

Janet Pottie Murray Award for Educational Leadership

Presented to David Varis

Written by: Stacey MacKinnon

For the last twenty plus years, David Varis has been an Educational Leader both on and off campus. This is particularly important given that during his lengthy term as a sessional instructor, this type of leadership is not “part of the job”. Rather he has chosen to lead because making change mattered.

His contribution to the sociology/anthropology department has been vast but even more so, his leadership in Indigenous Knowledge will leave a lasting impact on UPEI. His focus on educating all of us about not only Indigenous issues and history but also the depth and breadth of Indigenous beliefs’ impact on ways of knowing encourages us all to consider what we know, what we don’t know, and how we can incorporate these values in our own work and lives.

After taking part of his IKE 1040, I can speak from experience that learning from David Varis has directly impacted my own view on both teaching and research, not to mention my awe of the vibrant cultures who made Turtle Island their home for tens of thousands of years.

It is therefore our honour to present David Varis with the 2023 Janet Pottie Murray Award for Educational Leadership with our sincere hope that he continues in this vital role for many years to come!