

## ***Understanding Alaska:***

ISER Lunchtime Talks



Please join us for informal presentations at UAA's Institute of Social and Economic Research. It's a way for ISER researchers and others from the public and private sectors to talk about topics of interest.

## **Establishing a Social License to Operate: Issues and Opportunities for Mining Sector Governance**

**JASON PRNO**

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Society has come to expect more from mining companies than just legal compliance with government environmental regulations—mineral developers now also need a “social license to operate.” That’s what Jason Prno, a PhD candidate at Wilfrid Laurier University, will be discussing in this lunchtime talk.

What is a social license? It is society’s broad approval and acceptance of a mining project, which allows mineral developers to avoid potentially costly conflict and exposure to social risks. Those potential risks from community protest and disapproval—for example, possible shutdowns, government agencies not issuing or retracting necessary permits, or reduced corporate financial performance—are substantial, and a social license needs to be long-lasting and adaptable to changing conditions.

But community demands are often in flux, and development of a social license may be affected by variables a mining company has no control over—which presents significant challenges to the establishment of a social license. Little research exists about dealing with those challenges. Jason Prno will talk about the early results of his PhD research project, which is investigating the determinants of social licenses in mining case studies from the Yukon, Alaska, Peru, and Papua New Guinea.

***When:*** Tuesday, April 24, 12 to 1

***Where:*** Conference Room, Fifth Floor, Diplomacy Building.

The Diplomacy Building is at 4500 Diplomacy Drive, at the corner of Tudor Road and Tudor Centre Drive. FREE PARKING. Call 786-7710 if you need directions.