Vince Palace

2026 CONFERENCE PROGRAM CHAIR
Head Research Scientist
IISD Experimental Lakes Area



Describe your work or studies.
I am focused on conducting science that offers solutions for industrial, social, or community issues. That has led me to work with teams studying solutions for environmental issues like metal mining, pesticides, industrial chemicals and pharmaceuticals. More recently I have been interested in working with Indigenous Communities to find ways of protecting and reestablishing traditional food sources; specifically wild rice. There is something inherently satisfying in conducting science that has immediate impact for people. And having the chance to learn different ways of approaching an issue from the Community perspective has been an amazing opportunity.

What inspired you to enter this work?
I was fortunate to land a summer job with a crew at Fisheries and Oceans who did some field work at the Experimental Lakes Area. I had no idea you could do that sort of thing for a living. I loved the team atmosphere and the ability to look at big picture questions, so, from my first introduction, I worked toward building a career in environmental science. I don't think I thought I could actually pursue a job as an IISD-ELA scientist, but it has been a dream job. And the best part of it is still the collaboration with such a diverse group of researchers and topics.

What are you most excited about for the upcoming conference?
I'm excited for people to see the vitality of this city, obviously from a science perspective (we have an amazing program), but also because of its cultural and community focus. We know that "Winnipeg" is often a punchline in different parts of the country, but there is history and both a vibrant restaurant and arts scene. That's why when you speak to someone who's lived here for any length of time, they'll tell you it's routinely underestimated. I'd challenge delegates to make time to see the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, the Museum of Inuit Art (Qaumajuq at the Winnipeg Art Gallery, and our theatres.

What is something about yourself that you'd like to share with other IAGLR members?
With so much of our daily work focused on written communication, either reading, analyzing data, or writing, I find my off-work hours are focused on tangible goals: something where I can measure progress objectively. And so, I spend time working on home construction projects or sports. I love golf and I love/hate long-distance running—always with some goal in mind.

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