



peers

VICTORIA RESOURCES SOCIETY

Communications Specialist – Canada Summer Job Position

One full-time position: 30 hours per week for eight weeks/280 hours

Peers has been providing outreach, harm reduction and education services for people in the sex industry for more than 25 years. It is an innovative, multi-service grassroots agency established by, with, and for sex workers in 1995. Through direct service delivery and community partnerships, Peers provides an array of outreach and drop-in harm reduction and support services alongside education and employment training for current and former sex workers, in Victoria and on Vancouver Island. Peers also offers panel discussions to educate the general public about the myths, reality and legal status of sex work.

Due to COVID-19, few people are working out of the office. Every precaution is being taken as we open up for clients. As such, the bulk of this position is remote.

Reporting to the Communications Officer, the Communications Specialist will work both independently and collaboratively to strategically raise awareness about Peers. They will also develop marketing and educational material and work on various communications projects to help further the work that Peers does. Most of the work will be remote. A mentor will also provide additional support and academic and lived experience of many of the social, identity and economic conditions that affect those served by Peers Victoria.

Many people who access Peers may not feel safe in other spaces. Depending on the candidate's life experience, spending some time with Peers staff and our clients will assist in cultivating or further enhancing communication and respect.

This position includes implementing social media as a tool to educate, celebrate and raise awareness. Interpersonal skills will be developed by speaking with other staff as well as clients. Listening and using non-verbal cues is vital as we debrief in team meetings, especially when there are several new challenges with COVID-19 and our clients.

With text, computer, social media, telephone, zoom and in-person interaction, the candidate will further develop their communications skills. Also, learning to develop communications materials that speak to a specific audience, like granters, community, supporters, the team, is an excellent skill for all future work. Learning how best to

convey a message on different channels depending on the format and intended audience is another skill that will be honed in this position. Peers uses Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, Zoom, newsletters and our website to communicate. All of these platforms require unique approaches to maximize uptake. The candidate will gain familiarity with WordPress.

Supervision will take a few forms to best support the candidate. Upon hiring, we would meet and establish short and long-term goals for the role, including collaborative and independent projects. The candidate will provide drafts of work before final copies to encourage feedback and support. Some of this work can be done on Google docs for ease in communication and access.

Specific duties include:

- Exploring what Peers does and learning about our clients
- Sourcing material for social media
- Working with Communications Officer to set goals for the work period
- Establishing a calendar based on Peers' themes
- Condensing written material to be repurposed for social media, presentations and other educational and marketing opportunities
- Attending (virtual) a few meetings or training as required
- Creating basic graphics (knowledge or appetite to learn Canva)
- Brainstorming ideas with Communications Officer
- Working remotely and being self-directed
- Being curious and open to learning
- Speaking up when you have any questions and sharing ideas
- Enjoying a welcoming, inclusive team

Desired Skills and Qualifications:

- Understanding of sex work
- Strong writing skills required
- Approachable, non-judgmental, empathic
- Knowledge of what harm reduction is
- Ease with computers
- Sex work positive and able to provide safer sex information and supplies
- Collaborative, but able to work independently
- Strong understanding of social media (appetite to learn a new one if not all known)
- 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 lens to health and social services, including a commitment to anti-racism, lgbtq2s+ rights, and addressing the ongoing impact of colonization

Job details and Training Requirements:

- Wage is \$25/hour
- 30 hours/week until 280 hours are fulfilled
- Must complete a vulnerable sector criminal record check

If you are interested in this Canada Summer Jobs opportunity, please submit a resume and a cover letter that summarizes your relevant experience and at your earliest convenience peerscommunications@peers.bc.ca. Applications will be accepted until June 25, 2020, 2:00 pm. Those selected for interviews will have a short writing assignment.

Individuals must be 15-30 years of age at the start of employment to qualify for this position. Applications from individuals with direct experience in any aspect of the sex industry are especially welcome. We also encourage applications from Indigenous people, persons of colour, persons of differing abilities, and people representing diverse genders and sexualities.