November 9, 2022

Two fully funded 4-year PhD positions are open immediately

- at the Catchment and Wetland Sciences (CAWS) Research Group (www.caws.ualberta.ca), in the Department of Renewable Resources at University of Alberta, under the supervision of Dr. David Olefeldt, and

- at the Atmosbios Lab (atmosbios.com), in the Département de géographie at Université de Montréal, under the supervision of Drs. Oliver Sonnentag and Kyle Arndt (Woodwell Climate Research Center).

Start of program in both universities is January, May or September 2023. We are looking for two talented students with interests in ecosystem greenhouse gas balance, soil biogeochemistry, peatland ecology, and Canada's northern permafrost region. The projects will focus on the use of eddy covariance techniques to assess the greenhouse gas and energy balances of northern permafrost peatlands affected by wildfire. Field research will be conducted in northern Alberta (north of High Level, in peatlands affected by wildfire in 2007 and 2019) and the southern Northwest Territories (Scotty Creek, destroyed by a late-season wildfire in October 2022, scheduled to be rebuild in November 2022) at research sites with established infrastructure, supported by the Woodwell Climate Research Center through the Permafrost Pathways project. The projects will also be part of Can-Peat; a Canada-wide network for understanding the future carbon balance of peatlands. There is flexibility, and it is encouraged, for the students to focus on specific aspects of interest under the overarching themes.

Applicants are expected to hold, or soon complete, an MSc degree (or equivalent) in atmospheric sciences, physical geography, soil science, environmental science or similar fields. Previous experience with eddy covariance instrumentation and data handling is favourable. Proficiency in spoken and written English is needed, and, ideally, some French language skills for the position at Université de Montréal. The CAWS Research Group, the Atmosbios Lab and the Woodwell Climate Research Center are committed to the principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion. We welcome people of any ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or ability to contact us about the positions.

Full funding for the PhD students is available through Graduate Research Assistant Fellowships. Funding is also available to cover costs for skills workshops, national and international scientific conferences, and field gear. Additional stipends and scholarships are available to apply for from both institutional and national sources, including recruitment awards for students with high GPAs.

For further information and to apply, please send a letter of interest to olefeldt@ualberta.ca(CAWS Research Group) or oliver.sonnentag@umontreal.ca (Atmosbios Lab) and karndt@woodwellclimate.org (Woodwell Climate Research Center). Include resume/CV describing your skills and education, university transcripts and names of two referees. Positions will remain open until filled.