



## **Gorge Waterway Action Society (GWAS)**

### **Youth Community Partnership (YCP) Training Program**

#### **Environmental Conservation Training Program - Biology Project**

The Gorge Waterway Action Society (GWAS) is seeking motivated individuals to participate in its Environmental Conservation Training Program (Biology Project).

The program runs full time for 12 weeks, from January 6, 2021 to March 31, 2021. Participants will receive on the job training and a training stipend of \$2,000 every 4 weeks (\$8,000 total).

The Program will take place in Victoria, BC, in Esquimalt Gorge Park and at Gorge Creek, and will use the Esquimalt Gorge Waterway Nature House as a headquarters.

The Biology Project training program will focus on baseline water quality data monitoring for the Creek. Specifically, participants will be trained to collect data such as temperature, dissolved oxygen, salinity, and pH, and will use sample sites that conform to prior work done on the Creek. The project will also include taking additional baseline abiotic measurements, such as storm event hydrographs and shoreline erosion rates. Participants will be trained in the planning and collecting of samples that will be sent out for analysis, such as turbidity, suspended sediment transport, coliform bacterial sampling, benthic invertebrate, hydrocarbons, and heavy metals. Participants will then be trained to synthesize and analyze this data. The project will also include conducting fauna surveys in the park. Community outreach and education will be another key part of the project. Participants will take park visitors on nature walks in the Park and along the Creek and highlight restoration work that has occurred on the Creek and share insight on the flora and fauna found in the Park and Waterway.

The program will also touch on restoration and youth focused environmental education, and may include other biology-related topics.

Participants will learn principles and field skills in the areas of biology, water quality monitoring, water quality data synthesis and analysis, plant and animal surveying, environmental education, and community engagement and outreach. Participants will develop teamwork, time management, project management, communication, leadership, problem solving, and decision making skills. Participants will also be taught health and safety practices, including COVID-19 and social distancing practices, workplace hazardous materials information, and the principles of a safe, inclusive and healthy work environment free of harassment and discrimination.

All activities will be led with proper COVID-19 protocols in place to ensure the safety of our participants, our staff and the public.



*Funding provided by the Government of Canada through  
the Canada-British Columbia Workforce Development Agreement.*



## Qualifications

Eligible participants must:

- be Canadian citizens, permanent residents, or protected persons (as designated under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act) entitled to work in Canada;
- have a Social Insurance Number (SIN) and be:
  - at least 15 years old and no older than 29 years old; and
  - unemployed, precariously employed, or underemployed in their field; and
- not currently be participating in another federally or provincially funded training program. The other program needs to be complete before this program commences.

Although not requisite, experience or education in any of the following areas considered an asset:

- Biology;
- Ecology;
- Environmental Conservation;
- Environmental Studies;
- Environmental Management;
- Restoration;
- Geography;
- Education;
- Indigenous studies;
- Working with Indigenous groups and NGOs;

The Program is also interested in assisting qualified youth applicants who self-identify as being part of a group that is underrepresented in the labour market or have additional barriers to the labour market, including Indigenous youth, women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, visible minorities, LGBTQ2 youth, recent immigrants and refugees, youth with disabilities, and youth without previous work experience.

Participants in receipt of Employment Insurance (EI) benefits or Income Assistance (IA) benefits must obtain approval before participating.

Participants in receipt of the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) and the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB) are required to work and therefore should contact the federal government regarding receipt of these benefits should they wish to participate in this program.

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Please submit your cover letter and resume to [gorgewaterway@gmail.com](mailto:gorgewaterway@gmail.com) by 11:00pm on December 18, 2020.

The GWAS YCP Environmental Conservation Training Program also has a Restoration Training Project and a Nature Interpreter Training Project, in addition to the Biology Project. You can apply for more than one training project, just in case your preferred project is full. If you apply to be a participant in more than one project, please rank the projects in your order of preference.

Information on the Gorge Waterway Action Society:

GWAS is a registered charity dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of the Gorge Waterway. Historically, GWAS assisted in cleaning up the Gorge. Today, its primary focus is youth-focused environmental education and community outreach through its operation of the Gorge Waterway Nature House, located in Esquimalt Gorge Park. Its aim is to engage and educate the public and youth in particular about local ecosystems and the environmental issues that surround us. It also conducts restoration, conservation, biology, and stewardship programs in the Gorge, taking on projects that support the ecological health of the Waterway, and operates as a steward of the Park. GWAS has also commenced delivering online environmental education content at [www.gorge.ca](http://www.gorge.ca) and on its facebook page.

Canada 



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