

Northwest Community College



# GUARDIAN WATCHMAN CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Program Description Booklet  
2009-2010

Background

[www.nwcc.bc.ca](http://www.nwcc.bc.ca)  
Toll free 1.877.277.2288



The Guardian Watchmen Program began as an initiative of Coastal First Nations who wanted a training program for local environmental monitors within their Traditional Territories. Modeled after the Haida Gwaii Watchmen Program [http://www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/bc/gwaiihaanas/edu/index\\_E.asp](http://www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/bc/gwaiihaanas/edu/index_E.asp), program development was facilitated by the QQS Project Society (Heiltsuk Nation) and the Sierra Club of Canada (BC Chapter), with the support of the Coastal First Nations Turning Point Initiative and Northwest Community College.



A Community Advisory Group was established to ensure meaningful First Nations involvement throughout the development of the program, including the communities of Bella Bella, Klemtu, Bella Coola, Skidegate, Old Masset, Wuikinuxv, Terrace, Prince Rupert, and Kitamaat Village.

Approximately 100 Community Advisory Members (including practicing watchmen, community resource managers, community planners, and interested community members) contributed to the final program through various consultative processes.

The Program Development Steering Committee was made up of professionals with expertise in forestry, fisheries, parks and tourism, curriculum development, and Aboriginal education.

Funding for the development of the Guardian Watchman Program was provided by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Real Estate Foundation, Hewlett Foundation, Wilberforce Foundation, Vancouver Foundation, the Sierra Club of Canada (BC Chapter), and the Ministry of Environment (BC Parks).

## Program Goals & Guiding Principles

The goal of the Guardian Watchman Program is to provide training that enables sustainable resource management practices (forestry, fisheries, tourism and parks) throughout the traditional territories of North and Central Coast First Nations and eventually to other coastal and interior locations in western Canada. The goals of the program are to:

- Provide a comprehensive and relevant training program to support and build the capacity of Guardian/Watchmen programs on the central and north coast and western Canada

- Provide shared learning and understanding of the local knowledge and experience held by participants, community knowledge holders, and western scientists
- Integrate First Nations cultural values, knowledge and experience in all program courses, while promoting respect, relevance, responsibility and collaboration to empower Guardians/Watchmen and their communities
- Maximize field-based learning opportunities in local contexts

Guiding Principles for students, instructors, support staff and volunteers in this program:

- The diversity of First Nations culture(s), history(s), political interest(s), experience(s) and traditional knowledge in communities throughout western Canada
- Culture, community and environment are interwoven and interdependent
- First Nations play a leadership role in the planning, monitoring and implementation of activities affecting local ecosystems in their home territories
- That communities are the source of knowledge and authority, and that integrating traditional knowledge and ethics with western science is key to ecological and human wellbeing

## CGW Certificate Curriculum

### Program Pre-Requisites

No prerequisites. Grade 10 recommended and Grade 12 preferred. Mature students accepted.

### Program Delivery

The program consists of 4 modules. Module 1 is made up of a series of safety courses applicable to operating safely as a Guardian Watchman. Modules 2-4 are made up of credit courses (8 credits each module) for a total of 24 credits. Modules 2-4 will require 3 weeks for delivery in an intensive delivery format. Students are expected to participate in all classes and exercises, and can expect extra readings, assignments and exams in addition to regular class work.

Guiding Principles for the program require that all courses be founded in fieldwork, relevance to community, and local knowledge and traditions. Community knowledge holders will be encouraged to participate and honoraria will be made available to those knowledge holders willing to share instruction.

Community based deliveries are an option for First Nations who are able to provide the facilities and logistical support to host a module. Contact Program Coordinator for more details:

**For more information, please contact:**

**Ken Downs, Coordinator**

Guardian Watchman Programs

Northwest Community College



**Toll Free: 1-877-277-2288 ext 5468**

## **CORE MODULE 1 – Safety Certifications**

### **Bear Awareness**

This course introduces the habits and behaviour of bears, how to respond to Bear conflicts, and leads to bear aware certification.

### **Wilderness Safety & Survival**

This course will include topics covered in wilderness survival courses; enemies of survival, survival philosophy, preparation of a personal first aid kit, dangers of exposure, need for water, craft skills (cordage making, fire lighting, whistle making, etc.), shelter making and signaling.

### **Restricted Radio Operator ROC-M**

Do you have a license to use the VHF radio on your boat? If not, this course is for you.

### **OFA Level One1**

This WorkSafe BC class provides training in basic first aid skills including C-spine control, respiratory and circulatory emergencies, minor soft tissue injuries, accurate completion of the required documentation, as well as new modules on the identification and management of stroke, diabetes, seizures and fainting.

### **Transportation Endorsement**

Transportation Endorsement is designed to deliver the skills and knowledge needed to secure and transport injured/ill workers to medical aid. These skills are necessary if the worksite is more than twenty minutes from medical aid.

### **Small Vessel Operator Proficiency (SVOP)**

This course for operators of small commercial vessels focuses on charts and navigation, Collision Regulations, seamanship, marine weather and small vessel stability. It includes information on buoyage, electronics for position fixing, departure preparation, safety on the job and Transport Canada's Small Vessel Inspection and Monitoring Program. Transport Canada EXN 24 Training Certificate will be issued by the approved course provider.

