

Summer 2026 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 February 1, 2026.

Project title: Feasibility of introducing a flood resiliency assessment and risk reduction program for homeowners

Project Background

Maple Ridge has had flooding events in the areas of the North and South Alouette River communities. A climate risk assessment undertaken in the development of our Resilient Futures 2050 Climate Action plan identified short duration rainfall intensity during a 100-year flood and 1 in 500 peak river levels as high risks. In addition, a spatial analysis identified the neighbourhoods in the North and South Alouette Rivers, as well as in low-lying areas of Hammond, Albion, and the Albion Flats to be at risk.

Under the Resilient Futures 2050 Climate Action Plan and through the work of the Mayor's Taskforce on Climate Change, the development of a Climate Resiliency Retrofit program for existing residential buildings has been identified that would move retrofits from energy and comfort (overheating) and include options for wildfire and flooding resiliency as well.

Maple Ridge (as much of BC does) currently responds to floods through Emergency Response with an emphasis on reactive (sandbags, grab and go bag) and recovery responses to floods as opposed to including resiliency in the form of flood prevention and preparedness at the home residential level. Maple Ridge Engineering has also traditionally addressed flooding from landscape, dykes, infiltration of entire areas and in watershed including consideration of natural assets that can benefit areas to reduce flooding. However, there is still a need for homeowner action at the residential level to increase local resiliency.

The intent of the project is to understand how Maple Ridge could move towards resiliency from floods through education and risk reduction at the residential home level, like the approach of the FireSmart BC wildfire prevention, preparedness and risk reduction which involves education but also home assessment and potential incentives/rebates.

Project description

The purpose of this project is to explore the feasibility of introducing a flood resiliency home protection assessment and risk reduction program to Maple Ridge focussed on existing residential urban and rural neighbourhood homes that have been identified as high risk to flooding exposure (rivers, overland flooding) to enhance flood resiliency. Focused on the North and South Alouette River communities and Hammond area.

The study would assess the feasibility and ability to introduce a flood resiliency residential program like the University of Waterloo Home Flood Protection program piloted in Burlington, Ontario, and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, to a municipality in British Columbia, recognizing the BC context of flooding programs (Province, municipal responses, climate and emergency response, land use planning and hazard lands, home retrofitting).

Project scope

Feasibility study to assess the best way to introduce a flood resiliency residential program in Maple Ridge. Includes:

Best Practices Scan:

- Literature review of Canadian and BC best practices for a home/residential flood resiliency home protection assessment and risk reduction program. What is out there? How delivered? What are lessons learned?
- Includes review of the University of Waterloo Home Flood Protection program for at risk neighbourhoods.

Regulatory Review:

- Identify financial, equities, legal and regulatory context of municipalities in BC to deliver such a program – including barriers and incentives.
- This would include looking at incentives, rebates, available information, funding opportunities, partnership opportunities, etc.

Expert Interviews:

- The above research may need to be complemented by interviews to get at some of the details.
- Interviews could be used to identify barriers to adoption, information gaps/educational opportunities, etc.

Analysis:

- Based on the research provide recommendations to form a roadmap on what would be required for Maple Ridge to implement a flood resilience program to homeowners in neighbourhoods at risk of flooding.
- Identify tools or approaches that the City could use in delivery of a home flood resiliency program.
- Analysis to include an assessment of a delivery approach – third party home assessment, municipal delivery, education only, etc.

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- Analysis to include identification of potential actions that fall within 1) City Control – ability of City to undertake and those that require 2) Advocacy and partners (e.g. Insurance, Metro Vancouver Region, Province) to undertake.

RoadMap:

- Final product would be a roadmap with a list of actions/recommendations for Maple Ridge to consider for initiation and implementation a homeowner resiliency.

Deliverables

- A draft report containing a summary of work completed at the mid point.
- A final report containing a summary of the work completed.
- An Executive Summary 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 14.
- The Scholars is to complete their hours between 9 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday, approximately 17 to 20 hours per week.
- Bi-weekly meetings of up to 1 hour with mentor to assess progress of research and project.

Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills.
- Demonstrated interest in climate impacts, flooding response.
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently.
- Deadline oriented
- Project management and organizational skills
- Ability and confidence to reach out to parties that implement/deliver climate programming
- Familiarity with Residential home environmental retrofitting programs, an asset
- Familiarity with BC Emergency Preparedness and Response and Climate Risk around flooding and outreach, an asset
- Familiarity with BC Municipal policy, services and legislation, an asset
- Familiarity with Residential/home assessment programs, an asset
- Familiarity with BC and Canada Building Codes and Hazards, an asset
- Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct research and verification of understanding.
- Familiarity preparing feasibility studies.
- Experience with financial modelling and analysis
- Familiarity with Disaster Insurance as applied in BC, an asset
- Familiarity with Actuary science, 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 19, 2026.
[Click here for details and to register.](#)

Below are some links to useful resources to help you with your resume, cover letter and preparing for an interview (there are many more online).

<https://students.ubc.ca/career/career-resources/>

<https://www.grad.ubc.ca/cover-letter-cv-resume-templates-ubc-career-services>