



Faculty
of Arts



Yellowhead
Institute

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: **RESEARCHER**

Position Type: Seeking 1-2 RAs; part-time contract; 10 hours/week for 10 weeks (with opportunities to extend)

Rate: \$35-40/hr (acc. to experience)

Location: Ryerson University

Start Date: February 24, 2020

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.

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

ABOUT THE POSITION

Cash Back: A Critical Look at Crown-First Nations Fiscal Relations: This project aims to bring to light forms of fiscal control exercised by the federal and provincial governments over First Nations in Canada. We aim to map the political histories and contemporary structures of Crown-First Nations fiscal relations through interdisciplinary research on this economic relationship. Focusing on a substantial period of federal fiscal policy concerning First Nations – from the 1940s until today – we will explore a rarely examined period of fiscal control to analyze how poverty is structured on First Nations reserves in Canada. We aim to provide a breadth and focus that does not currently exist in either academic or popular literature. Our main research goals:

1. To identify the tangible structures of Crown-First Nations fiscal arrangements, to demystify these arrangements for community members, and to analyze their political logics.
2. To identify the impacts, cumulative effects, and outcomes of fiscal policy on First Nation governance at the community level and the barriers that fiscal policies place on the path to Indigenous self-determination.

3. To identify solutions, models, and structural change that grounds this discussion in land loss, dispossession, and alienation and the restoration of Indigenous governance.
4. To identify government obligations under both domestic and international law.

Purpose: This research will be used in three ways: 1) it will contribute towards the Yellowhead Institute's 2020 Red Paper report on Crown-First Nations fiscal relations; 2) it will contribute towards research under a SSHRC Insight award - "The Politics of Fiscal Control: A Critical Look at Crown-First Nations Funding Relations" - led by grant team members Dr. Shiri Pasternak and Naomi Metallic; and, 3) it may be used by community collaboration partners in the Red Paper network.

Duties will include collaborating on the following:

- Making Access to Information requests (training provided if needed);
- Compiling legal databases of relevant case law, providing case summaries (training provided if needed);
- Library and archival research on specific policies and legislation related to fiscal relations;
- Research with Indigenous communities on alternative funding arrangements;
- Attending weekly meetings with the research team;
- 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

- 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;
- Has access to computer equipment and internet, knows how to use Excel or Google sheets;
- Asset, but not required, would be familiarity with budgeting, accounting, and fiscal policy concerning First Nations;
- Preference will be given to those whose work experience or education deal with First Nations governance and policy in a critical way, ideally with a focus on fiscal relations or legal issues;
- Preference for researchers located in Toronto or GTA for participation in team meetings;
- Preference will be given to Indigenous candidates.

HOW TO APPLY

Please email a CV and cover letter (maximum one page) outlining interest and qualifications to shiri.pasternak@ryerson.ca by February 17, 2020 (rolling deadline until positions filled). Cover letters can be addressed to:

Dr. Shiri Pasternak
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Research Director | Yellowhead Institute
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ON M5B 2K3