

Volunteer Research Opportunity – Squamish Food Bank

The Squamish Food Bank is a non-profit, charitable organization, which provides food to those in need twice a month. It serves approximately 64 households every two weeks, and over 500 people per year. The Food Bank will soon be moving to a new, improved location downtown Squamish, where it will be housed with other services.

In order to inform this development, the board of the Squamish Food Bank is looking for a volunteer/volunteers to lead a research project aimed at better understanding client needs and experiences of the food bank. The volunteer(s) would lead the project from start to finish, working with the board to refine the research questions, develop a methodology, conduct the research and write a report.

Research aims include:

- a) Gathering key data to inform client services, such as what foods do clients appreciate getting; what isn't helpful/appreciated; what would they like more of; do they have dietary restrictions; what are convenient times to come to the food bank, etc.?
- b) Understanding client experiences at the food bank: what are interactions at the food bank like; is there a social benefit to their visits; do they access other services; what are there barriers to accessing the food bank, etc.?
- c) Documenting stories of clients and volunteers

Desirable Researcher Qualifications

- A bachelor's degree in Health Science, Sociology, or a related field
- Past experience working with community organizations, public health, social services etc.
- Experience conducting community-based research

For more information contact Dr. Julia Smith at jhs6@sfu.ca.