

Masters-level Graduate Studies Opportunity in Social Innovation relating to Sustainable Food Systems

We are recruiting for a Masters-level graduate student to conduct a 2-3 year action-oriented campus community research study around local foods, food security and food systems sustainability at UNBC. Sustainability Social Innovation funding from a McConnell Foundation grant (provided to four collaborating BC Universities: UNBC, SFU, VIU, and BCIT), combined with UNBC Green Centre funds, will provide the successful candidate with a 30k/y stipend and 10k/y operational budget for research, education and collaboration activities at UNBC and with partner institutions. The successful applicant will also carry the title of "UNBC Sustainability Coordinator – Research and Teaching", with office space in the *UNBC Green Center*.

The successful candidate will lead the development and implementation of a project that improves the sustainability and security of campus food systems. Solutions to and synergies between food waste minimization, improved nutrition and well-being, food security, and community belonging at the campus level will be sought. Following a model of learning by doing, key intra- and inter-institutional barriers that interfere with these objectives will be identified. With a focus on solutions and synergies, this project will attempt to uncover innovative ways to consult, collaborate and educate communities on food security and sustainable food systems, and exchange ideas within the 4-University Social Innovation network.

One possible idea for a UNBC project would be the creation of a 'Community Kitchen', where community members could come together to source local foods, create meaningful relationships with local producers, elders, chefs, and community members for the co-creation of affordable, nutritional and sustainable meals, with dividends of greater social cohesion and sharing of resources and ideas.

The successful candidate will ideally have a proven track-record of academic excellence and applied research experience. They will possess exceptional interpersonal and communication skills and evidence of having successfully managed projects that include interdisciplinary collaboration. A background in social innovation and/or entrepreneurship in food systems would be an asset.

Interested applicants should send a cover letter describing their interests in this project, and identifying how their prior education and experience are relevant to this topic area and project, as well as a current Resume or CV to Drs. Art Fredeen (art.fredeen@unbc.ca) - *Ecosystem Science and Management Program* and Mark Groulx (mark.groulx@unbc.ca) - *School of Environmental Planning*, at the University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George, BC, V2N 4L5, CANADA. The applications will be reviewed beginning on Sept 30th, but will be accepted until the position is filled.