Climate and Landscape Effects on Fire Dynamics in Sub-Arctic Catchments
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The goal of our research was to reconstruct fire history in Northern Manitoba, Canada by looking at lake sediment samples and measuring the total area of charcoal present in each sample. By studying this data we could attempt to determine what factors influenced fire dynamics in that area. We also know that there was a warming period around 8,000 to 6,000 years BP, which we could use as a point of comparison to changing fire trends today. We were looking to see whether climate warming was the main factor or if landscape (ie composition of catchments surrounding each lake) played a larger role in determining fire trends. After analyzing our results we found that we could not point to one single factor for the changes in fire trends. However, we were able to determine that the landscape played a larger role in fire trends as each lake showed individual responses. If climate change was the main factor we would expect to see one over arching pattern throughout all of the lakes, which was not present.

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