

ON THE LAND INITIATIVES

COMMUNITY PACKAGE



On the Land Mentor-Apprentice Program

On the Land Nation Initiative

“This initiative will enhance and expand culturally-based, culturally-safe and trauma-informed healing and treatment care for Indigenous people living on and off reserve.”

Background

The Secwepemc Health Caucus (SHC) represents 16 Secwepemc communities working together on community-driven, Nation-based health and wellness initiatives. The Secwepemc Kukukpi7 lead health advocacy work with the support of Health Directors who lead technical work of the SHC.

In 2019, the Nation received funding to support *On the Land Nation initiatives* that would expand current community projects and implement sustainable Nation-based On the Land healing work.

Program Purpose

As Secwépemc people, we live in a time where we find ourselves walking in two worlds through Western and Secwépemc ways of being. It is vital that we work to revitalize and protect our teachings and culture. We especially must recognize the many Elders and Knowledge Keepers across Secwepemcúl'ecw who carry our Secwépemc values and knowledge, passing them on to their families and throughout the Nation.

Through this initiative it is essential that we engage all Nation members, whether on or off reserve, to immerse in Secwépemc language, culture, and traditional practices on the land. By finding balance between our two worlds, we will initiate opportunity across the Nation to formally recognize our Elders and Knowledge Keepers to pass on their teachings to Secwépemc people of all ages. With this we will find culturally safe, land-based healing.

About the Program

Modelling the First Peoples Cultural Council *Master Apprentice Language Program*, this Mentor-Apprentice program will seek to engage Knowledge Keepers and Elders throughout

the Nation who are “Masters” in traditional practices to pass on to Apprentices. These practices may include but are not limited to:

- Hunting
- Fishing
- Food gathering and preservation
- Traditional Medicine
- Land and territory knowledge
- Ceremonies
- Traditional crafts
- Drumming and songs
- Secwepemctsin



Knowledge Keeper and **Elder** are terms that hold similar meaning where these individuals show by example in the way they live their lives exhibiting deeply ingrained principles, values, and teachings. Though both titles are earned, we most often associate Elder with age and vast experiences to those without these significant years.

Mentor Expectations

All Nation members are welcome to apply to a Mentor role. As a mentor, it is expected that teachings will be shared with their apprentices in meaningful and culturally relevant approaches. As a mentor you may hold knowledge in all, a few, or even one of the practices outlined above. It will be up to the mentor to determine teaching methods; however, the following will provide the foundational outline of the mentor role.

- Share Secwépemc core values and principles within cultural practice teachings
- Oral teachings and knowledge sharing
- Dedicated time on the land
- Comprehensive teaching of any cultural practice



Teaching Methods are not required to be formal or complex. Each Mentor will determine how they would like to teach their apprentices. For example, if they are teaching traditional medicine, their teaching method may include taking their apprentices on the land and identifying medicinal plants, harvesting, and showing step by step how to preserve and develop a balm or salve with that traditional medicinal plant.

Apprentice Expectations

All Nation members are welcome to apply to an apprentice role. As an apprentice, it is expected that you are wholeheartedly dedicating time to spend with your Mentor to learn Secwépemc culture and practices on the land. You will work collaboratively with your Mentor to ensure mutual knowledge exchange in any of the indicated practice teachings. The broad expectations of an Apprentice will include:

- Openness to learn from Mentor through interactive, oral teachings
- Dedicated time on the land
- Respect your Mentor and their time and teaching methods



The most important quality of our Apprentices will be an eagerness to learn from their Mentor.

Shared Responsibilities

The Mentor-Apprentice program will bring together one or many Apprentices with a Mentor to learn about various Secwépemc practices. As this initiative seeks to develop a sustainable approach to On the Land healing, there will be shared responsibilities of each pairing/group including:

- Provide testimony of your experience for On the Land video
- Capture interactions and experiences through photos and video
- Brief outline of Mentor-Apprentice plan
 - Number of hours anticipated
 - Cultural practice(s) that will be shared
 - Location for teachings
 - Teaching method(s)
- Monthly Mentor-Apprentice Group Check-ins
 - All Mentors and Apprentices participating throughout the Nation will participate in a virtual meeting to share experiences and best practices



The intent of this program is to expand Knowledge Keepers across Secwepemcúl'ecw and revitalize our shared culture, language, and values. By spending this time together and bringing these teachings to the land we will find individual sense of belonging that will contribute to our collective healing and determination as Secwépemc peoples.

Financial Details

As this is a formal program, all participants will be financially compensated. We recognize that the passing of this knowledge is invaluable, and the time dedicated to this is a significant effort by all Mentors and Apprentices.

The table below outlines how each participant will be compensated:

Participant	Hourly Rate	Number of Hours
Mentor Honorarium	\$40	Up to 50
Apprentice Honorarium	\$25	Up to 50
Youth aged 12 and under honorarium	N/A	Children participating will receive a flat honorarium rate that does not require a set number of hours.

The table below outlines other eligible expenses:

Expense	Budget	Note
Travel	\$250/person	Travel may include mileage to teaching location
Materials and Supplies	\$250/person	Each participant can receive up to \$250 for necessary materials and supplies

Reporting and Application

The Secwepemc Health Caucus is required to report on the outcomes of this funding. This will require our Mentors and Apprentices' support. For completion and compensation of the program we will require Mentors and Apprentices to submit:

- Photos or Videos of their time together on the land
- Individual video testimonials for On the Land Nation Video
- Upon request, written reports
 - This is unlikely a requirement but may be requested from funders

This program is intended to end March 31, 2021 with potential for extension.

If you are interested in participating in this Mentor Apprentice Program, please contact:

Cara Basil, Traditional Wellness Lead twlead@secwepemchealth.ca or 250-571-1000