

**PhD student and/or Postdoctoral positions in marine mammal diet ecology and ecotoxicology**  
**Department of Natural Resource Sciences, McGill University**  
**Start date: Fall 2024 or ASAP**



The Ecological Change and Environmental Stressors Lab at McGill University is seeking highly motivated applicants for PhD student and/or Postdoctoral positions within the fields of diet ecology and ecotoxicology, focusing on marine mammals from the Caribbean to the Arctic. We use ecological tracers, including stable isotopes and fatty acids, to assess trophic relationships, habitat use, and feeding habits. We assess key environmental contaminants, including mercury and persistent organic pollutants. Current projects address applied questions regarding the influence of climate change on harvested toothed whales. Graduate and/or postdoctoral positions will include 1) using chemical tracers to evaluate the trophic roles of toothed whales across the North Atlantic and studying climate-driven changes, and 2) assessing concentrations of key contaminants and nutrients in harvested whales, and improving knowledge on contaminant sources and pathways via isotopic tracers. Projects will be carried out in collaboration with a team of researchers from academia, government and local organizations across the Canadian Arctic, Greenland, Faroe Islands, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Recruited candidates will have a strong work ethic, enthusiasm for the research, independent and team-work skills, and a Master's degree (or PhD for Postdocs) in a relevant discipline: natural resources, ecology, environmental chemistry, environmental toxicology, or a closely related field, and experience in at least one or more of the following:

- Stable isotopes or fatty acids extraction and analysis
- Mercury or persistent organic pollutant (e.g. PFAS) and/or vitamin analysis
- Statistical analysis of biological or environmental data (e.g., in R)
- Marine field work
- Working with local communities and organizations would be an asset.

Potential PhD students will have to apply to the Department of Natural Resource Sciences at McGill, which has strict admission standards (min. GPA of 3.0/4.0, or 3.2/4.0 in the last two years). Note that truly exceptional candidates with only a Bachelor's degree may be considered. Transcripts, letters of support, CV, and a strong personal statement are part of the application. Due to strict application deadlines, preference will be given to Canadian PhD applicants. Annual PhD student stipends will be provided, with opportunities for supplementation through applications for scholarships and teaching assistantships. Postdoctoral positions include salary plus benefits.

McGill University is Canada's premiere university for research excellence and teaching, is one of the top 50 universities worldwide, and was recently named the International Sustainability Institution of the Year. The Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences is located at McGill's Macdonald Campus, just 30 km from vibrant downtown Montreal, providing students with both urban culture and recreational opportunities. Graduate students at Mac campus are ¼ of the student body and the campus houses 8 graduate programs and 100+ faculty members. McGill University is committed to diversity and equity and welcomes applications from Indigenous persons, women, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, persons of minority sexual orientation or gender identity, visible minorities, and others who may contribute to diversification. For more information: <http://mckinneylab.weebly.com>; <https://mckinneylab.weebly.com/lab-code-of-conduct.html>; <http://mcgill.ca>; <http://mcgill.ca/nrs>

Please send a cover letter indicating your research experience and goals, a CV, and, for PhD positions, unofficial transcripts to Dr. Melissa McKinney, Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair, at [melissa.mckinney@mcgill.ca](mailto:melissa.mckinney@mcgill.ca). Please ensure to write "WhaleAdapt positions" in the subject line. Preference will be given to candidates that apply by 30 March 2024.