



Dr. Karl C. Ivarson Scholarship for Students in Soil Science and Related Studies 2017 Recipient

Stephanie Chute-Ibsen is a PhD student in the Department of Renewable Resources, and a member of the Land Reclamation International Graduate School (LRIGS), at the University of Alberta. Her research is focused on land reclamation and the ability to measure success of areas that are actively being reclaimed by assessing various ecosystem health indicators, including soil properties, soil microbial communities, and soil invertebrates. Her research will enhance reclamation practices and further understanding of the soil biological community and the associated processes and relationships.

Stephanie is passionate about sharing her love of science and encouraging people to be environmental stewards of the planet. She is an active mentor to young children and teenagers through her work with USchool and Envirothon. She is a regular volunteer with WISEST (Women in Scholarship, Engineering, Science and Technology), an executive member of the ACCESS Youth Council (a program that supports Canadian youths and the ACCESS initiative by giving young people a voice in their mental health care), and a volunteer and foster parent for Zoe's Animal Rescue.



Stephanie is president of the Renewable Resources Departments Graduate Students' Association (GSA), the graduate student representative in the Faculty of Agricultural, Life, and Environmental Sciences, and a member of the GSA Labour Relations Committee.

Her work experience includes exploring the effects of atmospheric nitrogen and sulfur deposition on soil microbial and chemical properties, working at the Helmholtz Center for Environmental Research in Leipzig, Germany, assisting on a reclamation project at Suncor, and assisting on multiple reclamation research projects belonging to fellow colleagues. She was a teaching assistant in the land reclamation capstone course for undergraduate students and in the course for graduate students at the University of Alberta.

After finishing her doctoral degree, Stephanie plans to move to Germany or Australia to obtain a post-doctoral fellowship and aims thereafter to secure a faculty position at an established research university.