

GARDENS COORDINATOR – ONTARIO PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP KINGSTON

ABOUT OPIRG KINGSTON

The Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) Kingston is a student-funded, student-directed, and community-minded group that functions as a platform for folks to recognize and engage with pertinent societal issues. OPIRG Kingston strives to create meaningful transformative change to benefit our local Kingston and Queen's communities by promoting research, education, and action on social and environmental justice topics. We offer various kinds of support for folks working on social and environmental justice-focused initiatives, including information, funding, administrative functions, and more. Over the last 30 years, we have initiated and supported various community groups/projects, organized events and programming, and connected student and non-student community members to work towards a more socially and environmentally just Queen's and Kingston. Visit our website for more information on who we are, what we do, and our values as an organization: opirgkingston.org

ABOUT MUTUAL AID GARDENS

The Mutual Aid Gardens Network aims to improve access to fresh vegetables and create stronger community bonds. We want to increase local, autonomous food production. The network includes people who offer space for gardening, people who offer labour and help, and people who need fresh food or medicines. To distribute produce from the gardens, we host biweekly Really Really free Veggie Markets throughout the summer in Kingston. This year, we hope to also incorporate fun, collective activities as part of the veggie markets such as music, workshops, distributing stickers and zines, and more.

CANADA SUMMER JOBS YOUTH PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY

All three available positions are funded by the Canada Summer Jobs program. This program has certain eligibility criteria for youth participants. Eligible youth must:

- be between 15 and 30 years of age at the beginning of the employment period*;
- be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident, or person to whom refugee protection has been conferred under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act for the duration of the employment**; and,
- have a valid Social Insurance Number at the start of employment and be legally entitled to work in Canada in accordance with relevant provincial or territorial legislation and regulations.

*The youth must be 15 years of age at the beginning of the employment period. The youth may be more than 30 years of age at the end of the employment period as long as the youth was 30 at the beginning of the employment period.

**Unfortunately, international students are not eligible participants. International students include anyone who is temporarily in Canada for studies and who is not a Canadian citizen, permanent resident, or person who has been granted refugee status in Canada. Youth awaiting a refugee status ruling, as well as those who hold a temporary visitor visa, youth visa or work visa are ineligible.

JOB DESCRIPTION AND APPLICATION DETAILS

The Gardens Coordinator will lead a group of volunteers to plant, harvest, and care for 3 small-scale farm plots in and near Kingston, ON. The existing farm plots include one plot that has been farmed for 2 years, another that has been farmed for one year, and a third new plot will be planted for the first time in the summer of 2022.

The Gardens Coordinator will:

- Instruct beginner gardeners on planting, weeding, harvesting, watering, and otherwise caring for plants
- Coordinate volunteers and encourage volunteer collaboration
- Work with diverse community volunteers including low-income community members, newcomers, Indigenous youth, and others
- Implement organic farming strategies
- Plan and organize logistics for food distribution
- Other duties as required

The ideal candidate is someone with:

- Passion for addressing food insecurity
- Experience caring for plants
- Strong communication and leadership skills
- Problem-solving skills

This position is **30 hours/week** at **\$16/hour** from **June 27 – August 28, 2022** (9 weeks).

This position requires **in-person work** in and around Kingston, Ontario.

OPIRG welcomes the contributions of individuals with lived experiences from marginalized communities including but not limited to: Indigenous people, Black people, people of colour, poor and working-class people and those on social assistance, women, members of 2SLGBTQIA+ communities, single parents, immigrants, people from non-academic backgrounds, and people with disabilities to apply. We encourage applicants to describe the contributions and experiences they would bring to OPIRG in their cover letter.

Please send along a resume and cover letter to kingston.pirg@gmail.com by **Thursday June 2, 2022, at 11:59pm**.