

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 January 30, 2022.

>> This is a Fraser Estuary Research Collaborative Project >>

The Fraser Estuary Research Collaborative (FERC) is focussed on advancing efforts to protect the Fraser River estuary in collaboration with key NGO and Indigenous partners. If you are interested in producing new knowledge and supporting Fraser estuary protection through scientific, technical, governance and policy innovations, the following project might be for you. Read on for more details.

Research Project Title: Innovative approaches to research, knowledge sharing and centres Indigenous lenses

Project Background & Overview:

“From a relationship with much history, many express a need for positive movement forward to create a balance of old and new. This balance needs to honour our Indigenous cultural teachings and strength while not discarding the goodness nor all of the structure in the current western system that is struggling to overcome a possession-based worldview. Collectively we need to dance together toward more inclusive cultural/intercultural reflection around being re-reminded of these teachings, actively creating lifelong learners of whole-life sustainability, leaving the generations to follow us with a prototype for moving forward.” - C. George ~ kQwa’s’t’not, 2019

Western social and educational institutions, both government and non-government, have a long history of ignoring the presence of Indigenous Peoples in conservation and restoration initiatives, and the places they are attempting to protect. By ignoring the vital multi-generational and living relationships of Indigenous Peoples with places of environmental and social concern, dominant discourses have neglected to tap into a richness of perspectives, knowledge, and values cultivated over millennia of living in right relationship with place.

Indigenous Peoples of the Fraser River watershed area have embodied practices of environmental and social sustainability since time immemorial, and possess lived experiences, place-based science and socio-cultural perspectives that inhere a deep awareness of care and reciprocity for all beings. Many Indigenous Peoples have been remaking communities and global societies through movement organizing, research, and policy. Extending Indigenous Knowledge Systems towards transformative systems change in culturally appropriate ways, particularly in relation to ecological governance, stewardship, and restoration is both beneficial and needed on many levels. The experience and

knowledge of Indigenous and diverse people are invaluable towards protection and restoration efforts in endangered ecosystems. As civil society organizations, academic institutions and researchers are beginning to reckon with past mistakes and strive for equity and inclusivity, they need tools to create meaningful and lasting change.

Project description

This project, is an expansion of two connected initiatives. The first, Seeing Through Watchers' Eyes, was started by and T'Sou-ke Nation cultural knowledge holder, and Sierra Club BC Cultural Voice, kQwa'ste'not~ (Charlene George). Seeing Through Watchers' Eyes is a digital tool that guides participants through Coast Salish knowledge, protocol and practices, bridging Western and Indigenous ways of knowing, and enhancing and interacting with the existing K-12 curriculum. The initiative was deeply collaborative, and many of the teaching materials have been integrated into district schools on Vancouver Island.

Inspired by Seeing Through Watchers' Eyes, the second project, A Pathway Together, was a joint endeavour between Sierra Club BC and the University of British Columbia (UBC) through the 2020-2021 Sustainability Scholars Program. It led to the production of a toolkit, including a literature review, digital 'Prezi'-guide and print resources, to help bridge divides between the mainstream environmental movement and many Indigenous and diverse populations, and decolonize action and organizing on climate change and related issues.^{1,2,3}

The purpose of this Sustainability Scholars project, is to:

- a) Identify and create innovative approaches to research, knowledge sharing, storytelling and engagement by centring Indigenous and diverse lenses.
- b) Re-storying and modelling how to implement walking A Pathway Together collaboratively.

These objectives include generating reflection, analysis, tools and practices, enabling a broad base of stakeholders -- Indigenous Peoples, researchers, ENGOs, practitioners -- to engage with and learn from diverse communities towards a common cause. Through respectful Indigenous and intercultural approaches, it will support the Fraser Estuary Research Collaborative (FERC) participants to develop shared analysis in developing appropriate restoration and protection interventions. Further, the project aims to contribute towards both knowledge translation and dissemination across diverse perspectives, centred on appropriate Indigenous methodologies of documentation and storytelling. This will include multiple modes of communication, for example, oral, pictorial, and written Indigenous and scholarly English, among others. Lastly, by modelling how to implement A Pathway Together collaboratively, the project aims to foster a more holistic understanding of the interrelationships that connects the estuary, river, and whole watershed with the ocean and related human and non-human communities of beings.

