PHILIP J. CURRIE
DINOSAUR MUSEUM

Summer Palaeontology Field Assistant
Seasonal, Full-Time

The Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum (PJCDM) is seeking an enthusiastic, passionate, and knowledgeable university student to serve as a Palaeontology Field Assistant for the summer of 2025.

The Paleontology Field Assistant will support fieldwork and lab operations at the PJCDM and help to lead field-based public programs. This position will be based out of the PJCDM in Wembley, AB, with most work time spent outdoors at field sites.
The Paleontology Field Assistant will gain valuable work experience, practical skills for palaeontology (collecting methods for vertebrate fossils), collections management skills (storing and cataloguing objects) and public outreach skills. Additional skills such as working as part of a team and problem solving will be fostered in the field.

This position will:

1. Preserve and protect palaeontological resources as historical resources for future generations.
2. Promote an understanding of palaeontology within the Peace Region of Alberta and beyond
3. Promote science literacy and scientific research in the field of palaeontology

Description of Tasks:

1. Assist the PJCDM curatorial team and University of Alberta collaborators in palaeontology fieldwork in the region, prospecting, excavating, and collecting fossils.
2. Assist with the paid public program 'Palaeontologist for a Day', supervising participants in the excavation of dinosaur fossils.
3. Learn and apply proper palaeontological techniques for prospecting, excavation and collection of fossils.
4. Prepare fossil specimens in the lab.
5. Carry out standards of best practice for fossil collection in the field.
6. Participate in public and school outreach programs related to palaeontology, geology, and natural history of Alberta and the Peace Country region.
7. Assist PJCDM staff with organization of fossil collection as necessary.

The Ideal Candidate will have the following attributes/qualities:

1. Some knowledge or interested in Alberta's palaeontology, geology, and/or natural history.

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2. Attention to detail, good organizational skills, and the ability to work independently on focused tasks.
3. Comfort interacting with the public, including children.
4. The ability to work outdoors in all weather conditions.
5. The ability to lift moderately heavy objects.
6. The ability to work as a team
7. A Class 5 or higher Driver's License or equivalent.
8. Fluency in written and spoken English.

Preference will be given to candidates who:

1. Are currently attending and/or be returning to post-secondary education with a degree in palaeontology, geology, archaeology, museum studies, zoology, biology, science, engineering, or equivalent.
2. Have experience collecting, preparing and/or handling fossils in a lab or field setting.
3. Have proficiency in French.

Reporting
The Paleontology Field Assistant will report to the Curator

Period of Employment
The period of employment for this position will be May 12th, 2025 to August 29th, 2025. Training and team building will be undertaken in May, with public programs and field work beginning in June.

The Collections Assistant will work five 7.5-hour days a week on a Tuesday to Saturday or Wednesday to Sunday schedule, as required.

Salary: $18.00/hr

To apply, send your cover letter and resume to hr@dinomuseum.ca and curator@dinomuseum.ca

About the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum
The PJCDM is located 2 km outside the Town of Wembley and approximately 33 km from the City of Grande Prairie. While the successful candidate is responsible for finding their own accommodation in the Grande Prairie area, the museum can suggest some potential options. The successful candidate must be present, in-person, at the museum during work hours. They must be willing to work some evenings and weekends to accommodate volunteers and special events.