SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

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.

Project title: Evaluation of Regulations Governing Human Activities in the Lower Fraser relevant to Environmental Protection and Restoration

Project Background & Overview:
150-plus years of colonial development have seriously harmed the Fraser estuary through destruction and pollution of ecosystems. Successful and sustainable Indigenous governance mechanisms and Indigenous peoples themselves have been displaced by colonial laws and settlers. Efforts to rehabilitate the estuary have, understandably, focussed on restoration projects, but it is also necessary to look at how to set limits on human activities that cause harm, and manage these limits in a coordinated way that produces accountability and results for the Fraser estuary. While attention is understandably focussed on larger projects, 'death by a thousand cuts' through many smaller projects and routine activities is equally a problem.

The scholar will be doing an inventory and analysis of existing Crown laws and regulations in relation to human activities in the Fraser estuary, and will develop an effectiveness framework for assessing the impact of those laws and regulations. This is part of the foundation of setting appropriate limits on human activities to promote the long-term protection and restoration of the Fraser estuary. This inventory and effectiveness framework will be the first step in a longer-term effort to assess the overall efficiency of laws and frameworks and figure out how to make

adjustments or modify the regulatory environment. This is the necessary, and somewhat neglected, complement to physical works to restore the estuary and actions to designate protected areas.

Project description

This project will look at and critique existing law and policy tools to regulate human activities in the Lower Fraser. It will produce an inventory of existing Crown laws and regulations relevant to protection and restoration that apply to human activities in the Fraser estuary, and an analysis of their effectiveness. The effectiveness analysis will draw on scientific research in the Fraser estuary, shifting baselines, and examples from other jurisdictions, particularly in contested estuary locations.

Project scope

1. Inventory of existing Crown laws and regulations related to management of human activities in the Lower Fraser that have an impact on environmental protection and restoration. (The mentor will direct the Scholar to existing resources to develop list of relevant activities.) The inventory will include aspects such as:
    - activity regulated
    - how regulated
    - applicable standards
    - monitoring/enforcement
    - adaptive management, if any.
2. Develop a framework for evaluating the effectiveness of regulations (quantitative/qualitative) and identify relevant gaps. Note that effectiveness might not be able to be assessed by student, but the framework for doing so can be prepared. As background West Coast will provide several examples of this type of analysis that can be modified for this work.
3. Time permitting, comparison of regulatory approaches from other estuarine jurisdictions.

Deliverables

- A final report containing a summary of the work completed
- A final report for the online public-facing Scholars Project Library.

Time Commitment

- This position is for 270 hours of work.
- This project must be completed between May 2 and August 12, 2022
- The scholars are to complete hours between 9 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday, approximately 19 to 22 hours per week.

Required/preferred Skills and Background

☒ Excellent research and writing skills
☒ Demonstrated interest in sustainability
☒ Strong analytical skills
☒ Ability to work independently
☒ Deadline oriented
☒ Demonstrated experience in legal or policy research and analysis

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