



Institute for Sustainable Food Systems

The Institute for Sustainable Food Systems at Kwantlen Polytechnic University is currently seeking student applicants for 2 student Policy Research Assistants to join the summer Policy Lab.

The Institute for Sustainable Food Systems

ISFS is an applied research and extension unit at KPU that investigates and supports regional food systems as key elements of sustainable communities.

Our Mission: We engage in multidisciplinary applied research and extension to cultivate sustainable regional food systems that advance the food sovereignty goals of diverse communities.

Our Vision: We imagine a future where empowered communities shape the food systems that nurture their health and well-being, and sustain thriving ecosystems. For more information, visit the ISFS website [here](#) and our strategic plan [here](#).

The ISFS Summer Policy Lab

The ISFS periodically hosts a summer intensive Policy Lab to explore key policy issues impacting regional food systems in BC.

Goal: The purpose of the summer Policy Lab is to perform a “deep dive” into a thematic policy issue impacting regional food systems in BC. The results of the Policy Lab help establish a shared understanding of complex policy issues. This includes unpacking the challenge to identify its components and drivers, researching policy precedents from other jurisdictions, and suggesting pathways to address the challenge. The Policy Lab provides an immersive research experience to explore, assess, and address complex policy challenges through focused research and discussion.

The Policy Lab results in impactful and accessible research. Previous research has been used by local/provincial governments, decision-makers, producers, and community organizers. As a result, ISFS is searching for students who have the drive to participate in practical, professional and impactful research.

Previous policy labs themes and deliverables include:

2017 Policy Lab: [Policy Precedents to Increase the Agricultural Use of British Columbia's Farmland](#)

2019 Policy Lab: [Food Policy Assessment in the Okanagan Bioregion](#)

Structure: The Policy Lab is directed by a Policy Lab Supervisor (part time) who guides 2 student researchers (full time). The 2022 Policy Lab will be structured to accommodate remote work.

Topic: While the thematic focus of the 2022 Policy Lab is being finalized, topics could include

- exploring the challenges impacting the viability of regionally-focused farmers in BC
- examining the relationship between federal and provincial policy directives and how these impact food system outcomes
- mapping provincial/federal policy priorities in the food system and how these have evolved over time.

Position Description: Policy Research Assistant

Wage: \$17.50/hr

Hours: Approximately 490 hours (35 hrs per week)

Contract: Casual Service Contract, mid-May – late August, 2022

Supervisor: ISFS research staff (*tba*)

* Under some circumstances, weekly hours may be subject to flexibility to accommodate candidates. Please specify if you require such an accommodation.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Apply excellent research abilities to investigate policy from B.C., Canada, and beyond
- Communicate regularly with Policy Lab Supervisor to develop methodology and assess progress
- Prepare reports, briefs and communications as required
- Prepare final report, briefs and communications as required
- Work as a team member to address challenges, communicate progress and complete Policy Lab goals

Qualifications

- Enrolled in the Graduate Certificate in Sustainable Food Systems and Security (KPU) or fourth year standing in, or recent completion of, Policy Studies or Sustainable Agriculture studies (KPU)
- Some awareness of British Columbia's policy landscape
- Ability to think critically
- Strong sense of initiative
- Ability to effectively and independently manage time and produce high quality work within project deadlines
- Excellent organizational skills and the ability to work independently and as a team member
- Positive, professional and collaborative attitude and demeanor
- Knowledge of food systems and related policy in the B.C. context is an asset

To apply for this position, please submit your cover letter and resume to Naomi Robert (Research Associate, ISFS) at naomi.robert@kpu.ca by the application deadline of April 15th, 2022.