

GREENEST CITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM
UBC Sustainability Scholars Program, Summer 2018

Research project title

Healthy City Strategy Urban Indigenous Wellness Indicators

Research supports the following policies -

- Greenest City Action Plan
Specific goal area (s): _____
- Healthy City Strategy
Specific goal area (s): Reconciliation
- Renewable City Action Plan
- Green Operations
- Other: _____

Scope of work:

- Undertake a literature review of culturally relevant metrics for urban Indigenous communities used by Indigenous communities, organizations, and/or health authorities in Canada. This review should also examine best practices used when developing these metrics.
- Develop methodology for project outlining the process to achieve deliverables. This will be done in collaboration with City of Vancouver Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Research Advisory Committee and Peer Research Associates.
- Build on literature review to draft potential indicators and recommendations.
- Engage Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council (MVAEC) Health and Wellness roundtable for input and review on potential indicators and recommendations.
- Host, in partnership with VCH Aboriginal Health, a Healthy City Leadership table session with key stakeholders on the inclusion of indicators for the urban Indigenous community.

Why this work is of value:

- As a City of Reconciliation, it is important that our work values the capacity of Indigenous peoples to determine their own measures of health and well-being. Developing culturally-appropriate indicators for wellness is an opportunity to ensure that the urban Indigenous community is represented respectfully. It will further ensure that issues and priorities are addressed strategically as part of the implementation of the Healthy City Strategy (HCS).
- Without efforts to link reconciliation with the ways data is collected, HCS actions will be limited in scope, scale, and impact on the urban Indigenous community. Culturally reflective Indigenous indicators will help address a major identified gap in the HCS and, in turn, strengthen the strategy's overall goals and actions.
- The HCS is used to measure and monitor social determinants of health and wellness in Vancouver. It is our tool to address health and wellness disparities within the City. The concept of wellness from an Indigenous perspective is not easy to assess based on conventional measurement tools and data sets. There is an urgent need to live up to our commitment as a City of Reconciliation to respect and value the capacity of Indigenous peoples to determine their own measures of health and well-being; and to move past the colonial tendency to report a litany of social inequities from non-Indigenous sources.

Deliverables

Submit applications here: <http://bit.ly/2DC2jpP>

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- Summary of best practices used by Indigenous communities, organizations, and/or health authorities in Canada on developing culturally reflective indicators and metrics for the urban Indigenous community.
- Summary report on culturally reflective methodology and engagement process for gathering information.
- Summary report of methodology and engagement process.
- Recommendations on potential indicators / metrics and implementation plan.
- A public facing final report (or executive summary) for the UBC Sustainability Scholars online project library

Time Commitment

- This project will take **250*** hours to complete.
- This project must be completed between **April 27 and August 10, 2018**
- The scholar is to complete hours between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday, approximately 20 hours per week.

Work location: Woodward's Building, 111 West Hastings Street

Skill set/background required/preferred

- Excellent research and writing skills.
- Demonstrated interest in Indigenous health and/or community planning
- Experience conducting stakeholder engagement events, including facilitation skills, is an asset.
- Strong technical writing skills
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Strong presentation and public speaking skills
- Community engagement experience
- Familiarity conducting focus group research
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Demonstrated time management skills
- At least one year's experience in Indigenous research methodologies
- Familiarity with qualitative research methodologies and implementation
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- Experience working with Indigenous communities (on or off reserve), organizations

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