



Chemical & Physical Sciences  
**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**  
MISSISSAUGA

## **COLLOQUIUM**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2013**  
**12:00 P.M. (SHARP) – 1:00 P.M.**  
**IB270**

# **Jean-Bernard Caron**

*Royal Ontario Museum*

## **“No more ‘weird wonders’ from the Burgess Shale?”**

The Burgess Shale in Yoho National Park, is famous for its soft-bodied biota dating from the Middle Cambrian period (Series 3, Stage 5). While the origin of main animal lineages probably preceded the Cambrian Explosion, it is in sites like the Burgess Shale that we have the most complete record of what the first complex animal communities might have looked like during the Cambrian. Many animal forms from the Burgess Shale, the so-called "weird wonders" have been interpreted as separate bodyplans supporting the view that Cambrian disparity was greater than today. New research published in the last few years in particular, has shown that many of these enigmatic forms can comfortably fit within the base of many modern animal lineages.

