

**2024 First Nations Research Assistant
A Partnership with Ontario Power Generation
and Kleinschmidt Associates
Fisheries Research on the Ottawa and Madawaska Rivers**

Posting Expiration Date: 4/12/2024

POSITION OVERVIEW

The First Nations Research Assistant will assist with ongoing studies of two endangered species, namely, lake sturgeon and American eel, on the Ottawa River, as well as ongoing fish community and habitat studies on the Madawaska River. Work will occur on the Ottawa River in the vicinity of Chenaux Generating Station (GS), located near Renfrew, Ontario, and Chats Falls GS, near Arnprior, Ontario. Additional work on the Ottawa River will occur during several weeks at the Otto Holden GS, near Mattawa, Ontario, and the Des Joachims GS, located west of Deep River, Ontario. Work on the Madawaska River will be conducted at the Calabogie GS and the Barrett Chute GS, near Calabogie, Ontario.

The First Nations Research Assistant will participate in field research towards the ongoing study of lake sturgeon and American eel in the vicinity of the Ottawa River generating stations, and the ongoing study of the overall fish community and aquatic habitat in the vicinity of the Madawaska River generating stations. Activities will include:

- Data collection to better understand the status of lake sturgeon in the Ottawa River
- Data collection to better understand the abundance, distribution, and outmigration timing of American eel in the Ottawa River
- Data collection to better understand the dynamics of walleye spawning and aquatic habitat in the Madawaska River

This position will report directly to the Project Manager with Kleinschmidt Associates (KA).

DURATION OF CONTRACT AND WORKLOAD EXPECTATIONS

The anticipated duration of this contract will be from late-April or early-May through late-September or early-October 2024, or as deemed appropriate by the Kleinschmidt Project Manager. Consideration will be given to post-secondary students returning to academic studies in September 2024, and the contract period will be adjusted accordingly.

The workload will not be evenly distributed throughout the contract period. The hours of employment are anticipated to be extensive (40+) during at least two or three weeks per month during June, July, August, and September. Some weeks may require work during only one or two workdays. Hours of employment will include both regular day-time business hours as well as evenings (after 1700 hrs). The regular work week will be from Monday through Friday, but will also include periods from Friday night through to Monday morning, as required. Overnight travel may be required, and the employer will cover associated expenses as appropriate. Depending on the Research Assistant's home location, this may include staying in hotels during several nights per week, an expense which will be covered by the employer. Work may occur during inclement weather conditions (i.e. rain or heat). The successful candidate will be required to provide his/her own transportation to the work site(s) in the Renfrew/Arnprior area.

GENERAL DUTIES

1. Adherence to all safety procedures
2. Data compilation and communications
3. Assist in deploying and retrieving fish sampling gear
4. Recording of biological and environmental data related to stated duties
5. Maintain daily field logs outlining work schedule and tasks including days and period worked per week
6. Prepare and submit appropriate field logs and timesheets for review as requested
7. Perform other duties as required

SPECIFIC DUTIES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND DELIVERABLES

Specific duties, responsibilities and deliverables may include, but not be limited to, assistance with the following activities:

For Lake Sturgeon on the Ottawa River

Activities at Chenaux GS and Chats Falls GS

- a) **Weekly Tailwater Surveys:** One day per week at the tailwater of each GS from June through September. Search for, collect, and process any injured or dead fish during the systematic surveys.
- b) **Water Quality Monitoring:** Deployment, maintenance, and retrieval of water temperature monitors to record water temperatures in the vicinity of the generating stations beginning in June.

Activities at Des Joachims GS and Otto Holden GS

- a) **Water Quality Monitoring:** Deployment, maintenance, and retrieval of water temperature monitors to record water temperatures in the vicinity of the generating stations beginning in June.
- b) **Lake Sturgeon Monitoring:** Studies to include collection of larval lake sturgeon and/or documentation of lake sturgeon spawning habitat.

For American Eel on the Ottawa River

Activities at Chenaux GS and Chats Falls GS

- a) **Weekly Tailwater Surveys:** One day per week at the tailwater of each GS from June through September. Search for, collect, and process any injured or dead fish during the systematic surveys.
- b) **Trap Netting:** Week-long events. Multiple events in June, July, August and September. Additional sampling may occur during late May, depending on environmental conditions. Set nets overnight, and process captured fish at least once per day.
- c) **Eel Transport:** Transport of any large eels collected to the lower Ottawa River.

For Walleye and Aquatic Habitat on the Madawaska River

Activities at Calabogie GS

- a) **Walleye Spawning Surveys:** Nighttime surveys to document use of existing spawning habitat by adult walleye. Surveys to occur over multiple nights during the spring spawning season in late-April and early-May.
- b) **Walleye Egg Surveys:** Surveys to assess walleye spawning activity. Set egg collection mats overnight, and process egg collection samples at least once per day during the spring spawning season in late-April and early-May.
- c) **Benthic Invertebrate and Fish Species Abundance Surveys:** Collect fish assemblage and benthic invertebrate samples during several days in August and September. Set minnow traps overnight, and process captured fish at least once per day. Collect sediment grab samples in support of benthic invertebrate sampling.
- d) **Underwater Habitat Monitoring:** Assist in several daytime efforts to document the condition of spawning habitat during the summer months with the use of video monitoring equipment.

Activities at Barrett Chute GS

- a) **Walleye Spawning Surveys:** Nighttime surveys to document use of existing spawning habitat by adult walleye. Surveys to occur over multiple nights during the spring spawning season in late-April and early-May.
- b) **Walleye Egg Surveys:** Surveys to assess walleye spawning activity. Set egg collection mats overnight, and process egg collection samples at least once per day during the spring spawning season in late-April and early-May.

REQUIREMENTS/EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE/SKILL TRAINING

- This position is open to qualified applicants of First Nations descent
- Minimum high school diploma with preference for candidates with experience and training in wildlife, fisheries, or resource management
- Strong interest in gaining experience in wildlife conservation and management
- Capable of working outdoors in all weather conditions and during non-business hours
- Physically able to lift weights up to 20 kgs
- Ability to adapt to changing work schedules
- A valid Ontario driver's license, with a clean driving record
- Ability to work from a boat on a large waterway
- Ability to work as an integrated team member and follow procedures
- Pleasure Craft Operators Card and proficient watercraft operation skills
- First Aid Certification is an asset
- Basic computer skills such as Microsoft Office (word and excel) and GIS skills are considered an asset
- Adherence to all safety procedures and guidelines

SALARY RANGE

Salary will be commensurate with experience and education.

Please send resume to Jared Porter (Jared.Porter@KleinschmidtGroup.com)