



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

MSc Graduate Student Opportunity Working on Dutch Elm Disease Management in Winnipeg's Urban Forest

Project title: Developing more efficient and practical methodologies to diagnosis the level of elm bark beetle infestations in elm trees in Winnipeg's urban forest to enhance rapid tree removal to reduce Dutch elm disease (DED) transmission.

Objectives: After elm trees are initially diagnosed with infections of DED during the summer the current practice is to remove diseased elms during the winter season in Manitoba. The purpose of this project is to develop new methodologies to diagnose infected elm trees with high loads of disease carrying elm bark beetles and remove these trees as soon as possible. Rapid (early removal) of heavily infected elm trees by October would reduce beetle vector populations and reduce the incidence and spread of DED within communities. This project examines the feasibility of using a multi assessment approach to accurately identify heavy brood trees for rapid removal before summer brood beetles leave trees in the fall.

Applicants: We are seeking a highly motivated graduate student with an interest in urban forestry, tree biology and entomology. Knowledge of arboriculture, insect pest management and skills in use of GIS will be considered an asset. The student will be enrolled in the MSc Bioscience, Technology and Public Policy program at the University of Winnipeg, Winnipeg, Manitoba. The successful applicant must have a four year degree from a recognized science based program (GPA minimum 75%). Equivalent training, skills and experience in the work place will also be considered an asset. Candidates should have good written and oral communication skills and some experience in statistical analysis of biological data sets. The successful candidate will receive a minimum of \$16,000.00 per year for two years in scholarship funding.

The start date for the position is May 1, 2018, with application deadline of March 15, 2018. Any interested students should send a cover letter describing their qualifications, a resume, a copy of their academic transcript, and two names of referees (including email addresses and telephone numbers) to:

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