



Environmental Law, Policy, Economics & Arts 2021 Projects

***Applicants:** Remember your top two project preferences, as you will be required to select them during your application.*

Building food sovereignty through Indigenous Foodways

Supervisor: Debra Davidson ddavidso@ualberta.ca

Faculty of Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences; Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology

Profile: <https://apps.ualberta.ca/directory/person/ddavidso>

Description: This project will involve three parts: First, we will work together to conduct background research to learn about the historical and current food security concerns, and Indigenous foodways practiced by the First Nations and Métis peoples of Treaty Six. This information will be used for purposes of informing new strategies designed to contribute to community wellbeing and food sovereignty. This will include a combination of literature search and dialogue with knowledge holders. Second, we will seek to apply this knowledge through the creation of an Indigenous demonstration garden at Prairie Urban Farm, a community farm located on South Campus at the University of Alberta. Third, we will invite members of nearby Indigenous communities to join us at Prairie Urban Farm for a knowledge- and food-sharing workshop. Students will develop skills in information gathering using multiple methods, project collaboration, develop knowledge on food systems including experience in management of agricultural lands, and outreach and communications skills.

ALI's Resilience and Climate Change Research

Supervisor: Eran Kaplinsky kaplinsk@ualberta.ca

Faculty of Law

Profile: <https://www.ualberta.ca/law/about/news/2020/12/kaplinsky.html>

Description: The Alberta Land Institute (ALI) is an independent research institute at the University of Alberta. ALI's work focuses on the changing landscape and the ways that planning and policy design can ensure the long-term sustainability of Alberta's agriculture sector, its water, and its natural areas. Our diverse group of researchers include experts in Planning, Agriculture, Life and Environmental Sciences, Law, Engineering, and Resource Economics.

Our Intern will collect and interpret data; conduct literature reviews; help ALI's researchers understand and integrate Indigenous knowledge and perspectives; liaise with stakeholders, including Indigenous communities and municipalities; help prepare research workshops; and support ALI's Director and Research Director in knowledge mobilization and communication.

ALI prides itself on a collegial and collaborative work environment. The Institute has extensive experience mentoring early-career researchers and researchers in training. Most recently, ALI was selected as an "Adaptation and Resilience Training" Program Partner and hosts a Project Assistant": a recently graduated ALES student, who is sponsored by the Government of Alberta and the University's Sustainability Council. Note: ALI maintains an office on campus; however, while Covid-19 health and safety protocols are in effect, the Intern will be expected to work and participate in team meetings remotely.

Just (energy) transition in Canada's Northern Indigenous communities

Supervisor: Sandeep Agrawal pmyers@ualberta.ca

Faculty of Science, Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences

<https://cms.eas.ualberta.ca/UrbanEnvOb/>

Description: Just transition means that society shares both tangible and intangible costs and benefits of transitioning to a low-carbon economy in a socially just way. The 2015 Paris Agreement recognizes just transition as a key principle of climate change. Without just transition, we risk increased polarization and eroding public support for action on climate change. However, the concept finds limited applicability in Canada, restricted to the government-mandated phase-out of coal-fired electricity generation

Across Canada, Indigenous peoples are shouldering a disproportionate social and economic burden of non-renewable sources as well as transitioning to renewable sources of energy (Mertins-Kirkwood & Deshpande, 2018). For example, the high costs of purchasing, transporting and storing hydrocarbon fuel directly impact housing stability, rendering many homeless (Agrawal, 2020). Also concerning is serious barriers to transition, such as high cost, lack of appropriate technology to store excess power, and remoteness of the region. Building on the supervisor's ongoing research works examining intertwined issues related to Northern housing, this project will explore connections between energy supply, public policy, and human and Indigenous rights of self-determination in the Tlicho, Dene, Sahtu, and Beaufort Delta regions of NWT. It aims to promote the significance of Indigenous community-led energy transition and socio-economic well-being in advancing reconciliation, contributing to the TRC Calls to Action.

The student will learn and employ multiple research methodologies, carry out various elements of the research, and co-author a publication from this research. The method will involve collecting data from the Government of NWT, civil society organizations such as Arctic Energy Alliance, First Nations communities, and the NWT Power Corporation. The project allows the student to network with officials, and enhance their post-academic careers.