



METRO VANCOUVER INDIGENOUS SERVICES SOCIETY

INDIGENOUS CULTURAL WELLNESS COUNSELOR & FACILITATOR

Two Full-Time, Positions
Vancouver, BC

WHO WE ARE

The Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council (MVAEC) is a vibrant organization with many urban Indigenous member organizations. The Metro Vancouver Indigenous Services Society (MVISS) is a subsidiary of the MVAEC. As a result, teamwork and leadership is imperative, and the Indigenous Cultural Wellness Counsellor & Facilitator (ICWCF) requires structure, flexibility and clear decision-making.

WHAT YOU WILL DO

Under the direction of the MVISS Program Director, the ICWCF will ensure the current developmental, treatment, and psycho-social needs of Indigenous people are met by actively participating in the provision of assessment and treatment through developing wellness programming that supports the clinical work provided to individuals.

The primary responsibility of this position is to provide Indigenous cultural programming supports that enhance the overall prevention, assessment, referral, clinical counselling, follow-up services, case management and counselling services for Indigenous people seeking support from the agency. The ICWCF will ensure that cultural programming is consistent with the: philosophy; approach; goals; and healing environment established by the Agency so as to ensure the social, emotional, spiritual and physical well-being of people served are provided with quality services using Indigenous cultures as the intervention and foundation.

A key element of this position will be to utilize Indigenous cultural and healing practices which are linking directly to: Elders, cultural advisors and traditional knowledge keepers as a means to bring healing and wellness to the persons served. Please find specific responsibilities as it relates to this role:

- Provide cultural wellness counselling, facilitation and support to individuals, families and groups in the community, recognizing that a huge diversity exists in Metro Vancouver with almost every Indigenous tribal group from across Canada resides and potentially seeks MVISS services; provide cultural wellness counselling and facilitation in regards to the cause, symptoms and prevention strategies of various diagnoses that can affect cultural wellness; provide counselling in regards to the use and effects of alcohol and substance use; prepare needs and risk assessments; maintain a comprehensive understanding of crisis management and the impact of trauma on cultural wellness and substance use; provide outreach counselling in the community; accept and make referrals to outside agencies; maintain strict confidentiality in regards to all person served files, conversations and referrals; utilize the MVISS Electronic Management Record system so as to maintain all person served files in a timely manner.
- Coordinate and facilitate psycho-educational workshops on cultural wellness and substance use; contribute to funding proposals to enhance the services for cultural wellness and substance use programs and initiatives; and collaborate with the MVISS team to develop promotional materials and information for cultural wellness led initiatives.
- Act as a liaison to support treatment referrals for individuals through a cultural lens; arrange transportation for individuals to and from cultural programming and ceremonies as part of their case management plans; and utilize evaluation components to measure the effectiveness of MVISS cultural programs and services.
- Provide community engagement, outreach and capacity building exercises where required.

- Ensure the services are consistent with the: philosophy; approach; goals; and healing environment established by the Agency so as to ensure the social, emotional, spiritual and physical well-being of people served are provided with quality services using Indigenous cultures as the intervention and foundation.
- Respond to crises situations involving clients including assessing and addressing high risk behaviors such as self-harm, suicide, etc.
- Participate in orientation of other staff as directed by the program director.
- Provide effective mental wellness and substance use services; setting program priorities; implementing planning and practice; and monitoring the status of cases referred to external agency programs and services.
- Provide written reports and ensure regular, appropriate documentation in client files in keeping with policies and procedures.
- All other duties as required of this position related to Indigenous cultural wellness as a means to facilitate healing for individuals, families and the community.

WHAT YOU WILL BRING

- A minimum 3-years of experience in a related field and with various industry recognized cultural and wellness training modules.
- Demonstrated deep understanding of Indigenous healing and cultural practices grounded in Indigenous cultural frameworks.
- Experience working with individuals struggling with cultural identity, mental wellness challenges, and substance use.
- Experience working within a harm reduction, culturally-based and trauma-informed setting.
- Comprehensive knowledge and understanding of client centered strengths-based cultural wellness programming so as to address core and underlying root causes and provide substance use interventions; knowledge of community resources, treatment centres, social service networks and organizations as well as funding opportunities to assist individual's access to other supports resources in the community.
- Working knowledge of: various computer hardware and software including Microsoft Office applications (Word, Excel, Outlook, etc.); Electronic Management Record systems; and the ability to learn the Native Wellness Assessment tool.
- Satisfactory Criminal Records and Vulnerable Populations Check.
- Work flexible hours including some evenings and weekends.
- A Class 5 Drivers License and have access to a personal vehicle would be an asset.
- A valid standard First Aid/CPR Certificate.

If you thrive working with a team that values delivering outstanding service and loves to learn and grow as a person and team member and wants to make a difference in the Indigenous community, then we want to hear from you. Please submit your resume AND a cover letter to: operations@mvaec.ca. with Indigenous Cultural Wellness Counselor & Facilitator in the subject line. In your cover letter: **please self-identify if you are of Indigenous ancestry**; and demonstrate how your education, knowledge, skills and abilities meet the requirements listed above.

Job post will remain open until filled.

Only short-listed applicants will be contacted for this posting.