

# Graduate student opportunities!!

## Permafrost thaw, carbon cycling, and microbial ecology in Canada's north

I am currently recruiting MSc and PhD candidates for a recently funded project examining the effects of permafrost thaw on carbon, nutrient, and toxin cycles in the Canadian north. This work continues our ongoing efforts in the western Canadian Arctic, where we have been working for the past several years to understand how massive permafrost thaw propagates through stream networks, and ultimately affects regional and global biogeochemical cycles. This work is part of a collaborative effort that includes scientists at the University of Alberta (led by [Dr. Suzanne Tank](#)), other Canadian institutions, and territorial government institutions.



I anticipate several focal projects as part of these efforts, including:

- Examining how organic and inorganic carbon are processed within stream networks affected by permafrost thaw, and how this effect varies across gradients of disturbance and different landscape types
- Examining the effect of thaw on downstream nutrient cycles and nutrient uptake
- Examining how the transport of toxins, such as mercury, is enhanced as a result of thawing permafrost
- Examining how permafrost thaw affects microbial community structure and microbial carbon processing in thaw-affected streams

Positions will be based in the [Department of Biological Sciences](#) at the [University of Alberta](#), with an anticipated start date for initial applications of May or September of 2020. The University of Alberta is one of Canada's top research institutions, and the Department of Biological Sciences offers a competitive salary and research support package to all of its graduate trainees.

To apply, please send an email to [suzanne.tank@ualberta.ca](mailto:suzanne.tank@ualberta.ca), with the subject line "Studentship in Arctic biogeochemistry". Applicants should include a statement of interest, a CV, and a copy of transcripts (unofficial transcripts are acceptable). **Recruitment for these positions will be ongoing.** However, please note that the cutoff date for May/September 2020 admissions is February 1, 2020.

*I look forward to hearing from you!*

