**Position: Climate Change Research Co-op/Intern**

**Ministry: Agriculture**

**Salary: $1,718.93biweekly ($24.55 per hour)**

**Term: 8 months, starting early May 2018**

**Location: Victoria** (note: please do not apply unless you are willing to be located in Victoria)

**Application Deadline: April 2, 2018** (midnight)

***This position is a unique opportunity to build understanding of the importance of agricultural climate change adaptation and to contribute to high priority policies, programs and actions to advance climate change adaptation and mitigation in the B.C. agriculture sector. Note that the position is located in Victoria and that no relocation expenses will be paid.***

**Background:**

Climate change is already happening in B.C., and projections for the 2020s and 2050s point to significant impacts for agriculture, including higher than average temperatures, pest outbreaks, sea level rise, and extreme weather events such as drought and flooding. For agricultural producers, climate change will result in increased management complexity, costs, and uncertainty. The Ministry of Agriculture and the agriculture industry are working together to help the sector build resilience and adapt to climate change. The Ministry’s [Service Plan](http://bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2018/sp/pdf/ministry/agri.pdf)  identifies climate change adaptation as a key consideration.

The co-op/intern will work as a member of the Ministry’s climate action team, which contributes to the development of national and provincial climate change and agricultural policy/action, and administers a nationally-recognized on-the-ground climate adaptation program (see below). The team is located in the Ministry’s Innovation and Adaptation Services Branch, which provides expertise and support for: innovation, domestic and international marketing, management practices that promote sustainable and productive agrifood systems, and the maintenance of a positive regulatory environment with local governments.

The Ministry’s climate adaptation program is funded with approximately $6 million over five years. The program is industry-led and delivered by the [B.C. Agriculture & Food Climate Action Initiative](http://www.bcagclimateaction.ca). The program supports the development and implementation of regional adaptation strategies in key agricultural areas of the province, and the piloting and demonstration of adaptation practices on B.C. farms and ranches. This programming is recognized as the most advanced programming in Canada for agricultural adaptation to climate change. A new five-year funding cycle starts on April 1, 2018.

In Februrary, 2018, the Office of the Auditor General of British Columbia released a report titled [*Managing Climate Change Risk: an Independent Audit*](http://www.bcauditor.com/pubs/2018/managing-climate-change-risks-independent-audit)*.* The Ministry of Agriculture is included in this audit, and will be involved in implementing recommendations and developing the provincial government’s response to the report’s findings. The first step, already underway, is to conduct a climate risk assessment for B.C. A key area of work will be integrating knowledge of climate impacts on B.C. agriculture into this risk assessment. Other areas discussed in the auditor’s report include actions addressing climate driven risks from flooding, drought, and wildfires, as well as the need for education and professional development in area of climate adaptation.

In addition to administering and supporting the Ministry’s climate adaptation program, the climate action team also works on other priorities related to agriculture and climate change, including the integration of climate change adaptation in other programs of the Ministry (e.g. [Environmental Farm Plan and Beneficial Management Practices](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/environmental-programs/environmental-farm-plan) programs, [agricultural water management](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/agricultural-land-and-environment/water/water-management), and emergency preparedness).

**Description:**

The co-op/intern will support the Ministry’s climate action team in two focus areas:

1. Supporting the program development, launch, and implementation of the Climate Adaptation Program’s sub-programming, including regional adaptation strategies and farm level adaptation projects. The co-op/intern will provide support for program activities and analysis of program outputs.
2. Supporting the development and implementation of the climate adaptation recommendations of the B.C. auditor general. This will include supporting the Ministry’s contribution to the provincial climate risk assessment being coordinated by the Climate Action Secretariat.

The co-op/intern will work with leaders in the field and interface with program managers in the Ministry, other government agencies, the Climate Action Secretariat, and the B.C. Agriculture & Food Climate Action Initiative. They will learn about climate change and B.C. agriculture, government policy and decision making, and the Ministry’s partnership with the federal government and the agriculture industry. They will have a dynamic positive work environment with many opportunities for growth and mentorship.

**Example Tasks**

The following tasks show the type of work which may be undertaken in this position:

* Communicating climate change information and program goals to Ministry staff using various communication tools (presentations, infographic visuals, information notes).
* Supporting development of briefings/presentations for senior management/executive.
* Assisting the team by conducting research and reviews on climate change adaptation and greenhouse gas reduction in the agricultural industry and food system.
* Reviewing, commenting on, and/or helping to develop proposals for policies and projects.
* Organizing seminars on topics related to climate adaptation and other areas of policy focus.
* Organizing meetings, note taking, and filing.

**Qualifications:**

The co-op/intern must be self-motivated, be able to work both independently and as part of a team, be flexible, creative and be able to take initiative. To be qualified, the candidate must:

* Be enrolled at a British Columbia academic institution in a graduate program in agriculture, climate change, resource management, natural sciences, Earth sciences, environmental studies/science, economics, policy, planning, or a related field. *Note: highly qualified undergraduates may also be considered, at a lower salary of $1,467 biweekly or $20.96 per hour.*
* Have technical and subject matter expertise in agriculture and/or food systems, and be familiar with the concepts of resilience and systems thinking approaches to sustainability.
* Have experience conducting research and analysis; strong verbal and written communication skills; and experience presenting findings through presentations and graphic/visual products.
* Have proficiency with Microsoft Office, including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Publisher.
* Have the ability to work closely with key stakeholders and partners, including the agriculture industry and the B.C. Agriculture and Food Climate Action Initiative.
* (Preferable) have completed courses and/or have experience with climate science, adaptation to climate change, agriculture, natural resource management, economics, and policy analysis.
* (Preferable) have experience in environmental, natural resource, and climate adaptation policy analysis.
* (Preferable) have work experience in a government setting.
* (Preferable) have experience in assessing climate risks and familiarity with risk assessment frameworks.

**How to apply:**

Send a resume and a covering letter, explaining how you meet the position requirements, why you are interested in the position, and when you could start the 8 month term, to:

Ian McLachlan, Manager - Climate Action, Ministry of Agriculture

Email: Ian.McLachlan@gov.bc.ca Tel: (250) 356-1852

**Applications must be received on or before midnight on Monday, April 2, 2018**