



Together for Wildlife Scholarships

Overview

Wildlife is of utmost importance to British Columbia providing social, economic, environmental, and cultural benefits. B.C.'s rich natural diversity is closely linked to our way of life and it is important to ensure that wildlife and their habitats are resilient in the face of challenges like climate change. In 2020, a new provincial strategy to improve wildlife and habitat stewardship across British Columbia was initiated and called, **Together for Wildlife (T4W)**. The strategy includes additional funding, proactive objectives, and improved data and knowledge - all supported by new policies, strong partnerships, and dedicated resources.

The T4W strategy commits to 5 goals and 24 actions to achieve the following vision: *"Wildlife and their habitats thrive, are resilient, and support and enrich the lives of all British Columbians"*. Under the T4W Goal 2 - Data, information, and knowledge drive better decisions, Action 5 identifies improving support for scientific research, building stronger partnerships within research communities, and sharing results with British Columbian's as key priorities.

To achieve this outcome, T4W is providing up to 10 academic scholarships to Master's and/or PhD candidates undertaking research that will support a positive impact on stewardship, management, policy, or decision making of wildlife in BC. These scholarships aim to support reconciliation and collaboration, diversity of perspectives and building community capacity among Indigenous communities and rural areas of BC. We encourage Indigenous students to apply because of the perspectives they contribute through diversity, inclusion, and community capacity building.

Goal

Research to support positive outcomes for BC's terrestrial wildlife and habitats that seek to influence wildlife stewardship and management actions.

Deadline: May 15, 2023

Level: Master's or PhD

Award: Ten \$20k scholarships

Eligibility

- Domestic and international students attending a BC post secondary institution.
- Master's or PhD candidates only. Postdoctoral candidates are not eligible.
- No restrictions on stipend to students.
- Program can be in progress or starting in September 2023 or January 2024.
- Based at a BC university for the duration of the award or graduate program.

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Criteria

Applications will need to:

- Align with the goals and focal areas of the Together for Wildlife strategy.
- Focus on issues affecting B.C.'s wildlife and wildlife habitats, and the effective stewardship of them.
- Contribute to the enhancement of wildlife science and wildlife stewardship, management, policy, or decision making.
- Engage and communicate results with respective communities.
- Demonstrate relevant scientific/research and leadership experience including providing an unofficial transcript and curriculum vitae.

Focus areas for scholarship:

| Theme | Research Areas |
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| Reconciliation & Collaboration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application of traditional knowledge to wildlife habitat and stewardship • Braiding Traditional Ecological Knowledge and western science • Co-management and shared decision making |
| Terrestrial Ecosystems | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration and habitat enhancement including cultural practice (e.g., prescribed burning) • Conservation and management of ecosystem health and biodiversity • Impacts and management (e.g., roads, trails, human disturbance from access, invasive species, etc.) • Impacts of natural disturbance (e.g., wildfire,) • Impacts and cumulative effects of climate change. • Impacts of resource use including cumulative effects (e.g., mineral exploration) |
| Stewardship & Management (of terrestrial ecosystems, wildlife, and wildlife habitat) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects and regulation of human activities (consumptive and non-consumptive) • Wildlife-human conflict and interactions (e.g., urban wildlife) • Effectiveness of management actions, implications and efficacies of current legislation and policies (e.g., Ungulate winter range, best practices, guidelines etc.) • Community or citizen science • Data integration, sharing and management |
| Wildlife & Wildlife Habitat | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife populations and habitats • Habitat connectivity and corridors • Wildlife disease and health • Impacts and cumulative effects of climate change. • Impacts of resource use including cumulative effects (e.g., mineral exploration) |