

Summer 2024 Internship Opportunity

Project Title

Surveying research needs of climate action movements and communities resisting extractive developments in BC.

Organization

Research for the Frontlines (R4FL)

Project Background & Overview

This project would be conducted with/for Research for the Front Lines (R4FL). R4FL is a network that supports the research needs of front-line communities and grassroots movements that are fighting for environmental and climate justice across so-called Canada. The findings of this project would allow R4FL staff to identify communities and movements across BC, and Canada more broadly, whose work we might be able to serve with research support.

More about R4FL, what we do and why we do it:

Indigenous communities and others on the frontlines of extractive development and the climate crisis are standing up to protect the lands and waters that they hold dear and the planetary systems we all depend on. They are building a powerful force for change in this country but are up against opponents that are far better resourced. Extractive corporations and the governments that support them have massive budgets for research and veritable armies of communications and PR experts. This creates an uneven playing field that stacks the deck in favour of extractive, polluting industry. But movements have people power and within our multitudes, there are many skilled researchers who are willing to show up in solidarity and allyship. Through Research for the Front Lines, we are helping level the playing field by mobilizing people power to serve the research needs of movements and communities fighting for a just and ecologically viable future.

R4FL coordinators work with front-line communities and grassroots organizers to identify research needs and produce rigorous, high-quality results. We coordinate a network of volunteer researchers to provide labour on projects that are community- and movement-led.

Project Description

R4FL staff are busy supporting community and movement-led research and don't often have time to identify and contact communities and movements that could use our support. So far, we have been

responding to communities and movements who approach us for support, not reaching out to folks who may want our support.

But in 2024 we'd like to start doing targeted outreach to front line folks engaged in resisting specific key extractive projects, to increase our network's impacts in keeping fossil fuels in the ground. The Sustainability Scholar working with us would conduct research to help us identify these key anti-extractive struggles, conducting analysis to identify which struggles we should prioritize.

The Scholar will work closely with R4FL Coordination staff to design the research project, select methods, refine objectives and establish more detailed research questions. It will be important that the Sustainability Scholar maintain excellent practices of digital security and privacy.

Project Scope

Specific methods and sub-questions will be designed together at the beginning of the project, but overall the project will focus on the following two overarching research questions.

1. What *existing* oil and gas (and other extractive) industrial projects are currently being opposed and resisted across Canada?
2. What *new* oil and gas (and other extractive) industrial projects are currently being proposed across Canada and are there any communities and movements opposing these?

The project will involve in depth online research and analysis of various sources of information, possibly including Access to Information requests, corporate reports and other documents, government databases, documents from Environmental Assessment Offices, legal documents, media articles, social media and more.

Deliverables

The final deliverable will be a report to R4FL, to be used internally for identifying communities we can offer our services to.

It will be important that we have the option of not having this report made public, given the potential that the information could be used by industry in unjust and problematic ways.

Time Commitment

We will expect the scholar to work independently towards key milestones which will be established together during the first week of the project. The scholar will meet with the R4FL team once every two weeks throughout the project.

The scholar will work 250 hours between May 1, 2024 and August 15, 2024

Required/Preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Project management and organizational skills
- Demonstrated experience in investigative online research

Additional Information

It is possible that we'll have more pressing research needs come May 2024. There may be a need to shift the focus and objectives of the project somewhat. For that reason, it would be good to work with a scholar who is comfortable with adapting to and being flexible and responsive to emerging needs.

Additional project requirements

- Familiarity with researching industries and corporations would be an asset.
- Familiarity with research social movements and community mobilizations would be an asset.
- Ability to read and conduct research in French would be an asset.
- Willingness to practice strong digital security and privacy/confidentiality measures is a requirement.
- R4FL is based in Montreal, Quebec and we do most of our work remotely or hybrid. So we will need someone willing to work with us remotely.

UVic Sustainability Scholars Program

All current UVic graduate students are invited to apply for 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. Contact Laurel Currie, Program Manager, with any questions: sustainability-scholars@uvic.ca.
