

CWSE-Prairies Newsletter

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Volume 2 Issue 2



The goal of the
NSERC CWSE – Prairies

is to develop and successfully lead
strategic activities that promote
greater opportunities for women,
particularly Aboriginal women, in
science and engineering across the
Prairie Region.

PRESS RELEASE (August 27, 2013): INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE TO TACKLE WATER QUALITY ISSUES

First Nations science and engineering students will be at the forefront of tackling multi-billion-dollar water services gaps in their communities.

University of Manitoba soil scientist Dr. Annemieke Farenhorst will lead the \$2.976-million H2O CREATE program, with assistance from the university's Centre for Human Rights Research and in collaboration with Trent University, University College of the North, the Assembly of First Nations and industry partners.

H2O program students, including many who are Indigenous, will assist First Nations, water treatment system manufacturers and engineering firms at a crucial time when residents of 113 First Nations across Canada are unable to drink their tap water.

"The best CREATE H2O research projects will be those that First Nations initiate when they identify a need in their communities and are willing to help our students learn," Farenhorst said.

"This team-based training is providing a valuable experience for students and postdoctoral fellows to learn practical skills and to engage in cutting-edge, multidisciplinary and, in some cases, international research," said Isabelle Blain, Vice-President of Research Grants and Scholarships at NSERC. *"Exposing our trainees to an innovative, collaborative training environment will enable them to succeed in careers that contribute to the world's top research."*

For more information on the CREATE H2O project, visit create-h2o.ca

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NSERC CREATE Program for Water and Sanitation Security in First Nations

HOME PROGRAM & AWARDS RESEARCHERS STUDENT APPLICATIONS COMMUNITY APPLICATIONS

Program Summary

CREATE H2O trainees will be in high demand for employment in the water and wastewater industry in Canada. The program, in particular, will ensure secure community water systems in northern and remote communities and enhance aquatic ecosystem services. CREATE H2O graduates will assist First Nations, manufacturers of water and wastewater treatment systems, engineering and environmental firms and government policy analysts at a crucial time when First Nations drinking water regulations are coming into effect for the first time.

* Read more

Applications & Universities	Supporting Organizations	CREATE H2O Researchers
Applications Applications for Students & Postdocs Applications for Communities Contacts Examples of Courses - Undergraduate Examples of Courses - Graduate Administrative Contacts University of Manitoba Trent University University College of the North	Assembly of First Nations Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Friends of Engineering FN Water and Wastewater Institution Institute for Sustainable Development Manitoba Investment Corporation Nupur Reed Ltd Ontario First Nations Technical Services Public Interest Law Centre CER Verna J. Kirkness Education Foundation	Annemieke Farenhorst - U of Manitoba Karen Buehly - U of Manitoba Nathan Chiu - U of Manitoba Brenda Elze - U of Manitoba Chris Furgal - Trent U Richard Hocking - U of Manitoba David Lubb - U of Manitoba Chris Mouselle - Trent U Jan Oosterveen - U of Manitoba Marie Tardif - U of Manitoba Fayun Wang - U of Manitoba Research Collaborators

VERNA J. KIRKNESS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Lorriane Randhile from Fond-du-Lac, a remote fly-in community located in northern Saskatchewan, and Laura King from Winnipeg visited the Department of Soil Science including the laboratories of the NSERC CWSE-Prairies. Lorraine and Laura learned about water sampling and testing, how green house gasses are measured, soil fungi, as well as livestock important to Manitoba. They also toured the Bruce D. Campbell Farm and Food Discovery Centre of the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences, a hands-on facility which explores the ways in which food is made in Canada.



A big (!!!) thank you to all who helped to give Lorriane and Laura a glance of university life: Pepper-Mackena Pritty, Ross McQueen, Jenna Rapai, Jackie Onagi, Isca Spillett, Oscar Molina, Lindsay Andronak, Denise Aminot-Gilchrist, Geneva Cloutis and many others.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DINAH CEPLIS!!!

Congratulations to Dinah Ceplis on receiving the Fellow of the Agricultural Institute of Canada Award, which is their highest honour.

The title of Fellow of the Agricultural Institute of Canada (AIC) recognizes an AIC member for their distinguished contribution to Canadian agriculture through contributions to building scientific capacity for societal good, integration and collaboration between disciplines and sectors, and communications.

