

# Environmental Science Seminar Series

Thursday, January 25, 2024, 4:00 – 5:00 pm, S203

## **TITLE**

I can't see you, but I know you are there! The revolutionary power of eDNA in environmental monitoring and risk assessments

## **SPEAKER**

Dr. Caren Helbing, University of Victoria

## **ABSTRACT**

Timely and accurate assessment of the presence of at-risk or invasive species is critical for effective responses to climate change and human impacts. At-risk species are often difficult to find while invasive species are often well established before their infiltration is detected using conventional surveying methods. However, all organisms release genetic material such as DNA into their surroundings, leaving traces of themselves that can be detected using environmental DNA (eDNA) methods. We will explore the transformative power of eDNA in enhancing confidence in risk assessments and the evaluation of mitigation and remediation effectiveness.