



WORKING GROUP ON INDIGENOUS FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

Cwelcwelt Kuc “We are Well” Garden Manager - Job Posting

Are you passionate about Indigenous food sovereignty, cultural revitalization, and reconnecting communities with the land? The **Cwelcwelt Kuc - "We Are Well" Garden** is looking for a **Garden Manager** to lead the growing program development and implementation, as well as the day to day maintenance and operations. This is a unique project rooted in Secwepemc land and culture based knowledge, wisdom and values, and is your chance to make a lasting impact by advancing food sovereignty and foodland conservation from an Indigenous gaze. This position is a unique opportunity to demonstrate and create spaces for learning about the interconnectedness between Indigenous food sovereignty, health and wellbeing, and conservation.

Background

The Working Group on Indigenous Food Sovereignty (WGIFS) was founded in 2006 out of a recognized need to carry Indigenous voice and vision in food systems research, action, and policy. The WGIFS has since become an internationally recognized grassroots organization consisting of Indigenous knowledge holders, scholars, researchers, practitioners, representatives of community, regional, tribal and inter tribal networks and non-profit organizations. Our work has been foundational to the building of an [Indigenous Food Systems Network](#) consisting of social actors who see the critical need to reconceptualize frameworks for food security indicators and foodland conservation within a more holistic, regenerative life-giving, Indigenous paradigm.

Duties & Responsibilities

- **Garden Management:** Oversee all aspects of garden planning, planting, harvesting, and maintenance, using Indigenous permaculture and regenerative practices.
- **Community Engagement:** Work with the project team to facilitate programs for growing, harvesting, sharing, and caring for food, rooted in Secwepemc traditions and values. Engage community members in the 4 key principles of Indigenous food sovereignty and development of stewardship protocols for Secwepemc foodland and water conservation protocols.
- **Education and Awareness:** Promote Secwepemc food sovereignty and highlight the importance of culturally relevant, healthy foods.
- **Team Leadership:** Recruit, supervise, and mentor garden workers, volunteers, and students, fostering collaboration and cultural safety.

- **Event Planning:** Support community food-sharing and trading events, and develop market planning and surplus produce sales if feasible.
- **Record Keeping:** Maintain logs of garden activities, seed inventories, and climate change data.
- **Fundraising Support:** Assist with grant writing and fundraising to sustain and grow the project.

Qualifications

- Expertise in decolonizing regenerative, or Indigenous permaculture garden design and management. Preferably 3-5 years of related experience.
- Lived experience or demonstrated commitment and ability to work with Indigenous leadership, building trust and solidarity.
- Ability to manage staff, volunteers, and students in a culturally safe and inclusive way.
- Strong skills in planning, record-keeping, and assisting with fundraising efforts.
- Trauma-informed and decolonial approach to working with communities.

Preference will be given to Indigenous candidates. Non-Indigenous applicants will be considered if they have a demonstrated commitment and ability to work in solidarity with Indigenous grassroots leadership and communities - 2 professional references required.

Why Join Us?

- Be part of a groundbreaking initiative that blends Indigenous and Secwepemc knowledge, wisdom and values with agricultural practices to reclaim food sovereignty.
- Work in a stunning natural environment that supports community wellness and cultural revitalization.
- Situated on prime # 1 agricultural land that holds a rich history of Secwepemc food sovereignty and biocultural heritage in the Neskonlith, Adams and Shuswap Lakes watershed.
- Contribute to creating programs that empower the Secwepemc Nation and future generations.
- An opportunity to appreciate and build upon a long legacy of environmental and political activism.
- Free on-site accommodation (once the timber frame cabin is completed), allowing you to live and work where your contributions make the most impact.
- Work on prime agricultural land that's also an important bird migration zone and habitat for culturally significant species like Elk, deer, berries, medicinal plants etc...
- Contribute to the development of Indigenous foodland conservation field school.
- Help foster land-based healing and learning for Secwepemc youth, families, and extended networks.

Ready to Plant the Seeds of Change?

Join us in shaping a future rooted in the oldest living biocultural memory of what it means to live sustainably on Secwepemc territory. Apply today to lead the way in this transformative journey.

Terms of the Contract

Discipline: Indigenous Permaculture, Eco-cultural Restoration, Indigenous Food Sovereignty

Duration: Start February 24, 2025 to Nov 28, 2025 plus potential to renew in March 1, 2026

Remuneration: \$35/hour x 40 hours/week X 40 weeks

Transportation: Transportation and a valid driver's license is required. A ¾ ton truck can be provided for occasional use as needed.

Housing: Housing may be available at a minimal cost prior to the completion of the timber frame cabin being built at the garden.

Location: Neskonlith IR #1, Secwepemc territory (Chase, BC).

Application Deadline: Until filled

To Apply

- Applicants should submit a resume and cover letter as a single pdf attachment, with the file name: last name, first name. The 1-page cover letter should state your interest and key qualifications, address the letter to:
 - Dawn Morrison, Founder/Curator, Research and Relationships, Working Group on Indigenous Food Sovereignty.
- Email your application to dawn.morrison@wgifs.org by January 31, 2025
- Applications will be reviewed as they are received and will continue until suitable candidates are identified. We regret that we will not be able to personally respond to all applications.