



Indigenous Outreach Worker

Peers Victoria is a peer-based, grass roots organization for people in sex work or trade that has been in operation since 1995 on Lekwungen territory. Through direct service delivery and partnerships, Peers provides an array of outreach and drop-in support services, advocacy and public education to current and former sex workers.

Reporting to the Indigenous Programs Director and in partnership with the First Nations Health Authority, the Indigenous Outreach Worker (IOW) provides support services to unsheltered and precariously housed Indigenous people.

In recognition of the urgent need for support for all unsheltered individuals and the importance of recognizing existing relationships that have been built, the IOW will provide basic necessities and supports to individuals during their outreach activities. The IOW will also consult and work collaboratively with other outreach organizations and housing providers. The IOW will work 24 hours per week in 6 hour shifts. Days of the week and times of the day are flexible, but general outreach shifts are Monday to Thursday 10:30-4:30 pm. Peers Indigenous outreach workers collaborate with other organizations to locally deliver necessities and supports to unsheltered individuals. They normally work in pairs, either with another Peers Victoria staff person or with a partner from an allied organization.

The position is funded until April 31, 2022 with the possibility of renewal.

Specific duties for this position include:

1. Support unsheltered and sheltered Indigenous folks by delivering basic needs and resources and by attending to other needs identified by persons served. As well, at times we connect with non-Indigenous folks if there are ways that we can offer supports;
2. Listen to the housing preferences of unsheltered Indigenous individuals and facilitate referrals to additional support resources, and permanent and temporary housing;
3. Support Indigenous folks in participating in cultural events led by the Peers Indigenous Outreach team or other events that the team collaborates with. Collaborate with other Peers IOW's and other outreach staff to organize community events such as dinners, picnics etc. and work to build relationship with Indigenous folks that we support;

4. Collaborate with other outreach staff from other local organizations and other Indigenous led housing support staff to provide basic needs supports;
5. Participate in advocacy and community development opportunities relevant to meeting the needs of unsheltered Indigenous peoples;
6. Work in collaboration with the SACRED facilitators at Peers to identify and implement cultural supports needed by persons served;
7. Collaborate with the Reaching Home housing support program and other Peers team members to support housing needs being met;
8. Support the Indigenous program director with tasks to support the program and administrative duties when needed;
9. Work with Peer-Based Outreach Workers that come into the Peer-Based Outreach Program. This includes both mentoring and learning from folks that come on to work with the Indigenous Outreach Team one to two times a week. This includes working in pairs with them doing outreach shifts, driving with them on shift if they do not have a vehicle and supporting their growth with working in an organization such as Peers Victoria Resources Society.
10. Maintenance of all documentation necessary to report on the outputs, outcomes and financial records of this work;
11. Adhere to Peers policies, procedures, values and mandate.

Skills/Qualities:

- Ability to work with Individuals representing diverse Indigenous Nations, while respecting the governance and protocols of local Coast Salish people including the LKWUNGEN, WSANEC, Kwakwaka'wakw and Nuu-chah-nulth nations.
- Knowledge of local Indigenous and non-Indigenous social services including housing, income and food security supports that may benefit persons served;
- Strong analysis of colonialism and the ways in which historical and ongoing colonization impacts Indigenous People;
- Strong understanding of the needs of unsheltered individuals and knowledge on how to support this diverse community;
- Understanding of trauma informed care;
- Approachable, non-judgmental, empathic, and calm in conflict or crisis;
- Knowledge of Indigenous approaches to positive sexuality and substance use harm reduction models;
- Strong communication skills and collaborative approach;

- Strong administrative skills related to managing emails, coordinating events, and managing appointment times with folks that we support
- Knowledge of diversity of local sex industry and ability to connect with target population;
- A degree in social service provision or equivalent experience in community support (4+ years) is required.

Job details:

- 24 hours per week
- Pay is \$25 hour
- Requires a valid BC driver license and use of personal vehicle;
- Must have Basic First Aid/CPR and experience in overdose response;
- Food safe is an asset Vulnerable Sector Criminal Record Check required;
- Position is funded through April 31, 2022 with the possibility of renewal.

If you are interested in this employment opportunity, please submit a resume and a covering letter that summarizes your relevant experience and skills by **August 30th, 2021** to peershiring@gmail.com. The position will remain open until a qualified candidate is found. This position will be prioritized for Indigenous people with consideration given to applicants who have lived experience with homelessness and in the sex work/trade or experience working with people who have been unhoused or work in sex work/trade. It is beneficial to identify in the cover letter if you have lived expertise relevant to the position. We also encourage applications from, but not limited to, people with diverse abilities, and people representing diverse genders and sexualities.