



Student Research Assistant Opportunity Posted August 2025

Project Title: The future of forests: persistent wildfires, human health, and new opportunities for livelihoods in northern BC communities

Investigative Team and Supervisors: Chris Buse, PhD (Faculty of Health Sciences, SFU); Sophie Wilkinson, PhD (Faculty of Environment, SFU); Sinead Earley, PhD (School of Planning and Sustainability, UNBC)

Funder: Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions; SFU Climate Innovation

Remuneration and Time Commitment: \$30-35/hr (depending on training level) + 4% vacation pay; 10 hours/week for a 4-month contract with the opportunity for a renewal to a total of 12 months.

Eligibility: This opportunity is open to upper-level undergraduate (i.e. 3rd/4th year students) and graduate students (i.e. Masters or PhD students) enrolled in any program at SFU or UNBC. Past experience with community engagement is not necessary but will be considered an asset. We are looking for students with strong organizational, time management, and administrative skills. Familiarity with climate change, forests and/or wildfires is not necessary but will be considered an asset.

Deadline for application: September 2nd, 2025

The Opportunity: Climate change and geopolitical tensions continue to create unprecedented challenges for the Boreal forest and northern BC communities. Wildfires are increasingly prevalent, and even overwintering, changing forest ecology and presenting health and livelihood risks to community members. Simultaneously, invasive species and tariffs threaten the viability of the forestry industry in BC. Taken together, these compounding challenges require new approaches to forest and wildfire management, health promotion, and economic development. We are looking for a motivated student to join our interdisciplinary team as a research assistant to support an exploratory study that will convene a series of dialogues across northern BC communities on the future of forests. The successful candidate will work collaboratively with three faculty leads across two universities to build relationships with relevant stakeholders and Indigenous rightsholders, and support the planning, logistics and implementation of several public dialogues on these and related topics. Specific tasks include:

- Conducting an environmental scan of key players in northern BC's forestry industry, with a particular focus on the Peace and Northern Rockies Region



- Supporting the investigative team in outreach to relevant stakeholders and Indigenous rightsholders to incorporate local perspectives into the planning and delivery of public outreach events
- Providing logistical support to our pan-provincial team (e.g. setting up meetings, assisting the planning, design, and logistics of community engagement events)
- Support the in-person delivery of a minimum of 2-3 community engagement dialogues
- Report writing (i.e. 'what we heard reports' that share key insights from our public dialogues)

Supervision and Contact: This is a co-supervised position across multiple research sites. Questions related to the position as advertised can be directed towards Dr. Chris Buse (cbuse@sfu.ca)

To apply: Please submit a cover letter outlining your motivation and relevant experience/skills for this position, and an up-to-date resume by September 2, 2025. Short-listed candidates will be notified in early September of times to meet with the project team through a formal interview process.