

Master of Science Opportunity in Improving Equitable Access to Veterinary Care

Interviews for the position will start immediately.

We are seeking a highly motivated graduate student with an interest in improving equitable access to veterinary care for underserved communities. This position is based at the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM). The successful candidate will work under the primary supervision of Drs. Tessa Baker and Susan Kutz and with our community partners to explore the impacts of a community-based animal health program, that has the goal of improving equitable access to veterinary care, on multiple stakeholders including youth, vet students, and animals.

Access to veterinary care is an increasing challenge. Common barriers can include the accessibility, availability, and affordability of services; however, other barriers exist, including the acceptability of veterinary services. UCVM has been working with First Nation partners to improve equitable access to acceptable veterinary services since our program began. One of our partnerships has led to the development of an animal health program that seeks to increase Indigenous youth exposure to animal health sciences, improve veterinary students' development of cultural humility, and work with the community to provide accessible and acceptable preventive veterinary services.

We seek a graduate student with an interest in improving equitable access to veterinary care to join our team and explore how the current animal health program impacts access to care challenges and highlight areas for improvement. The project involves community-based work and may involve the use of surveys, interviews, chart reviews, and other methods, working together with program partners.

The ideal candidate will have:

- An interest in addressing access to veterinary care barriers and in working with First Nations communities and youth;
- Good communication skills, demonstrate good cultural competency, and be highly motivated;
- An undergraduate degree in any of the following fields: veterinary medicine, health sciences, education, social sciences or other related fields.

Funding: A stipend of \$33,000/year for two years is available for the successful candidate. Additional funds may be secured through student scholarships.

If you are interested, please email a letter of introduction describing your interests in this position and your experience, as well as a current CV with 3 references and unofficial transcript to tessa.baker1@ucalgary.ca.

Co-supervisors: Since 2016, Dr. Baker's work has sought to address access to veterinary care barriers in a variety of ways, including working with underserved communities to address animal health concerns and increase access to vet services, supporting veterinary student professional development on community-based practicums, and working with schools to increase exposure of Indigenous youth to animal health science. Dr. Kutz is a recognized leader in One Health in the Arctic and is a Tier I Canada Research Chair in Arctic One Health: Healthy Animals and Healthy Communities. She has worked extensively with Indigenous partners in the Canadian North around issues of domestic and wild animal health since 1992.