



Institute for Sustainable Food Systems

## Job Title: Research Associate, Institutional Food Procurement Supply Chain Network Analysis

**The Institute for Sustainable Food Systems (ISFS)** is seeking applications for a six-month full-time research associate position focused on institutional food procurement in the Okanagan region

### About ISFS

ISFS is an applied research and extension unit at Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU). We investigate and support regional food systems as key elements of sustainable communities, focusing predominantly on British Columbia but also extending our programming to other regions. Our applied research focuses on the potential of regional food systems in terms of agriculture and food, economics, community health, policy, and environmental integrity. Our extension programming provides information and support for farmers, communities, business, policy makers, and others. Community collaboration is central to our approach.

ISFS employs a multidisciplinary team of agriculturists and researchers with expertise in food systems, agriculture, economics, farm business management, ecology, and public health. Our office is on KPU's Richmond campus, located at 8771 Lansdowne Road, Richmond BC. The campus is served by rapid transit (Canada Line - Lansdowne Station), by which downtown Vancouver can be reached in about 30 minutes.

More about us and our work is at [www.kpu.ca/isfs](http://www.kpu.ca/isfs)

### Position Overview

- Contract: 35 hours/week for six months, with possibility of renewal
- Salary: \$20-25/hour dependent on qualifications and experience
- Position start date: November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017 or negotiable for the right candidate
- Application deadline: Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017

### Responsibilities and Tasks

The primary responsibility of the research associate will be execution of the ISFS project: *Institutional Food Procurement Supply Chain Network Analysis*. This project has been conceptualized and initial work has been undertaken. The research associate will assist other research associates to achieve project goals and deliverables (please see the project overview below). Key tasks on this project include:

- Assist other research associates in data collection and organization
- Conduct interviews with local producers, processors and institutions in the Okanagan region
- Analyze primary and secondary data to identify ways to increase institutional food procurement in the Okanagan region
- Prepare reports and power point presentations

For the right candidate and dependent on funding there may be opportunity for contract renewal associated with this research program.

## Qualifications, Skills and Experience

The successful applicant for this position must:

- Be based in the Okanagan and be willing to travel within the region
- Hold a Bachelor's degree (MS degree is preferred) in economics, food system studies, health research or other relevant discipline
- Have research experience and training (both quantitative and qualitative methods)
- Have strong interpersonal communication and writing skills
- Have demonstrated their ability to work with a high degree of autonomy and with a multi-disciplinary team
- Have a valid driver's license and access to a vehicle
- Have access to a home office and equipment (personal computer, internet, cell phone)

The following will be considered assets:

- Experience conducting surveys or interviews
- Knowledge of the food system in the Okanagan
- Clean driving record

## To Apply

Please submit your cover letter and resume to Kent Mullinix (Director, ISFS) at [kent.mullinix@kpu.ca](mailto:kent.mullinix@kpu.ca) and copy Wallapak Polasub (Senior Research Associate, ISFS) at [wallapak.polasub@kpu.ca](mailto:wallapak.polasub@kpu.ca). Please use the subject line: *Research Associate – Institutional Food Procurement Supply Chain Network Analysis*.

Application deadline: November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017.

## Project Overview: Institutional Food Procurement Supply Chain Network Analysis

**Project Proponent:** Institute for Sustainable Food Systems (KPU)

**Project Goal:** This project will undertake a gap analysis, barriers and opportunities study within the Okanagan region. The intent is to identify and inform how British Columbia agrifood sector producers and processors can best supply local food to British Columbia institutions and provide analysis and insights into how successful local procurement initiatives can be established in British Columbia. Using the Okanagan region as a case study, a methodology that can be replicated in other regions will be developed. The anticipated outputs of this study are:

1. Assessment of current primary crop and livestock production in the Okanagan (secondary data analysis)
2. Assessment of current processing and packaging capacity (primary and secondary data analysis)
3. Identification of producers and processors who supply food or food services to two institutional case studies
4. Assessment of economic opportunity, procurement logistics and potentials in the supply chain
5. Investigation of the roles of a food processing innovation centre in increasing institutional local food procurement.
6. Identification of other supports needed to increase local food procurement in the Okanagan region.

**Time line:** October 2017 to March 2018