



METRO VANCOUVER INDIGENOUS SERVICES SOCIETY

INDIGENOUS MENTAL WELLNESS COUNSELOR & FACILITATOR

*Permanent, Full-Time
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 Mental Wellness Counsellor and Facilitator (MWCF) requires structure, flexibility and clear decision-making.

WHAT YOU WILL DO

Under the direction of the MVISS Program Director, the Indigenous Mental Wellness Counselor and Facilitator (IMWCF) 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 MWCF requires a capacity to build and maintain effective relationships both within and outside the organization. The MWCF will work closely with individuals and family members affected by mental wellness and substance use issues, specifically individuals who self-identify as Indigenous. In addition, this position will act as an advocate to support vulnerable people to make decisions and have their voice heard when decisions are being made about their lives. A key element of this position will be to utilize the use of 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 prevention, assessment, referral, clinical counselling, follow-up and case management for Indigenous people seeking support from the Agency.
- Engage the Indigenous population in the MVISS catchment area (Vancouver, North Vancouver and Richmond) recognizing that a huge diversity exists in Metro Vancouver with almost every Indigenous group from across Canada residing here and potentially seeking MVISS 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 and onboarding 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.
- Facilitate mental wellness and substance use counselling and support to individuals, families and groups in the community
- 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

- Undergraduate Social Work Degree in a Health Science discipline from a recognized post-secondary institute.
- Minimum of five (5) years' experience providing counseling and treatment services to adults and/or youth with mental health and/or addictions issues
- Minimum of two (2) years' experience working with Indigenous community service agencies in the area of mental health and/or addictions
- An equivalent combination of education and experience may be considered
- 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 Mental 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.