

# CWSE-Prairies Newsletter

December 2012  
Volume 1 Issue 4



*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.*

## **The NSERC CWSE (Prairies) Team Creates More Videos.**

Four videos were produced to show youth step for step how to measure the electrical conductivity, pH, turbidity and chlorine content of water.

The videos are distributed to First Nations high schools to be used with equipment for conducting science experiments on water quality.

The picture below shows two of the four actors who participated in the video production.



# MOMENTUM

ENCOURAGE. ENHANCE. EMPOWER.  
MCWESTT CONFERENCE 2013

## **Conference Alert! Introducing MCWESTT\* 2013!**

\* Manitoba Community for Women in Engineering, Science, Technology and Trades.

We are inviting women and men to attend the **MCWESTT 2013** in the Fairmont Winnipeg (2 Lombard Place) on May 10 from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm.

The conference will highlight two world class keynote speakers, a lively panel discussion, and a choice of 3 out of 12 break-out sessions on a variety of topics ranging from “successful workplace mentoring” to “parental leave for men”.

Professional development credit options will be available.

The conference is organized by APEGM’s Committee for Increasing the Participation of Women in Engineering and the NSERC Chair for Women in Science and Engineering (Prairies). **See you there!**

*Registration will open in January 2013. Check the conference web-site at <http://www.mcwestt.com>*

### **Inside This Issue:**

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“I think water is the key to life. It’s the most important thing you can ever have. We wouldn't live without it.”

**Arianna Rickard**

*A student from Sapotawayak Cree Nation, who learned to test water.*

**First Nations Youth Tests Water Quality.**

The NSERC CWSE (Prairies) outreach activities continue to focus on engaging First Nations youth in discussions about water. Tap water in almost one in five First Nations communities across Canada is unfit to drink. More than 80 per cent have been living that way for more than a year.

Team Pepper-Mackena Pritty, Isca Spillet and Jenna Rapai traveled in a vehicle full of science demonstration equipment to Sapotawayak Cree Nation in August, 2012. They met with youth from this and nearby communities to participate in a two-day event that focused on learning about traditional practices and water. The event started off with a sharing circle and an elder providing youth with teachings about some of the items he uses for ceremony (such as smudging with sage and sweet grass, a talking stick, the eagle feather). The youth then watched videos about how to conduct water measurements and learned about the various opportunities provided to them to participate in research at the University of Manitoba (<http://www.vernajkirkness.org/>). Hands-on experience involved youth measuring the electrical conductivity, pH, turbidity and chlorine content of water.



**And what did the youth think about the outreach activities?**

**How do you feel about these last two days of special events?**

- 50% 😊😊 They were super fantastic!
- 41% 😊 You liked them.
- 9% 😐 They were OK.
- 0% ☹️ You disliked them.

**What was your favorite water science experiment?**

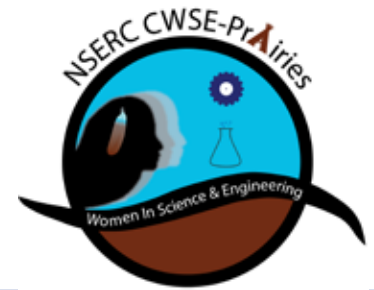
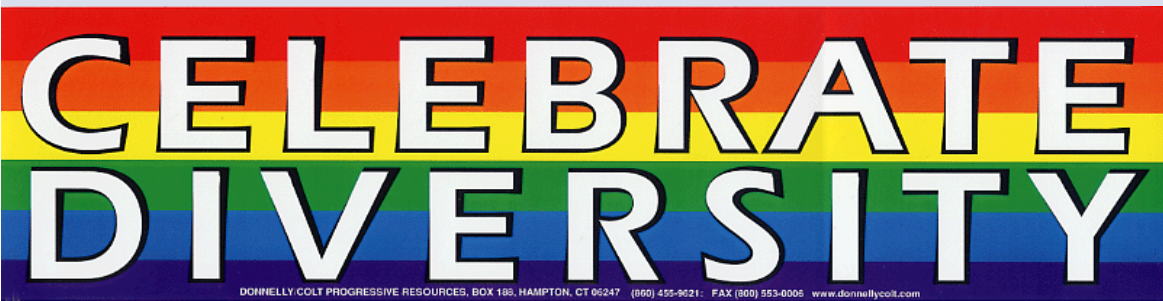
I liked all of them **82%**

**What did you like the most?** *Everything - Videos - I like the last two day because it was really cool and epic - I liked the science & videos - Chlorine measurements. I like chlorine measurements - I liked the videos - All of them mostly the one with Jenna on the first day - I liked all of them mostly the food - Going for walk - I like everything - I liked the videos and the chlorine measurements.*

**After these two days of special events, would you say that:**

- 60% 😊 You **like** science more NOW than you did BEFORE.
- 35% 😐 You **feel the same** about science NOW than you did BEFORE.
- 5% ☹️ You **dislike** science more NOW than you did BEFORE.

