



# Cowichan Watershed Board

## Summer Job Posting: Roving River Reporters



**About Us:** The Cowichan Watershed Board is a local governance model created in 2010 to provide leadership for sustainable water management in the Cowichan/Koksilah watersheds, ancestral home of the Quw'utsun First Nation. The CWB is co-chaired by Cowichan Tribes and the Cowichan Valley Regional District and represents a unique partnership between First Nations and local government. Through this model, Cowichan Tribes and the CVRD work together to advance whole-of-watershed health, demonstrating a commitment to moving down the path of reconciliation. Halalt First Nation is a full partner in this project, coordinating all efforts in the Chemainus Watershed.

**About the Job:** Our education outreach programs are engaging, entertaining, and compelling. Our goal is to foster watershed understanding and connections, and build a positive culture of conservation and respect. Past outreach teams have included fun characters like super-hero "Water Woman", knowledge-builders "Watershed Ed" and "Raindrop", and most recently the "Leaky Hosers," who taught us water-wise gardening. <https://www.facebook.com/CowichanWaterChallenge>

This year's team will bring a 6 foot Coast Salish designed Chinook salmon mascot to life, as a captivating symbol of hope and commitment for the future of wild salmon in the Cowichan watershed, and respect for indigenous ways of knowing. Tasks include:

- Create a fun "roving reporter" duo with the mascot to (safely) visit scientists, artists, and forest restoration field crews outdoors around the watershed. See project outline next page.
- Speak with indigenous elders, online if necessary, about their perspectives on salmon, watersheds, and interconnections. Weave indigenous ways of knowing into the program by sharing language, stories, and interviews with indigenous knowledge holders.
- Create and publish online outreach tools to engage broad audiences, including: create 15-20 short video interviews with scientists and others on location; post 100 photos of people at work to protect the watershed(s) with captions; provide tech support for 12 Q&A webinars with scientists and knowledge holders to build public understanding; create other engaging ways to share what you learn through online tools like Doodly, ArcGIS Storymaps, and blogs.
- Assist the Cowichan Watershed Board with other outreach formats such as media articles, websites, ENewsletters, an outreach postcard, and other communications as needed and as time allows.
- Respect all communications protocols and agreements, including Halalt First Nation, Cowichan Tribes First Nation, and the program funder, Habitat Conservation Trust Fund.



## **Qualifications**

The successful candidates will have some or all of these attributes and qualifications:

- Fun, creative, curious and flexible. This job is about shining a spotlight on the good work being done in our watersheds this summer to understand and protect salmon habitats, in quick, engaging online formats.
- Interest in ecosystems and salmon health. An educational background in ecology, biology, climate science, or a related field is an asset but not necessary.
- Skills in communications, journalism, film, acting, public speaking and/or interviewing.
- Hul'q'umi'num' speaking skills.
- Willingness to be on camera, possibly to wear a mascot suit, and to be seen on social media and websites.
- Physical ability to hike to off-trail field work locations, and to share in carrying and possibly wearing a heavy mascot costume.
- Skills with creating fun social media feeds, and editing websites (WordPress).
- Proven ability to work independently, or with a team, with light supervision.
- Prompt, prepared, motivated and collaborative.
- Available to work 400 hours throughout the summer, including some weekends and evenings, beginning in mid-April.

## **Wage/ Hours/ Location**

- Wage is \$18-\$22/hour commensurate with experience and position offered.
- 400 hours total over 20 weeks. Hours will be variable, with up to 35 hours a week from mid-April to Labour Day weekend, including some weekends. Work hours will be influenced by the schedules of the people you are interviewing.
- The Watershed Board does not have an office. Work will take place in a combination of on-location sites in river corridors and elsewhere throughout the Cowichan Region and your own home using your computer or phone work. You will be required to provide your own home workspace, phone, and computer without additional compensation.
- Transportation to and from field study/interview locations is required. Mileage will be reimbursed.
- First Aid training will be provided in late April.
- CoVid Safety protocols will be followed.

**Application Deadline:** Immediate. We are seeking to fill these positions by mid-April.

Preference will be given to indigenous and youth candidates.

Please send a cover letter or introductory video with your resume, including 2 reference contacts to:

**Jill Thompson, [jill@cowichanwatershedboard.ca](mailto:jill@cowichanwatershedboard.ca) / 250-709-0492**

Applications will be confirmed upon receipt but only those being considered for the position will be invited for an interview.

# Twinned Watersheds Project

## Public Outreach Description

We will implement a fun online communications program, using videos, social media and a large Chinook salmon mascot that was custom built for us last year by a Coast Salish artist.

The 'roving reporter' crew will visit the sites where field studies are happening with the chinook to interview the project scientists and field technicians on the job about what questions they are trying to answer and why, any key observations they can share. Topics such as 'What are EFlows?' "Why do fish



need trees?" and "Where do fish go in summer?" will be addressed by the scientists in the field where they can demonstrate their lesson. The team will produce and upload short videos weekly to spread the word about the good work being done to improve the outlook for wild salmon in our river ecosystems.

Time permitting, the team will also visit other watershed stewardship projects such as: the Somenos Marsh where volunteers will be planting riparian corridors and removing invasive species; Cowichan lake and estuary where artists will be painting outdoors; Koksilah Connections citizen science project, and flood prevention work being done by First Nations in both the Koksilah and Chemainus Rivers.

The crew will consist of two people including combined skills of a charismatic interviewer and online outreach/social media specialist, with shared duties as chinook mascot. Online polls, action challenges, and "likes, tweets and snaps" will be used to measure the reach of our work. CoVid 19 safety precautions will be followed consistent with Provincial Health guidance.

### Target Audiences

**Community members of Cowichan Tribes and Halalt First Nation:** the project will share stories of how Cowichan Tribes and Halalt First Nation are taking leadership for watershed solutions in their territories with the support of other levels of government. The Coast Salish designed Chinook salmon mascot will help represent the indigenous foundations of this work. Hiring preference will be given to members of local indigenous communities. Key messages will amplify the Quw'utsun teaching that *Mukw' stem 'o' slhilhukw'tul* (Everything is interconnected) and teach *hul'q'umi'num'* phrases.

**Residents of Cowichan Region:** this project will improve the understanding and assurance of local residents that work is underway to plan to address the worst impacts of drought in our watersheds. Residents will learn from talented field scientists about local watershed ecology. They will hear and see what is needed to support wild salmon abundance and what can be done to restore health.

**Stewardship community:** The online sharing of stories from the field will help build interconnections and share knowledge between the many organizations contributing to a healthier future for wild salmon in this region. Time permitting and where safe to do so, the outreach team will also visit the meetings, work parties, and field sites of these groups to share their stories as well.