

## Summer 2024 Sustainability Scholars Program Internship Opportunity

The UBC Sustainability Hub is pleased to offer current UBC graduate students the opportunity to work on sustainability internship projects. Successful candidates work under the guidance of a mentor from the partner organization, and are immersed in real world learning where they can apply their research skills and contribute to advancing sustainability across the region. These opportunities are paid. The pay rate for the summer 2024 program is \$27.50/hour or \$6,875 for a 250-hour project.

- 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 28, 2024.**

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### **Project title: Environment Scan and Literature Review of Urban Indigenous Service Delivery and Infrastructure**

#### **Project Background & Overview:**

The City of Vancouver approved the City's [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples \(UNDRIP\) Strategy](#) on October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Vancouver hosts one of the largest Urban Indigenous populations in Canada, but there has been a lack of representation of this cohort within the Reconciliation portfolio in Vancouver. 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. With 95% of Indigenous residents in Vancouver living in neighbourhoods outside the Musqueam reserve (Statistics Canada 2021), increasing cultural and culturally safe spaces and places in the city and responding to disproportionate impacts of colonization, including the loss of connection to lands, family and culture is needed. Prioritizing Indigenous-led initiatives and rebuilding efforts driven by and for Indigenous people enables an empowerment model of service delivery versus a deficit model.

The upcoming Urban Indigenous Service Delivery & Infrastructure Framework is to support Indigenous-led and Indigenous-serving spaces and programs. A related action is to support the upcoming Urban Indigenous Strategy to ensure social and cultural space-related and service resilience needs are met through community partnerships. Specific space needs, including for Indigenous women and gender diverse people, have been presented through the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls Calls for Justice, Red Women Rising report, and Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action among others. The City will continue working with local organizations to develop a framework to optimize social service delivery and resilience for urban Indigenous communities in Vancouver.

There has not been consistent means by which Indigenous communities have had service delivery and space asset information catered towards City informed decision-making. By reviewing models used in other agencies, Vancouver will develop a path forward for urban

# SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Indigenous communities to have more power and voice in shaping how the City serves these communities.

This project will complement and inform related City-led initiatives, including engagement with Urban Indigenous communities and organizations throughout 2024; 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 how actions will be guided to development of a broader framework that will serve as a second phase approach to the [Aboriginal Health, Healing and Wellness in the DTES Study](#).

## Project description

The Scholar project will include an environmental scan of case studies from other municipalities and analysis of the current state of Indigenous non-profit organizations that currently operate in Vancouver.

In addition to the report, the scholar will be asked to present this information to our City's Land Use and Amenities team and participate in a discussion about its implications.

This project will provide context to support the City to develop best practices in addressing space and service delivery needs that will promote resiliency to the Urban Indigenous community, and will help guide the Social Infrastructure recommendations to support the Urban Indigenous Strategy in 2025.

## Project scope

Activities to be undertaken in this project will include:

1. **Environmental scan and literature review** to identify examples of Urban Indigenous space and service delivery models and successful supports from municipalities, health authorities, universities, and non profits (broadly and specifically Nonprofit Organization partnerships)
  - To date, the City has compiled a contact list of Indigenous serving organizations but we anticipate collecting more contacts 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 partnerships**, including:
  - Differences between Urban Indigenous non-profit partnerships and partnerships with First Nations programs within non-profits, including ways by which programs and organizations are supported with spaces.
  - Successes and challenges from these partnerships and space needs.
3. **Presenting findings to the City's Land Use and Amenities working group** to inform what the City can learn from other models.

## Deliverables

- Facilitating a discussion with the City's Land Use and Amenities working group with findings and analysis

# SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

- 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, 2024
- 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
- 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
- Lived and/or working experience with Urban Indigenous Community is preferred
- Familiarity with Reconciliation, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Applications close **midnight Sunday January 28, 2024**

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

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

## Useful Resources

We are holding a special **resume preparation workshop for prospective Scholars** on January 23, 2024. [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>