

CONFÉRENCE

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**Coming in from the cold:
the search for little green bugs in extreme polar environments
and other cold worlds.**

Lyle G. Whyte is an Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair in the Department of Natural Resource Sciences at McGill University and leads the Canadian Astrobiology Training Program. His research program examines explore the biodiversity, ecology, adaptations, and activity of microbial communities in cryoenvironments (subzero habitats) in an emerging field best described as cryomicrobiology. This presentation will describe Dr. Whyte's research examining polar microbial biodiversity and microbial ecology where very unique habitats exist including unique cold saline springs, methane seeps, permafrost and the Antarctic dry valleys. This will include investigations of the adaptations and activity of microbial communities in cryoenvironments and our recent -omic analyses of cryophilic, halophilic bacteria capable of growth at subzero temperatures. This research has strong astrobiology applications as the polar sites investigated are considered significant Mars analogue sites for understanding and detecting microbial life in such extreme cryoenvironments.

**Le vendredi 22 mars 2013 à 11 h 30
Pavillon Claire McNicoll, salle Z-260**

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