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**Dr. Karl C. Ivarson Scholarship Benefits Post-Grads in Soil Science**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**January 18, 2010 – Pembroke, ON**

The Dr. Karl C. Ivarson Scholarship supports post-graduate students studying soil science and is made possible through his generous gift to the Agricultural Institute of Canada Foundation (AICF). The AICF is pleased to announce that Mr. Cory Kartz and Ms. Young Joo (Jenny) Lee were selected as the 2009 recipients of the Dr. Karl C. Ivarson Scholarship.

**Cory Kartz** is currently studying in the Department of Renewable Resources at the University of Alberta. He began a M.Sc. degree in Soil Science in January 2009. Mr. Kartz's current research focuses on enterohemorrhagic *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 (EHEC) which is a recognizable frequent cause of gastroenteritis. When exposed to stress *E. coli* O157:H7 is capable of altering specific metabolic and genetic pathways in order to enter a survival mode known as viable but non-culturable (VBNC) state. Standard water quality tests do not detect the presence of the virulent bacterium in the VBNC state and Cory's work focuses on determining whether or not there exist significant differences between the transport characteristics of *E. coli* O157:H7 cells in the culturable versus VBNC states within soil and groundwater, since the likelihood of false negative tests increase when cells enter the non-culturable state. In addition to his own research and coursework, Mr. Kartz also works as a teaching assistant and research assistant. Upon graduation he plans to find employment with a provincial or federal agency working on groundwater quality issues, or in private industry exploring and implementing microbial soil remediation techniques.

**Jenny Lee** is a M.Sc. student in the Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Department at the University of Northern British Columbia. Her research focuses on fungal communities in the Canadian arctic soils and is a part of the International Polar Year (IPY) project. The study aims to extract DNA from soil samples collected from Daring Lake, Alexandria Fjord and Devon Island.

The objectives of the research are to examine diversity of fungal communities and to investigate geospatial patterns of fungal communities in Canadian Arctic soils. After graduation Jenny plans to pursue a career in soil microbiology.

Dr. Karl C. Ivarson worked as a soil scientist with the Soil Research Institute, Soil Biochemistry Section. In 1978 he was transferred to the Chemistry and Biology Research Institute where he probed and resolved many problems of the effect of microbial activity on mineral transformations in soils. Dr. Ivarson is now retired and resides in Calgary. He remains keenly interested in agriculture and especially developments in soils and farmland sustainability.

The deadline for applications for the 2010 Dr. Karl C. Ivarson Scholarships is November 5, 2010. Application forms and scholarship guidelines for this and other scholarships administered by the AICF Foundation are posted on the AICF website [http://www.aic.ca/about/foundation\\_initiatives.cfm](http://www.aic.ca/about/foundation_initiatives.cfm).

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