Community engagement will focus primarily with Tsawwassen Tsleil-Waututh, x^wməθk^wəy̓əm, and Skwxwú7mesh Nations, but may also include Katzie, Kwantlen, Kwikwetlem, Matsqui, Qayqayt, Semiahmoo, Squamish, W̱SÁNEĆ, and other Nations who have cultural ties to the Fraser River Estuary.

Work will draw heavily from both Participatory Action Research and Transformative Learning modalities, where specific output features and outcome trajectories remain emergent through the process of

¹ Since its launch on SCBC's website in April 2020, the APT resource page has been accessed by more than 3,000 unique viewers.
<https://sierraclub.bc.ca/a-pathway-together/>

² A Pathway Together -- Executive Summary:
<https://sierraclub.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/Final-A-Pathway-Together-Report-2021.docx.pdf>

³ A Pathway Together – Literature Review:
<https://sierraclub.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/A-Pathway-Together-Project-Literature-Review.pdf>

‘doing’. Fundamentally, the project will proceed in ways that follow Coast Salish protocols, while striving to be respectful to all Indigenous and diverse communities, as well as the non-Indigenous allies who will be reading and utilizing this work in their practices.

Project scope

Key research questions include:

- How do we create opportunities for a genuine pathway together?
- How do we, in an authentic manner that is respectful of protocol, encourage collaboration?
- How do we create a bridge, or pathway across a bridge, connecting our intercultural languages?
- How do we center the *SĆÁ* ~ (good) work to the lands and waters? Re-remembering the story of this vital doorway (the Fraser River Estuary)

Primary activities to be undertaken by the Scholar include:⁴

- Work with kQwa’ste’not~ Charlene George to review the online tool A Pathway Together; and create a short companion resource
- Conduct a literature review, surveys and other outreach to identify innovative practices and approaches to research, knowledge sharing, storytelling and engagement that centres Indigenous and diverse lenses
- Prototype and test proposed steps of implementing the A Pathway Together process and collect participant feedback
- Work with FERC Sustainability Scholars to form high-level connections between respective projects
- Actively invite relationships with the current relations who hold the responsibilities of stewardship (borrowing stories & experiences of the sacred doorway if possible)
- Working with Sierra Club BC Cultural Voice to create bridges of understanding and translate the process of the journey that provides an example for others in walking A Pathway Together
- Solicit feedback on the draft resource from diverse individual and community groups with whom Sierra Club BC or the Sustainability Scholars Program has existing relationships; identify other appropriate reviewers; incorporate feedback into a final draft.
- Support the Sustainability Scholars Program to develop an implementation plan for incorporating best practices and recommendations, where useful and appropriate.
- Work with Sierra Club BC’s communications team to make the resources available to other ENGOS and interested parties.

Deliverables

- A literature review surveying innovative practices and approaches to research, knowledge sharing, storytelling and engagement that centres Indigenous and diverse lenses
- A final report containing a summary of the work completed
- Evaluate the Implementing a Pathway Together process guide
- Drawing on A Pathway Together and the literature review, produce a draft resource for use by UBC Sustainability Scholars, Sierra Club BC, and other ENGOS or user groups that highlight the analysis of best practices/approaches to research, knowledge sharing, storytelling and engagement that centres Indigenous and diverse lenses and highlights any existing models that are working well.
 - A final report (or executive summary) for the online public-facing [Scholars Project Library](#).

⁴ All activities will be conducted in line with COVID public health guidelines and respectful of participant and community needs.

Time Commitment

- This project will take 250 hours to complete.
- This project must be completed between May 2 and August 12.
- The Scholar is to complete approximately 12 hours per week, and can work on their own schedule in agreement with mentor
- The Scholar will need to develop a schedule for regular meetings with their Mentor, and be available for occasional meetings with other staff as relevant

Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- Experience conducting stakeholder engagement events, including facilitation skills, is an asset
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Community engagement experience
- Familiarity conducting focus group research
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Project management and organizational skills
- Demonstrated experience:
 - a) Translating/bridging environmental and Indigenous thinking
 - b) Transferable collaboration skills
- We welcome all candidates to apply for this position. We especially encourage applicants who have lived experience and/or strong knowledge of Indigenous ways of knowing and/or Indigenous culture.
- Our highest priority candidate would be one who belongs to a local Indigenous community (primary), or a student from an Indigenous community further abroad (secondary).**

Applications close **midnight Sunday January 30, 2022**

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

Contact Karen Taylor at 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>