

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: Research on agricultural land use regulations in the context of Indigenous food security

Project Background & Overview:

After millennia of sustainable management and occupation by Coast Salish peoples, much of the floodplain in the Lower Fraser has been converted to new human uses during the colonial period, usually resulting in habitat loss and ecosystem degradation.

One of the colonial uses is European-style agricultural operations, made possible by diking and draining. It's obvious in 2021 that there are problems with this practice and the scale at which it has been adopted in the region, both from an ecosystem and a community flood management perspective. However, "food security" is often offered as a reason to maintain current land use patterns.

One way to think about changing the status quo is to look at food security issues from a broader perspective, and include Indigenous food security in relation to salmon and shellfish. In particular, we want to explore options to operationalize 're-conversion' of agricultural lands to floodplain habitat, and enforce stronger/more effective regulation of agricultural pollution

SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

(including through buffer areas), in the existing Crown legal framework through the lens of double food security.

Project description

This project will look at how existing law and policy tools regulate agricultural land use in the Fraser estuary in relation to environmental protection and restoration. It will also examine how Crown law could be used for agricultural land 're-conversion' to natural habitat as well as where stricter or different regulation of agricultural land could improve environmental conditions (e.g., water quality) and flood management. It will also look at barriers to implementing changes to the status quo.

Project scope

1. Analysis of existing Crown laws in relation to agriculture regarding protection of habitat and water quality with focus on:
 - Agricultural Land Reserve regulation
 - Interaction with other regulatory frameworks (local, provincial, federal)
2. Review and summary of publicly available information about Indigenous food security in the Lower Fraser (i.e., how has it been expressed by Indigenous nations in the region.)
3. Summary of relevant good farming practices from the BC Environmental Farm Plan Program and other available sources.
4. Bringing together the regulatory analysis with the food security and farming practice review, analyse:
 - legal options for re-conversion of agricultural land to floodplain/fish habitat, with high-level consideration of viability of different options.
 - legal options for better regulation of pollution associated with agricultural lands in the Fraser estuary. (For example, a possible analysis might explore if shellfish harvesting is being negatively impacted by water contamination associated with agricultural lands, and the possible or necessary regulatory options to strengthen regulation.)

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.

SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

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
- Familiarity with agricultural land use or policy an asset
- Interest in or experience with legal reform, policy analysis, regulatory review and analysis, etc.

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>