

## *Native Prairie Speaker Series*

**Title:** An overview of the Alberta Invasive Species Council and their biocontrol release program in Alberta

**Speaker:** Paige Kuczmariski, Social Media / Invasive Species Technician, Alberta Invasive Species Council

**Summary:** Beginning with a brief overview of the Alberta Invasive Species Council (AISC) and the campaigns they support, the presentation will then zero in on the biocontrol release program for the province, the successes and changes over the years and an overview of the 2021 results. Biocontrol is the suppression of pest populations using living organisms, which weakens the competitive advantage that these invasive species have in invaded ranges. Biocontrol remains to be an effective method of control for invasive species as biocontrol agents are self-sustaining and require minimal input after release.

**About the Presenter:**

Paige graduated in 2017 with a Bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences from MacEwan University where she was first introduced to invasive species through efforts with multiple research projects with garlic mustard and forest tent caterpillars. Soon after, she started various positions with Alberta Agriculture and Alberta Environment and Parks over the next four years. In 2021, she joined the AISC as a Social Media and Invasive Species Technician where she continues to foster her love of the outdoors and hopes to assist in educating Albertans on invasive species and their management.

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