



McGill University

Department of Geography and School of Environment

Applications are invited for a joint tenure-track position at the Assistant Professor level in the Department of Geography and the McGill School of Environment in **Urban Ecology/Sustainability** beginning on July 1, 2010. Urbanization is one of the primary processes responsible for global transformation of ecosystems and landscapes. Over half of the world's inhabitants now live in cities and the environmental footprint of urban areas extends well beyond the physical fraction of the Earth's surface they occupy. Cities themselves are complex ecosystems: they have inorganic and organic components; they provide habitat for distinct assemblages of species; they consume and transform energy and resources; they generate waste; and they are intricately connected to natural systems. At the same time, urbanization removes inhabitants from the immediate experience of supporting ecological systems making the concept of sustainability more virtual than visceral. As cities expand, their populations increasingly dwell in locations vulnerable to changes in the global environment and urban-based producers and consumers account overwhelmingly for the world's fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. A grand challenge of our times is to build knowledge of how urban places can be transformed to support human development in ways that sustain bio-physical environments, knowledge that is of critical importance given the current trajectory of global climate change.

The person who fills this position will conduct research that contributes to our understanding of how complex urban systems respond to, and in turn drive, environmental perturbations across scales from the local to global. The person would have expertise in ecology and sustainability, and in innovative approaches to achieving a sustainable interface between the urban setting and the non-urban environment.

This position will provide an important addition for undergraduate and graduate programs offered by the School of Environment (<http://www.mcgill.ca/mse/>) and the Department of Geography (<http://www.geog.mcgill.ca/>), and has the potential to contribute to programs in Sustainability Science and Urban Systems. There would also be potential interactions with other Departments with interests in the environment, such as Biology, Natural Resource Sciences, and the School of Urban Planning.

Such a position would be consistent with the inter-disciplinary Environment theme elaborated in the McGill 'White Paper': http://www.mcgill.ca/files/provost/Strengths_and_Aspirations_June_2006.pdf. It is also consistent with the greater attention to 'sustainability' that has been adopted by McGill.

Applicants must possess a Ph.D. or expect to graduate by summer 2010, and have demonstrated excellence in research, teaching and communication. Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. The successful candidate may be nominated for a Canada Research Chair in the NSERC area.

McGill University is committed to equity in employment and diversity. It welcomes applications from indigenous peoples, visible minorities, ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, women, persons of minority sexual orientations and gender identities and others who may contribute to further diversification. All qualified applicants are encouraged to apply; however, in accordance with Canadian immigration requirements, priority will be given to Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada.

Candidates should ensure that their curriculum vitae, statements of teaching specializations and research interests, up to three reprints, and letters from three referees are sent to the following address. The review of applications will begin November 1, 2009 and applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

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