

CWSE-Prairies Newsletter

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*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.*



NSERC Chairs for Women in Science and Engineering Networking and Partnerships

The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) hosted a women networking event on September 10, 2014 in Ottawa. This event, entitled “*Closing the gender gap in science and engineering – an informal dialogue*”, was a great way for women pursuing careers in science and engineering to discuss their current work and meet the NSERC Chairs for Women in Science and Engineering.

Distinguished attendees included Dr. Pierre Charest, NSERC’s Vice-President of Research Grants; Dr. Mona Nemer, University of Ottawa’s Vice-President of Research; and the NSERC Chairs for Women in Science and Engineering, Dr. Tamara Franz-Odentlaal (Atlantic Provinces), Dr. Catherine Mavriplis (Ontario), Dr. Annemieke Farenhorst (Prairies), and Dr. Elizabeth Croft (British Columbia and Yukon).

During the event, the Chairs formally introduced themselves to the guests and outlined some key areas of their NSERC CWSE Chair programs– a perfect segue into an evening of networking. The fifty or so participants then mingled for an evening of informal dialogue about the interesting and innovative research being done by women scientists and engineers across Canada.

Current and past NSERC Chairs for Women in Science and Engineering also participated in a two-day workshop on Archives of Women Scientists and Engineers in Canada. The workshop on September 11-12, 2014 was organized by University of Ottawa Professor Ruby Heap, a specialist in the history of women in engineering. The workshop included presentations and testimonies of experts involved in record preservation and dissemination, and group discussions that led to the development of a blueprint to start building an Archives of Woman Scientists and Engineers in Canada. Thank you for hosting, University of Ottawa!



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CWSE (Prairies) Hosts Meet and Greet/Mentoring Event

The NSERC CWSE Prairies hosted a women networking event at University of Manitoba with the aim to encourage professors and students in Science, Engineering, Agriculture, and Environment to form mentor/mentee relationships and better their experience on campus. Fifty or so women attended the event which was held in the evening on Thursday, September 25, 2014 in the Fort Garry campus Hub Pub.

The evening kicked off with Dr. Annemieke Farenhorst introducing the 2014 ICAN-WISE Scholarship student recipients Ms. Heather Whittaker and Ms. Melissa Kelly, and their mentors Dr. Melanie Martin (Physics and Astronomy, and Radiology) and Dr. Kateryn Rochon (Entomology). The ICAN-WISE Scholarship has been created to help women undergraduate students and faculty members to form mentor/mentee connections through working together on multidisciplinary research projects through a summer work placement of the student in the laboratories of her chosen mentor.

Drs. Genevieve Ali (Geological Sciences), Samar Safi-Harb (Physics and Astronomy), Barb Sharanowski (Entomology), Tricia Stadnyk (Civil Engineering) and Christine Wu (Mechanical Engineering) then each shared examples of their own career experiences and offered advice to the attendees on how to create a mentor/mentee relationship that is beneficial to both sides. This sharing of knowledge was much appreciated by all participants at the event.

The evening concluded with networking activities that encouraged conversations about the challenges associated with finding the right mentor/mentee combination, as well as the benefits of those relationships. Many of those who completed the feedback surveys said they enjoyed meeting new people and hearing their enthusiasm about science and engineering. We want to thank everyone for participating, and we look forward to the next one!



Engineering IS For Girls – A morning of Information, Discussion and Fun!

With the support of the WISE Kid-Netic Energy - CWSE Program Coordinator, Ms. Lena Yusim, the Faculty of Engineering hosted their fourth annual Engineering IS for Girls event on Friday, November 21, 2014. This half-day, hands-on event linked girls in grades 9-11 with the Faculty of Engineering.

They met with the Dean of Engineering as well as several current engineering students and engineering graduates who are now making a difference in the world as professional engineers.





First Annual CREATE H2O Conference

In partnership with researchers supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, the first annual NSERC CREATE H2O and Water Rights conference was held from June 25-26, 2014 in Robson Hall at the University of Manitoba. This inaugural conference was attended by about 85 people and highlighted the specific niche that the CREATE H2O program is filling.

Community perspectives were shared regarding the relationship of First Nations to water and the immediate need to implement strategies to improve clean water and wastewater security on First Nations reserves. Thirty-one students and professors involved in the research showed their research activities alongside their partner First Nations. Conference slide presentations and videos can be found at <http://create-h2o.ca/Node/976/>.



Photographed: Johanna Theroux presenting her work at Norway House Cree Nation, CREATE student Jonathan Challis, and Norway House Cree Nation Councillors Gilbert Fredette and Samantha Folster.

“The most valuable part of the conference was to hear first-hand the issues and concerns for the water quality on First Nation communities and in Canada in general. Growing up in a major city, it’s easy to overlook the concerns we have in rural Canada and on First Nation reserves. To most it would seem impossible that people in Canada go without clean drinking water but to hear personal experiences from many First Nations people about their local water supply (or lack thereof) was as eye opener. It made me want to work even harder to bring more communities in Manitoba clean water.” (Conference participant.)

