

ARCTICA CUNNINGHAM

Awarded the 2013

Bulkley Valley Research Centre's Irving Fox Memorial Scholarship for Natural Resources Research and Management



The BVRC was pleased to present its Irving Fox Memorial Scholarship for Natural Resources Research and Management for 2013 to **Arctica Cunningham**, who was born and raised in the Bulkley Valley and is currently attending the University of Northern British Columbia in Prince George.

In her submission letter, Arctica describes herself as having a "passion for protecting the environment." She recently graduated from Smithers Secondary School and started a double major in environmental studies and political science at UNBC last fall. After graduating, Arctica plans to study environmental law at the University of Victoria, using her education to fight for strong environmental policies.

"I feel very fortunate to have grown up in a place where I could be so connected to nature," she says in her submission letter. "In return, I am going to continue to work hard to give back to this community by trying to find creative new solutions to make it more sustainable."

Included in her many achievements, Arctica organized an educational forum for Smithers' high school students to learn about the proposed Northern Gateway Pipeline. The forum included representatives from both the environmental advocacy community and Enbridge, the only time to date the pipeline company had joined such a panel. She also spoke before the Joint Review Panel about the project.

Arctica helped start a Green Team at her high school, which works to increase the environmental conscience of students through projects like funding a composter and selling all-natural laundry detergent. Arctica's last three science fair projects (using compost energy to heat a swimming pool, a natural filter to clean and recycle shower water for flushing toilets, and an exhaust-free method for defrosting car windshields) earned bronze and silver medals at Canada-Wide Science Fair.

In August 2010, Arctica was the recipient of a Youth Science Canada Scholarship that, she says, "changed my life." Along with 79 other international students and 30 educators, she travelled with Students On Ice around Baffin Island, learning firsthand about climate change, Arctic sovereignty disputes and Inuit culture.

Congratulations on your scholarship, Arctica, and we look forward to hearing where your career takes you.