

Summer 2024 Internship Opportunity

TITLE

Food independence on Haida Gwaii: fostering resilient food systems through Local Foods 2 School and an All-Islands Food Strategy

Organization

Local Foods 2 School

Project Background & Overview

Local Foods 2 School (LF2S) is a community food security program that supports the existing culture on Haida Gwaii centered around traditional and locally grown food by helping one another to grow, gather, prepare, preserve and protect our food through hands-on learning and connection to the land and sea. LF2S works collaboratively with the Skidegate Band Council, the Haida Gwaii Museum, and other local organizations on youth-elder mentorship sessions and traditional food activities in schools, hospitals, and community spaces.

Over the past year, a team of food enthusiasts have led community engagement processes to create "Future of Food on Haida Gwaii—an All-islands Food Strategy." This vision of a food independent Haida Gwaii started by seeking wise council, listening to the Elders, youth, knowledge keepers, farmers and processors from all-Island communities.

The objective of the All-islands Food Strategy is to develop long-term strategic visions for building local capacity in food-related skills, knowledge, and engagement, and to support the reclamation of Haida ways of relating to food. As ecological, economic, and political crises are making communities increasingly food insecure, building autonomous and resilient food systems is an essential aspect of sustainability and climate action. Reclaiming cultural skills and food knowledge supports healing in various ways by connecting youth and elders to the land and sea, increasing access and intake of traditional food, and enhancing cultural connectedness and belonging.

Project Description

Local Foods 2 School, the Skidegate Band Council, and Saahlinda Naay *the Haida Gwaii Museum* are seeking an All-Islands Food Strategist to develop a plan for increased Haida Gwaii food independence. The graduate student in this position will support the Project Lead in analyzing data, collecting new data, summarizing research findings, and sharing findings with community members.

The central questions explored by this project are: What are community visions for building food independence across Haida Gwaii? How can different community members and institutions work together to support our collective goals? How can Haida Gwaii build stable and sustainable food independence in the context of accelerating global crises?

This project will involve synthesis and analysis of existing data collected for the All-Islands Food Strategy, as well as the collection of new data through community engagement. This will help advance the Food Strategy Committee's goals of inspiring and informing future food programming across Haida Gwaii.

The project will be actionable from May 1st – August 15th and can partially be worked on remotely. However, in-person data collection throughout the summer months will be an important additional aspect of the project. Shelly Crack, Local Foods 2 School food pantry coordinator, will supervise the Scholar's work.

Project Scope

In this project, the Scholar will analyze existing data from previous years of the All-Islands Food Strategy project, and will collect new data (e.g., additional youth engagement) during summertime engagement through the form of interviews, focus groups, and public events. The Scholar will be working with large datasets of interview recordings, transcripts, survey responses, written event feedback, focus group notes, and quantitative programming data. Once the Scholar and the Project Lead have finished a draft of the All-Islands Food Strategy, the Scholar will help organize public events to collect community feedback on the Food Strategy and make changes as needed.

Deliverables

The final deliverable will be an All-Islands Food Strategy report summarizing research findings and proposing a strategic plan for continued food programming across the communities of Haida Gwaii. The report will be formatted to be accessible and engaging for community members to read.

Time Commitment

- May 1st, 2024: Meet with project supervisor (Shelly Crack, Local Food 2 School) to discuss summer work plan and schedule weekly check-ins
- May-July, 2024: Work on collecting, organizing, analyzing, and synthesizing data for an All-Islands Food Strategy
- July 24th, 2024: Create draft of final report for supervisor review, to be approved for community feedback
- July 30th, 2024: Seek community feedback on report and make changes as needed
- August 10th, 2024: Create a final All-Islands Food Strategy report; Create web-based text, images, and formatting for report findings

- August 15th, 2024: Final reflection session with project supervisor

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
- Community engagement experience
- Familiarity conducting focus group research
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Project management and organizational skills
- Familiarity with WordPress, or other website content tools
- Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys
- Design and layout skills

Additional Information

Preference will be given to applicants with experience working with Indigenous communities and organizations, in particular with knowledge of Haida values and culture.

Additional Project Requirements

The successful applicant will have a passion for working with people and be approachable and kind. The applicant will also have:

- a passion for the Haida Gwaii food strategy and commitment to its success
- an understanding of Haida Gwaii relationships with food, local food systems and solid connections within all Island communities
- project coordination experience
- experience with community engagement
- strong problem-solving and communication skills

- strong computer skills and experience with report writing
- a valid BC drivers' licence or independent form of transportation

UVic Sustainability Scholars Program

All current UVic graduate students are invited to apply to work on an impactful sustainability research project. Sustainability Scholars Program internships are designed and mentored by partner organizations and paid at a rate of \$30.87 per hour (after deductions) for 250 hours from May 1 to Aug 15. Explore details on our [website](#) and review eligibility criteria before applying.

Application Deadline: January 31, 2024

Contact Laurel Currie with any questions: sustainability-scholars@uvic.ca.
