

## Traditional Knowledge Keeper – Niiwin Wendaanimak Program

3-Year Contract, Part-Time 0.4 FTE (15 hours/week), \$23/hour compensation paid through invoice

**Parkdale Queen West Community Health Centre** (Parkdale Queen West CHC) is a dynamic, community-based health care organization serving mid-west downtown Toronto. Offering a broad range of services, including primary health care, dental care, harm reduction, health promotion, counselling, and community development programming, we are also committed to serving people who face barriers to health care, and we strive to reduce these barriers. PQWCHC is a multi-sited organization.

**Program Overview:** The Niiwin Wendaanimak (Four Winds) Indigenous Wellness Program supports people who identify as Indigenous with a focus to support those who are homeless, have experienced homelessness and/or under-housed.

### General Responsibilities:

The Traditional Knowledge Keeper is responsible for providing supportive listening, traditional guidance, and Indigenous cultural knowledge to Niiwin Wendaanimak members who request assistance outside of program hours during the 3-year Niiwin Wendaanimak Indigenous Wellness Project under the Toronto Urban Health Fund. Operating under a Harm Reduction framework, Traditional Knowledge Keeper will provide support in the form of confidential supportive listening sessions on a weekly drop-in basis. Additionally, the Traditional Knowledge Keeper will attend one weekly program to build rapport with community members. **This position will be expected to work across PQWCHC's two main sites.**

**Reporting Manager:** Indigenous Health Promoter (Parkdale Site)

### Specific responsibilities:

- **Support:** Provides supportive listening and traditional guidance to Niiwin Wendaanimak members in crisis and/or who request assistance outside of program hours, providing the members with culturally responsive coping tools; support will be provided in the form of drop-in availability for 12 hours of confidential supports each week
- **Administration:** Will document notes and forward to Parkdale Indigenous Health Promoter to input onto NOD online system, follow policies regarding Confidentiality, Professional Boundaries, and Duty to Report
- **Collaboration:** Will report directly to the Parkdale Indigenous Health Promoter for regular supervision should any issues arise within their work; will work with Indigenous Health Promoters to ensure circle of care and holistic supports to Indigenous community members

### Qualifications:

- Have experience of working within Indigenous communities from a philosophy of non-interference and harm reduction.
- Understand and accept the principles of Harm Reduction and non-interference, and embrace Harm Reduction in relation to Indigenous cultural access for Four Winds program members who are struggling with the impacts of colonization
- Be 2SLGBTQ+ friendly and actively work against lateral violence in the community, including lateral violence towards mixed race Indigenous community members
- Experience working with homeless and/or street-involved Indigenous community; comfortability & familiarity with engaging with clients with significant mental health/trauma/substance use challenges as well as the impacts of colonization
- 1-2 years' experience working as a Traditional Knowledge Keeper in a non-profit organization
- Undergraduate or graduate degree in relevant discipline from a recognized university
- Training in Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI); Experience with managing and dealing effectively with group members in crisis
- Ability to complete documentation/case notes in a timely manner
- Proficiency in another language, including an Indigenous language, is considered an asset



**Applicants who self Identify as Indigenous and meets the other requirements of the job will be given first consideration in the hiring process.**

If you are interested in joining in a creative and dedicated team to make things better, we want to hear from you! Please send your resume and cover letter **in a single document** (MS Word or PDF format only) to [bluttenberger@pqwchc.ca](mailto:bluttenberger@pqwchc.ca), quoting "Traditional Knowledge Keeper" in the subject line. Internal candidates, please submit your application by 5pm of April 30, 2021. We truly appreciate your interest; however, only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted. Please also note that the successful candidate will be required to provide a criminal reference check as a condition of employment.