

Funded Masters level graduate position in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Simon Fraser University in water quality, health and climate change

The Faculty of Health Sciences at SFU in cooperation with SFU's Dept. of Earth Sciences and University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) School of Health Sciences and Environmental Sciences and Engineering Program are offering two years of funding in support of a Master of Science (MSc) in Health Sciences from SFU.

**Project Overview:**

Remarkably, for a highly developed OECD country, Canada has over 1,000 boil water advisories (BWAs) in place at any given time due to drinking water supplies that are unfit for human consumption. British Columbia is national leader in BWAs - over 500 at present – and, not surprisingly, also a leader in consequent gastro-intestinal illness rates. Many of these BWAs are due to microbiological contamination and/or increased turbidity levels. Little research in BC has been carried out on the occurrence of microbiological contamination (linked to issuing BWAs) and whether there are climatological, hydrological, geomorphological linkages. For example, the heavy rainfall on the south coast of BC in November 2007 led to a BWA being issued for much of Greater Vancouver that remained in place for several days. Because extreme weather events are expected to become more frequent with climate change, this project will examine if the past five years of advisories can be linked to extreme weather events that may increase with climate change. Secondary questions include: Can boil water advisories in BC be linked to extreme weather events that may increase with climate change; and what are some characteristics of communities that increase the risk. Finally the project will examine what policies and resources might increase the adaptive capacity of vulnerable water systems in BC. The project is funded by the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions and will investigate the linkages between climate and BWAs.

**Application Process:**

The successful candidate will have a strong undergraduate science background and a willingness to engage in interdisciplinary work in environmental sciences and health with a focus on the impacts of climate change. Funding is available for two years at \$16,000 (CND) per year. Course work and supervision will be at both SFU and UNBC. For more information contact Drs. Tim Takaro [ttakaro@sfu.ca](mailto:ttakaro@sfu.ca) or Margot Parkes [parkesm@unbc.ca](mailto:parkesm@unbc.ca).

Candidates must submit a one-page letter of intent describing your interest in the project and why you are qualified to undertake it, along with an unofficial transcript and CV to Dr. Takaro [ttakaro@sfu.ca](mailto:ttakaro@sfu.ca) by **Sept. 15, 2012**. Deadline for application to Faculty of Health Sciences Masters program is Oct. 1, 2012 for January 2013 admission. For application information see: <http://www.fhs.sfu.ca/graduate-programs>.