



First Nations Stewardship Technicians Training Program Cohort 1 & 2 – Program Information

The Stewardship Technicians Training Program (STTP) is a partnership between Coastal First Nations-Great Bear Initiative and Vancouver Island University. STTP was custom designed in collaboration with Coastal First Nations' Stewardship offices to provide members the applied skills and knowledge required to work in the field of resource stewardship. This training provides industry-recognized certificates and university credits that can be applied toward further studies.

Learning Goals:

- Certificates:
 - Environmental Technicians Certificate – VIU
 - Electrofishing Certificate – VIU
 - RISC: Archaeology and CMT inventory certification
 - BC Parks Administration certificate
- Knowledge and experience in: monitoring environmental compliance, protected area management, and small motor servicing and electrical systems.
- Improved essential skills (writing, reading and computer skills) through one-on-one mentorship/coaching.
- University credits that can be put toward VIU certificate and undergraduate programs in Natural Resource Management.

Program Delivery:

- Program delivered in several two-week sessions over two years: September to March.
- Each course includes five days of applied learning; two courses are offered back to back in a two-week module. Delivery shifts between three locations: Prince Rupert, Masset/Skidegate and Hakai Institute.
- Tuition fees, learning resources, travel and accommodations are supported.



Program Schedule

Year 1: September – March

Course Name	Brief Description
Essential Field Skills (NREN 024)	Learn and improve skills, such as taking field notes, using key field equipment, following safety protocols, collecting data, reading maps and navigating.
Compliance Communications and Resource Monitoring (part 1 RMOT 165)	Gain knowledge of environmental legislation, improve communication skills, and learn safety protocols for conducting field checks to monitor compliance.
Portfolio Intro	Assess prior learning experiences through the development of a personalized portfolio and resume, to be built upon throughout the training program.
Cultural Awareness	Focusing on First Nations of the North and Central Coasts and Haida Gwaii, learn about Indigenous laws, governance, understandings and knowledge related to stewardship of the lands and seas.
Fish and Fish Habitat Monitoring Skills (NREN 026)	Includes fish identification, fish habitat assessments and field measurements, field hydrology, fish inventory methods and biological sampling.
Small Motors Servicing and Electrical Systems (RMOT 151)	Introduction to the operation and maintenance of small two- and four-stroke engines. Includes troubleshooting and field repair.
Portfolio course cont'd	Assess prior learning experiences through the development of a personalized portfolio and resume, to be built upon throughout the training program.
Archaeology and Culturally Modified Tree Inventory	Learn how to undertake archaeological inventories that contribute to management plans for cultural and heritage protection.

Year 2: September – March

Course Name	Brief Description
Water Monitoring Skills (NREN 025)	Water quality surveying, and sediment and invertebrate sampling field procedures for both freshwater and marine sampling.
Land Monitoring Skills (NREN 023)	Standard vegetation, soil and wildlife sampling and monitoring field skills for forestry and other terrestrial applications.
Interpersonal Communications and Leadership Skills Development	Interpersonal communication and leadership skills for working well on field crews, including personality types and leadership styles, well-functioning teams, dealing with difficult people, and conflict resolution.
Intro to Land and Marine Stewardship Case Studies (RMOT 251)	Intro to a range of First Nations resource management and protection topics from local experts, including marine and terrestrial wildlife habitat management and protection, ecosystem-based management, and marine plan implementation.
Construction Site Monitoring (NREN 022)	Standard environmental monitoring for construction sites, including site planning, erosion control, in-water construction, and environmental project field skills.
Intro to Parks and Protected Area Management (RMOT 202)	Examine park systems, management, facilities, and engagement of visitors and resource users. The module will include the BCIT Parks Administration course and exam.
Portfolio Presentations	Assess prior learning experiences through the development of a personalized portfolio and resume that will be built on throughout the training program.



Admission Information:

- Eligible participants include unemployed, underemployed, or employed but requiring skills upgrades members, employees and/or residents of First Nations communities on BC's North and Central Coast and Haida Gwaii.
- Participants must have Grade 10 or higher, be 19 years or older, and be in good physical condition.
- Strong preference given to participants who intend to complete all courses in both Level 1 and Level 2.
- Sixteen students are admitted per cohort with priority given to CFN member nations.

Additional Information:

For more information, please contact Elodie Button, Training Coordinator, Coastal First Nations (email: elodiebutton@gmail.com or phone: 250-532-0462).

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and the support of the Tula Foundation.