



## Summer 2024 Internship Opportunity

Title

Cowichan Watershed Board (CWB)

The Cowichan Watershed Board (CWB) is a local governance model created in 2010 to provide leadership for sustainable water management in the Cowichan/Koksilah watershed, ancestral home of the Quwutsun First Nation. The CWB is co-chaired by Cowichan Tribes and the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) 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.

A decade ago, the BC Ministry of Environment (BCMOE) laid out water quality objectives for the Cowichan-Koksilah watersheds. This decision was prompted by concerns arising from previous findings indicating water quality issues in the lower Koksilah, Cowichan Bay tributaries, and the Cowichan Bay Estuary. Failure to meet these water quality targets became a concern for human health, the well-being of aquatic life, and even groundwater quality, including instances of contaminated wells in the lower Cowichan River area. As a result, one of the main priorities for the Cowichan Watershed Board (CWB) and its partners became to address the BCMOE's observations of pollution levels exceeding the set objectives for the Cowichan-Koksilah rivers.

Attainment sampling plays a vital role in the CWB's overarching goal of achieving healthier water quality, thereby ensuring a safe and sustainable environment for recreational, traditional, and cultural activities.

By monitoring and tracking changes in water quality over time, we gain valuable insights that inform decision-making processes, guide research endeavors, and drive community initiatives. These efforts are directed toward the common objective of improving water quality for the benefit of human well-being, the preservation of wildlife, and the health of aquatic ecosystems.

To effectively track and monitor water quality over time, the MOE initiated a two-component monitoring program in 2012. This program involves a short-term, intensive water quality monitoring program at specific sites within the watershed, conducted every five years. Testing water at regular intervals over time throughout the watershed holds significance in assessing changes in water



quality over time. Furthermore, it is essential to evaluate the effectiveness of programs and initiatives aimed at improving overall water health.



A publicly digestible report that synthesizes and analyzes the water quality monitoring work that has been done by the Cowichan Watershed Board over the past 10 years.

If the scholar is interested, we would also consider a presentation to the Cowichan Watershed Board on their findings but this wouldn't be a requirement of the role.

We envision the scholar setting their own work schedule, with the support of their CWB mentor, and likely utilizing the full time periods of May 1st - August 15th to complete their work.

Excellent research and writing skills

Demonstrated interest in sustainability and reconciliation

Statistical analysis

Strong analytical skills

Critical thinking skills

Ability to work independently

Demonstrated experience in water quality testing

Familiarity with benchmarking methods and tools



Please note that we are requesting full funding for this internship opportunity.

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