

Lakes Secwepemc Foodland Conservation Society
6006 Rocky Heights Road
P.O Box 1285
Chase BC, V0E 1M0

Coyote Brings the Food Home

Enacting Secwepemc food sovereignty through Yiri7 re stsq'ey's-kucw

Research Associate - Job Posting

Organization

The Lakes Secwepemc Foodland Conservation Society is a Secwepemc/Indigenous led not for profit society. Our purpose is to research and advocate for Secwepemc foodland conservation through integrated strategies of protecting, conserving, and regenerating Secwepemc biocultural heritage. The Board of Directors consists of members of the extended family networks of the Secwepemc Nation, and is developing research, education, and proposals for policy, planning and governance that upholds our sacred responsibilities to the land, water, culture, spirituality and future generations.

We are looking for a **Research Associate** to join our team. This role is ideal for someone who values Indigenous food sovereignty, community-based research, and the application of Secwepemc laws and oral histories (Stseptekwle). You'll work closely with knowledge holders, community members, and our advisory circle to bring Indigenous governance to life through meaningful research and action.

Key Responsibilities

As a Research Associate, you'll play a key role in bringing Secwepemc knowledge to the forefront of environmental governance. Working closely with a Research Curator, a Lakes Secwepemc Advisory Circle and community, you will:

- **Conduct Oral History Research:** Gather and document Stseptekwle (Secwepemc oral histories) to understand and apply Yiri7 re stsq'ey's-kucw (customs and laws).
- **Engage the Community:** Facilitate meaningful conversations with Elders, knowledge holders, and subsistence harvesters (hunters, fishers, farmers, and gatherers) to ensure the research is grounded in community wisdom.
- **Support Ethical Research Practices:** Develop research protocols, timelines, and accountability frameworks that honor Secwepemc traditions, ethics, and ways of knowing. Support the creation of ethical spaces in legal and policy discussions to challenge settler colonial systems.
- **Mobilize Knowledge:** Plan and execute a membership drive to build networks that support conservation efforts and food sovereignty.
- **Leverage Partnerships:** Collaborate with organizations like the Working Group on Indigenous Food Sovereignty (WGIFS) to strengthen collective action and advocacy.

- **Analyze and Share Findings:** Help analyze oral histories, draft reports, and create presentations to share research insights with the community and beyond. Assist with drafting peer-reviewed articles and transformative evaluation methodologies rooted in Secwepemc values.
- **Promote Indigenous Governance:** Contribute to the development of frameworks and policies that challenge colonial systems and uplift Indigenous rights and knowledge.

Main Areas of Focus:

- Indigenous Law and Governance
 - Critical Indigenous Studies
 - Decolonial and Anti-Colonial Practices
 - Land-Based Pedagogies
 - Biocultural Heritage
 - Indigenous Food Systems and Food Sovereignty
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Deliverables

You'll help achieve key outcomes by:

- Developing a research matrix, plan, and timeline.
- Coordinating meetings with the Circle of Advisors and community participants.
- Conducting literature reviews on co-management and governance of foodlands.
- Mapping the relational dynamics between social actors to understand their impact on Indigenous food sovereignty.
- Drafting progress reports, articles, and presentations to share knowledge widely.
- Honouring and uplifting Indigenous wisdom by holding research to the highest standards rooted in our ways of knowing and being.


Qualifications


- A Master's or Ph.D. in Indigenous law, governance, critical Indigenous studies, environmental resource management, education, or a related field.
- Experience with decolonizing research methods and oral history.
- A strong background in social and environmental justice research.
- Secwepemc or Indigenous identity (preferred) or lived experience working with Indigenous communities.
- A valid driver's license or the ability to travel to Chase, BC.
- Access to a personal office setup (computer, software, and workspace).


Secwepemc Indigenous applicants preferred. Non-Indigenous applicants will be considered only with a deep comprehensive understanding and ability to work in a


Secwepemc/Indigenous and decolonial relationship based approach.

Why Join Us?

 **Purpose-Driven Work:** Contribute to protecting and revitalizing Secwepemc lands, waters, and culture for future generations.

 **Community-Centered:** Work directly with Elders, knowledge holders, and community members to honor and apply traditional knowledge.

 **Flexible Work Environment:** Enjoy a combination of remote work and meaningful time spent in community and on the land in Secwepemc territory.

 **Meaningful Impact:** Help shape policies and practices that challenge colonial systems and uplift Indigenous sovereignty.

Status: Full time employment (one year term) with potential to renew pending future funding.

Start Date: Negotiable

End Date: Negotiable dependent on start date

Location: Negotiable, requires travel to Secwepemc territory (Chase, BC). Expected to work in the community at least 50% - 75% of the time.

Remuneration: \$76,560.00 plus Mandatory Employment Related Costs (MERC). Additional travel expenses will be reimbursed.

35 hour work week with flexibility to work on some evenings and weekends.

Location: The successful candidate will be responsible to have their own computer, office equipment and stable wifi connection when working remotely. Accommodation and office space will be provided when working on location in the community.

How to Apply

Applications should be submitted in a pdf attachment by email to dawn.morrison@wgifs.org with the subject "Coyote Brings the Food Home - Enacting Secwepemc food sovereignty through Yirí7 re stsq'ey's-kucw", and file name "LastName.FirstName.pdf", and should include:

- 1-page cover letter stating your interest and key qualifications
- CV including contact information for 3 references, and
- 1-3 writing samples (e.g. recent peer-reviewed publications).

Application Deadline: Resumes will be reviewed as they are received.