

SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Fall 2020

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 sustainability across the region.

Note: Projects must be completed remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Visit the [Sustainability Scholars Program website](#) to learn [how the program works](#) and to [apply](#).
- Be sure to review the [application guide](#) to confirm your eligibility before applying.

Applications close at midnight on Sunday September 20, 2020.

Research Project Title: Implementing consent for mining in Indigenous Lands: An opportunity to apply the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Sustainability Goal or Operations Plan objective

This project is aligned with the “responsible consumption and production” thematic area. Respecting Indigenous laws and governance systems is an increasingly important component of sustainability. Since 2007, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples has existed to support Indigenous peoples and governments. Ensuring that mining practices in British Columbia are aligned with the legal and human rights principles in the UN Declaration will contribute to sustainability.

Project Background

The BC First Nations Energy and Mining Council (“FNEMC”) is a provincial non-profit society whose mandate is to support and facilitate First Nations efforts to manage and develop energy and mineral resources in ways that protect and sustain the environment forever while enhancing the social, cultural, economic and political well-being of First Nations. FNEMC’s direction is established by the BC First Nations Leadership Council – the political executives of the BC Assembly of First Nations, the First Nations Summit and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs. FNEMC works to implement the direction of the First Nations Leadership Council.

With the support of the Law Foundation of British Columbia, FNEMC is undertaking its “Implementing Consent for Mining on Indigenous Lands” project. This project will explore ways to implement “free, prior and informed consent in relation to mining. The principle of free, prior and informed consent is integral to the UN Declaration. In November 2019, the BC government unanimously passed legislation intended to give effect to the UN Declaration – the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.

SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

This project is intended to take a complex legal concept – “free, prior and informed consent” – unpack it and develop options as to how it may practically apply in relation to mining activities on Indigenous lands in BC. It is intended to support environmental, social and economic sustainability through an Indigenous lens and was conceived as a means to bridge from academic and international understandings, toward a practical application of consent that will support communities in BC. This project will also help raise awareness of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* for Indigenous communities in BC.

More details about this project are located at the end of this document.

Project Overview

FNEMC seeks a UBC Sustainability Scholar to support research, writing, analytical work and engagement on aspects of the “Implementing Consent for Mining on Indigenous Lands” project described above. The Scholar will:

- Support and build upon existing research in relation to best practices for mining and consent; support the drafting of a jurisdictional scan; conduct any additional research and drafting to support release of the jurisdictional scan.
- Review expert issue papers, attend the expert and Indigenous roundtables, conduct additional research; contribute to drafting the Discussion Paper.
- Time permitting and depending on the Scholar’s skill set and interest, support social media outreach efforts; analyze responses to social media outreach; attend community webinars; analyze community feedback and develop conclusions and recommendations based on community perspectives
- Conduct research and contribute to drafting the Final Report for the larger project
- Time permitting, undertake other research and engagements with experts and Indigenous representatives, as required.

Deliverables

Note that a final deliverable will be archived in the online [public-facing Scholars Project Library](#).

Deliverables will include:

- Contribute to and/or co-author a Jurisdictional scan on mining and consent
- Contribute to and/or co-author a Discussion Paper on mining and consent
- Other contributions to the larger project as noted above
- A final report [or Executive Summary] for the UBC Sustainability Scholars online project library.

Time Commitment

The program runs for 22 weeks from October 19, 2020 to March 12, 2021, during which students work an average of 12 hours per week for a total of 250 hours.

- This project will take **250** hours to complete.
- This project must be completed between October 19, 2020 and March 12, 2021

SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

- The Scholar should plan to work approximately 12 hours per week.
- The Scholar will be asked to participate in a few key meetings that can be arranged around the Scholar's schedule
- The Scholar should also attend the Expert Roundtables that will be scheduled in October/November (the dates have not yet been confirmed). The sessions will be recorded so if the dates conflict with the Scholar's schedule, they can be watched afterward

Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Community engagement experience an asset
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Project management and organizational skills
- Strong technical and drafting skills (we are hoping for help with research, drafting, analysis)

Applications close **midnight Sunday September 20, 2020.**

Apply here: <http://sustain.ubc.ca/scholarsapply>

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

Useful Resources

Below are some links to useful resources to help you with your resume and cover letter (there are many more online). Some of these resources also provide information on preparing for your interview.

Resume workshop for prospective Sustainability Scholars: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/resume-workshop-for-prospective-sustainability-scholars-tickets-117422877989>

<https://students.ubc.ca/career/career-resources/resumes-cover-letters-curricula-vitae>

<https://www.grad.ubc.ca/current-students/graduate-pathways-success>

<https://www.grad.ubc.ca/cover-letter-cv-resume-templates-ubc-career-services>

SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND ON FNEMC'S "IMPLEMENTING CONSENT FOR MINING ON INDIGENOUS LANDS" PROJECT

The BC First Nations Energy and Mining Council ("FNEMC") is a provincial non-profit society whose mandate is to support and facilitate First Nations efforts to manage and develop energy and mineral resources in ways that protect and sustain the environment forever while enhancing the social, cultural, economic and political well-being of First Nations. FNEMC's direction is established by the BC First Nations Leadership Council – the political executives of the BC Assembly of First Nations, the First Nations Summit and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs. FNEMC works to implement the direction of the First Nations Leadership Council.

With the support of the Law Foundation of British Columbia, FNEMC is undertaking its "Implementing Consent for Mining on Indigenous Lands" project. This project will explore ways to implement "free, prior and informed consent in relation to mining. The principle of free, prior and informed consent is integral to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration). In November 2019, the BC government unanimously passed legislation intended to give effect to the UN Declaration – the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.

This project is intended to take a complex legal concept – "free, prior and informed consent" – unpack it and develop options as to how it may practically apply in relation to mining activities on Indigenous lands in BC. It is intended to support environmental, social and economic sustainability through an Indigenous lens and was conceived as a means to bridge from academic and international understandings, toward a practical application of consent that will support communities in BC. This project will also help raise awareness of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* for Indigenous communities in BC.

Project Description

The duration of the project is 1 year. Between now and spring 2021, FNEMC will:

- 1. Engage Expert Research and Conduct Roundtables.** FNEMC will engage legal experts to write brief papers on issues related to implementing consent from the international, Indigenous and BC legal perspective; engage Indigenous leadership from across BC to provide their perspective on issues identified in the brief papers; and host a series of roundtable webinars to discuss these issue papers.
- 2. Prepare a Discussion Paper.** Using the results of the roundtables, FNEMC will prepare a Discussion Paper that will present options, approaches and pragmatic considerations for implementing consent in the BC context.
- 3. Undertake Indigenous Community Engagements.** FNEMC will engage BC Indigenous communities through social media and online workshops to obtain feedback and practical perspectives on the proposals in the Discussion Paper. The intent is to connect with communities using social media tools

SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, as well as by hosting online workshops that will enable Indigenous community members to share first-hand experiences and learnings.

4. ***Prepare a Mining and Consent Report.*** FNEMC will prepare a final report that summarizes the results of the process and makes recommendations as to how consent for mining activities may be implemented in the BC context. This report is intended to support implementation of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, provide helpful tools at the community level and ensure that future mining projects proceed in a manner that is aligned with the UN Declaration.