

## CALL FOR RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

### **“Business Journalism: Water Sustainability for Journalism Classrooms”**

**Terry Field, Janice Paskey**  
*Mount Royal University, Calgary*

### **The Project: Business Journalism: Water Sustainability**

**Preamble:** Water is a scarce resource. How it is used, who gets it and for how much are key questions for journalists.

**Research Question:** What journalism curriculum exists that can be applied to sustainability issues in Alberta (esp. pertaining to water) and what can be developed to educate journalism and business students about sustainability issues (esp. water) in Alberta?

**Deliverables:** We are proposing to review existing journalism curriculum in the field of sustainability with the end goal of developing curriculum that can be used at MRU and other Alberta institutions. The end objective is to create evidence-based journalism

modules and to produce journalists who can intelligently report on these complex issues. Our focus is on the issue of water in the province of Alberta.

**Research Assistants: Research Assistants chosen for this project will be required to conduct the following tasks:**

- Targeted Internet searching (news) and recording of results
  - Reading and extracting information from websites
  - Read and summarize some basic academic articles related to the project
  - Phone calls to interview professors about their curriculum
  - Designing Powerpoint and Class Plans for Classroom curriculum
  - Summarize findings
  - Participate in research strategy meetings
  - Perform any other project-related tasks required
- Janice Paskey and Terry Field

**Benefits to chosen 2 Research Assistants:**

- Compensation at \$15 /hr for 60 hours of work (2 hours/week X 26 weeks): \$900 plus 6.37% benefits.
- Training in conducting social science research
- An understanding of

- The opportunity to write a research paper for presentation at a conference
  - An attractive credential to put on your resume
- Ideal candidates for these positions will have some or all of the following qualities:**
- Solid academic average
    - Sincere Interest in Alberta economy, environment and politics.
    - The intention of going to graduate school in the future
  - An interest in health, water, politics and economy
  - An interest in current events, politics, sustainability, and global development
  - The ability to stick with repetitive research tasks for an extended period
  - An openness to receiving directions and instructions
  - Intellectual flexibility and curiosity

If you think you might be interested in applying for this project, please fill out the application form (next page) and email it to Janice Paskey/Terry Field by June 1st, 2014: [jpaskey@mtroyal.ca](mailto:jpaskey@mtroyal.ca)

***Project will commence September 1, 2014 (could start over summer 2014 depending on student availability).***

**Application – Research Assistant**

*Janice Paskey, Associate Professor, Journalism*

*Terry Field, Associate Professor, Journalism*

Name:

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Faculty and Major:

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Month/Year of entry into Mount Royal University:

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Outline your career plans as you now conceive of them: \_\_\_\_\_

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Can you speak/read any languages other than English? List:

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Which countries have you travelled to? List:

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Which book did you read in the past year that really

impressed you, and why? \_\_\_\_\_

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What do you see as the most serious environmental threat facing the world, and why? \_\_\_\_\_

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What do you see as the most serious environmental threat facing Canada, and why? \_\_\_\_\_

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Explain (briefly) why you would like to be involved in this project: \_\_\_\_\_

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[news]