



mfa-bc



INTERNS SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Five students have been selected to participate in an internship where they will gain first hand experience in local government management. The interns are post-secondary graduates who wish to pursue a career in local government administration.

The interns are part of the inaugural British Columbia Local Government Management Internship Pilot Program. This Program is the result of a partnership between the Local Government Management Association of BC, the Municipal Finance Authority and the Ministry of Community Services, which together recognize the challenges faced by local government in recruiting new people to the field of local government. According to Local Government Management Association President Elsie Lemke, "Over the next several years the trend of senior local government staff retirements is going to put pressure on the local government system to find ways to recruit competent individuals from outside the local government field. Individually, many local governments lack the resources or capacity to tackle this issue on their own. The Internship Program provides a system approach to the challenges of recruitment and training."

"Young people have so many career choices today," says Lemke. "Working in local government provides the unique opportunity to contribute to community as local government is the essence of where people get their services. I am pleased the Internship Program, which is targeted specifically to people just starting their career, provides the opportunity to be involved in making their community a better place to live."

The 3 year pilot project provides funding of \$36,000 for each host local government. Host local governments will provide a local contribution toward the cost of intern salaries and training. Twelve month internships begin in May or June of this year. Interns will receive broad training opportunities and be exposed to all aspects of local government operations and in turn will contribute to capacity-building of host local governments.

Additional information about the internship program is available at the LGMA website or call LGMA at (250) 383-7032.

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Attachment: A list of the 2007-08 Interns with links to Host Local Government News Releases

For more information contact:

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Backgrounder

April 15, 2008

Talented post-secondary graduates begin Internship in local government management

Natasha Letchford, Hosted by Village of Burns Lake

Natasha Letchford will be graduating this Spring from the University of Northern British Columbia with an honours degree in Political Science and International Studies. Natasha has work experience as a wildland firefighter, and done volunteer work with the Red Cross and Immigration and Multicultural Services Society. Please view the Village of Burns Lake's local news release.

Erin O'Melinn, Hosted by Town of Ladysmith

Erin O'Melinn has both an undergraduate degree in Interdisciplinary studies and sociology and is completing her Masters in Urban Studies, from Simon Fraser University. Erin has experience working in public relations and outreach working for Canada World Youth, the City of Coquitlam and BC Hydro. As well Erin has travelled extensively. Please view the Town of Ladysmith's local news release.

Ed Chow, Hosted by City of Nelson

Ed Chow has a Bachelor of Arts in Economics, a Master of Business Administration degree and will be graduating from the University of Victoria this year with a Masters of Public Administration degree. Ed has gained relevant experience working for both the provincial and federal governments and looks forward to the opportunity to further develop his skills and better understand the challenges that local governments face in carrying out its responsibilities. Please view the City of Nelson's local news release.

Lorien Chilton, Hosted by Village of Pemberton

Lorien Chilton will be graduating from the University of Victoria this spring with a Bachelor of Commerce degree. Lorien has worked with community organizations both within Canada and abroad, including positions in sustainable community development and project management. As well, Lorien has participated in overseas student exchanges in Mexico and Chili.

Maureen Connelly, Hosted by District of Saanich

Maureen Connelly will be graduating with a Bachelor of Social Work this Spring from the University of British Columbia. As well, she has a bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Political Science from the University of Victoria. Maureen has volunteered with a number of social service organizations, including the YM/YWCA, the NEEDS Crisis and Information Line, Together Against Poverty Society and the Coast Mountain Health Resource Centre. Maureen is interested in working in a career path that allows her to incorporate elements of community service, local government and social work.