

2015 Dr. Karl C. Ivarson Soils Scholarship Recipient

Alison Murata



Alison Murata is a PhD candidate in the Department of Renewable Resources at the University of Alberta. Her research is focused on assessing the magnitude, extent, and risk of soil and groundwater contamination at a former University of Alberta waste management facility located within Edmonton city limits, and developing appropriate remediation strategies. The ultimate goal of her research is to provide recommendations for the management and decontamination of soil and groundwater at the site so that it can be returned to the Province of Alberta and used productively.

Her work experience has included studies ranging from wetland hydrology to stream sediment sourcing to soil amendment mineralization. She has been a teaching assistant since 2010, helped lead soil survey field trips, and assisted with a land reclamation project in the Northwest Territories by setting up plots for a soil development experiment at a northern mine.

Ms. Murata is a volunteer with several outreach groups which strive to increase community knowledge and interest in science and the environment. She is a General Director on the Executive Committee of the Renewable Resources Graduate Students' Association and has been Secretary of the Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences Graduate Students' Association and Renewable Resources Councillor of the University of Alberta Graduate Student' Association. She also served as a member of the Canadian Society of Soil Science International Year of Soils Committee.

Through a position in the public or private sector, Ms. Murata hopes to carry out applied environmental research. She is especially interested in land remediation and reclamation, reflecting her belief in the importance of protecting soil resources.

Ms. Murata received the AICF Karl C. Ivarson Agricultural Scholarship in 2014.