



Camille Zimmer



### **Camille Zimmer, Claudette MacKay-Lassonde PhD Graduate Scholarship Winner**

Camille is a fourth-year PhD candidate in civil engineering at the University of Victoria (UVic). Her research lies at the crossroads of public health and environmental engineering. She studies drinking water treatment and clean water; specifically, small-scale water treatment systems that are used in households lacking access to a clean, piped water supply – an issue that disproportionately affects women. Camille hopes that her research and her presence in the room as a woman engineer will expand access to clean drinking water for all, empowering women to lead safe, productive, healthy lives.

Complimentary to her engineering research, Camille has had the privilege to champion young women throughout her academic journey. At the outset of her PhD, Camille founded GoEngGirl at UVic, hosting 50 aspiring girls and non-binary youth for engineering activities and direct mentorship. GoEngGirl and its twin event, GoCodeGirl, have hosted over 200 aspiring engineers since 2019.

Camille was also an instructor for a third-year introductory course to drinking water and wastewater engineering at UVic in 2020 and 2022, during which she introduced topics linking sustainability, EDI and environmental racism. Such “social impact” connections in engineering typically motivate and empower women to engage in engineering.

Following the completion of her PhD, Camille’s career goal is to become a university professor in the field of drinking water quality and public health, so that she can pursue her twin goals of empowering women via engineering research, and empowering women engineers. Camille is overjoyed to receive the Claudette MacKay-Lassonde Scholarship and is humbled to join past and current awardees whom she admires. Receiving this award at the beginning of her academic career will help her to further establish the connection between clean water and the quality of women’s lives.