### **\* Marine Emergency Duties A3**

This one-day course is designed for crew members on small commercial vessels, including smaller fishing vessels, operating near the coast. Topics include: common hazards and emergency responses, fire-fighting, and the use of life-saving appliances

### **\* Marine Basic First Aid**

This Red Cross course prepares you for the tasks, duties and responsibilities of providing first aid for an accident or illness at sea. Approved by Transport Canada Marine Safety, this course is a must for anyone who works in a marine environment, or spends a lot of time around water.

*OR in lieu of the two Marine Safety courses above \**

### **Swiftwater Rescue**

The "standard-of-care" or minimum recommended training in Canada for those working around moving water and in flood situations. The emphasis is



on identifying risks, self rescue and low risk options for rescuing others. SRT 1 is required certification for all federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) fields.

## CORE MODULE 2

### **SENV 100 – 3.0: Guardian Watchman Stewardship Orientation**

This course will introduce students to the role natural and cultural resource technicians and Guardian Watchman will play in the protection of and sustainable use of natural and cultural resources in British Columbia using the specific examples from the locations of course delivery. The course will include varied resource planning examples and highlight the ways of communities will ensure control and monitoring of activities that will impact their communities. Situations and issues arising over resource activities locally will be highlighted as will the roles and responsibilities of a resource technician.

### **SENV 101 – 3.0: Forest Ecology**

This course will introduce students to the principles of ecology using Forest Ecosystems as an example. Students will be made aware of ecosystem processes within the forest and the forest riparian interface. Students will learn to identify important plants (indicator species) relating to the Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification. As well the course will introduce the principles foundational to Ecosystem-Based Management.

### **SENV 102 – 2.0: Maps, Charts and GPS**

This course builds on students current skills in map and chart reading, use of aerial photos and GPS relevant to Guardian Watchman duties and responsibilities. Topics covered include, reading and interpreting forest cover and other land-based maps, reading and utilizing Nautical Charts, stereoscopic viewing and interpretation of air photos, and using hand-held GPS units in the field.

## CORE MODULE 3

### **SENV 103 – 3.0: Traditional Ecological Knowledge**

This foundational course will provide students with an introduction to local First Nations culture and local knowledge of the north and central coasts of British Columbia. It will provide a pre-contact and historical context of First Nations communities, while developing a personal and regional awareness. The effects of colonialism on the northwest coast will be introduced, such as residential schools, anti-potlatch laws, and the threats to indigenous languages. First Nations knowledge keepers will be invited into the classroom or will be visited in the field to illuminate local and traditional knowledge. Students will keep a reflective journal throughout the course of the module for their final project and paper.

### **SENV 104 – 3.0: BC Cultural Stewardship**

Students will be introduced to the traditional territories of the North and central Coast of BC and will learn to identify Coastal Cultural/Archaeological Resources such as villages, house beams, culturally modified trees, petroglyphs, and other locally relevant features and sites through a combination of classroom activities, readings, and field visits. Stewardship issues and techniques as they relate to the emerging

roles and responsibilities of Guardians and Watchman on the Northwest Coast will be explored.

### **SENV 105 – 2.0: Ethnobotany**

This course will introduce students to the identification of plants traditionally and currently used by local First Nations people. Each student will contribute to an ethnobotanical herbarium through varying media and make a presentation on one specific plant identified by consultation with local knowledge keepers. Names for plants will be recorded in the local language and comparisons with names and uses from other First Nations will be encouraged if the knowledge is available.

## **CORE MODULE 4**

### **SENV 106 – 3.0: Guardian Watchman Monitoring and Compliance**

This course is designed to take the learner from the definition of law and its governing bodies through to the elements and procedures of law enforcement within a protected area/park environment. Topics covered: investigations, preventative law, emergencies, investigative report writing and statements.

### **SENV 107 – 3.0: Guardian Watchman Technical Skills**

This course provides students with the basic technical skills required to assist in the performance of environmental monitoring work as Guardian Watchman. Students will compile a GWCH Reporting Manual that will cover a variety of potential incident reporting and/or resolutions.

### **SENV 108 – 2.0: Guardian Watchman Office Skills**

This course will work with students to enhance computer, communication, and conflict resolution skills relevant to a natural and cultural resource technician and/or Guardian Watchman.

## **Supplies**

Dura Canvas Vest	\$70
Field Book	\$7
Rite in Rain Paper	\$19
Calculator	\$25
Reprinted materials/books	\$104
Books	\$300
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$525</b>

These supplies will be available at the college bookstore and/or orders will be taken during first course.

In addition students will require suitable outdoor gear for field work  
Boots, raingear, hat etc.

<b>Approximate per student Costs for GW Program*</b>	
Module 1	\$1100
Module 2	\$1100
Module 3	\$1100
Module 4	\$1100
Supplies	\$500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4900</b>

\* costs vary depending on location of delivery and facilities and personnel available at those locations

**To become a student at NWCC, an applicant needs to apply and be accepted to a program before registering in courses. Please apply for the Guardian Watchman Program online at [www.nwcc.bc.ca](http://www.nwcc.bc.ca) or come into any NWCC campus and apply there.**

**For more information, please contact:**

**Ken Downs, Coordinator**

Guardian Watchman Programs

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