



Opportunity: Lead, Indigenous Justice and Community Engagement

Reports to: Executive Director, Providence Centre for Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation

The Providence Centre for Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation, (the “Centre”), a division of Catholic Health Sponsors of Ontario (CHSO) is currently recruiting for a **Lead, Indigenous Justice and Community Engagement**. We acknowledge the Catholic Church’s devastating role in colonialism, and the resulting harmful effects on Indigenous peoples and communities. We acknowledge the challenge this can present for potential Indigenous candidates, as individuals, and with the intended role of relationship building and community engagement.

This is an important addition to the Centre’s work on housing, the climate crisis, and other social justice issues. We are seeking a lead with Indigenous knowledge and expertise. Someone who can incorporate Indigenous worldviews into the work and who is anchored in the strengths of Indigenous Peoples and communities. This role will allow the flexibility to develop Indigenous justice strategy suited to Kingston/Katarokwi, while also responding to emerging community needs.

The successful candidate will need to be a self-starter who is comfortable with being part of a new initiative from the ground-up. While we work collaboratively, each role at the Centre drives forward their work based on input, guidance, and invitation from the community. Acknowledging the significance of offering support and resources to Indigenous community led initiatives, and fairly held mistrust that can exist, this position will be supported by an Indigenous Support Circle who will provide both a forum for feedback, guidance, and care along with support to the successful candidate.

Position Summary

Reporting to the Executive Director for the Centre, the Lead, Indigenous Justice and Community Engagement will have a clear understanding and commitment to the mission of the Centre. The Lead will work to achieve the Centre’s vision of a world where all experience compassion, justice, and peace in solidarity with creation.

The Lead, Indigenous Justice and Community Engagement, will focus on supporting efforts that are fostering the ongoing resurgence of Indigenous lands, languages and lives in Indigenous Territories and Nations on Turtle Island, in particular, what is now called Canada. Their connections with and understanding of Indigenous knowledge and practices will ground their strategy and practice.

Core Responsibilities:

- Balancing an independent and a collaborative approach within the Centre to ensure an integrated approach amongst each other's work.
- Responding to the needs of the times in the local urban Indigenous community, that of nearby Nations and communities, and at regional levels.
- Identifying and establishing local and/or national priorities for the position and their role which could include planning, organizing, and implementing education, advocacy, and social action initiatives.
- Research, review, and understand policies, programs, and legislation related to Indigenous lived experiences and the social determinants of health.
- Work closely with diverse First Nations people (status and non-status), Métis people, and Inuit in addition to Indigenous organizations, networks, and partners to understand and respond to urban, local, regional, or national needs. These responsibilities could include advocacy for and/or development of policies, programs, and legislation that support Indigenous land, life, governance, and cultures in Katarokwi, (now known as Kingston), and across the country.

Knowledge and Skills:

Knowledge:

- An understanding of the present-day and historic impacts of colonialism and capitalism on Indigenous lives, governance, relations with land and other forms of life, and how Indigenous Peoples have responded to these impacts.
- Familiarity with organizations, governments, and agencies relevant to Indigenous Peoples.
- Knowledge of current social media tools is an asset.

Skills and Abilities:

- Proven skills in community-building and engagement, particularly with / within First Nations, Métis settlements, Inuit communities and / or urban Indigenous communities and spaces.
- Demonstrated experience in Indigenous justice advocacy and organizing.
- Successful being self-driven and working independently.
- Demonstrated ability to work well with a team.
- Strong oral communication skills.
- Strong facilitation skills.
- Strong analytical skills.

Qualifications

- Lived experience as an Indigenous person with ties to a First Nation(s), Métis settlement(s), Inuit, urban community(ies) which claim them.
- Understanding of their own Indigenous worldviews and frameworks.
- Demonstrated relationships with Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous communities.
- Commitment to the mission and vision of the Centre.
- Post-secondary education an asset, though not a requirement.
- Indigenous language speaker or learner an asset, though not a requirement.

Compensation

- \$74,250 salary plus benefits and RRSP contribution for 37.5 hours per week including some evening and weekend work.
- This position could begin as early as January 2024.

To apply to this position, please send your resume and a cover letter that speaks to how you envision taking on a role of building Indigenous justice and community engagement, and what gifts you carry that will help you be successful to bridget.doherty@chco.ca.

Candidates invited to an interview may be asked to provide further information as it relates to a declaration of being an Indigenous candidate, via the Centre's Engaging Authentic Indigenous Staff, Volunteers, and Collaborators Policy.

Assistance for relocation will be offered if needed.

If you have questions about this position, or our Engaging Authentic Indigenous Staff, Volunteers, and Collaborators Policy, please contact Bridget Doherty at bridget.doherty@chco.ca

About Catholic Health Sponsors of Ontario

Catholic Health Sponsors of Ontario (CHSO) was created in 1998 to assume sponsorship of health organizations when religious orders and congregations are ready to move on to other missions. Today, CHSO sponsors 21 organizations that collectively provide programs and services across the continuum of care in 10 communities across Ontario. As sponsor, CHSO ensures that each lives up to the legacy of the founding Sisters and demonstrates the unique value of Catholic health care.

This position responds in part to CHSO's strategic goal to establish, nurture, and encourage relationships with Indigenous leaders and communities, with humility, an open heart, and guided by truth-telling and a desire for authentic reconciliation.