

## Summer 2023 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 on the Apply page to confirm your eligibility before applying.

**Applications close at midnight on Sunday January 29, 2023.**

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## Policy review and consultations to understand the challenges and opportunities of establishing an urban marine park in False Creek

### Project Background & Overview:

False Creek, located in the heart of Vancouver, is a highly urbanized marine area increasingly subject to climate change, sea level rise, and more frequent extreme weather events. This was not always the case. In the late 1850s, False Creek was approximately 5 times its current size and included a large tidal mudflat. The area was rich with eelgrass and clam beds, two of nature's strategies for protecting its shorelines and biodiversity. The area was also alive and rich with First Nations' deep cultural relationship to this environment.

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 that began in 1913 with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. During these early years of industrial activity, the waterfront was surrounded by sawmills, shipbuilding facilities and slaughterhouses. It was not until 1968 that Vancouver city council finally voted to reverse False Creek's industrial usage and designate the future to be one of accessible housing and leisure activities.

The decision to remove the industrial activity surrounding the shores of False Creek by the Vancouver City Council was inspirational. But some 54 years later, the area is still recovering from its industrial past. A dense urban population now lives and works along False Creek shores, crosses its bridges, walks and cycles its banks, and paddles and sails in its waters. And it is increasingly acknowledged that the Salish Sea meets Vancouver shores on the unceded traditional homelands of xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations where generations upon generations lived. Today, False Creek is still home to organizations that support First Nation's diverse communities.

False Creek Friends Society, (FCFS) was formally established in May 2021 to further the goal of protecting and revitalizing the marine area of English Bay and False Creek. Although we are a rather new organization, our commitment to False Creek is gathering momentum. Our vision for the future contains many possibilities but ultimately, we are striving towards the creation of a National Urban Marine Park underpinned by the principles of conservation through reconciliation and in recognition of

other emerging possibilities such as an Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA). IPCAs are “lands and waters where Indigenous governments have the primary role in protecting and conserving ecosystems through Indigenous laws, governance, and knowledge systems” ([Indigenous Circle of Experts, 2018](#)). We think False Creek has the potential to be a locus of Indigenous culture and citizen science for practicing reconciliation and reaching a healthy ecosystem.

In 2021, FCFS reached out to the Hakai Institute and began discussions about a joint project--a BioBlitz focusing on False Creek. The Hakai Institute is part of the Tula Foundation which supports scientific research on the coast of British Columbia, in partnership with universities, NGOs, First Nations, government agencies, business and local communities. The term bioblitz literally means scientists spending a very intensive period of time (i.e., “blitz”) collecting biological (i.e., “bio”) samples using a variety of tools. During the spring and summer 2022, the Hakai Institute and the FCFS, with support from the City of Vancouver co-designed and conducted a bioblitz of False Creek, with an especially intense period of investigation during the first week of September 2022. These activities were supported through citizen science and community engagement projects that included school groups, youth groups, community volunteers and local organizations. Effort was also made to raise awareness and provide opportunities for consultation or direct involvement in this project with Nation contacts during conception and planning stages with the three local Nations, with direct contact being established with the Tsleil-Waututh Nation who confirmed their awareness of the project and receptivity to its findings. Information about the BioBlitz can be found [here](#). An Interim report is expected to be available before the end of 2022.

## **Project description**

The purpose of this Sustainability Scholars project is to further the FCFS's central goal to have False Creek designated as a co-managed National Urban Marine Park, allied with an Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area. FCFS requires more research to learn about ways this vision can come to life, identify the relevant criteria and partnerships, and develop strategies, engage supporting organizations, promote government buy-in and inspire public support to build out this vision. As such FCFS seeks a Sustainability Scholar to conduct research to help develop policy considerations within a municipal context (e.g. the Indigenous Circle of Experts' [Pathway to Canada Target One](#)) as well as fostering a thorough, consultative process within the framework and history of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area processes and conventions.

## **Project scope**

1. Environmental scan and literature review of successful, closely-related examples of Indigenous-led /co-managed conservation projects, optimally but not necessarily, situated in urban settings. In addition, a survey of relevant land-use policy decisions respecting co-management of public parks will be sought. The literature review should include both grey literature and published reports.
2. Develop and implement a consultation plan in order to conduct key informant interviews as required to develop a more thorough understanding of successful approaches. FCFS will assist in the planning and execution of consultative meetings with all interested parties, including stakeholders, rights holders and government agencies to help facilitate the interview process.
3. Based on the research, develop a set of recommendations on a suitable approach for the establishment of an urban marine park / IPCA. This could include a list of the communication pieces for the various stakeholder groups and an accompanying presentation.
4. Time permitting: Develop communication and outreach materials, including information packages, a bibliography of academic references, policy briefs, social media posts, handouts, posters,

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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 devote approximately 17 to 20 hours per week between the hours of 9 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday.

## Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- Knowledge about the indigenous peoples and interest in working with them
- 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.

Applications close **midnight Sunday January 29, 2023**

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

Contact Karen Taylor at [sustainability.scholars@ubc.ca](mailto:sustainability.scholars@ubc.ca) if you have questions

## Other References

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. TRIBAL PARKS AND INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS: LESSONS FROM B.C. August 2018: <https://davidsuzuki.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/tribal-parks-indigenous-protected-conserved-areas-lessons-b-c-examples.pdf>
3. [We Rise Together](#): Achieving Pathway to Canada Target 1 through the creation of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas in the spirit and practice of reconciliation (ICE report, 2018)

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4. Plymouth Sound National Marine Park. Creating the UK's First National Marine Park. 2019:  
<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/sites/default/files/PlymouthSoundNationalMarineParkDocument.pdf>
5. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/vancouver-parks-commissioner-proposes-co-management-with-first-nations-1.6315832>
6. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/vancouver-parks-commissioner-proposes-co-management-with-first-nations-1.6315832>
7. Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action.  
[https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/british-columbians-our-governments/indigenous-people/aboriginal-peoples-documents/calls\\_to\\_action\\_english2.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/british-columbians-our-governments/indigenous-people/aboriginal-peoples-documents/calls_to_action_english2.pdf)

## Useful Resources

We are holding a special **resume preparation workshop for prospective Scholars** on January 23, 2023.  
[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>