Job Title: Urban Agriculture Facilitator

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 Urban Agriculture Facilitator will work to increase educational opportunities in the area of urban agriculture through the SPEC's School Gardens Program and supporting other SPEC programs such as the Urban Farmer Field School. The student will:

- Provide support to the school garden community groups that maintain the food gardens during the summer months;
- Support the Urban Farmer Field School Coordinator through promotion, administration and coordination of the classes.

The School Gardens Program (http://spec.bc.ca/school-gardens) is an initiative run out of 8 Vancouver schools with varying socio-economic and cultural composition. This year will see the program's 6th 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 Project 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.

The Facilitator will assist with SPEC's other programs when possible. This includes the Urban Farmer Field School (http://spec.bc.ca/uffs), which is entering its third year. This program consists of a comprehensive series of hands-on courses in every aspect of food production, including agriculture, crop and business planning, seed saving, and preserving. Classes are divided between classroom theory and practical learning. The program looks to encourage urban dwellers with limited resources to grow their own food and learn about the benefits of eating local. The program also provides career training and work experience for those looking to enter the growing field of urban agriculture in Vancouver. The intern could assist with administration of the Urban Farmer Field School courses including managing registration and promotion. S/he will also explore community partnerships and build capacity for 2014 and 2015, promote program events through social media, community outreach, and connections with SPEC's School Gardens Program.
Skills development and career enhancement opportunities for student intern

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

- Community engagement,
- Gardening and urban agriculture,
- Interpersonal skills
- Event planning and facilitation,
- Non-profit operations,
- Business/Social Enterprise planning,
- Marketing.

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](http://www.spec.bc.ca)

Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in the CSJ 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 Act; and,
- be legally entitled to work in Canada in accordance with relevant provincial/territorial legislation and regulations.

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;
- Computer proficiency including writing and social media;
- 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;
- Volunteer management.

Hours and Wage

35 hours a week at $12/hour, starting May 26th and running until August 29th (14 weeks)

To apply, please send your resume and cover letter to admin@spec.bc.ca by 4 PM, May 12th, 2014.