

UBC Sustainability Scholars Program 2019

The UBC Sustainability Initiative (USI) is pleased to offer current UBC graduate students the opportunity to work on funded sustainability internship projects. Successful candidates work under the mentorship of a partner organization, and are immersed in real world learning where they can apply their research skills and contribute to advancing organizational sustainability goals.

For more information about the Sustainability Scholars Program and to apply to work on this project, please visit the [Student Opportunities](#) page.

Please review the application guide (PDF) before applying.

Applications close **midnight Monday February 25, 2019.**

Research project title: Public Childcare Delivery: Learning from examples of direct operation of childcare by BC Local Government Agencies

Research supports the following City of Vancouver policies -

Healthy City Strategy. Specific goal area (s): Good Start; Making Ends Meet and Working Well; Healthy Human Services; Cultivating Connections

Outline scope of project and why it is of value to the City of Vancouver and describe how and when the scholar's work will be actionable

Scope of Work:

- Review literature and summarize best practices of publicly operated childcare to compare with the local context
- Develop a detailed preliminary inventory of BC local government agencies (municipalities, park boards and school boards) that directly operate childcare and a contact list for future outreach.
- Conduct phone/in-person interviews with selected public operators to identify successful approaches, challenges and lessons learned. This component may include a site visit to one or more publicly operated childcare programs in the Metro Region.
- Help develop recommendations and best practices to guide future City/Park Board/Vancouver Board of Education pilot of direct childcare operations.

Why this work is of value:

- Achieving universal access for childcare is a priority policy goal of both the City of Vancouver and the Province of British Columbia, and addresses emerging policy

recommendations to pilot direct public childcare operations in Vancouver. Universal childcare objectives have only been met internationally through public service delivery.

- Public delivery of childcare will address equity among:
 - Children and families
 - often unable to access licensed care due to limited supply and high costs particularly in private sector programs, which is a barrier for parent workforce participation.
 - The existing childcare workforce lacks access to coordinated professional development opportunities and training to address City priorities and equity issues, including ensuring cultural awareness and full inclusion of children with different abilities.
 - Child care workers
 - In a context of critical staffing shortages, the primarily female workforce often earn less than a living wage. Public delivery and coordination could address critical recruitment and retention issues by improving wages, benefits, and working conditions.
- Reviewing innovative practices from other BC Municipalities will help generate ideas to inform and develop future City partnership approaches, and business case development for public delivery of childcare in Vancouver.
 - While public child care delivery is well established in international jurisdictions, existing examples within BC's unique regulatory contexts are not well documented.

Deliverables

The Scholar will deliver a final report containing a summary of their completed work with recommendations, and a final presentation to key stakeholders. The report should include:

- A public facing summary report and analysis of interviews with public child care operators in BC
- Highlights of best practices for publicly operated childcare outside of BC
- Best practices and challenges learned from examples of publicly operated child care services at the local government level in BC.
- A detailed inventory of BC local government bodies (municipalities, park boards and school boards) that directly operate childcare

Time Commitment

- This project will take **250*** hours to complete.
- This project must be completed between ***(April 29 and August 12, 2019)***
- The scholar is to complete hours between ***(8:30am and 5pm, M-F)***, approximately **17** hours per week.

Skill set/background required/preferred

- Excellent research and writing skills.
- Demonstrated interest in Social Policy, Public Policy, and/or Education
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Strong presentation and public speaking skills
- Community engagement experience
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Demonstrated time management skills
- Deadline oriented
- Project management and organizational skills
- Familiarity with qualitative research methodologies and implementation
- Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys

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Apply here:

<https://sustain.ubc.ca/student-opportunities>

To learn more about the program here:

<https://sustain.ubc.ca/ubc-sustainability-scholars-program>

Read the application guidelines to confirm your eligibility to participate in the program here:

<https://sustain.ubc.ca/student-opportunities>

Contact Karen Taylor at sustainability.scholars@ubc.ca if you have questions.