

2012 Dr. Karl C. Ivarson Soil Sciences Scholarship Recipients



Alex Koiter is a PhD candidate in the Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Program at the University of Northern British Columbia. His current research focuses on better understanding soil erosion and sediment transport at the watershed scale using sediment fingerprinting (sediment source tracing) techniques. The goal of his research is to explore how landscape processes affect (1) particle size and organic matter selectivity and (2) biological, geochemical and physical transformations and how they affect the use of sediment fingerprinting for identifying sources of sediment in watersheds.

Mr. Koiter shares his passion about science and the natural world through his active engagement in UNBC and community organizations, including his current role as graduate student representative for the UNBC Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Institute and as a member of the UNBC Landscape Ecology Research Group. He has helped to organize and run activities, give presentations and provide hands-on opportunities to engage youth in the field of natural sciences and participates in the Quesnel River Research Centre's town hall meetings on the theme "Where Communities and Science Meet".

Mr. Koiter was awarded his professional designation as an agrologist through the British Columbia Institute of Agrology in 2012 and is a member of the Canadian Society of Soil Science, the Soil Science Society of America and the Soil and Water Conservation Society.



Tariq Munir is working on his PhD in Physical Geography at the University of Calgary. His research is in quantifying the potential effects of warming and water table drawdown expected to occur under climate changes, on carbon dioxide exchange, methane efflux, dissolved organic carbon concentration and discharge, peat chemistry and nutrient status in a peatland complex near the town of Wandering River, Alberta. Findings of this research will fill the gaps in knowledge on how boreal peatlands respond to global climate changes and will also help to develop environmental policies and practices for better management of boreal peatlands in Alberta and across Canada.

Mr. Munir believes in teaching and practicing his soil and environment profession and currently instructs an undergraduate course in soils and vegetation at the University of Calgary. He has also supervised several undergraduate research technicians during the summer field season, assisting in their training and providing guidance in the design of their thesis projects.

In 2005, Mr. Munir became certified as a "Canadian Certified Environmental Professional" (now EP) and recently completed his University Teaching Certificate and Candidacy Examinations.