



Director of Adaptation and Community Engagement

JOB POSTING



KEY DETAILS

Position Title:	Director of Adaptation and Community Engagement
Location:	University of Victoria, Victoria, BC
FTE:	Three-year term, full-time
Salary:	Commensurate with qualifications
Benefits:	Employer contribution to Extended Benefits Plan
Start Date:	1 February 2023 (preferred, but negotiable)
Application Deadline:	6 January 2023

POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS) Director of Adaptation and Community Engagement position offers an exceptional opportunity for engaging local BC communities in climate adaptation planning.

PICS is a multi-university institute encompassing the four major research-intensive universities in British Columbia: University of Victoria, University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, and the University of Northern British Columbia. Our mandate is to produce leading climate solutions research that is actively used by decision-makers to develop effective mitigation and adaptation policies and actions. This position will directly support PICS' effort to mobilize climate knowledge into action and will contribute to an exciting renewal of our organization under our new Executive Director.

The Director of Adaptation and Community Engagement is responsible for understanding the climate adaptation landscape across British Columbia, Canada, and the world and how it directly applies and supports community-level responses. The position entails: advanced understanding of risk assessment and adaptation strategies; building and maintaining community relationships, including First Nation communities; and supporting PICS funded researchers and PICS staff with community-based research and engagement processes.

The candidate must have a track record of successful community engagement, especially with rural, remote, and Indigenous communities in British Columbia.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Reporting to the Executive Director, the Director of Adaptation and Community Engagement will contribute to operationalizing PICS' mandate while taking on the following responsibilities:

- Stay informed of BC's risk assessment and adaptation strategies, specifically as they relate to PICS funded research that intersects with community-level climate action;
- Engage in relationship building and regular communications with local communities, civil society organizations, and networks across BC that are engaged in adaptation planning;

- Explore opportunities for leveraging PICS expertise and resources to generate climate solutions;
- Support PICS-funded research by providing guidance, professional development, and community-level engagement opportunities for various academic and community partners;
- Stay apprised of community-level priorities across BC that represent important engagement, partnership and funding opportunities that are equally beneficial to communities and academics alike;
- Develop and support respectful and reciprocal relationships with First Nation communities to better understand their climate change priorities, knowledges, and opportunities for partnership and project development based on principles of Truth and Reconciliation;
- Increase PICS' ability to be a conduit for community-level knowledge that links with other forms of expertise to be policy relevant and publicly accessible;
- Provide guidance and support for PICS-funded projects that are specifically focused on rural and remote communities and their unique challenges and opportunities for adaptation;
- Support qualitative research and reporting, at the community level, ensuring that research needs are understood across various geographic, demographic, and policy-level scales and scenarios;
- Develop meaningful metrics for the impact of community-level engagement, within PICS, but also across all PICS funded projects, which supports PICS annual reporting;
- Work with PICS program managers, at various partner institutions, to provide support and guidance regarding community engagement and adaptation, including assistance for events that link academics and the larger communities we serve;
- Be nimble to work with team on aspects outside their immediate portfolio; and
- Work collegially to provide high-level support to the Executive Director, all PICS staff, and the larger PICS network of academics, governments, industry, Indigenous and civil society organizations, and communities that seek meaningful and timely climate action.

QUALIFICATIONS

- PhD or master's degree from a recognized post-secondary institution, with relevant specialization in one or more of the following knowledge areas: climate adaptation; community planning; public health; geography; public policy; environmental studies; or related disciplines.
- Knowledge of issues concerning climate change adaptation; community-based research; Indigenous and local knowledges; and how solutions mainstream into adaptation actions.
- Expertise in community engagement processes, including work with First Nations or other Indigenous communities.
- Strong analytic, writing and verbal presentation capabilities.

- Experience working at the interface between science and policy.
- Dynamic, people-and-results-oriented with a passion for implementing climate change solutions.
- Ability to communicate complex issues to broad audiences both orally and in writing.
- Demonstrated leadership and project management skills.
- Ability to initiate and execute plans to ensure smooth financial operations of research activities within multi-partner projects.
- Ability to travel (generally 1-3 days/trip) within BC, but also Canada and internationally, as needed.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

PICS is committed to upholding the values of justice, equity, diversity, and intersectionality while also advancing decolonization in our organizational operations and funding approach. We seek meaningful and measurable change in all our activities and actively encourage applications from equity deserving groups.

Given PICS is a multi-university institution, we have staff working across British Columbia, and there is flexibility to have the successful candidate work from PICS' main office at the University of Victoria, or from home, provided the candidate is BC-based and eligible to work in Canada.

To apply: please send a CV and cover letter describing your interest in and qualifications for the position to PICS Administrative Manager Cassandra Price (picsam@uvic.ca). In your cover letter, please concisely describe your experience in aligning climate research with community-level knowledges and priorities and the unique contributions you will bring to PICS if you are the successful candidate. Review of applications will begin January 6, 2023, and the position will remain open until filled.



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