



peers

VICTORIA RESOURCES SOCIETY

**Temporary Motel Outreach Worker(s)
2 p/t positions: Sat-Sun: 12pm-7pm
Casual Shifts Weekdays (7-2pm, 9-4pm) and weekends (930-430 or 12-7)**

Peers Victoria is a multi-service, grassroots organization that has been working with sex workers for 25 years. Peers provides outreach and drop-in harm reduction and food security services, as well as wellness workshops, housing support, health support, and social justice leadership concerning sex workers rights, primarily in Victoria, the territory of the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations. We maintain a welcoming environment that prioritizes harm reduction and client-centered service delivery, drawing on social justice perspectives and sex worker leadership.

In response to the rapidly changing landscape of Covid-19, Peers Victoria has been contracted by Vancouver Island Health Authority to provide temporary harm reduction services at several of the local motels. The individuals we will be supporting have a history of homelessness and will often be experiencing inter-related health support needs related to substance use, mental health, trauma, and chronic illness. While Peers Victoria focuses on supporting individuals currently or formerly in the sex trade, in this setting, harm reduction and support will be provided to all individuals who reside at the site with an emphasis on peer-based harm reduction models. Peers Victoria staff are part of a multidisciplinary team, but we offer a unique perspective based on our experience in gender-based service delivery to people in sex work or trade.

Reporting to the Program Coordinator and Executive Director, the **Motel Outreach Workers** are skilled harm reduction service providers, familiar with local health and social services, and knowledgeable about peer-based support. Motel Outreach Workers work collaboratively with other team members on site including medical, housing, hotel and other harm reduction staff.

Specific duties for this position include, but are not limited to:

- Deliver client-centered support to access safer supply and harm reduction supplies;
- Psychosocial support, including peer-based support;
- Provide client-centered advocacy;
- Education provision around hygiene and precautions in relation to Covid-19;
- Provide prevention information re: hand-washing and physical distancing;
- Provision of naloxone kits, overdose prevention and response information and individualized planning;
- Provision of a full array of harm reduction supplies, as well as the safe collection of used equipment;
- Information regarding how to access Drug Checking services with the Vancouver Island Drug Checking Project;
- Basic assessment and referral re: symptoms of Covid-19;

- Ability to support peer-witnessed injection for overdose prevention;
- Responding to crisis as needed and offering de-escalation support;
- Ensure motel residents' concerns are heard and that they understand the motel's expectations of residence;
- Support resident-based leadership and harm reduction support where possible;
- Collaborate with nursing and medical staff as needed;
- Adherence to Peers organizational policies;
- Completion of shift reports;
- Attend weekly staff meetings and trainings as required.

Desired Skills and Qualifications:

- Knowledge of harm reduction supplies and strategies in relation to different types of substance use;
- Understanding of trauma-informed care;
- Approachable, non-judgmental, empathic, and calm in conflict or crisis;
- Sex work positive and able to provide safer sex information and supplies;
- Knowledge of local health and social service agencies and service access particulars;
- Collaborative, team-oriented service approach;
- Commitment to practices of confidentiality, ethical service delivery, and boundaries in helping relationships;
- Punctual, reliable and able to communicate service and advocacy information verbally and in written format;
- Understanding of social inequities, human rights, and ability to apply a social justice to health and social services, including a commitment to anti-racism, LGBTQ2s+ rights, and addressing the ongoing impact of colonization.
- A degree in health or social service provision or equivalent experience in paid or volunteer service delivery (2+ years) is preferred, but consideration will also be given to lived experience of sex work in lieu of other education and/or experience.

Job details and Training Requirements:

- Part-time weekend and casual shifts. Shifts are seven hours and have varying start times between 7am and 12pm.
- Wage is \$25/hour. *A temporary wage boost (\$28/hr) is in effect until June 2020 and may be extended
- Must have Basic First Aid and CPR. Food safe is required to work in other Peers' programs and will be an asset in this position.
- Must complete a vulnerable sector criminal record check.
- Additional certification/training in therapeutic communication, conflict resolution, and occupational safety practices an asset.
- Based on skills and experience, persons hired may be eligible to work casually in the night outreach and drop-in programs.

If you are interested in this community service opportunity, please submit a resume and a cover letter that summarizes your relevant experience and skills by May 15th, 2020 to peershiring@gmail.com.

Applications from individuals with direct experience in any aspect of the sex industry are especially welcome. We also encourage applications from, but not limited to, Indigenous persons, persons of colour, persons with various abilities, and persons representing diverse genders and sexualities.