

Indigenous Outreach Officer

Employer: Gorge Waterway Action Society (GWAS)

Title: Indigenous Outreach Officer

Location: Victoria, BC (Esquimalt Gorge Park)

Contract Term: July 4, 2023 – August 25, 2023 (8 weeks)

Hours & Wage: Full time, 35 hours / week at \$16.75 / hour

APPLICATION DEADLINE: June 4, 2023

About 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 Nature House, located in Esquimalt Gorge Park. 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, biology, climate, and indigenous 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. See our website <http://gorge.ca/> for more information.

The Gorge Waterway Action Society (GWAS) operates primarily in the Gorge Esquimalt Park, where the Nature House is located. We understand that the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations have strong historical and present day connections with this area, and GWAS have been working with the Nations to develop this program, which ran for the first time in 2022, and which is funded through the Canada Summer Jobs program.

Job Description

We are looking for up to four youth (age 15 to 30) to work with GWAS over the summer. The ideal person for this position has an interest in the environment and has connections to local First Nations communities. Your interests and skills may include arts / creativity, communication, (written and / or oral); supporting and/or teaching children and youth; learning about nature; fishing, hunting gathering; assisting with or organizing community events; social media; biology, restoration, environmental education, or you may have other skills and interests to share.

The role can be tailored to the individual's interests. Tasks may include:

- Host the public in the Nature House as a Nature Interpreter or an Indigenous Interpreter;
- Help develop displays and interpretive content for the Nature house about the gorge waterway with Indigenous content;
- Participate in restoration projects in the Park;
- Participate in environmental monitoring and in the Gorge;
- Participate in biology projects in the Park;
- Organize cultural events or displays in the Park;
- Participate in interpretive Climate projects in the Nature House;
- Update the website and social media;
- Write newsletter updates to GWAS members and volunteers;
- Work with the Development and Charity Administrator to identify and apply for additional funds to support Indigenous outreach initiatives;
- Support GWAS to develop and implement an Indigenous Outreach and Reconciliation Strategy

There is also the opportunity to undertake a small cultural project as part of this role. GWAS has discussed some ideas with Esquimalt and Songhees Nation and have identified some potential projects in Appendix 1 below. You are also welcome to propose your own project ideas.

Supports for Interns

GWAS has been hiring summer students for a number of years and you will be working alongside other youth interns in this role. A summer intern coordinator will support you in deciding what you would be interested in working on, help plan out your time and be a contact for you daily.

GWAS also will employ an “Auntie” or “Uncle” Indigenous Supervisor from Esquimalt or Songhees Nation, as it did last year, to support and mentor the Indigenous Outreach Officers and provide a connection to the Nations.

Location

Some work (e.g. restoration and monitoring) will be outside in the Park. You may also be working inside the Nature House. Some of our summer interns work part of their time on the computer at home or at a location of their choice. There is also a computer in the Nature House which may be used by the interns if needed.

Eligibility

To be eligible for Canada Summer Jobs roles, 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.

How to Apply

Send a brief resume and cover letter to gorgewaterway@gmail.com. Please write Indigenous Outreach Officer in the subject line. Save the resume and cover letter as one PDF. Please use your full name AND job title as the PDF's file name (JohnSam_IndigenousOutreachOfficer.pdf for example). We will contact you to set up a conversation to talk more about the role.

In your letter we would love to hear about any interests that you have such as arts, education, volunteer work, cultural activities, and any skills you have developed through these activities that you think might be helpful in this role. We are also interested in the skills you would like to build in this role. Also let us know if you have a project that you would be interested in working on – see Appendix 1 or propose a project of your own.

Appendix 1

Potential Indigenous Outreach Officer project ideas:

- Hosting a workshop or small event for Indigenous youth and/or communities in the park
- Creating new Indigenous focused displays for the Nature House, with input from local First Nations
- An Indigenous focused restoration or monitoring project in the park
- Identifying local Indigenous products / services that can be promoted in the Nature House
- Identifying ideas for new signage and art projects for the park with input from local First Nations
- Planning an event for Indigenous Peoples day