture and knowledge to decision-making within mountain systems.



2. Advancing an integrated, continental scale understanding of the impacts of climate change and human activities on mountain systems.



3. Identifying and developing innovative planning, risk, and governance models applicable to the unique nature of mountain systems.



4. Exploring opportunities to support the viability and resilience of place-based livelihoods that sustain the resilience of mountain systems.

AN INITIATIVE OF CANADA'S GRANTING AGENCIES



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