We thank Dinah for her contributions and leadership in enriching the lives of numerous women around the world. Dinah has been a supporter of the CWSE-Prairies program from the start and we celebrated the award with her in a recent event in Winnipeg.

Way to go Dinah!



SAPOTAWEYAK CREE NATION

The NSERC CWSE-Prairies continued the outreach to the Neil Dennis Kematch Memorial School, Sapotaweyak Cree Nation, delivering nine WISE workshops to 793 youth in collaboration with University of Manitoba's WISE Kid-Netic Energy program.



The University of Manitoba's Largest Outreach Youth Program reaching

- 22,765 Manitoba Youth
- 154 Manitoba Schools

- between September 1, 2012 – August 15, 2013

CROSSING INTERNATIONAL BORDERS

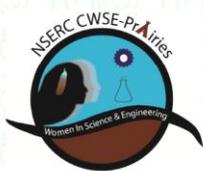
The Chair hosted two exchange students this summer. Anne Claeys from Technology Academic University of Biology, Perpignan, France and Bruna Ascef from Science Without Borders, a new program primarily funded by the Brazilian government. The students designed their own research project under the guidance of the CWSE-Prairies and soil science Masters student Karin Rose.

Anne found her time as a student very rewarding. *“I very much enjoyed working with a diverse group of students and would really like the opportunity to do it again”,* she says. Much like Anne, Bruna also enjoyed working with people from different countries. *“Working as part of an international team was amazing”,* she says. *“The other students always helped me and gave me advice. I was treated like a sister here and felt very much at home”.*

Bruna is interested in returning to Canada to pursue a Masters degree. During her visit to the U of M, she recalls that there was a very diverse group of students studying different disciplines which made the experience even more interesting. When asked about her career aspirations, Bruna stated she has a dream of working for a large pharmaceutical company. Anne recently visited Banff and describes it as a breathtaking place to experience. She also would really like the opportunity to return to Canada. The things that stand out for Anne are that she found Canadians to be very nice people and of course, *“Canadian beer .“* When asked Bruna about Canadians, she said: *“If I were to describe something I felt was purely Canadian, I would have to say it was definitely the people. They were so friendly”.*



Thank you Anne and Bruna for being part of our team and working so many long hours. It was such a pleasure to have you working with us and we hope to see you back in Canada!



Women in Science Luncheon
July 24, 2013
12.30-2pm



CWSE WORK-LIFE BALANCE WORKSHOP

NSERC CWSE–Prairies hosted a Work-Life Balance workshop as part of a major soil science conference held this past July in Winnipeg. The workshop filled up before the registration deadline with over 30 women attending.

A special thank you to Selena Randall, for her inspiring leadership and collaboration that made this workshop possible. Discussion topics included: What Work-Life balance means; An exercise to determine how much time we spend on each aspect of our life; Hints and tips on how to stay productive during the work day; How to restore the balance in your life; and Taking responsibility for the choices we make.

We also thank the Agricultural Institute of Canada (AIC) for their generous sponsorship that was essential in making this workshop such a great success!



RETURNING STUDENTS RECEIVE NEHR AWARDS

Congratulations to Pepper-Mackena Pritty and Isca Spillett for being awarded student intern scholarships from the Manitoba Network Environment for Aboriginal Health Research (NEHR) Program. Pepper and Isca conducted their research projects this summer in collaboration with the CWSE-Prairies.

In response to the loss of traditional knowledge around food, water, and plants, Isca Spillett's research explored the impacts of colonization on the traditional food system and how the spirit of indigenous knowledge can be restored as a solution to improving the health of Aboriginal youth both on and off reserve. Using local knowledge gathered from the community and literature, Isca developed a one hour culturally intensive and interactive workshop designed to enhance indigenous knowledge about traditional foods. The workshop called *Food For Thought* is designed specifically for grades 4-5 students of Aboriginal descent and will be used in programs offered by University of Manitoba's Wise-KidNetic program and the Bruce D. Campbell Farm and Food Discovery Centre of the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences.

Pepper-Mackena Pritty established collaborations with Tootinaowaziibeeng First Nation. Community members and Pepper created a dialogue about traditional diet obtained through hunting and gathering and the need for good water quality for humans, fish and wildlife. In collaboration with community members, Pepper then carried out a water project to test for bacteria in lakes, rivers and ponds important to the community. Pepper presented her research results at the 2013 NEHR Student Colloquium on August 23, 2013.



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THANK YOU!