

## Summer 2021 Sustainability Scholars Program Internship Opportunity

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.

- 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 January 31, 2021.**

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### **Research project title:**

Integrating traditional ecological knowledge in actions to protect marine habitat along the Burrard Inlet

### **Project description:**

Since 2016, the Tsleil-Waututh Nation (TWN) and the City of Vancouver have developed several important documents outlining the potentially devastating impacts the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion (TMEX) would have on the lands, waters, wildlife, people, and communities of the Burrard Inlet. Restoring and protecting the shoreline for resiliency is critical for mitigating impacts from increased tanker traffic and potential TMEX-related marine spills.

TWN Burrard Inlet Action Plan (2016) outlines goals and actions to improve the health of the Burrard Inlet, including the fifth action to conserve critical nearshore habitats. The scholar would apply available data from the Tsleil-Waututh Nation, consultants, and non-profits at 3 sites suitable for forage fish or eel grass restoration projects along the Inner Burrard Inlet. The scholar would develop site-specific recommendations and technical strategies for implementation in Stanley, CRAB and New Brighton Parks based on traditional ecological knowledge and public documents and data prepared for and by TWN.

This project would provide Vancouver Park staff with recommendations for tangible actions to enhance, restore and protect marine habitat to the Burrard Inlet that are grounded in TWN vision for thriving and resilient shorelines. The scholar will also meet with staff from TWN and partner organization to ask questions and ensure the traditional ecological knowledge, goals, and strategies shared by the TWN guide the recommendations when working on unceded lands and waters.

The scope of the work would include:

- Reading the TWN Burrard Inlet Action Plan and Summary, TWN TMEX publications, SeaChange Annual Burrard Inlet Mapping Reports, Inlailawatash New Brighton Salt Marsh

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maintenance reports and recommendations, as well as related park and city strategies and TMEX publications

- Completing a high-level literature review on traditional ecological knowledge, marine restoration for resiliency, and shoreline certification programs such as Greenshores and BlueFlag.
- Reviewing spatial data and complete site visits to gather information specific to the three sites and understand the complex jurisdiction for each site
- Reviewing mapping data on positive and suitable forage fish spawn, eel grass and kelp sites to identify restoration and protection opportunities
- Developing question to inform the interviews with TWN, SeaChange, Inlailawatash, Park, City & Port of Vancouver staff
- Writing an annotated bibliography, interview summary, final report (with recommendations) and an executive summary

## **Deliverables:**

- Summary report of key Burrard Inlet and TMEX documents published by TWN & the City
- Summary report of interviews with staff from TWN, the City & Parks
- Final report with tangible and site-specific recommendations
- Executive summary of report for the online Scholars Project Library

## **Time Commitment:**

- This project will take 250 hours to complete.
- This project must be completed between (May 3- August 13).
- The scholar is to complete hours between (9:00-5:00, Monday-Friday), approximately 20 hours per week.

## **Required/preferred Skills and Background**

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in Indigenous land and water governance
- Experience conducting interviews
- Familiarity with research methodologies and interview techniques
- Ability to work independently
- Project management and organizational skills
- Understanding of marine ecosystems and nearshore habitats is an asset
- Demonstrated experience working with Indigenous communities is an asset

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Applications close **midnight Sunday January 31, 2021**

Apply here: [Click here to apply](#)

Contact Karen Taylor at [sustainability.scholars@ubc.ca](mailto:sustainability.scholars@ubc.ca) if you have questions

## Useful Resources

We are holding a special **resume preparation workshop for prospective Scholars** on January 19. [Click here for details and to register.](#)

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.

<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>