

## RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Professor **Gordon Hickey** (Natural Resource Sciences), Professor **Steven Maguire** (University of Sydney) and **Dr. Rens van der Vegt** (Natural Resource Sciences) are now seeking motivated Research Assistants (RAs) to contribute to the international project: *Toxicogenomics and Ecological Chemical Risk Management: Implications for Policy and Regulation in Canada and Beyond*.

Pay rate:

\$14 to \$20 per hour

Based on experience and respecting collective agreements

Work location:

Regular meetings at Macdonald-Stewart Building

Macdonald Campus

Hours per week:

10 to 30 hours per week, (max. 20h for full-time students)

Start date and duration:

March 2020 for approximately 2 to 3 months

Project summary:

Chemical contamination of our ecosystems is regarded as one of the planet's greatest threats. Regulatory agencies and businesses are tasked with managing these chemicals but face significant challenges due to the sheer number of chemicals for which toxicity data are required. In fact, over 100,000 chemicals require evaluation worldwide. It has become increasingly apparent that current risk assessment strategies that rely heavily on animal testing and are prohibitively time-consuming and expensive are not able to address these regulatory mandates.

Recognizing this problem, this Research Assistantship will contribute to understanding (1) the policy and governance challenges posed by ecological chemical risk management; and (2) the processes of institutionalizing and deinstitutionalizing practices of ecological chemical risk management and the role of toxicogenomics therein.

This research is embedded in the [EcoToxChip project](#); a toxicogenomics innovation initiative led by a diverse group of university scientists and funded by Genome Canada in partnership with key government agencies and industry partners in Canada and the USA. As part of his work, the research assistant (RA) will learn about a range of issues in chemical risk assessment and environmental protection in Canada, the USA and internationally.

In collaboration with Prof. Gordon Hickey and Prof. Steve Maguire, the RAs will work under the direct supervision of Dr. Rens van der Vegt

Position Responsibilities

- Identify potential interviewees that could influence regulation or policy in relation to chemical risks;
- Submit interviews for transcription, liaise with transcription service provider, and assess the quality of individual transcriptions;
- To participate in interviews (to be determined);
- Assist in gathering and analyzing data in text documents, coding interview transcriptions and other qualitative analytical techniques;
- Assist with the organization of meetings, prepare briefs for project team members and other administrative duties as appropriate.

Requirements:

We are looking for high achieving undergraduate or graduate students with close attention to detail and an interest in environmental issues. The ideal candidate will:

- Have the ability to work independently as well as collaboratively;
- Be efficient working on text intensive and computer-based tasks;
- Be familiar with and/or interested in social science, (eco)toxicology, bioinformatics, sustainability, 'omics technologies, industry regulation, risk assessment / management / governance;
- Have a high level of proficiency in written and spoken English.

Contact: Interested individuals should send a resume/CV, unofficial copy of university transcripts and a cover letter describing their interest in the position to:

**Dr. Rens van der Vegt** ([Rens.vandervegt@mcgill.ca](mailto:Rens.vandervegt@mcgill.ca))

Postdoctoral Researcher

McGill University