



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 Program Lead works to provide 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 Program Lead will ensure the daily operation of the Indigenous Outreach Team at Peers. This includes organizing outreach routes and shifts for Outreach Workers to ensure that basic necessities and supports to individuals are being received during outreach activities. The Program Lead will also consult and work collaboratively with other outreach organizations and housing providers. The IOW will work 25 hours per week. Days of the week and times of the day are flexible, but general outreach shifts are Monday to Thursday 10:30-3:30 pm with time built in before for administrative duties. 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. Coordinate daily/weekly shifts and schedules for the Indigenous outreach team to support unsheltered and sheltered Indigenous folks by supporting access to basic needs, connecting them to mental health supports, connection to cultural supports, providing harm reduction services, and by attending to the other diverse needs identified by persons served. This can include, but is not limited to, supporting folks in getting to appointments, filling out paperwork among other social supports offered by the Indigenous Outreach Team;
2. Maintain program needs - this includes planning daily outreach routes, ensuring there are enough outreach supplies and shopping for outreach program needs;

3. Maintain collaboration with the other Indigenous Outreach Workers in Greater Victoria by hosting and coordinating the IOW Network meeting that occurs bi-weekly online or in person. This can include following through with initiatives being planned by the IOW and reaching out to necessary contacts to ensure these initiatives are functioning appropriately;
4. Listen to the housing preferences of unsheltered Indigenous individuals and facilitate referrals to additional support resources, and permanent and temporary housing; Collaborate with the Reaching Home Housing Support Program and other Peers team members to ensure that housing needs are being met;
5. Coordinate cultural events that are led by the Peers Indigenous Outreach team or other events that the Peers team collaborates with. Support program participants in taking part in these cultural events by sharing information, providing options for rides etc. Also collaborate to organize community events such as dinners, picnics etc. and work in order to build relationships with Indigenous folks that we support;
6. Participate in advocacy and community development opportunities relevant to meeting the needs of unsheltered Indigenous peoples;
7. Work in collaboration with the SACRED facilitators at Peers to identify and implement cultural supports needed by persons served;
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 peer-based outreach workers as we work in pairs doing outreach shifts and driving with peer-based outreach staff if they do not have a vehicle;
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 intergenerationally;
- 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 and leading events, and managing appointment times with folks that we support
- Knowledge of diversity of local sex industry and ability to connect with target population;

Job details:

- 25 hours per week, with opportunities to add additional hours if needed;
- Pay is \$29 - \$32 hour;
- Requires a valid BC driver license and preferably use of personal vehicle;
- A degree in Indigenous Studies or social service provision or equivalent experience in community support (3 years plus) is required;
- Must have 3 years plus experience in harm reduction and overdose response based work;
- Food safe is an asset and Vulnerable Sector Criminal Record Check is 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 **November 5, 2021** to indig.director@peers.bc.ca. 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 who have experience working in the sex work/trade or experience supporting folks who have been unhoused or work in sex work/trade. It is beneficial to identify in the cover letter if you are Indigenous and 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.