Graduate Student Internship Opportunity: Social Impact Researcher

About The Thingery
The Thingery Inc. is the parent organization of neighbourhood Thingery branches and is focused on the development of community owned lending libraries of things (a Thingery). We work with local community members to understand who wants to be involved, what items can be shared and what locations are available to host a Thingery. We then work closely with the local community group to establish a local branch (a non-profit co-operative), get site approval from local municipalities, and get the Thingeries up and running. More information is available on our website at www.thethingery.com

Roles and Responsibilities
- Acquire a deep knowledge and understanding of the Thingery and its mission
- Research the different ways to measure impact, what other organizations are doing and mainstream frameworks
- Develop a framework to analyze the Thingery’s positive and negative impacts on our Thingery organizations, members, and communities
- Select the metrics, building tools and a dashboard to collect data going forward
- Collect qualitative and quantitative data by surveying our 500+ Thingery co-operative members and 6+ Board of Directors
- Validate and analyze data to shape take-aways and questions for further research
- Develop an impact report, with presentation-ready take-aways and graphics
- Create and maintain comprehensive project documentation
- Assist with report and proposal writing

Preferred Qualifications
- Self-starter who enjoys transforming a broad mandate into a work plan, soliciting client and stakeholder feedback along the way to deliver useful insights in a compelling format
- Experience (practical or academic) with best practice in performance or impact measurement
- Has experience in qualitative and quantitative research, including developing surveys, conducting focus groups and interviews
- Experience in community engagement and facilitation
- Curiosity and excitement about the challenge of digging into the tough questions in the social impact sector
- Ability to recognize significant trends, absences, and other patterns in data to identify significant take-aways and questions for further inquiry
- A proven record for meeting deadlines

Benefits
- Be a part of building an amazing new social venture
- Grow your personal network by meeting and working with local sharing economy start-ups

Logistics
Prior to beginning the internship, the selected student, along with their academic supervisor, will apply with The Thingery for funding from Mitacs Accelerate. The position is open until filled with a desired start date in early summer 2018. The internship period is 4-6 months with the possibility of continuing beyond this timeline. The student will receive a minimum of $10,000 for the 4-6 months: $5,000 from The Thingery and $5,000 from Mitacs, plus an additional $5,000 to assist in covering the cost of research expenses. To apply for this position, please send a cover letter and CV to SFU’s Mitacs Representative Allison Brennan at abrennan@mitacs.ca.