

Job Title: School Gardens Program Assistant

Organization: SPEC – Society Promoting Environmental Conservation

Founded in 1969, The Society Promoting Environmental Conservation (SPEC) is a non-profit charitable organization that addresses environmental issues in British Columbia, with a particular focus on urban communities. Areas of work include local food security, zero waste, renewable energy and protection of local land and water resources. Visit the website at www.spec.bc.ca for more information on SPEC's programs and initiatives.

Work tasks and responsibilities:

The School Gardens Program Assistant will work to with the SPEC team to support the school garden community groups that maintain the food gardens during the summer months. The student will regularly visit the different school gardens to weed, water and engage with community groups involved in garden maintenance.

The **School Gardens Program** (<http://spec.bc.ca/school-gardens>) is an initiative run out of 12 Vancouver schools with varying socio-economic and cultural composition. This year will see the programs 8th year as it continues to expand. It brings school children from Elementary to Secondary age and community members with various backgrounds, to work on a shared project that improves personal and environmental health. It engages participants and the community in a shared project that has them outside getting fresh air, learning new skills and sharing knowledge, producing and consuming fresh local organic produce and putting an environmental solution into practice with tangible results. The student will coordinate with School Gardens Program schools in order to provide educational opportunities for school teams and the surrounding community while assisting with the maintenance of organic food gardens during the summer.

Skills development and career enhancement opportunities for student intern

The student will learn and/or strengthen skills and knowledge in:

- Gardening and urban agriculture,
- Community engagement
- Interpersonal skills
- Non-profit operations

For a student looking to work in Vancouver's environmental and community development non-profit communities or within the field of urban agriculture this will be an invaluable opportunity for networking and skill building.

To learn more about SPEC please visit www.spec.bc.ca

Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in the Canada Summer Jobs initiative, individuals must:

- be between 15 and 30 years of age at the start of the employment;

- have been registered as full-time students in the previous academic year and intend to return to school on a full-time basis in the next academic year;
- be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident, or person to whom refugee protection has been conferred under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act⁶; and,
- be legally entitled to work in Canada in accordance with relevant provincial/territorial legislation and regulations.
- the job requires having a Criminal Record Check done.

Skills and Qualifications:

- Passion for urban agriculture and environmental conservation
- Sound food growing experience;
- Experience and interest in working with school aged children and their families;
- Outreach and or engagement experience;
- Capable and willing to travel across the city in summer months, preferably via bicycle or public transportation;
- Capable of heavy lifting including garden implements, hoses, etc.

Additional Qualifications:

- Lesson or activity planning experience for school aged youth;
- Graphic design experience;

Hours and Wage

30 hours a week at \$12/hour, starting May 29 and running until September 3 (14 weeks).

To apply, please send your resume and cover letter to admin@spec.bc.ca by 10 AM, Monday May 8.

Please note that position availability is contingent upon funding.