

## 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.**

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### **Research project title:**

Apply Indigenous Health and Wellness Concepts and Principles to Mental Wellness and Substance Use Data

Research supports the following City of Vancouver policies -

Healthy City Strategy. Specific goal area (s): Healthy Human Services, City of Reconciliation

### **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**

- The City is committed to addressing inequities related to health and social wellness for Indigenous people, including Indigenous women, as per the Reconciliation Framework, Equity and Intersectionality Frameworks, and the Healthy City Strategy.
- The City is in the midst of an opioid overdose crisis with unprecedented rates of overdose and overdose deaths resulting from a poisoned drug supply. Although data is being collected on rates of overdose deaths, this is not highlighting the inequitable impacts of the crisis on Indigenous people, particularly Indigenous women.
- In summer 2018, a Scholar reviewed gaps and opportunities for incorporating Indigenous conceptions of wellness (with a focus on culture as intervention) into existing Healthy City Indicators, including principles and processes for meaningfully involving urban Indigenous communities.
- This application intends to build on this previous work in a case study on how Indigenous people, particularly Indigenous women, are impacted in the overdose emergency crisis, and more broadly impacted by mental health and substance use issues in Vancouver.

- This work will include reviewing data and/or evidence related to mental health and substance use, including opioid surveillance data, collected at the City of Vancouver as well as any publically available data, including reports and academic literature.
- This project will identify gaps in the existing data and make recommendations for more equitable ways of measuring impacts of mental health and wellness, including overdose surveillance data, on Indigenous people, women and other groups.

### **Deliverables**

- Inventory of existing data collected and reported related to overdose surveillance, mental wellness and substance use in Vancouver.
- Review of literature related to equity principles as applied to data collection, including Indigenous data collection.
- Analysis in relation to what the data tells us and does not tell us about inequities in the crisis, including how Indigenous women are impacted.
- Participation in meetings and activities with staff from the health authority, Indigenous groups and/or other organizations to identify opportunities for more equitable data collection. This includes working with Indigenous partners where necessary to ensure the work is culturally appropriate.
- Recommendations for ways forward in relation to ongoing data collection and reporting on mental health and wellness, including overdose surveillance data that includes Indigenous healing and wellness.
- A public facing final report on all the above for the UBC Sustainability Scholars online project library.

### **Time Commitment**

\* This project will take 250\* hours to complete.

\* This project must be completed between (April 29 and July 31)

\* The scholar is to complete hours between (8:30am and 5:00pm, Monday to Friday), approximately 20 hours per week.

### **Skill set/background required/preferred**

- Excellent research and writing skills.
- Demonstrated interest in Indigenous health, equity, and data.
- Strong writing skills
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Demonstrated time management skills
- Deadline oriented

- Project management and organizational skills
- Demonstrated experience in searching for literature
- Familiarity with qualitative research methodologies and implementation
- Familiarity with quantitative research methodologies and implementation
- Other: Experience working with Indigenous peoples and/or people with lived experience of mental health and substance use.

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

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](mailto:sustainability.scholars@ubc.ca) if you have questions.