

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: **RESEARCH ASSISTANT**

Position Type: Part-time contract;
15-20 hours/week for 12 weeks

Location: Ryerson University (remote work is possible)

Rate: \$35-45/hour
(subject to qualifications)

Start Date: Jan. 7, 2019

ABOUT YELLOWHEAD

The Institute is a First Nation-led research centre based in the [Faculty of Arts](#) at Ryerson University in Toronto, Ontario. Privileging First Nation philosophy and rooted in community networks, Yellowhead is focused on policies related to land and governance. The Institute offers critical and accessible resources for communities in their pursuit of self-determination. We also aim to foster education and dialogue on First Nation governance across fields of study, between the University and the wider community, and among Indigenous peoples and Canadians. The Institute launched on June 05, 2018.

Our Mission: *Generating critical policy perspectives in support of First Nation jurisdiction.*

ABOUT THE POSITION

The Researcher will play a key role in supporting a SSHRC-funded research project that focuses on new economic and financial techniques of Indigenous land alienation in Canada. The exercise of Indigenous laws and jurisdiction are presenting a major concern for business and investors in resource sectors. Parties are mired in costly litigation, and disruptions occur as Indigenous communities seek control over all decisions affecting their territories. As attaining project approvals through established channels becomes increasingly complicated and bogged down in protracted regulatory proceedings, new techniques for maintaining access and gaining consent for resource development projects are emerging by necessity.

The Researcher will work directly with Dr. Shiri Pasternak to better understand a number of these new techniques. The SSHRC project - Reconciling Sovereignities: New Techniques for "Authorizing" Extraction on Indigenous Territories - is a Partnership Development Grant with Mining Watch Canada and the Indigenous Network on Economies and Trade, as well as group of socio-legal scholars based at universities throughout southern Ontario.

Duties will include collaborating on the following:

- Possibly preparing a research ethics application as per Ryerson University policies;
- Preparing legal holdings on decisions pertaining to Aboriginal rights;
- Preparing literature reviews;
- Undertaking research on access and benefit sharing agreements, resource revenue sharing deals, and other commercial contracts between First Nations and corporations or the Crown;
- Mapping financial flows in the corporate and banking sectors;
- Undertaking supply chain and logistics research;
- Filing access to information requests;
- Possibility for sharing project insights and findings at community, national and international workshop and conferences (travel funding will be provided in accordance with project budget);
- The Researcher will also be provided with mentorship and professional skill development opportunities.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Enrolled as a graduate student at Ryerson or another Canadian university (preference given to PhD students but masters and postdoctoral students are strongly encouraged to apply) – any field, but background in law, geography, journalism, and Indigenous studies may be prioritized. Professionalized researchers and analysts also encouraged to apply;
- Preference will be given to those whose work experience or education focus deal with First Nations governance and policy in a critical way, ideally with a focus on resource extraction, legal issues, or political economy;
- Excellent analytical skills and the ability to synthesize information into different accessible formats such as databases and resource documents to be used for research and analysis;
- Excellent written communication skills and attention to detail;
- Demonstrated understanding of settler colonialism in Canada and the policy, legal and theoretical frameworks relating to Indigenous-state relationships;
- Knowledge of ethical research practices with Indigenous communities;
- Have access to computer equipment and internet;
- Preference will be given to Indigenous candidates.

HOW TO APPLY

Please send a CV and cover letter (maximum one page) outlining interest and qualifications to info@yellowheadinstitute.org by December 15, 2018. Cover letters can be addressed to:

Dr. Shiri Pasternak
 Assistant Professor
 Dept. of Criminology | Ryerson University
 Research Director | Yellowhead Institute
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