Clean
Inspiring Environmental Change
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Job Description – Clean Leadership 2019 Program

Summary of the Program

The Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps (Youth Corps) was established in 1989 to provide Nova Scotian youth with training and employment opportunities in the environmental field. This program engages community partners across the province to hire students to carry out work that enhances the local environment through the summer months. Clean Foundation and the Government of Nova Scotia announced in September 2017 the official re-branding of the Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps as the **Clean Leadership Program**. The Clean Leadership program provides Nova Scotian youth with environmental work experience, an enhanced appreciation of the environment and their community, and develops skills for life-long learning (including team-building and leadership skills, increased knowledge for future employment and/or education ventures, program evaluation techniques, and the ability to give back to their community and their environment.

Job Title - **Research Project Assistant**
Wage - $15.00/hr

Summary of Position

The community partner for this Summer Student Intern position through the Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps (Youth Corps) will be the Dynamic Environment and Ecosystem Health Research (DEEHR) Group at Saint Mary's University, reporting to Dr. Linda Campbell. In this position, you will be mainly responsible for assisting with research and field work at wetland sites round Nova Scotia and ecotoxicology testing in the DEEHR laboratories. Our work at the DEEHR Lab currently focuses on researching wetland sites that have been contaminated from historical gold mining activates. The successful candidate needs to be comfortable with working long hours outdoors (in a variety of weather conditions), indoors with repetitive laboratory processes, be physically fit with the ability to lift up to 50 lbs, and be willing to work with invertebrate species.

Community Partner

Saint Mary's University integrates multiple approaches in their research from diverse fields such as environmental chemistry, aquatic ecology, fish biology and population health. Our ultimate goal is to improve our understanding of the fate and effects of anthropogenic and natural toxicants in aquatic ecosystems and the way humans interact with aquatic environments.

Duties and Responsibilities

Our work this spring/summer will include site visits to 6-7 wetland ecosystems within Nova Scotia, which have been impacted by historic gold mines located nearby. At these sites we will be collecting invertebrate and sediment samples, and water chemistry data. We will also be conducting invertebrate ecotoxicology experiments to assess the potential feasibility of low-dose in-situ remediation approaches for reducing toxicity of gold mine sediments and soil. All samples

will be prepared for analysis for mercury, arsenic, and other contaminates to assess the ecological damage and bioaccumulation of contaminants happening in these areas.

Other duties of the intern(s) will include lab work (such as washing glassware, general lab cleaning, assisting in the preparation and analysis of the collected samples). Tasks may also include assisting in literature reviews and developing a poster presentation on the topic of environmental consequences of historic god mining activities. The DEEHR group typically also assigns an independent mini-project to each 15-week intern after 2-3 weeks as well.

Requirements/Qualifications

These are the qualifications that are necessary for someone to be considered for the position.

- Must be willing to work potentially long hours outdoors in a variety of weather conditions.
- Must be able to lift up to 50 lbs.
- Must be willing to work with invertebrates (all technical skills will be trained).
- Must be comfortable working in wetland environments (i.e. potentially very wet and muddy).
- Must be able to work long hours in laboratory settings and maintain accuracy with protocols.
- Must be able to work well in both close team environments and individually.
- Experience with field work is an asset.
- Experience with lab work is an asset.
- Experience with animal care especially invertebrates is an asset.
- Experience/knowledge in environmental science and/or ecotoxicology is an asset.
- First aid and/or wilderness remote first aid experience is an asset.
- Must be a Canadian citizen or legally entitled to work in Canada;
- Must be between the ages of 15 and 30;
- Must be a full-time student and intending to return to school in fall 2018;
- Is not a member of immediate family of community partner;
- Have an aptitude for safe work practices and the ability to multi-task in a busy work environment;
- Be able to work productively as part of a team while responding to feedback;
- Demonstrates interest in future employment in the environmental or ‘green’ sector is considered an asset;

Working Conditions

Working conditions will include periods of intensive field work, which will include long hours working outdoors in wetland ecosystems. Applications must be willing to work outdoors in a variety of weather conditions, and have proper gear (i.e. rain gear, proper close-toed shoes), to do so. Working in laboratory settings will also be a major component of the position(s) and ability to pay attention to detail, take accurate notes and work with a team is also important.

Physical Requirements

This position may be physically demanding, and applicants must be able to lift up to 50 lbs. Laboratory work may require standing for extended periods (e.g. pipetting, analyses) and sitting for extended periods (e.g. microscopy work). However, accommodation can be provided if needed.