

Summer 2025 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. The pay rate for the summer 2025 program is \$31.25/hour or \$7,812.50 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 11:59 pm on Sunday January 26, 2025.

Project title: Research to inform a social purpose reporting framework in compliance with emerging regulations and legislation

Project Background & Overview:

In 2024, new Canadian legislation—BILL S-285—an Act to amend the Canada Business Corporations Act (purpose of a corporation) states:

Every director and officer has a duty to act honestly and in good faith (a) with a view to the best interests of the corporation; and (b) to pursue those interests while ensuring that the corporation operates in a manner that :

(a) benefits the wider society and the environment in a manner proportionate to its size and the nature of its operations; and

(b) minimizes any harm that the corporation causes to the wider society and the environment, with the objective of eliminating such harm.

In addition, the new Bill C-59 competition Act states:

Anti-Greenwashing, the new amendments explicitly prohibit deceptive environmental claims by forbidding:

Claims that promote the environmental, social and ecological benefits of using or supplying a product if the claim is not based on an adequate and proper test.

Claims that promote the environmental and ecological benefits of a business or business activity that are not based on adequate and proper substantiation in accordance with internationally recognized methodology.

The BC Lottery Corporation (BCLC) became a social purpose company in 2021. The United Way Social Purpose Institute refers to a social purpose company as “a company whose enduring reason for being is to create a better world. It is an engine for good, creating societal benefits by the very act of conducting business.”

BCLC’s social purpose statement “Creating win wins for the Greater Good” ensures that the profit from gambling that supports communities and provides critical infrastructure does not

negatively impact anyone including players. As an example, we have a world-renowned player health program that has been adopted by other jurisdictions and gambling companies across North America. The goal is to have zero revenue from unhealthy gambling.

BCLC also has a comprehensive Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Framework and reports annually on progress toward multi year targets across a wide range of ESG themes including climate action, waste reduction and integrating circular economy principles, employee support (diversity inclusivity and belonging), player health, anti-money laundering and security, Indigenous relations and reconciliation, stakeholder governance, and community relations..

BCLC's current reporting structure includes updates on our ESG initiatives and goals, community impact, financial impacts, and progress on our social purpose mandate. The four separate areas combine to create BCLC's annual Impact Report, a comprehensive 120+ page document to express the full value (beyond financial impacts) to our stakeholders and Indigenous partners. In light of new and emerging legislation we would like to restructure our reporting to isolate ESG reporting and create a process to ensure the metrics are consistent with international reporting structures (ISSB, SASB, GRI, TCFD) and all metrics are verifiable from an assurance perspective.

Project description

The goals of this project are to develop a reporting framework for a stand-alone social purpose report that highlights BCLC's social purpose progress based on established metrics that are not confused with ESG metrics (the 2 are often hard to differentiate). The social purpose report should also align with the newly created Social Purpose disclosure guidelines.

The project will identify the best social purpose reporting framework that measures annual progress on our social purpose mandate and best illustrates the value of BCLC/s social purpose agenda to stakeholders. The project will also help identify social purpose and social impact metrics to support purpose goals and the reason the company exists beyond making money.

Project scope

Conduct research around the emerging social purpose reporting landscape and engage with internal BCLC units to help define metrics and a methodology to help create BCLC's first social purpose report.

Deliverables

- A final report containing a summary of the work completed
- A final report for the online public-facing [Scholars Project Library](#).
- An outline and implementation plan for completing a social purpose reporting framework with supporting metrics
- Time permitting: a table of contents for the social purpose report

Time Commitment

- This project will take 250 hours to complete

SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

- This project must be completed between May 1 to August 15.
- The Scholars 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
- Experience conducting stakeholder engagement events, including facilitation skills, is an asset
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Familiarity conducting focus group research
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Project management and organizational skills
- Familiarity with benchmarking methods and tools
- Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys
- Demonstrated experience reviewing and analysing legal and regulatory materials
- Familiarity with ESG reporting and sustainability reporting, an asset

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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 21, 2025. [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>