



Job title: Science and Policy Engagement Strategist

Program: Ontario Northern Boreal

Position type: Contract

Compensation: \$20,000

Position location: Flexible

Start date: 1 July 2021

Reports to: Dr. Constance O'Connor and Dr. Cheryl Chetkiewicz

Application closing date: 14 May 2021

Position Summary:

WCS Canada is seeking a science and policy engagement strategist to fulfill a contract for its Ontario Northern Boreal (ONB) landscape conservation program. This person will be responsible for the development and implementation of two overlapping science and policy engagement strategies. The first strategy will be focused on communicating about the regional assessment in the Ring of Fire in northern Ontario, as well as project-level impact assessments in the area. The second related strategy will be focused on communicating about the value and importance of peatlands for climate change mitigation and biodiversity, and policy options to achieve effective conservation of peatlands in northern Ontario. Implementation of both strategies will include coordinating with WCS Canada communications staff to design and launch a website and social media profiles to engage with various audiences, including interested Indigenous communities, and share communications materials.

Position Objectives:

- 1) Develop engagement strategies related to impact assessment and peatland conservation in northern Ontario
- 2) Coordinate with WCS Canada communications staff to design and launch a website and social media profiles
- 3) Work with WCS Canada scientists and other experts to develop content and communications materials

Principal Responsibilities:

- 1) Develop two overlapping engagement strategies related to:
 - a. Regional assessment and project-level assessment in the Ring of Fire region in northern Ontario; and
 - b. The value of peatlands for climate change mitigation and biodiversity, and policy options to achieve conservation of peatlands
- 2) Coordinate with WCS Canada communications staff to design and launch a website and social media profiles
- 3) Work with WCS Canada scientists and other experts to compile and synthesize information on the value and importance of peatlands in terms of carbon storage as well as other ecosystem services and as intact habitat for a variety of wildlife species

- 4) Work with WCS Canada scientists and other experts to synthesize information on policy options and necessary implementation steps to achieve effective conservation
- 5) Summarize information in engaging formats, including written work, infographics, short videos, etc.
- 6) Present the information on a website and on social media
- 7) Coordinate with WCS Canada communications staff to promote the website and share the information through various WCS Canada social media channels

Required Qualifications:

- Background in policy and science related to peatlands, boreal ecosystems, cumulative effects, or related field
- Expertise in communications and media techniques and methods
- Record of producing effective policy and science communication products
- Technical expertise with:
 - Graphics software
 - Video creation and editing software
 - Web page creation and editing software
- Demonstrated working knowledge of:
 - Canadian policy and regulatory frameworks including impact assessment, regional assessment, and cumulative effects
 - Indigenous-led conservation in Canada
 - Northern boreal ecosystems and threats to these ecosystems

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Excellent written and oral communication skills, including preparing content for diverse audiences (e.g., communities, policy, scientific publications)
- Adaptable and responsive to feedback from collaborators and others
- Self-motivated and capable of working remotely
- Strong interpersonal skills and demonstrated ability to work effectively in cross-cultural and interdisciplinary work environment

To Apply:

Apply online through the Fitzii link. Please include your cv/résumé, a cover letter addressing each of the required qualifications, and a relevant example of your written work.

WCS Canada is committed to creating an accessible and inclusive organization, this includes providing barrier-free and accessible employment practices. Applicants with a disability or any special needs may make a request for accommodation at any stage of the recruitment process, and we will work with you accordingly. Such requests should be communicated to Tina Dias (contact below).

Position Inquiries:

Dr. Constance O'Connor, Ontario Northern Boreal Lead
807-285-9125
coconnor@wcs.org

Application Inquiries:

Tina Dias, Human Resources and Finance Administrator

416-850-9038 ext. 30

tdias@wcs.org

Deadline for applications: 14 May 2021

About WCS Canada:

WCS Canada was established as a Canadian conservation organization in July 2004. Our mission is to conserve wildlife and wild places by improving our understanding of, and seeking solutions to, critical problems that threaten key species and large wild ecosystems throughout Canada. We implement and support comprehensive field studies that gather information on wildlife needs and then seek to resolve key conservation problems by working with a broad array of stakeholders. We also provide technical assistance and biological expertise to local groups and agencies that lack the resources to tackle conservation concerns. WCS Canada is independently registered and managed, while retaining a strong collaborative working relationship with sister WCS programs in more than 60 nations, including an integrated North America Program. The Wildlife Conservation Society (www.wcs.org) is a recognized global leader in conservation and for more than a century has worked in North America promoting actions such as bison reintroduction, pioneering field studies, parks creation, and legislation to protect endangered wildlife. WCS Canada strives to uphold our core values of respect, accountability and transparency, innovation, collaboration, integrity, diversity, and inclusion. We value staff and community partners from all backgrounds and cultures with different skills, abilities, and perspectives; we ensure that everyone has an opportunity to fully contribute to our mission. For more information, see www.wcscanada.org.

Fitzii Skills and Experience Questions:

Requirement questions:

1. Do you have a background in policy and science related to peatlands, boreal ecosystems, cumulative effects, or related field?
2. Do you have expertise in communications and media techniques and methods?
3. Do you have a proven record of producing effective science communication products?
4. Do you have technical expertise with graphics software, video creation and editing software, and web page creation and editing software?
5. Do you have a working knowledge of Canadian policy and regulatory frameworks including impact assessment, regional assessment, and cumulative effects?