



The Arctic Institute of North America Presents

Arctic Speaker Series

Surging Glaciers in a Warming Climate



Who: Gwenn Flowers
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Department of Earth Sciences,
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Date: Wed., February 15, 2012

Time: 4 – 5 p.m.

Place: University of Calgary,
Science B 142

The St. Elias Mountains are well known for their surging glaciers, which undergo spectacular increases in flowspeed of 10-100 times over short periods of several years. The region is also a significant contributor to sea-level rise, as global warming continues to reduce glacier volume. Our current understanding of glacier flow regimes and some recent observations make it clear that glacier dynamics can complicate projections of the future of these ice masses. In discussing the state and behaviour of glaciers in the St. Elias Mountains, I will highlight what we understand about the causes and consequences of fast glacier flow and the relationship between glacier dynamics and global climate.

Gwenn Flowers received her PhD in geophysics from the University of British Columbia and held a postdoctoral fellowship at the Science Institute of the University of Iceland. She was appointed as a Canada Research Chair in Glaciology at Simon Fraser University in 2005. There she has established a research group dedicated to the geophysical study of glaciers, their dynamics and their importance in the global climate system.

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