

## Summer 2022 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 March 13, 2022.**

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### **Project Title: Best practices research to inform the development of an action plan to support engagement and buy-in for an urban marine park in False Creek**

#### **Project Background & Overview:**

The Salish Sea meets Vancouver shores on the unceded traditional homelands of x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations where generations have lived since time immemorial. Today, False Creek is a highly urbanized marine area increasingly subject to climate change, sea level rise, and more frequent extreme weather events. Much of the natural habitat of the area has been lost due to the construction of concrete seawalls, piers and wharves and a wide range of commercial and industrial activities. English Bay is a major shipping route and anchorage. False Creek inlet became an early industrial center of Vancouver. A dense urban population lives and works along False Creek shores, crosses its bridges, walks and cycles its banks, paddles and sails and swims in its waters.

False Creek Friends Society was established in 2021 to further the goal of protecting and revitalizing the marine area of English Bay and False Creek, through “a collaborative community-led initiative that celebrates a city’s connection to the marine environment, enhances sustainable economic prosperity and enables communities to participate in *activities that deepen understanding, value, care and enjoyment of the city seascape.*”

These activities that “deepen understanding, value, care and enjoyment of the city seascape” have been neglected throughout the colonial history of Vancouver - most notably with the eviction of the original Indigenous inhabitants of the Kitsilano Village in 1913 and the transformation of False Creek into an “industrial park” - one of Canada’s first. The legacy of the privileging of extractive and damaging enterprises in False Creek is revealed in the current tangle of administrative bureaucracies: no fewer than sixteen government agencies - each confined in silos reinforced by conflicting mandates - have repeatedly tried to streamline governance (most notably, in 2009 when the Government of Canada signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Vancouver). That realignment has failed. False Creek Friends Society - after much consultation with elected officials, frontline officers and official agents - believe that the only way forward is the creation of a unified administration, the main purpose of which will be to “protect the marine environment, enhance sustainable economic prosperity and enables communities to participate in *activities that deepen understanding, value, care and enjoyment of the city seascape.*” The best possible description of such an entity is through the declaration of False

Creek as a Protected Marine Area, co-managed with Indigenous Nations and with the active support and participation of all Vancouver residents.

## **What Can an Urban Marine Park or “Sea Sanctuary” Do for Vancouver?**

The False Creek Friends Society takes inspiration from the city marine area concept described by Simon Pittman of the Sea Sanctuary Society in the UK, and the Conservation Through Reconciliation Project, led by the IISAAK OLAM Foundation and Dr. Eli Enns.

This has best been stated by FCFS lead advisor, Dr. Simon Pittman<sup>1</sup>, FRGS, Oxford, in his influential paper:

*An ocean and coastal space defined by collective local knowledge and recognised for its special importance for city community health, well-being and heritage, with the intention of encouraging greater prosperity and responsible enjoyment, deepening knowledge, appreciation and care for the city seascape and the broader Earth system.*

## **Project description**

The purpose of this project is to understand best practices in garnering public support and develop an action plan to support building a case for the creation of an urban marine park or sanctuary in False Creek that possibly connects to Stanley Park and other marine areas in the Vancouver region, that contributes towards the long-term rehabilitation and restoration of the False Creek marine environment, and that draws on both First Nations stewardship values and marine science. The time is ripe for this research as the recent mandate letter for the Minister of Environment and Climate Change commits the ministry to, among other things, “establish at least one new national urban park in every province and territory, with a target of 15 new urban parks by 2030”. Vancouver is an ideal setting for a national urban park that includes marine areas such as False Creek. The Scholar will participate in the exciting early stages of building the case for the park by developing an action plan and inventory of engagement pieces to help move things forward.

## **Project scope**

1. Best practices review of incremental public outreach activities (e.g., outdoor education programs, public engagement activities, media promotion, etc.) that led to successful governmental designation of protected marine areas. This will include (but not be limited to) an investigation of current literature in marine social science, the role of community science activities, potential governance arrangements, and related public campaigns. This may also include interviews with key subject experts.
2. Review of toolkits, communication materials and marketing content related to the outreach activities noted in the best practices review. This would include interviewing two or three subject experts to identify the key audiences and understand their communication needs.
3. Based on the research, a set of recommendations on a suitable public outreach program, including a list of the communication pieces for the various audience stakeholder groups, with an accompanying presentation to the project mentor and key stakeholders

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<sup>1</sup> “Marine parks for coastal cities: A concept for enhanced community well-being, prosperity and sustainable city living.”, Pittman, Marine Policy. 103. 10.1016/j.marpol.2019.02.012.

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4. Based on feedback on the recommendations, development of an action plan toward designation of an urban marine park in False Creek with particular emphasis on the steps to prepare for and implement a robust engagement program.
5. Time permitting, development of communication and outreach materials or a list of content pieces and draft outline of the content to include in them. These may include toolkits, information packages, a bibliography of academic references, policy briefs, social media posts, handouts, posters, technical bulletins, etc.

## Deliverables

- A final report (and/or executive summary) for the online public-facing Scholars Project Library
- A final report, containing a summary of completed work with key recommendations, complemented by a final presentation to key stakeholders

## Time Commitment

- This project will take 250 hours to complete.
- This project must be completed between May 2, 2022 and August 12, 2022
- The scholar is to complete hours between 9 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday, approximately 17 to 20 hours per week.

## Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- Familiarity with research methodologies
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Project management and organizational skills
- GIS training or experience an asset, but not mandatory
- Familiarity with marine protected areas
- Interest in Indigenous governance
- Communication and engagement experience an asset
- Familiarity with marine ecology, Indigenous Stewardship an asset
- We welcome all candidates to apply for this position. We especially encourage applications from members of groups that have been marginalized on any grounds enumerated under the BC *Human Rights Code*, including race/racialization and/or status as an Indigenous person.

## Works Cited

1. Marine parks for coastal cities: A concept for enhanced community well-being, prosperity and sustainable city living. Marine Policy. 103. 10.1016/j.marpol.2019.02.012.
2. Conservation social science: Understanding and integrating human dimensions to improve conservation; improve conservation; Nathan J. Bennett a,b,c,\*, Robin Roth d, Sarah C. Klain November 2016 [Biological Conservation](#) DOI:[10.1016/j.biocon.2016.10.006](#)
3. Marine Social Science for the Peopled Seas; Nathan J. Bennett (2019)Coastal Management, 47:2, 244-252, DOI: 10.1080/08920753.2019.1564958
4. TRIBAL PARKS AND INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS: LESSONS FROM B.C.August 2018 Project lead: Rachel Plotkin
5. State of the Waterfront - Georgia Strait Alliance, 2019

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Applications close **midnight Sunday March 13, 2022**

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>