

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.

Research project title: Research and analysis of transportation and low carbon transportation legislation, policies, programs and funding opportunities for First Nations in BC

Background:

The British Columbia Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) is a Provincial Territorial Organization (PTO) registered as a society under the BC Societies Act since 2003 and represents the 204 First Nations in British Columbia (BC). The BC Assembly of First Nations, as part of the First Nations Leadership Council, strongly advocates for First Nations in BC to be true partners with the Provincial and Federal Governments to tackle the climate emergency. This approach is consistent with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and respectful of First Nations' inherent Aboriginal Title, Rights and Treaty Rights.

BCAFN has the mandate to advance the rights and interests of First Nations in BC; restore and enhance the relationship among First Nations people, the Crown and the people of Canada; develop and promote programs and policies for the benefit of First Nations in BC; and works in coalition with other organizations that advance the rights and interests of Indigenous peoples.

In 2019, BCAFN received the mandate to implement the BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan, which includes priorities and actions with the aim of ensuring reliable, safe and affordable low-carbon and active transportation within and between First Nations communities and reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

First Nations Title, Rights, and jurisdiction underpin BCAFN's approach to the issue of transportation and low-carbon transportation. There are more than 200 First Nations across different regions of BC and many of them are located in remote areas with limited access to transportation by land and/or water. Routinely there is a lack of access to safe, affordable and effective transportation, which impacts First Nations people's human rights, socioeconomic well-being, and human security. Safety is central to transportation. First Nations people, especially women and girls, are at a much higher risk of violence, including murders and abductions, in part

because inadequate public services and socioeconomic marginalization force them to hitchhike. Indigenous people also face a higher risk of transportation injuries in British Columbia¹.

In addition, the dramatic events of the past few years have further exposed the fragile and unequal access to transportation experienced by First Nations people in BC. Access to transportation is key to resilience in the face of pandemics like COVID-19 and climate-related events like wildfires, landslides and floods. Several First Nations communities were left isolated and/or with limited access to emergency transportation as well as goods and essential services during recent climate-related emergency events. These challenges and deficits resulting from colonialism and systemic racism also mean that First Nations communities are particularly challenged when developing transportation systems, and therefore require targeted strategies that respond to their own self-determined priorities and needs.

Purpose of the Project:

The purpose of the project is to contribute in-depth research and analysis on transportation and low carbon transportation legislation, policies, programs and funding opportunities for First Nation in BC. This research will identify gaps, barriers, opportunities and recommendations stemming from the critical review of the existing transportation and low carbon transportation legislation, policies, programs and funding streams.

The purpose of this research is to contribute to a wider low-carbon transportation project that aims to promote and accelerate First Nations' equitable access to safe, affordable, and reliable low-carbon and active transportation within and between communities. The overall goal is to help Nations reduce carbon pollution and protect the well-being of First Nations peoples, particularly vulnerable community members, as outlined in the UN Declaration and the Declaration Act.

Scope of Work

The scope of this research project includes:

- Research, review and assess gaps, barriers and opportunities in legislation, policies, programs and funding streams that restrict and support First Nations in BC to access equitable, safe, reliable, and affordable transportation, low-carbon transportation and transportation services within and between communities, including interregional travel.
- Provide recommendations for legislation, policy and program reform to advance the purpose of the research.
- Prepare a final report with the results of the desktop research, including a description of the methodology, key findings, gaps, barriers, opportunities and recommendations.

If time permits:

- Environmental and best practices scan of transportation and low carbon transportation policy, legislation, programs, and funding streams in other Canadian jurisdictions, federally and internationally with a focus on Indigenous Peoples.

¹ <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0191384>

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- Collaborate on the preparation of a transportation survey that will be sent to all First Nations communities in BC and organizations/actors working on or related to transportation, low carbon transportation and transportation services.

Deliverables

1. Present key findings and recommendations to the BCAFN Transportation Project team.
2. Prepare a final report containing a summary of the research, including key findings, gaps, barriers, opportunities, recommendations and the methodology used in gathering and analyzing the information related to transportation and low carbon transportation legislation, policies, programs and funding for First Nations in BC.
3. Prepare a public-facing report that removes any confidential or sensitive information for the online [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 their 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
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Project management and organizational skills
- Experience reviewing and analyzing policy, an asset
- Familiarity with the transportation and low carbon sector in BC or Canada from a policy/regulatory perspective, an asset
- Familiarity with BC First Nations' transportation and low carbon transportation issues and needs, an asset
- Familiarity with First Nations issues, including political, policy and legal issues an asset
- We welcome all candidates to apply for this position. We especially encourage applicants who have lived experience and/or strong knowledge of Indigenous culture.

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>