

University of  
Lethbridge



School of Liberal Education  
Research Presentation



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**“We the North? Diversity and Reconciliation in Inuit  
Nunangat”**

What do the stories the nation tells about itself tell us about the nation? This is the overarching question that guides my research programme. In this talk, I consider this question through an analysis of the Canada C3 Expedition, a “Signature Project” created by the Students on Ice Foundation (SOI) and funded by the Government of Canada to commemorate the sesquicentennial of Confederation in 2017. For 150 days, the C3 Expedition, peopled with diverse Canadians, navigated Canada’s coastlines and journeyed through the Northwest Passage under the leadership of Canadian explorer Geoff Green, who described the expedition as a “voyage of reconciliation”. Through access-to-information (ATI) research, I demonstrate that Canada C3 is not just a celebratory boat trip around the country for Canada’s sesquicentennial – it is an act of storying Canadian sovereignty as Arctic powers grapple for control over the Northwest Passage, waters Inuit understand as part of Inuit Nunangat. Inuit sovereignty is subtly obscured in stories told from aboard the C3 Expedition, however, since these stories position Inuit as diverse Canadian people. In fact, my analysis reveals that contemporary Canadian storytelling tends to collapse the concepts of reconciliation and diversity, as if encounters between diverse peoples are themselves a form of reconciliatory work.

**Monday, May 17, 2021**

**9:15 a.m.**

**via Zoom**

**Zoom:** <https://uleth.zoom.us/j/95175880691>