



Practicum Student – Environmental Services
(Temporary Full or part-Time Fall 2020 Practicum Student)

Stretching from Deep Cove in the east to the Capilano River Canyon in the west, the District of North Vancouver is characterized by innovative municipal government that maintains and enhances the quality of life for its residents and businesses. The District of North Vancouver is looking for a practicum student to help research a complex issue regarding the use of rodenticides and the impacts that these products are having on local raptor populations.

It is well known that rodenticides can have a negative impact on many non-target species such as raptors and cause suffering in target species. As a municipality, we are exploring ways in which rodent pest populations can be kept in check while limiting their negative impacts. As of July, 2020, we have direction from Council to stop using rodenticides in and around all DNV properties. Under the direction of a Registered Professional Biologist on staff, we are looking to our practicum student to conduct the following:

- Continue and expand on preliminary research to determine where rodents may be present and creating health concerns or causing damage to DNV structures or buildings;
- Work with DNV staff to run a second experiment using non-treated bait in order to determine which sites require more control such as recreation centres in forested areas compared to locations found in more urban areas;
- Continue to test the efficacy of various traps that do not require the use of rodenticides, such as the GoodNature traps and snap traps;
- Communicate with various stakeholder groups in order to gather information to share information about rodenticide use and alternative rodent control measures;
- Discuss with the same stakeholder groups different draft policy and/or regulations to support the council decision;

This unpaid practicum opportunity will also give the successful candidate great exposure to working in municipal government and may include opportunities to work with other departments. We are requesting a commitment of 2-4 months (300-400 hours) between September and December, 2020. Our preference would be for someone to work part time over 4 months but there is room for flexibility.

Qualifications:

- Minimum commitment of 300 hours;
- Minimum 3rd year post-secondary student in related science discipline
- Have a valid BC driver's license;
- Be in good health and fitness and have the ability to work outdoors in all weather;
- Knowledgeable in how to carry out experiments

Term: Flexible start date for 2-4 months, preferably part time for 4 months

Salary: This is a voluntary position with no stipend; UBC offers 6 credits for APBI 496

Please submit your cover letter and CV by email to nassichuke@dnv.org by August 15, 2020.