

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.

Project title: Develop an UNDRIP Framework for advancing the Fraser Basin Council's Indigenous-focused climate and energy resilience capacity building programs

Project Background & Overview:

"Energy sovereignty, sustainability and resilience are essential components to global climate action, the protection of mother earth and the safeguarding of generations to come." – Freddie Huppé Campbell & Mihskakwan James Harper.

There has been a considerable rise in Indigenous-focused climate and energy resilience capacity building programs across Canada and in British Columbia (BC). However, more guidance is needed to advance the implementation of the [United Nations Declaration on the Right of Indigenous Peoples \("UNDRIP"\)](#) in capacity building programs targeting Indigenous communities.

Indigenous communities in BC face a number of unique challenges related to housing and energy use that deepen other social, economic, and environmental issues on reserves. The Fraser Basin Council (FBC) has two Indigenous-focused climate and energy resilience capacity building programs: First Nations Home EnergySave (FNHES), initiated in 2016, and the Energy Peers in Indigenous Communities (EPIC) Network, initiated in 2022, to address some of these issues. The FNHES program provides support for energy efficiency to on-reserve First Nations communities in BC, (on and off-grid) to enable Indigenous leaders and administration staff to build their knowledge and capacity in the field of home energy management and equip them with the tools and information they need to support community members in managing energy use at home. The EPIC Network program is a capacity-building program to build knowledge and skills related to renewable energy and electrification in Indigenous on-grid communities in BC. Capacity building is broadly defined as any learning experience that enables personal and/or organizational growth towards the development of clean energy and/or climate resilience.

FBC is a charitable non-profit society that brings people together to advance sustainability solutions and practices in BC. Our vision is for "Social well-being supported by a vibrant economy and sustained by a healthy environment." For the past 25 years, our work has included programs on flood management, community wildfire planning, air quality improvement, energy-efficient buildings, renewable energy, green transportation, watershed planning and youth-driven climate action projects.

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FBC's 2021–2026 Strategic Plan indicates a desire to build on our history of encouraging positive relationships between Indigenous governments and communities and other orders of government, the private sector and the non–profit sector.

Our approach to delivering climate and energy resilience capacity building programs to Indigenous communities is to support reconciliation and reciprocity through respect, cooperation, and partnership. This research proposal is to take that approach a step further and to develop a framework to advance the implementation of [UNDRIP](#) as a non-Indigenous not-for-profit program delivery agent.

Project description

In 2016, the Government of Canada endorsed the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (“UNDRIP” or “the Declaration”) without qualification and committed to its full and effective implementation. The provincial government of BC adopted UNDRIP in 2019 by passing the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.

The Declaration addresses both individual and collective rights, cultural rights and identity, rights to education, health, employment, language, and [others](#). Advancing UNDRIP and upholding Indigenous rights is the responsibility of every citizen, not only government.

The purpose of the project is to develop a framework to advance the implementation of UNDRIP in FBC's Indigenous–focused climate and energy resilience capacity building work across the province (“UNDRIP Framework”).

An UNDRIP Framework will provide FBC with clear guidance on tangible ways to improve policies, practices, and relationships that are in keeping with the Declaration, to strengthen the efficacy of FBC's climate and energy resilience capacity building work. Specifically, adoption of an UNDRIP Framework will serve to advance FBC's implementation of Article 18, Article 21, and Article 23 (defined below). Advancing the implementation of these Articles is intended to 1) increase Indigenous participation in decision–making to, 2) improve their economic and social conditions, and 3) to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In doing so, Indigenous peoples will be further empowered to take action on climate change.

The UNDRIP Framework will be applied to FBC's climate and energy resilience capacity building delivered across BC. The Sustainability Scholar's work will also be valuable to other non-Indigenous not-for-profits looking to advance the implementation of UNDRIP in their work with Indigenous communities.

Project scope

The primary activities are as follows:

1. Carry out desktop research on 3-5 UNDRIP focused frameworks to advance the implementation of UNDRIP in non-Indigenous not-for-profit organizations in BC and in Canada, including organizations that offer programs to Indigenous peoples.
2. Interview 3-5 not-for-profit organizations in BC and in Canada that have implemented frameworks to advance the implementation of UNDRIP to gather information on challenges, successes, and lessons learned.

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3. Interview at least 5 Indigenous FNHES Advisory Committee Members and EPIC Network program partners on their recommendations for priority areas for an UNDRIP Framework for FBC's climate and energy resilience capacity building programs.
4. Carry out Interviews with FBC staff members to understand what UNDRIP centered policies and procedures are currently being applied to FBC's climate and energy resilience capacity building Programs.
5. Carry out an analysis to determine strengths, opportunities, aspirations, and results (SOAR) of FBC's UNDRIP policies and principles within its climate and energy resilience capacity building programs.
6. Based on the research and analysis above, develop a framework to advance the implementation of relevant UNDRIP Articles, including tangible ways to improve policies, practices, and relationships in FBC's climate and energy resilience capacity building programs.

The scholar will have access to guidance in these areas, including previous reports and strategic documents with related information. Some information will be available through public websites, while other information will be gained through informal interviews with FBC staff, program funders, and program partners.

Deliverables

- A 5–10-minute presentation to FNHES Advisory Committee Members and EPIC Network program partners regarding the research findings.
- A final report containing a summary of the work completed, with a recommended framework to advance the implementation of UNDRIP in FBC's climate and energy resilience capacity building programs across BC.
- A final report for the online public-facing [Scholars Project Library](#).

Time Commitment

- This project will take 250 hours to complete
- This project must be completed between May 1 to August 15, 2023
- 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
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Project management and organizational skills
- Interest in adult education
- Demonstrated experience in Indigenous Studies (preferable)
- Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys
- Familiarity with UNDRIP, and or, principles of truth and reconciliation in the context of Canada, an asset

Meetings with FBC staff and other partner organizations can be done over Zoom.

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

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 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>