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 March 12, 2023.

Project title: Best practices research to inform an Urban Indigenous partnership model for the City of Vancouver

Project Background & Overview:
The City of Vancouver approved the City's United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) Strategy on October 25th 2022. Vancouver hosts one of the largest Urban Indigenous population in Canada, but there has been a lack of representation of this cohort when looking at the Reconciliation portfolio within Vancouver.

The City of Vancouver provides a range of social policies, plans, and programs to Urban Indigenous populations, whether directly through its own efforts or indirectly through grants to community organizations, that aim to address the systems that create inequities experienced by these populations. But there is not a consistent means by which these communities are involved in shaping the data, information and evidence that informs City decision-making. By reviewing examples used in other agencies, Vancouver will develop a path forward for Urban Indigenous communities to have more power and voice in shaping how the City serves these communities.

The City is undertaking a larger research project to engage Urban Indigenous Populations on how they would like us, as a City, to support local Urban Indigenous governance, through the lens of data policy and data governance. We are looking for a scholar to support us in this ground-breaking work by condensing and summarizing relevant reports and case studies of Indigenous communities partnering with external stakeholders.

Project description
The purpose of this project is to understand Reconciliation themed partnership models as we strive for accountability in creating a community data governance model. The project will identify the gaps and opportunities applicable to the City of Vancouver and Urban Indigenous population of Vancouver working together in partnership in a proposed data governance model.

The Scholar will undertake a best practices scan of case studies from other municipalities, health authorities, universities, and non-profit organizations of different sizes who have developed partnerships and similar types of governance models with Urban Indigenous Peoples so the City can follow best

practices in creating a data governance system with a decolonizing lens. This project will provide context to support the City to develop best practices in data ethics policy and practice, and will help guide the Urban Indigenous Data Governance recommendations for winter 2024.

Project scope
Activities to be undertaken in this project will include:

- Environmental scan and literature review to identify examples of Urban Indigenous partnerships and governance structures with municipalities, health authorities, universities, and non profits (broadly and specifically data governance partnerships)
    - To date, the City has compiled about 10 documents through work with the Cross-Municipal Staff Working Group noted above, and we anticipate collecting more documents by the time the scholar begins their work. The scholar may identify other examples beyond those already compiled by this group.
- Analyzing documents to identify key characteristics of the partnerships, including:
    - Differences between Urban Indigenous partnerships and partnerships with First Nations, including ways by which leadership and representation are established.
    - Successes and challenges from these partnerships and governance models.
- Facilitate a workshop to report on the findings to the City's interdepartmental Equity, Decolonization and Data Community of Practice so staff can apply the suggestions for what the City can learn from other models.

Deliverables
- A final report, including recommendations on best practices for the City of Vancouver to follow in creating an Urban Indigenous Data Governance Model, based on the research and grounded in feedback from City staff
- A presentation and discussion of the final report and recommendations
- 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
☒ Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
☒ Ability to work independently
☒ Deadline oriented
☒ Project management and organizational skills
☒ Familiarity with benchmarking methods and tools
☒ Comfortable interacting with public
☒ Knowledge of cultural safety and decolonized research practice

☒ Familiarity with Reconciliation, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
☒ We welcome all candidates to apply for this position. We especially encourage applicants who have strong knowledge of Indigenous ways of knowing and/or Indigenous cultural experience.

Applications close **midnight Sunday March 12, 2023**
Apply here: Click here to apply
Contact Karen Taylor at sustainability.scholars@ubc.ca if you have questions

Useful Resources

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