

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: Environment Scan and Literature Review of Urban Indigenous Data Governance Models

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. Our goal is to develop a more equitable framework to meaningfully include Urban Indigenous populations. The City 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 models 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.

This project will complement and inform related initiatives, including engagement with Urban Indigenous communities and organizations throughout 2023; and regular meetings of a working group of City staff working in Urban Indigenous relations from cities across Canada. These initiatives will provide starting points for the environmental scan and literature review, and will enable the findings of this research to inform action taken and the development of broader policy and practice.

Project description

The City is undertaking a 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 through condensing and summarizing relevant reports and case studies.

The Scholar project will include an environmental 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. In addition to the report, the

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scholar will be asked to present this information to our City's Equity, Decolonization, and Data Community of Practice, and participate in a discussion about its implications.

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:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Presenting findings to the City's interdepartmental Equity, Decolonization and Data Community of Practice to receive feedback and suggestions for what the City can learn from other models.
4. Recommending best practices for the City of Vancouver to follow in creating an Urban Indigenous Data Governance Model, based on the Scholar's research and grounded in feedback from City staff.

Deliverables

- Facilitating a discussion with the City's Equity, Decolonization, and Data Community of Practice with findings and analysis
- A final report, including recommendations
- 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.

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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 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>