**What did you dislike?** *None - Nothing :) no nothing - The mushroom soup. I don't like mushroom soup - Waking up too early!!*



## Become an Ally

The Chair checked out the “Ally Training” workshop at the University of Manitoba and encourages others to do the same. Ally works to end oppression by supporting and advocating for people who are stigmatized, discriminated against, or treated unfairly because of who they are. The workshop is being offered to academic and support staff on a routine basis and prepares trainees to identify, speak out, and stand up for a person or group that is targeted and/or discriminated against based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

Information about this and other workshops can be found on the University of Manitoba Human Resources – learning and development website under EMPLOYMENT EQUITY ([http://www.umanitoba.ca/admin/human\\_resources/training/reg/](http://www.umanitoba.ca/admin/human_resources/training/reg/))

Some of the many Ally Tips are:

1. Use the words lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and two-spirit in a positive way.
2. Invite your LGBTTT co-workers to talk about their lives in the same way you would do when communicating with non-LGBTTT co-workers.
3. Borrow or buy LGBTTT positive books for yourself, friends and children.
4. Remember that LGBTTT people are as diverse as straight people are.

## The NSERC CWSE (Prairies) Launches an Undergraduate Survey

We would like to hear from University of Manitoba undergraduate students across all disciplines, ages, genders, ethnicities, and years in their program. A link to our survey will be emailed to you by the University of Manitoba Student Union. Please complete our survey!

The purpose of this survey is to learn about the experiences of undergraduate students on campus, and open up a dialogue of what kind of initiatives and programs should be implemented to support you.

Surveys can be filled out online and will have inherent anonymity to them.

The survey consists of closed ended questions, 5-point Likert scale type questions, and open-ended questions.

This is your opportunity to express your happiness, or concerns and ideas for improvement!

## On the Internet!

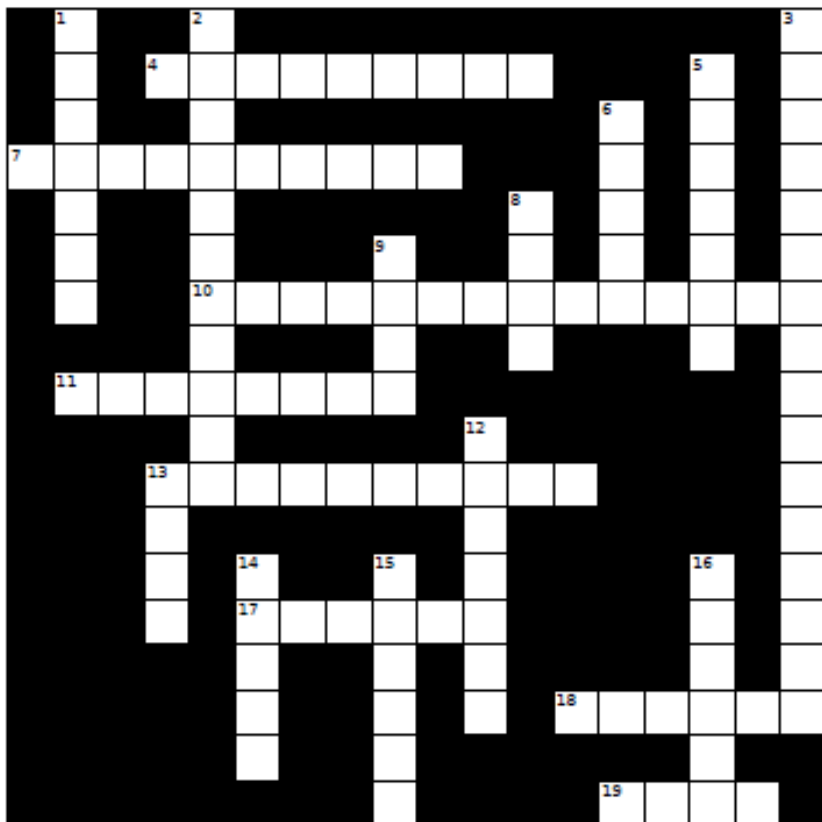
The cwse-prairies website has been up for a year now and we have had 5,572 unique page views. The most popular page was the scholarship database page, with the workshops and GEM newsletter pages taking second & third place.



