



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

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

#### **Environmental Conservation Training Program - Nature Interpreter Project**

The Gorge Waterway Action Society (GWAS) is seeking motivated individuals to participate in its Environmental Conservation Training Program (Nature Interpreter 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 Nature Interpreter training project will focus on developing and delivering outdoor outreach and environmental education programs, developing an online species catalogue for the Park, and creating online content such as videos about the species in the Park and in the Gorge Waterway, all aimed at youth. The outdoor outreach and education programs will include nature scavenger hunts and nature walks in the Park for the public, which will detail the plants and animals in the Park, educating local residents and visitors about environmental issues in the community and the local history of the area, including the Indigenous history, and the restoration and conservation work that is occurring and has occurred over the years. Other outdoor environmental education programs will include using a watershed model in an outdoor setting to demonstrate how pollution travels from land to the watershed and the ocean. The project would also deliver training on the operations of a small environmental charity.

The project will also touch on biology and restoration, and may include other youth-education and outreach topics.

Participants will learn principles and field skills in the areas of environmental education, ecology, community engagement and outreach, and social media and online content and communication. Participants will also develop teamwork, time management, project management, communication, leadership, problem solving, and decision making skills. Participants will also be taught appropriate health and safety practices, including appropriate 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  
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## 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:

- Environmental Education;
- Environmental Conservation;
- Environmental Studies;
- Environmental Management;
- Restoration;
- Biology;
- Ecology;
- 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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*Agreement.*

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 Biology Training Project and a Restoration Training Project, in addition to the Nature Interpreter 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.

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