

Beaver Hills Biosphere | Historian Laureate | Position Description

Background

Located 20 minutes east of Edmonton and situated within Treaty 6, the Beaver Hills region is a distinct geographic area that is biologically diverse, historically important and culturally rich.

The Beaver Hills was designated as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 2016, one of only two in Alberta and eighteen across Canada. This significant designation is a direct reflection of both the ecological and cultural importance of the area, and the commitment of people working together for a sustainable region, through shared initiatives and collaborative action.

The Position

To reinforce the importance of identifying, preserving and keeping alive the history of the Beaver Hills, the Beaver Hills Biosphere Reserve Association (BHBRA) will appoint a Historian Laureate, who will serve as an ambassador for and will work to raise awareness of and appreciation for the history of the region.

During their term, the Historian Laureate will research, document and analyze cultural, natural and historical records pertaining to the region themes include Indigenous histories and culture, human settlement, landscape change, etc.). These effort to discover and tell the stories of this region will leverage existing BHBRA efforts to raise awareness of the history and importance of the Beaver Hills region to the greater Edmonton area.

Qualifications and Experience

The person selected to serve as Historian Laureate will have:

- Strong oral, written and computer communication skills
- Demonstrated experience in gathering historical data from various sources, including archives, books and artifacts
- Experience engaging with a variety of stakeholders including First Nations and Métis communities, various levels of government, NGOs, academia and the community at large
- Experience with data collection, maintenance and analysis
- A demonstrated ability to interview sources and transcribe recorded interviews to establish a biosphere archive

Terms

The Beaver Hills Biosphere Historian Laureate is expected to:

- Commit to a one-year term as laureate
- Promote public awareness of the Beaver Hills Biosphere's natural and cultural history
- Trace historical developments in the region related to the themes associated with the biosphere mandate
- Support the development of relevant content for the BHB's and partner's social media and multi-media story-telling efforts
- Engage with the public through educational programs, events and presentations; at this time virtually through webinars, as required and as guided by current public health restrictions

- Produce an annual report (may be in written, audio or video or a combination of these formats) and deliver an annual presentation to the BHBRA Board of Directors to highlight activities and accomplishments during their term
- Work closely with BHBRA staff and to develop an annual work plan to guide theirs and future Historian Laureates' activities
- Attend BHBRA Board meetings as requested during their term to engage with partners and provide updates their efforts

Honorarium

The Historian Laureate is a volunteer position, however, as a form of recognition of their contribution of knowledge, skills and lived experience, an annual honorarium of \$5000 will be provided.