

## **Cowichan Community Land Trust**

### **Quw'utsun WELL: *Watershed Experiential Learning Lab***

Currently in the Cowichan Region (Unceded Coast Salish Territory) most of the watershed terrain within which our freshwater travels is privately owned. We must accelerate the awareness, engagement, and action of local land owners and multi-age residents in the community, especially the youth who will need to be engaged in this important work into the future. To do this we need to open doors and work together with the Quw'utsun Hwulmuhw people that have been tenders of this land since time immemorial.

Start date Early fall 2021-March 31, 2023

#### Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Awareness building in our community around the urgent need to (and how to) preserve and recover the health and capacity of our watersheds. As a large percentage of interconnected watershed systems are within privately owned forest and residential lands in our area, this means increasing the awareness and engaging the action of the whole community.

##### Objectives:

- Building community relationships through sharing Indigenous knowledge and community place-based learning initiatives that provide cultural understanding, stewardship practices, and restoration activities.
- Elder and Indigenous Ecological Knowledge expert Ken Elliot will be the focal educator through videos and other online and outdoor experiences.
- Local Quw'utsun artist Shawn Johnny will develop graphics
- Indigenous-led Salish Eye film production company would be contracted for videography (if available)
- These will be developed and offered in a virtual Watershed Experiential Learning Lab through videos and other digital resources

#### Goal 2: Coordinating action

##### Objectives:

- Creating neighbourhood networks of volunteers in activities such as Streamkeepers groups
- Inspiring involvement by increased visibility of the networks of neighbours in community
- Engagement will occur online and in person outdoors and physically distanced when appropriate.

#### Goal 3: Connecting stewardship corridors

##### Objectives:

- Establishing corridors of stewardship through creation of Stewardship agreements with landowners and residents (digitally map areas covered by these agreements to demonstrate reach and inspire further commitments)
- Providing education and support to help the community stewards meet their commitments to preservation and restoration
- Develop an interactive online community network that community stewards can participate in beyond the project timelines to share knowledge, help each other, and inspire new initiatives