

Our Vision

Ch'íyáqtel (Tzeachten First Nation) remains the keepers of our traditional territories, this responsibility being passed on to us by our ancestors and exercised through sound cultural, environmental, and socio-economic stewardship.

Position Summary

Working closely with the Food Sovereignty Coordinator, the Head Grower supports food security, sustainable agriculture, and community self-sufficiency within Ch'íyáqtel. The role contributes to the development, maintenance, and expansion of food sovereignty initiatives including greenhouse production, community gardens, and other land-based food programs. Responsibilities include crop planning, cultivation, monitoring, and harvesting while maintaining productive and sustainable growing environments. The Head Grower is responsible for daily crop care in the greenhouse and gardens, including Integrated Pest Management (IPM), soil health, irrigation and nutrient management, and environmentally responsible and organic growing practices. The position also supports community engagement through workshops, garden days, and educational opportunities that promote food knowledge and land-based learning. All duties and responsibilities are carried out in accordance with Ch'íyáqtel's policies, standards, and procedures, with strong cultural sensitivity and a deep respect for Ch'íyáqtel culture, traditions, language, and protocols

Key Responsibilities

- Support the planning, planting, cultivation, and maintenance of crops in all spaces.
- Monitor crop health and growth cycles, ensuring optimal growing conditions.
- Prune, stake, trellis, and maintain crops to promote healthy plant development and maximize yields.
- Prepare soil beds, planting trays, and growing mediums as required.
- Assist in seasonal planting schedules and crop rotations.
- Maintain accurate records of crop production, planting dates, and yields when required.
- Monitor and maintain irrigation systems to ensure crops receive appropriate water levels.
- Manage fertilizer applications and nutrient distribution based on crop needs.
- Monitor soil health and growing conditions to support sustainable plant production.
- Harvest crops at optimal maturity to ensure quality and freshness.
- Assist with washing, sorting, and preparing produce for community distribution.
- Support the delivery and distribution of produce to community members and programs.
- Maintain food safety standards during harvesting and handling.
- Assist in delivering community-based gardening and greenhouse activities.
- Support workshops, educational programming, and community garden events.
- Help maintain shared garden spaces and community beds to ensure accessibility and productivity.
- Encourage community participation and knowledge sharing.
- Monitor and maintain irrigation systems to ensure crops receive appropriate water levels.
- Manage fertilizer applications and nutrient distribution based on crop needs.

Qualifications, Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

- Diploma or certification in Agriculture, Horticulture, Pest Management, Biology, or a related field, or equivalent hands-on experience.
- Minimum 1 year of experience working in greenhouse production, horticulture, or agricultural environments.
- Knowledge of growing and maintaining vegetables, fruits, herbs, and edible plants.
- Understanding of sustainable agriculture practices and plant care techniques.
- Familiarity with Integrated Pest Management (IPM) principles and monitoring techniques.
- Strong organizational skills and the ability to prioritize tasks effectively.
- Ability to work independently with minimal supervision while contributing to a team environment.
- Strong communication skills and willingness to engage with community members.
- Experience working with Indigenous communities or organizations.
- Knowledge of traditional plants, medicines, and land-based practices.
- Knowledge of permaculture organic growing practices.
- Food Safe certification.
- Pesticide applicator certification.
- Experience operating agricultural equipment or machinery such as tractors or mowers.
- Ability to provide a satisfactory criminal record check.
- A valid Class 5 Drivers license and abstract with no restrictions.

Full Job Description will be provided to successful applicant.

Working Conditions

This position involves primarily outdoor and greenhouse work, with time spent in the community greenhouse, gardens, and on farm-based activities. The role requires the ability to work in varying weather and greenhouse conditions and perform physical tasks such as standing, bending, lifting, and repetitive movements. Comfort working around insects and pollinators is required. Occasional evening and weekend work may be necessary to support community and seasonal activities.

Application Deadline: Open until filled

Salary Range: \$36.71 - \$45.60

Candidates will be screened according to the qualifications, knowledge, abilities, and skills required above. Interested candidates are required to submit a resume and to indicate the job title position above on their covering letter in confidence to:

Ch'íyáqtel (Tzeachten First Nation)

Attention: Travis Swanberg, Public Works and Housing Manager

#100 - 45855 Promontory Road

Chilliwack, BC V2R 0H3

Email: travis@tzeachten.ca

Fax: 604-858-3382

We encourage candidates to self-identify as First Nations, Inuit, or Metis in their application. We regret that we will only contact the applicants chosen for an interview. We thank all applicants for their interest in working for Ch'íyáqtel.