



Fraser Basin Council

# Seeking Youth *Mentors*

## UPPER FRASER YOUTH WATERSHED LEADERSHIP PROJECT

### MENTOR RECRUITMENT NOTICE

*Funded by the Fraser Salmon and Watersheds Program and delivered by the Fraser Basin Council, the Youth Watershed Leadership Project is a collaborative initiative designed to build the capacity of youth aged 16-24 to be watershed champions and to create mentorship opportunities within existing stewardship groups in the region*

While it is often said that ‘youth are the leaders of tomorrow’, there are few opportunities that enable them to learn and apply their skills in the ‘real world’.

However, it has become increasingly apparent that these opportunities are essential for today’s youth to become effective leaders and engaged citizens. This project aims to create an opportunity for the youth participants to develop and apply their skills, establish supportive adult-youth relationships, and foster an opportunity for ongoing learning and involvement with stewardship groups in the Upper Fraser region.

The mentorship component of this project is a key element of the capacity building process. It will enable youth to apply the knowledge and skills learnt during the dialogue and training components of the program in the ‘real world’ and contribute to on-ground initiatives with support and guidance from adult mentors. The Fraser Basin Council is currently seeking organizations to share their knowledge and expertise as mentors to the program participants.



## Are we a water stewardship organization?

The central theme of this leadership initiative is the Fraser River watershed, but your organization’s mandate may relate either direct or indirectly to watershed issues. In previous years, participating organizations have included watershed management societies, broad-based environmental organizations, agricultural associations, avian research centres, and various municipal government departments. We are currently seeking a broad-range of not-for-profit, research-oriented or local government organizations to participate.



## Benefits: Why Mentor?

*One of the key recommendations to come out of the 2009 BC Youth Congress<sup>1</sup> was to create opportunities for meaningful engagement and build youth capacity to participate through mentorship, intergenerational dialogue, and action*

Providing meaningful opportunities for youth engagement through mentorship has long-term benefits for the mentoring organization; it helps to establish personal relationships with youth as well as increase the level of commitment to the goals and objectives of the organization. This in turn can increase the willingness of youth to continue their involvement with the organization beyond the life of the mentoring initiative.

Traditionally, mentorship involves communicating knowledge and social capital – often in an informal or structured way – and seeks to establish a supportive relationship between the mentor and the mentoree through a process of skill development, dialogue and discovery. A “Mentor” is generally someone who has, and is willing to share, knowledge, wisdom or experience – in this case in relation to watershed stewardship and environmental sustainability. On the other hand, a “Mentoree” is someone who is seeking to enhance their knowledge, wisdom or

experience through direct interaction and involvement with the mentor. Less common, but also of significant value, is using mentorship to create intergenerational dialogue and learning between both the mentor and the mentoree. This approach creates a more balanced mentorship relationship that recognizes and values the knowledge, wisdom, and experience of both the mentor and the mentoree – in fact, intergenerational dialogue encourages the roles of the mentor and mentoree to be easily interchanged between participants.

*In addition to the benefits of a mentoring relationship, youth participants will also receive a \$200 honorarium. A small honorium may also be available to the host organizations*

**TIME COMMITMENT:**  
Mentoring Organizations



Approx. 15 hours  
Based on:

- \* 3 hours at the November 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> training workshop to share information about your organization's work
- \* 6 hours for face-to-face meetings between mentor and mentoree
- \* 5 hours overseeing the mentoree in a specific initiative
- \* 1 hour follow-up meeting with the Fraser Basin Council to evaluate the program and discuss future opportunities



**Fraser Basin Council**

For more information please contact:

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Fraser Salmon & Watersheds Program



<sup>1</sup> Summary and Recommendations for Youth Engagement Report. From the BC Youth Congress 2009. [http://www.fraserbasin.bc.ca/action/youth/2009\\_congress.html](http://www.fraserbasin.bc.ca/action/youth/2009_congress.html)