The second annual Create H2O Conference will be held on Monday, June 1, 2015 at Robson Hall, University of Manitoba, in partnership with researchers from a related social science project on the right to clean water in First Nations.

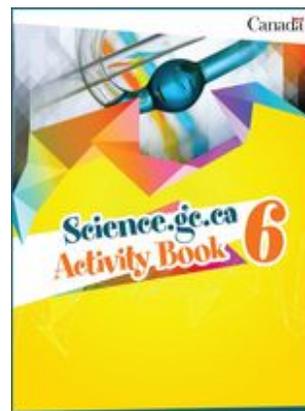
Information about the CREATE H2O program, and how to become involved, is available at create-h2o.ca.

Indigenous Content in Science.gc.ca Activity Book

Ms. Isca Spillett, a Cree woman whose roots can be traced back to communities in Northern Saskatchewan (La Ronge) and Manitoba (Opaskwayak Cree Nation), is passionate about re-establishing traditional food harvesting methods that were severely impacted because of colonization.

As the recipient of a 2013 Manitoba Network Environment for Aboriginal Health Research award, Ms. Spillett collaborated with Dr. Annemieke Farenhorst to develop the workshop called Niteh Maskihikiy. This workshop engages youth to think about traditional harvesting methods as well as cultural reclamation. A version of Ms. Isca Spillett’s Niteh Maskihikiy workshop, entitled Food Group Medicine Wheel, was chosen to be part of the sixth edition of the science.gc.ca activity book, which can be found on-line at <http://science.gc.ca/>.

The Food Group Medicine Wheel teaches students about the four food groups according to Canada’s Food Guide by engaging students in a hands-on activity to place traditional Cree foods into each of the four groups. While doing so, students will also learn Cree such as words manomin (wild rice), moswa (moose) and sipihkomin (blueberries). We invite all youth and their educators to download the sixth edition and try out Isca’s Indigenous Food Science activity at school, home, camp, alone or with friends.



All of these are traditional foods of the Cree people. Cut out the cards and place them on the medicine wheel.

 Squash Cree translation: wawtye-oksimaan	 Wild rice Cree translation: manomin
 Moose Cree translation: moswa	 Bison broth Cree translation: oksama-mitsigoy
 Bannock Cree translation: pashawiskan	 Blueberries Cree translation: sipihkomin
 Fish head soup Cree translation: kinosowet-mitsigoy	 Buffalo Cree translation: pashkwaar-moswa

Announcing the MCWESTT 2015 Conference



MCWESTT 2015
MAY 8, WINNIPEG

Join us in the 2015 MCWESTT (Manitoba Community for Women in Engineering, Science, Trades and Technology) conference, a full day of professional development options held at the Fort Garry Hotel in downtown Winnipeg on May 8, 2015. Here's what you need to know:

What to Expect?

- Our host Ms. Aisha Alfa, an award winning Canadian comedian
- Keynote speakers and panel discussions, featuring Ms. Betty-Ann Heggie, one of Canada's Top 100 Most Powerful Women Hall of Fame and Winnipeg's own Jennifer Jones, Women's Olympic curling champion
- Choose 3 of 15 available breakout sessions
- Delicious breakfast, lunch, and coffee breaks
- Networking opportunities

Who Should Attend?

- Professionals from public and private industries
- Human resources professionals
- Academics and Students
- Entrepreneurs and Business Professionals
- The conference is open to all genders – everyone is welcome!

When and Where?

- Friday, May 8, 2015
- 7:15 am to 4:30 pm
- The Fort Garry Hotel, 222 Broadway

Why Attend?

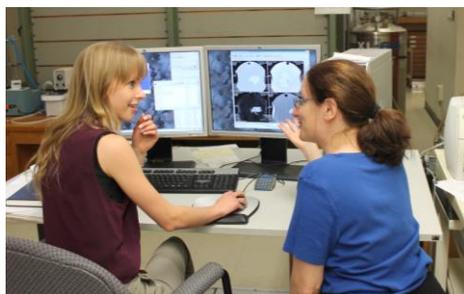
- Receive high quality personal, professional and leadership development
- Great networking opportunities
- Be Engaged, Empowered, and Recognized in your career!

What else?

- Early bird registration opens Dec. 1, 2014
- Information about the conference, sponsorship, and registration can be found at: www.MCWESTT.com.

Applications for the 2nd Annual ICAN-WISE Scholarship coming soon!

Application forms for the 2nd Annual ICAN-WISE Scholarship will be made available January 2015. New this year is that one undergraduate scholarship will be made available to each of three universities across the Prairies Region!



A scholarship for women to form mentee-mentor academic research collaborations in Natural Sciences and Engineering.

The CWSE - Prairies Team



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Goodbye and Congratulations, Post-doc Dr. Ru Li!



Thank you Dr. Li for your hard work! And congratulations on your appointment as an Associate Professor in the Department of Plant Protection, Yunnan Agriculture University, China!

Our Sponsors



Thank You