

Indigenous Outreach Officer

Employer: Gorge Waterway Action Society (GWAS) Title:
Indigenous Affairs Officer

Location: Victoria, BC (Esquimalt Gorge Park)

Contract Term (tentative): May 2, 2022 – September 9, 2022 Hours &

Wage: Full time, 40 hours / week at \$16.00 / hour

As with all our summer jobs roles, this position is dependent on funding from Canada Summer Jobs grant program.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: April 15 2022 @ 11:00pm

Job Description

The Gorge Waterway is located on the territories of the Songhees and Esquimalt/Xwsepsum First Nations, who have a long history of relationship with the watershed that continues to the present day. Recently, GWAS supported an environmental education project involving youth from local First Nations. This experience further highlighted the importance to our organization of building relationships with local First Nations and Indigenous communities to ensure that our work is inclusive. We also want to make sure that the projects that we undertake, including developing interpretive materials for the Nature House, reflect the lək'wəŋən speaking peoples' long history and relationship with the area and that our restoration and interpretive work and other projects are aligned with local First Nations' visions for the waterway.

The Indigenous Outreach Officer is a new role that would support GWAS to build relationships with local First Nations, help engage Indigenous youth in caring for and connecting with the waterway and support reconciliation. **A key element of the role involves designing and implementing a small project that would support one or more of these goals. This might be an art project, creating displays for the Nature House, a research project, engaging Indigenous youth in a restoration project or hosting an event or activity in the park, for example. We would love to hear your ideas. GWAS will provide up to \$2,500 in funding towards implementing the project or event and can support the Indigenous Outreach Officer in applying for additional funding if needed.**

The role may also involve providing advice to GWAS staff and Board members to help develop an Indigenous outreach and reconciliation strategy for the organization. The ideal youth for this position has an interest in the environment and has experience living or working respectfully in Indigenous or First Nations communities. Experience developing or supporting small projects or events would be helpful for this role, as well as good communication and relationship building skills, creativity and the ability to use social media and other methods to engage Indigenous youth and communities.

Depending on their interest, there are additional opportunities to build skills in this role, for

example:

- Attend meetings with local governments, academic communities, funders, volunteers, the public and other watershed organizations with GWAS staff and Directors;
- Work with the Development and Charity Administrator to identify and apply for additional funds to support Indigenous outreach initiatives;
- Drafting newsletter updates to GWAS members and volunteers;
- Support the work of the Nature House;
- Participate in restoration projects;
- Develop brochures, flyers etc.
- Update the website and social media

Maintaining consistent and professional communication with volunteers, community groups, and co-workers will also fall under the duties of this role. The youth will also liaise with the biology, restoration, interpretation, and development teams, particularly when working on projects jointly.

Qualifications

- Knowledge of Indigenous communities
- Communications skills
- Good organizational skills

Assets

- Existing relationships to the Songhees and/or Esquimalt First Nations (e.g. a member of these communities, or have strong relationships with these communities)
- Relationships or experience working with Indigenous youth
- Experience planning and hosting events
- Experience planning, managing or supporting projects
- Experience teaching others
- Experience developing online content and managing social media
- Creativity and passion
- Understanding of local Indigenous issues, and First Nations' histories, priorities and governance structures
- Indigenous studies, Education, biology, restoration, conservation, or stewardship related fields

Eligibility

To be eligible, applicants must:

- be between 15 and 30 years of age at the start of the employment;
- be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident, or person to whom refugee protection has been conferred under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* for the duration of the employment; and
- have a valid Social Insurance Number at the start of employment and be legally entitled to work in Canada in accordance with relevant provincial or territorial legislation and regulations.

About the GWAS

The Gorge Waterway Action Society is dedicated to protecting and conserving the Gorge Waterway and the environment in general. Our primary focus is youth-focused environmental education and community outreach through the Gorge Waterway NatureHouse. Our aim is to engage and educate the general public and youth in particular about local ecosystems and the environmental issues that surround us. We also conduct restoration, conservation, biology, outreach and stewardship programs in the Gorge, taking on projects that support the ecological health of the Gorge Waterway, and we have a role in the stewardship of Esquimalt Gorge Park. We also deliver education and outreach programs outside in the Park and online.

How to Apply

Please include a resume and cover letter in one pdf as your application package. If you have an idea about a project you would like to work on in this role, or even an area of interest that you would like to explore further, please tell us a bit about it in the letter. We would also love to hear about any interests that you have such as arts, sports, education, volunteer work or cultural activities responsibilities and any skills you have developed through these activities that you think might be helpful in performing this role.

Applications will be accepted until Friday, April 15 at 11:00 pm via email to gorgewaterway@gmail.com. If you need more time to submit your application, please contact us before this date.