



## First Nations Stewardship Technicians Training Program

The Stewardship Technicians Training Program (STTP)\* is a partnership between Coastal First Nations-Great Bear Initiative and Vancouver Island University. The program 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.

*[\*The STTP ended April 2019. We are currently undergoing a program review and evaluation process and may offer a similar program in the years to come.]*

### Learning Goals:

- Certificates:
  - Environmental Technicians Certificate – VIU
  - Electrofishing Certificate- VIU
  - RISC: Archeology 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.
- University credits that can be put toward VIU certificate and undergraduate programs in Natural Resource Management.
- Students who participate in the program for the entire two years receive a Certificate of Participation. Each individual student will receive the credits and certificates for courses they have successfully passed.

### Program Delivery:

- Delivered in several two-week sessions over two years: Year 1 (September to March) and Year 2 (September to March).
- Each course is five days in duration; two courses are offered back to back in a two-week module. Delivery shifts between three locations: Prince Rupert, Masset/Skidegate and Calvert Island.
- Tuition fees, books and learning resources, a gear stipend, travel, and accommodations are provided.

### 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 Level 1 and Level 2.
- Sixteen students are admitted per cohort with priority given to CFN member nations.



**COASTAL  
FIRST NATIONS**  
GREAT BEAR INITIATIVE



**VANCOUVER ISLAND  
UNIVERSITY**

Course Name	Description
Compliance Communications and Resource Monitoring	Gain knowledge of environmental legislation, improve communication skills, and learn safety protocols for conducting field checks to monitor compliance.
Intro to Parks and Protected Areas	Examine park systems, management, facilities, and engagement of visitors and resource users. The module includes the BCIT Parks Administration exam.
Intro to Land and Marine Stewardship Case Studies	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.
Indigenous Portfolio	Assess prior learning experiences through the development of a personalized portfolio and resume that will be built on 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.
Small Motors Servicing and Electrical Systems	Introduction to the operation and maintenance of small two- and four-stroke engines. Includes troubleshooting and field repair.
Archeology and Culturally Modified Tree Inventory	Learn how to undertake archeological inventories that contribute to management plans for cultural and heritage protection.
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.
Essential Field Skills	Learn and improve skills such as taking field notes, using field equipment, following safety protocols, collecting data, reading maps, and navigating.
Water Monitoring Skills	Water quality surveying and sediment and invertebrate sampling field procedures for both freshwater and marine sampling.
Land Monitoring Skills	Standard vegetation, soil and wildlife sampling and monitoring field skills for forestry and other terrestrial applications.
Fish and Fish Habitat Monitoring Skills	Includes fish identification, fish habitat assessments and field measurements, field hydrology, fish inventory methods and biological sampling.
Construction Site Monitoring	Standard environmental monitoring for construction sites, including site planning, erosion control, in-water construction and environmental project field skills.

*We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training, the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and the in-kind support of the Tula Foundation.*

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