

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: Opportunities to Incorporate Indigenous Ways of Knowing into Outdoor-Based School Age Childcare

Research supports the following City of Vancouver policies

- Greenest City Action Plan. Specific goal area: Access to Nature
- Healthy City Strategy. Specific goal areas: A Good Start, Active Living and Getting Outside, Lifelong Learning, Being and Feeling Safe and Included, Expressing Ourselves
- City of Reconciliation Framework
- Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation Rewilding Vancouver Strategy

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

For many years, the City of Vancouver has worked in partnership with the Vancouver Board of Education and non-profit childcare operators to offer licensed, school-age childcare (before and after school care) in Vancouver's public schools. Despite ongoing efforts, however, only about 35% of the city-wide need for licensed school-age childcare has been met. A total shortfall of over 9,000 spaces exists, and there are limited school facilities available from which these outstanding spaces could be offered. To continue to move forward on addressing childcare needs, the City is piloting a new approach to delivering licensed school-age childcare through an evidence-based, "fresh air" outdoor learning approach. This holds potential as a low-barrier solution to meet the pressing need for school-age care and could help achieve shared priorities of the City and BC Ministry of Education's curriculum (e.g. getting children more physically active and connected to their local communities and the natural environment). If successful, it could be expanded across the City over the next ten years.

As a City of Reconciliation, Vancouver is committed to incorporating Indigenous perspectives into its work, providing services that benefit members of the First Nations and Urban Indigenous community, and promoting Indigenous peoples' arts, culture, awareness, and understanding. As this relates

specifically to childcare, the BC Aboriginal Child Care Society has recommended that the City ensure that Indigenous knowledge and culture is appropriately reflected in mainstream childcare programs, and a growing body of literature speaks to the opportunity to “decolonize education” through intentionally undoing colonizing practices that persist in curriculum, power relations, and institutional structures. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission has highlighted the need to build student capacity for intercultural understanding, empathy, and mutual respect, and to provide culturally appropriate early childhood education programs for Indigenous children. Within this context, the opportunity to incorporate Indigenous ways of knowing and/or Indigenous cultural competency programming into the “fresh air” approach should be explored.

Authentically incorporating Indigenous ways of knowing into mainstream child care programs will take time, and must respect protocol. This work must be done from a framework of equity and cultural safety, and must avoid cultural appropriation. It will require building relationships that will take more time than is available for this scholar position. Acknowledging this, the scope of work for this scholar position may include:

- Conducting a literature scan to identify wise practices for incorporating Indigenous ways of knowing, decolonizing approaches, and cultural competency building into school-age childcare programming.
- Visiting existing local outdoor learning programs that incorporate these elements and interviewing staff to learn from local examples.
- Identifying opportunities to engage local organizations and individuals with interest or expertise in developing and/or delivering these elements in a manner that respects and honours protocol and avoids cultural appropriation, and identifying those who may be interested in serving in an advisory capacity for next stages of the project.

The outcomes from this project may inform the development the fresh air school age care action plan and pilot projects (vision, goals, activities, and assessment) which the City aims to launch in September 2019.

Deliverables

- A research document summarizing findings from the work, and recommendations
- Presentation of findings and recommendations to City Staff
- A public facing final report (or executive summary) for the UBC Sustainability Initiative website

Time Commitment

- This project will take 250 hours to complete.
- This project must be completed between April 29 – August 12
- The scholar is to complete hours between 8:30am and 5:00pm, Monday through Friday, approximately 16-18 hours per week.

Skill set/background required/preferred

- Demonstrated interest in outdoor education or Indigenous ways of knowing and learning
- Demonstrated understanding of the ongoing impact of colonization on Indigenous peoples and their communities
- Excellent research and writing skills
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Experience doing primary research (eg: surveys, interviews, or focus groups) is an asset
- Ability to work independently
- Demonstrated time management skills
- Familiarity with qualitative and quantitative research methodologies and implementation
- Writing sample required**
- Must be willing to travel within the Lower Mainland to gather information or conduct interviews

We welcome all candidates to apply for this position. We especially encourage applicants who have strong knowledge of Indigenous ways of knowing and/or Indigenous cultural experience.

Applications close **midnight Monday February 25.**

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.