

**Indigenous Housing and Gender Based Violence (GBV) Support 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 outreach and drop-in support services, advocacy and public education, with a focus on current and former sex workers. This position would be affiliated with the QomQem Coastal Connections outreach team. QomQem is an Indigenous-led outreach program that developed in partnership with [Peers Victoria Resources Society](https://www.safersexwork.ca/). QomQem offers [harm reduction and health care services](https://qomqem.com/our-services/) to Indigenous peoples who are unhoused, precariously housed, and who may be using substances and/or alcohol.

This position is posted for 20-35 hours per week at $30 per hour. The position is funded until March 31, 2023 with the possibility of a funding renewal. The position is funded by the Ending Violence Association of BC and Reaching Homes: Canada’s Homelessness Initiative.

**Requirements for Indigenous Support Worker include:**

1. Engage in outreach work with unsheltered individuals who are couch surfing, camping or precariously housed to provide harm reduction and overdose prevention supplies, related education and basic necessities (food, camping gear, hygiene supplies, water etc.);
2. Assist members of target service population to access health care, GBV and housing supports (including, but not limited to, helping to arrange appointments, providing bus tickets, and accompaniment as appropriate);
3. Support education events related to prevention and response to Gender Based Violence, including development of culturally relevant curriculum, connecting to local Elders and Knowledge Keepers to support delivery, and supporting participants to attend events. This work will be done in a team format.
4. Support workshops aimed at providing harm reduction education, GBV Prevention;
5. An emphasis of this program is on connecting with Indigenous individuals and referring to supports for experiencing GBV and by connecting folks to cultural supports;
6. Support collaboration with the other Indigenous Outreach Workers in Greater Victoria by attending 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 carried out;
7. Support the work of hosting cultural events that are led by QomQem or other events that the IOW team collaborate with (such as the Seafood Feast). 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 relationship with Indigenous folks that we support;
8. Liaise closely with service staff in related gender-based violence, housing, harm reduction, and health care organizations to remain aware of service opportunities, to participate in collaborative advocacy and to optimize client referral processes, and co-delivery of supports. Report to Peers Victoria Violence Prevention Coordinator alongside QomQem’s Program Director;
9. Keep program records that are responsive to requirements of funder and Peers program outcome monitoring, including financial record keeping and service records;
10. Adhere to the Peers Victoria Policy manual.

**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 for folks facing GBV in supportive housing sites and on the streets
* 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:**

▪ Up to 35 hours per a week and rate of pay is $30/hr;

▪ 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 an asset;

▪ Food safe is an asset and Vulnerable Sector Criminal Record Check is required;

▪ Position is funded through March 31, 2023 with the possibility of renewal.

If you are interested in this employment opportunity, please submit a resume and a cover letter that summarizes your relevant experience and skills by **October 17th, 2022** to director@qomqem.com. The position will remain open until a qualified candidate is found. This position will be prioritized for Indigenous people but is open to all folks that are interested. 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.