



Pacific Institute  
for Climate Solutions  
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**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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## **New research fellowships to advance climate change solutions for BC**

How can BC's island and coastal communities protect precious groundwater resources in a changing climate? What are the best locations in British Columbia (BC) to site wind farms? Can a computer app help BC residents lower their carbon footprint when making transportation decisions?

These are some of the questions being tackled by 15 new fellowship recipients announced today by the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS). PICS is a collaboration of BC's four research-intensive universities hosted and led by the University of Victoria. It also includes Simon Fraser University, the University of British Columbia and the University of Northern BC.

"One of our main objectives at PICS is to develop innovative, research-based solutions to the challenges we face—both in BC and beyond—as a result of climate change," says PICS Executive Director Dr. Tom Pedersen. "PICS researchers are working across the full spectrum of disciplines to ensure we have the knowledge base required to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and foster a vibrant, low-carbon economy."

This year's fellowship recipients, comprising five PhD students, eight master's students and two post-doctoral fellows, will investigate a range of climate change-related issues from scientific, economic, environmental and social perspectives. Projects include:

- Municipal responses to climate change in Campbell River and other BC communities
- A groundwater management plan for Salt Spring Island
- Assessing wind energy resources in western Canada
- Developing floating offshore wind turbines for BC
- Enhancing the design of geothermal energy systems through computer modeling
- Assessing and mitigating the carbon footprint of passenger transportation in BC

More information on these and other fellowship projects is available on the PICS website at <http://pics.uvic.ca/fellowships/graduate/current> and <http://pics.uvic.ca/fellowships/postdoctoral/current>.

In addition to the 15 new fellowships awarded, 17 PhD and two master's students have received renewals of already existing awards. Total funding for the 34 new or extended PICS fellowships for 2012/13 is \$460,000.

PICS fellowships are worth up to \$12,000 a year for master's students, \$18,000 a year for PhD students and \$50,000 a year for post-doctoral fellows. For further information, photos, or to be put in touch with new or existing recipients, please contact PICS or the relevant university's communications office.

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