

Master's project in plant biology

Regeneration of the donor sites used for the restoration of peatlands



Scholarship of \$ 17,300/year

Possibility of an additional department or faculty scholarship

Under the supervision of

Line Rochefort (Université Laval)

Starting in September 2014 or January 2015

Over the past two decades, the Peatland Ecology Research Group (PERG) developed with the peat industry a method of restoration for ombrotrophic peatlands (bogs) and minerotrophic peatlands (fens) after peat extraction. The technique is based on the transfer of plant material (transfer of the moss carpet of about 10 cm thick) from a donor site to a disturbed site. To restore large-scale peatlands (> 1 ha) by this method, we need sometimes to find relatively large areas to collect plant material that will be reintroduced. At first glance, bog donor sites do seem to have no problem of regeneration; however, no scientific data on this subject has yet been published.

This mater's project aims to assess the natural regeneration of different types of donor sites that have been used since the 1990s, by analyzing data collected in these sites over the years by the PERG, by revisiting all donor sites in Quebec and New Brunswick, and, in the case of poor regeneration, by planning experiments to facilitate revegetation of such sites. The study will also focus on specific aspects of the regeneration of liverwort carpets collected at the edge of peatland ponds and on the brown mosses harvested in fen donor sites.

The student will join the team of the Peatland Ecology Research Group (PERG; www.gret-perg.ulaval.ca) led by Line Rochefort. The proposed M.Sc. project is part of the NSERC Industrial Research Chair in Peatland Management. Our laboratories have a dozen of graduate students (M.Sc., Ph.D., postdoctoral fellows) and benefit from the support of several research professionals and postdoctoral fellows. The offer is open until **September 2014** or **January 2015** or until a candidate has been chosen. To apply, send to Line Rochefort: 1) a letter showing your interest, 2) your CV, 3) your most recent transcript of bachelor studies, 4) the names and contact information of three references.

Line Rochefort

Dép. phytologie, FSAA, Pav. Comtois, bureau 3403

Université Laval,

2425, rue de l'Agriculture

Québec, QC, G1V 0A6

Tel.: 418-656-2131 poste 2583

Email: Line.Rochefort@fsaa.ulaval.ca