



Value of the Lakes

Transcript

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Narrator: The Value of Lakes around the Secwepemc Territory project. Author interview.

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Narrator: Introduction.

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Peter: I am, my name is Peter Tsigaris. I'm from the department of Economics, from the Bob Gaglardi School of Business and Economics. I've been at TRU for 31 years. I came here in 1993. I teach economics.

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Peter: And,

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Peter: do research in the area of environmental economics, and, and, public finance and, education of economics. And,

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Peter: I enjoy working with students.

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Narrator: Could you please tell me about the project?

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Peter: Yes. For sure. This is a project. This is another book I wrote with my students. These are, graduate students. They're not undergraduate students like the other. The other books I produced with my students.

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Peter: My expectations are a lot higher because they're graduate students.

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Peter: but the, their work is just as good as my undergraduate students. The project involved looking at the lakes around this area. So

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Peter: Each student selected a lake around this area, and they looked at

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Peter: what

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Peter: that lake provides in terms of services to the community. They also look at the historical, environmental, issues that the lakes might, could face. Or have, have faced.

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Peter: They also look at these, they also were discussing the indigenous, spiritual values that these lakes have as a natural asset. So each one, looked at, also trying to put a value on, on, on the lakes.

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Peter: In terms of the, services it provides to us.

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Peter: they did a lot of research again. Again, I reviewed the research. I gave them feedback. And they each one wrote the chapter.

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Unknown: How was the TRU Open Press able to support your project?

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Peter: Yeah. I received a lot of support, as always. I do with my with my work in this area. Open Press. They are an amazing, group

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Peter: of people that helped me develop the book.

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Peter: Dani, who is the publisher manager. Kaitlyn, which is the copy editor, and Jessica, who which is the production.

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Peter: Helped me a lot in getting this book, through to the public domain.

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Peter: They helped me in terms of images, in terms of tables. In terms of copyright, copyrights and, editing. Also the. Yeah, they're really, really good and attributions that they would give to the,

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Peter: content of the, of the book.

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Narrator: Did you encounter any challenges or limitations while working on this project?

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Peter: Some challenges and limitations while working on this project.

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Peter: I guess the challenges was to get students to keep on producing. You always need to remind them, that they have a lot of other courses.

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Peter: So they have a lot more work.

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Peter: but at the end, the, you know, you put deadlines and they meet the deadlines and the and they produce because I usually what I do is I ask them for a draft and then I review the draft. I give them feedback.

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Peter: They work on the feedback they had submitted.

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Peter: Then I that happens like about two, three times in the course. So by the end, we have a really good product. In terms of their, research. That's one the other one was, challenges was, to put the images and to get the, clearance for copyright and said that, which challenge was a challenge for me, but the Open Press helped me to overcome these challenges.

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Narrator: How are the students guided to conduct the research?

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Peter: They submit a draft and then, I give them feedback. Critical feedback also. And, they work on the feedback. And they give me another draft and I give them, again, feedback until the end product is, to my satisfaction so they can go into the chapter.

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Peter: And they really appreciate the, this approach

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Peter: of getting feedback before they get assigned a grade.

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Narrator: What gives credibility to the book.

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Peter: The credibility of this book comes from, again, the the person that wrote the foreword and the person that wrote the forward is indigenous is, Nathan Matthews. He was our chancellor at TRU.

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Peter: He's, Emiratis now, chancellor. And he and also, I got a lot of quotes in the book from the indigenous community trying to, because, you know, when we

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Peter: when we think of as a economist, thinking of placing a value, of in nature, it's not that we're commodifying it. We're just trying to make it look like it's it's it's worth

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Peter: a lot of, value, basically.

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Peter: And, and, and the so I needed to get a lot of support from the indigenous community, and, I got a lot of calls from indigenous people. And the foreword was written by

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Peter: Nathan Matthews, as I said, and, it gives lots of credibility to the book. And I had to also think about my students,

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Peter: how we will go about valuing lakes in general.

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Peter: And, and in fact, actually one, one of my students and me,

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Peter: we published a paper and in a prestigious journal called Ecology Letters, about the global value of lakes around the world. That came from the book, actually.

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Narrator: Looking ahead, are there any new areas or topics you are considering exploring in future collaborative projects with students?

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Peter: Yep. I'm not sure if I'm going to continue with books.

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Peter: I might. I'm teaching again, the capstone course, and I'm teaching, actually three courses next term. All of them involve, students doing projects, projects and research. And one is at the graduate level and two are the at the undergraduate level. One could be that we continue with, in the capstone course, we could continue with with part two.

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Peter: And I call this part one book and we could finish with more issues, in the the other course is, we also now have a,

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Peter: open access journal, student journal. And we could, could be, the, I could issue, I'm the editor of the chief editor, it's called Future Earth.

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Peter: And again, I've got lots of help from the, the Open Press, from the TRU Open Press, and it could be possible that I, I become a guest of the chief editor, but I might become a guest editor kind of a editor for a particular topic and then have students submit their work there. So there's lots of good stuff that can be done.

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Narrator: Thank you for the interview, Peter.