

## Fall 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 September 19, 2021**

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**Research project title: Research to understand Indigenous housing governance practices, principles, and policies**

### Background Context

In British Columbia there are numerous outstanding Indigenous land claims and many modern treaties (if not Aboriginal title negotiations) which will likely be concluded within the next decade. New and innovative forms of Indigenous housing governance rooted in Indigenous law must be developed, recognized, and advanced in order to truly manifest the distinct relationship Indigenous peoples share between their homes and homelands. While modern treaties and other emerging legal relationships create new and untested jurisdictional landscapes that seek to create certainty within the legal-economic climate of BC and Canada, they do little to resolve the outstanding housing challenges facing Indigenous Nations within these new jurisdictions, nor do they provide a suitable pathway to Indigenous-led housing governance. As we move toward a post-Indian Act era which seeks to enable substantive and lasting self-determination, First Nations will require access to a diverse suite of options in order to develop the appropriate institutional foundations upon which they can rebuild their cultural economies and housing stocks for growing populations.

### Purpose of the Project

Although there exists research on Indigenous law and specific examples of 'property' law, this has not typically been in a real-estate context. In seeking to address the lack of current institutional capacity and tools pertaining to First Nation housing governance, this project seeks to understand how Indigenous values, principles, and governance practices might lead to the elaboration of innovative institutional arrangements which balance the certainty of investment with the collective nature and responsibility of Aboriginal title, treaty settlement lands, and other emerging jurisprudential and jurisdictional challenges.

This project will be actionable in two ways: The lack of information available to First Nations groups and governments as concerns housing governance means that there is little opportunity for innovation, particularly outside of Indian Act jurisdictions. The scholar will be developing an annotated bibliography that will be utilized as a part of a broader body of work supporting our First Nations community partners with real-world challenges in the short term – namely modern treaty and Aboriginal title implementation. Second, we will be organizing the findings of this research into several publicly accessible knowledge products that will be available to assist First Nations, as well as Indigenous groups across Canada, as they seek to develop institutions which can appropriately serve emerging self-determined communities. The scholar will support the drafting of relevant sections of this document.

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## **Scope of the Work**

- Conduct research (both desk and interview based) to identify other jurisdictions around the world that have implemented indigenous laws, values or principles for the purposes of housing decision making within, for example, tribal courts or tribal housing authorities
- Identify and research 5 to 10 key jurisdictions where experiences have the greatest potential applicability to the British Columbia context (e.g., United States, Australia, New Zealand and other jurisdictions in Canada).
- Identify the legal and related policy mechanisms and tools that have been used by Indigenous groups in other jurisdictions to address various property/housing allocation and dispute resolution mechanisms that are being utilized in these contexts

## **Deliverables**

- A final report containing a summary of the research
- An annotated bibliography on research outcomes which will be cumulatively adapted into a final submission at the end of the project term
- A final report for the public-facing online Scholars Project Library

## **Time Commitment**

- This project will take **250** hours to complete.
- This project must be completed between **October 15, 2021 to March 15, 2022.**
- The Scholar is to be available for meetings during standard business hours, Monday to Friday (meetings will be scheduled with the Scholar's timetable in mind). Research can take place at times that work best for the Scholar, approximately **12** hours per week.
- If applicable, list dates of any mandatory meetings, etc.

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

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Community engagement experience
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Project management and organizational skills
- Strong understanding of Indigenous issues in Canada and beyond an asset
- Experience working with Indigenous or other marginalized communities an asset
- Commitment to reconciliation and decolonization an asset
- Strong interviewing techniques an asset
- Knowledge of housing/Indigenous housing an asset

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## About the project partner:

Indigenous Home-Lands at Ecotrust Canada is an Indigenous partnership-driven initiative that has established long term relationships with several First Nations across British Columbia, including Huu-ay-aht First Nations (a modern treaty nation), Xeni Gwet'in First Nation (a declared Aboriginal title holding nation), and the broader Tsilhqot'in Nation. The current project has been designed and developed based on our understanding of the needs and desires of our partners, though we also hope to remain relevant to Indigenous groups broadly, and our work will be put into action through our ongoing efforts on the ground in these communities and partner communities to come.

Applications close **midnight Sunday September 19, 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

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>