



The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq



Paid Internship Offer:

The importance of community-led eelgrass restoration in Nova Scotia

The study

Eelgrass meadows are a remarkable coastal ecosystem under the waves just steps off the coast of Nova Scotia. They provide important benefits such as supporting traditional and modern fisheries and help to prevent coastal erosion. Many species such as lobster, eel, crabs, and fishes hide, spawn and feed in the eelgrass. Eelgrass is also one of the world's most effective ecosystems for capturing and storing carbon, but it is rarely considered for its potential to lessen the impacts of climate change in Nova Scotia. Despite all these benefits, few people in Nova Scotia know about eelgrass at all. The Community Eelgrass Restoration Initiative, together with the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq, aims to study eelgrass around the province and re-establish connection to eelgrass through community-led, knowledge-based restoration.

The role of the Intern

Open to: Indigenous youth aged 16 – 30 years and curious to learn more about scientific work, marine biology, and climate change research

No previous research or fieldwork experience necessary

The intern will support a team of researchers and students at Dalhousie University studying eelgrass meadows around Nova Scotia. This work will involve research in the field and in the lab at various times over the summer: The intern will help with fieldwork and equipment preparation and will support work in the field in the water (snorkelling), on a boat or on shore (depending on ability and comfort levels). Fieldwork will include taking sediment samples and analyzing them in the lab as well as monitoring eelgrass beds for health, growth, seed production, seed harvesting and eelgrass replanting experiments. The intern will be able to gain insights into planning and performing scientific experiments, dealing with literature, as well as community outreach and education. Plus, you will get the last half of August off!

Location and Compensation

Location: Kjiptuk/Halifax, Nova Scotia, with occasional travel to field sites around Nova Scotia. Transport to field sites and equipment will be provided.

Accommodation at the Dalhousie campus and weekly meal budget for the duration of the internship is available.

Honorarium: \$25/hr for a total of approx. 8 weeks, 30 hrs/week June – mid August. Work times may vary by week depending on field work and environmental conditions.

To apply, please send a short email with some information on yourself and why you're interested in this internship until April 30th 2024 to: info@eelgrass.ca

Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions. Wela'lin!