## Mrs. Claus Strikes Back.

Tired of her husband always receiving the credit, Mrs. Clause checked the history books for other women whose work has been sometimes overlooked.

Do you remember the names of these famous women scientists, some of whom are more widely recognized than others.



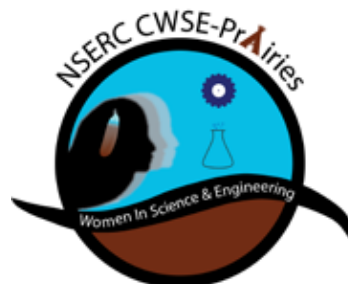
### Across

- 4 12th century trailblazer recognizing the importance of boiling water for sanitation.
- 7 The first person to earn a second Nobel Prize.
- 10 Canada's first female to earn a PhD in agricultural sciences.
- 11 The Lady with the Lamp.
- 13 Cytogeneticist and 1983 Nobel Prize winner.
- 17 Born in Scotland, she is known as the role model for women in science in Canada.
- 18 Paleontologist and Royal Society of Canada's first elected female fellow in 1937.
- 19 Continued the work of her father Sigmund.



### Down

- 1 Inventor of the hydrometer.
- 2 "My wife does my mathematics" said Albert Einstein.
- 3 Did not get the deoxyribonucleic acid credit she deserved.
- 5 Born in 1865, she became the first Native American woman to earn a medical degree in the United States.
- 6 Nobel Prize winner that followed in the footsteps of her parents Marie and Pierre.
- 8 An ophthalmologic surgeon and the inventor of the Laserphaco Probe.
- 9 Is good to Pan troglodytes.
- 12 Astronaut born in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.
- 13 Famous anthropologist.
- 14 Newtonian physicist, mother of twelve and the first women professor to be appointed Chair of Philosophy in all of Europe.
- 15 Biochemist and 2009 Nobel Prize winner for her work on ribosomes.
- 16 Silent Spring.



Created by CWSE-Prairies using Crossword puzzle maker <http://www.armoredpenguin.com/crossword>

## Watch all Those Science and Engineering Careers!

CWSE-Prairies is sharing on its web-site a series of videos that were created by Techsploration and feature a wide range of women scientists and engineers explaining about their work .

The videos are full of information and can help early career students to plan their career!

Many thanks to the NSERC CWSE (Atlantic) Program for sharing these videos with us and the other CWSE Chairs across the country!



## The CWSE-Prairies Team



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**This could be you!**  
**CWSE-WISE Program  
Coordinator**

The CWSE (Prairies) , in collaboration with the University of Manitoba Faculty of Engineering, is seeking a CWSE-WISE Program Coordinator.

**Annual Salary: \$38,657 to \$ 47,902  
(35/h week)**

The successful candidate will play a key role in managing WISE outreach activities to thousands of youth across Manitoba, and in promoting other WISE and CWSE initiatives.

For information on the WISE program see: <http://www.wisekidneticenergy.ca/>

For additional information about this position or how to apply, contact: [annemieke.farenhorst@ad.umanitoba.ca](mailto:annemieke.farenhorst@ad.umanitoba.ca)

## Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal



Annemieke Farenhorst (on the left) was recently awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for her leadership in research on pesticide fate in soil and water, her contributions to community-based research in rural communities of Central America, and for her role in mentoring women in science.

The CWSE-Prairies was nominated by Senator Joanne Booth (shown here with Dr. Farenhorst). Senator Booth has a long been a role model for men and women in Canada's agricultural community.

## Meeting Each Other

The CWSE-Prairies meets regularly for lunch or coffee with students in science and engineering. We talk about our daily lives and dream up ideas for outreach and support programs for women in our professions. We have had students from both the University of Manitoba and University of Winnipeg attending.



If you want to join us, email [Jenna.Rapai@ad.umanitoba.ca](mailto:Jenna.Rapai@ad.umanitoba.ca) to attend our future meetings. All staff and students are welcome.



Canadian Society of Soil Science  
Société Canadienne de la science du sol



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN



UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA