



Environmental Law Clinic Lawyer and / or Clinic Director

Environmental Law Centre

1.0 FTE Term Appointment (to be negotiated for 2021 or 2022)
and anticipated to be ongoing

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS – June 4 2021

The Environmental Law Centre in the University of Victoria Faculty of Law invites applications for one or more Environmental Law Clinic Lawyers and/or Clinic Director. This is a unique opportunity to practice public interest environmental law full-time within an institutional setting working with passionate students, colleagues and clients. Check out our work at elc.uvic.ca.

The Environmental Law Centre (ELC)

Law students who were inspired to provide legal assistance on environmental issues founded the ELC 25 years ago. That same mandate endures today with the ELC, a non-profit organization, working with the Faculty of Law at the University of Victoria to deliver a unique clinic program through which ELC students and staff provide thousands of hours of *pro bono* legal assistance to British Columbians each year. Each term up to twelve students work directly with our clients – environmental and Indigenous organizations, First Nations and individuals - on projects that they bring to the ELC. With just one paid and one in-kind lawyer on staff, we leverage over 4000 hours of legal services per year and enhance the capacity of our client organizations to fulfill their long-term ecological health goals.

The ELC's vision is to attain and support strong laws that protect air, land and water. Our mission is two-fold: to train the next generation of public interest environmental lawyers; and to provide legal aid to those who would otherwise not access legal assistance to address public interest environmental law issues. All ELC work is based on partnerships with First Nations, non-governmental organizations, community groups, environmental organizations, and lawyers with an interest in public interest environmental law. Students carry out the core of our activities as part of their legal training, and we have received national and international recognition for our innovative work in inspiring and mentoring the next generation of Canada's public interest environmental lawyers.



Our activities involve a range of legal approaches and solutions each term, including legal opinions, submissions, law reform proposals, model codes, public information, supporting advocacy before tribunals and courts, and the creation of manuals and training tools for community groups. We complete 20-40 files and train over 30 students a year, regularly engage lawyers in the public interest and private Bar, and provide public education opportunities through posting reports and other resources on our website.

Working at the ELC you are part of a small, high impact and dedicated team of legal and communications professionals who are enthusiastic about improving ecosystems, community health, and collaborative environmental governance arrangements in BC. The Environmental Law Centre lawyer(s) and/or Clinic Director will work with students to provide legal services to a diverse array of community, Indigenous and individual clients. Emphasis is placed equally on providing an excellent student learning experience and crafting legal solutions that make a difference. The ELC lawyer(s) and/or Clinic Director will also carry out a range of activities related to public interest environmental law practice in a non-governmental organization that includes client and funder development, communications and media, and participating in the wider public interest environmental law community.

As a member of the ELC staff, the ELC lawyer(s) and/or Clinic Director will:

1. Carry a caseload and provide legal and procedural advice for Environmental Law Centre clients who present with a wide range of public interest environmental law issues;
2. Prepare a variety of legal products to assist clients to deal with their public interest environmental law issues;
3. Generate a case roster for the beginning of each term;
4. Teach the Environmental Law Clinic course up to three times per year;
5. Supervise and mentor students in the Environmental Law Clinic course;
6. Provide specific direction and instructions to students in the Environmental Law Clinic course to help them complete their files;
7. Act as a Principal to articling students and supervise co-op students working full-time in the ELC;
8. Provide continuity of service for clients and undertake client development; and
9. Support the Executive Director and Director of Operations and Communications with all manner of administrative matters, including communications, development (fundraising), the board of directors and the University of Victoria.

QUALIFICATIONS

Basic requirements

- A J.D. or LL.B. degree.
- Membership or eligibility for membership in the Law Society of British Columbia.
- A minimum of 5 years call to the bar in British Columbia or equivalent experience in another Canadian jurisdiction.

- 3-5 years recent experience working in the area of public interest environmental law or equivalent.
- Experience in using a range of environmental law strategies, tools and processes for public interest clients.

Knowledge, skills and abilities

- Significant knowledge of environmental law and practice.
- Knowledge of a range of processes used to resolve or engage with environmental law disputes.
- Experience and interest in public legal education.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills (oral and written).
- Demonstrated ability to develop resourceful solutions to legal problems of clients.
- Demonstrated ability to work within a small team in a collaborative, supportive and problem-solving manner.
- Familiarity with cultivating and stewarding relationships with funders.
- Awareness and sensitivity to cultural influences in the community.
- Demonstrated ability to work with Indigenous people and communities.
- Ability to work with people (clients and students) facing marginalization due to race, income, disability, literacy, language of origin, gender identity, sexual orientation or otherwise facing historical disadvantage.

These are full-time positions but some flexibility could be considered in the initial stage of employment if other employment commitments need to be accommodated for a limited period of time. Subject to public health orders, physical presence at UVic for several days per week is required.

Remuneration will be commensurate with educational background and experience. We anticipate remuneration to start in the \$80,000 to \$120,000 range. Although these are a one year appointments we are hiring for the future. These positions come with an attractive benefits and pension package upon reappointment.

What you have to do to apply

Submit a maximum 2 page cover letter outlining your suitability for the position, a *curriculum vitae*, and the names of (and contact information for) three references to the Environmental Law Centre Search Committee by **June 4, 2021** via elc-application@uvic.ca.

For enquires about the position, please contact Deborah Curran at dlc@uvic.ca.

Consistent with UVic's values, we acknowledge with respect the Lkwungen-speaking peoples on whose traditional territory the University stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day. UVic is committed to upholding the values of equity, diversity, and inclusion in our living, learning and work environments. In pursuit of our values, we seek members who will work respectfully and constructively with differences and across levels of

power. We actively encourage applications from members of groups experiencing barriers to equity. Read UVic's full equity statement here: www.uvic.ca/equitystatement.

In accordance with Canadian Immigration requirements, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada are requested to self-identify themselves in their application.