Reducing the inventory and liabilities associated with inactive oil and gas infrastructure in Alberta is a priority for industry and government stakeholders. While there is a great challenge in addressing a current backlog of wellsites and associated facilities in Alberta and beyond, there are also opportunities to develop and adapt tools that optimize workflow, enhance communication, and increase the efficiency and sustainability of the work that is done. With a need to ‘do more with less’, innovative approaches have been explored by many working in this industry. The question is, how do we harness ideas and innovative approaches, turning them into commercial opportunities and tools available to those working in this space? This presentation will explore potential paths to innovation and will introduce five innovators who will showcase their technologies, focusing on their potential to positively and significantly reduce liability associated with upstream oil and gas asset retirement. Technologies include tools for field screening, data capture and reporting, data analysis, remote sensing, modelling and mapping for potential site re-use for production of renewable energy. Presenters following this introduction will discuss their challenges and successes as innovators, with stories of resilience, creativity, and the power of support and effective partnerships in reaching their goals.

The presentation will also include a discussion of CRIN’s role in fostering connectivity within the ‘innovation ecosystem’. The network aims to aid priority setting and create alignment on game-changing technologies needed to support best practices. Where technology and process innovation require adaptation and development, CRIN aims to facilitate the creation of effective partnerships between those that need tools for improving efficiency, with those that have the ability to create and adapt them. A key role of CRIN is not only to facilitate technology development, but also to reduce barriers and facilitate adoption of technologies.

Simone Levy, MSc, PAg,
Simone Levy is a soil scientist and researcher with InnoTech Alberta, and she also leads the Clean Resource Innovation Network (CRIN)’s ‘Novel Land and Wellsite Reclamation’ theme area. As a researcher with InnoTech Alberta, her goal is to identify and develop innovative approaches in the assessment, remediation and reclamation of land and water affected by industrial activities. Key focus areas include: improving process efficiency in addressing upstream oil and gas liabilities in Alberta; soil handling and remediation; risk assessment; accidental release prevention and management; and, program development to guide multi-stakeholder innovation initiatives. As a scientist she designs and conducts experiments to substantiate environmental guidelines, evaluate innovative products, and assess potential risk to human and environmental receptors.

Mike Morley, BASc
Mike Morley (Founder, Menome Technologies Inc.) discovered his passion for computers and data early while in high school where he worked part time for a software startup called Compu-Train teaching programming. He co-founded -->theLink<-- BBS message board that allowed people to virtually connect before the internet was available. Since then, Mike has relentlessly pursued creating innovative software designed to unleash the full power of data both as an entrepreneur and intrapreneur. Data is universal, and Mike’s career has led him to explore diverse industries and domains including mining, advertising, oil and gas, environmental management, banking, legal, geotechnical, and architecture. In all cases, Mike’s goal has always and continues to be collaborating with people to enable them to bring their vision to life through technology.