

Indigenous Initiatives Coordinator

The Vancouver Botanical Gardens Association (VBGA) is a charitable not-for-profit. Our mission is to engage people of all ages and walks of life in the importance of biodiversity to our lives, and to foster a lifelong love of plants and gardens by virtue of their participation in our programs and services. Our work takes place at VanDusen Botanical Garden and Bloedel Conservatory.

The Role:

The VBGA Truth and Reconciliation Project aims to include Indigenous perspectives within our environmental programming, including natural and cultural heritage, world views, and traditional ecological knowledge, while highlighting and complementing our existing collections and resources at the Garden. The Project will work towards Truth and Reconciliation initiatives at VanDusen Botanical Garden and Bloedel Conservatory.

The Indigenous Initiatives Coordinator will interact with various audiences including, but not limited to, children registered in summer camps, school field trips, community groups, volunteer Garden guides, VBGA and Park Board staff, and other Garden visitors. They will work towards building meaningful and reciprocal relationships with the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tseil-Waututh) Nations, on whose unceded land our work takes place.

Responsibilities

- Become familiar with VanDusen Botanical Garden and Bloedel Conservatory collections, specifically with collections related to Indigenous heritage such as the Medicine Wheel, Medicinal Garden, story poles, Cascadia Garden, and library resources.
- In collaboration with the education team, develop and lead educational programs, tours and activities for various audiences including children and adults.
- Build relationships with Indigenous communities based on respect, understanding and mutual trust with a respect for protocol, custom, culture, and history.
- Identify potential areas for improved Indigenous inclusion and collaboration.

Qualifications and experience

- Preference will be given to Indigenous candidates with lived cultural experiences
- Experience and/or training with Indigenous perspectives, an appreciation of generational knowledge, and understanding of the distinct and unique connections Indigenous Peoples have with the land and environment
- Comfortable delivering educational programs to diverse audiences including children and adults
- Strong customer service and communication skills

Assets:

- Familiarity with Indigenous focused programs in the Lower Mainland
- Knowledgeable and interested in plants, botany, ecology and/or gardening

Salary to commensurate with experience

Start Date and Hours: November 2021; Part-time 17.5 hours per week

Submit cover letter and resume to: Chantal Martin, Director of Education

cmartin@vandusen.org