

2018 CCUBC Career Achievement Award Dr. Rudy Boonstra, University of Toronto Scarborough

[Nomination Letter for Dr. Rudy Boonstra submitted by Dr. Andrew Mason, University of Toronto Scarborough](#)

Rudy Boonstra was born in the Netherlands, raised in Alberta, completed his BSc at the Univ. Calgary (1972) and his PhD at the Univ. British Columbia (1977), and was then hired at the Univ. Toronto. He is driven by curiosity and wonder for the natural world, being both a population and community ecologist and an ecophysiologicalist. The main question that has driven much of his research career is: “what are the factors that prevent animal populations from increasing to infinity or declining to extinction?”.



This has led to other areas – stress physiology, maternal effects, epigenetics, neurogenesis, aging, and ecosystem ecology. He is made major contributions to testing hypotheses on population regulation and to the population consequences of stress in mammal and birds. His research has taken place throughout Canada, especially the Yukon, but also Australia, Norway, and the UK. Collaboration has been key to his efforts, with graduate students, postdocs, and colleagues being key in the pursuit of understanding. He worked on > 25 mammal species and has published >200 papers and book chapters and 1 book. He received C. Hart Merriam Award from the American Society of Mammalogists (2013) for outstanding career research contributions to the science of mammalogy. He has served as the Vice Principal Research and director of the Centre for the Neurobiology of Stress at his campus.