

Job Title: Indigenous Outreach Midwife (Call Auntie);
Positions: 2 Positions: 1 x 0.5 FTE; 1 x 0.25 FTE
Salary: \$70/hr
Hours: 10 hrs/week (0.25 FTE) and 20 hrs/wk (0.5 FTE), flexible, on-call schedule, mostly daytime hours, occasional evening or weekends
Location: In community, home visits and Call Auntie Clinic at SGMT - 525 Dundas St E
Start: Immediately, ending March 31, 2023

Background:

Inner City Health Associates (ICHA) is a community health organization with a vision of supporting a 'healthy end to homelessness'. ICHA's clinicians, health promoters, and operational teams work in frontline homeless service settings throughout the City of Toronto including encampments, drop-ins, shelters, community service agencies and clinical hub sites. Beyond direct care provision, ICHA trains future healthcare providers, conducts and facilitates research, promotes health and social service improvements, and advocates for healthy public policies and system change at local, provincial and national levels. ICHA has already made significant contributions to the redesign of our local system of health care for those who are homeless and have complex support needs and aims to ensure that people experience homelessness can have access to the highest quality care.

Indigenous people have inequitable access to the Canadian healthcare system. The causes of the health inequities faced by Indigenous people in Canada are structural; rooted in law, policy and institutional design – and these structures of inequity have persisted, creating ongoing barriers in accessing healthcare services and violating trust of Indigenous people. The Indigenous population in Toronto is the largest Indigenous population in Canada, estimated to be >70,000. Approximately 1/3 Indigenous adults living in Toronto are functionally homeless and Indigenous peoples are also disproportionately represented among the larger homeless population of Toronto.

Indigenous people in Toronto have significant unmet healthcare needs. The lack of safe and inclusive healthcare starts in infancy. Because of institutional racism, Indigenous Children make up to 90% of children in care. Fear of child apprehension is a significant and real barrier for Indigenous People in seeking primary care. In addition, Indigenous children, youth, adults and elders face disproportionately high levels of violence. One of the most significant causes is exclusion and lack of safe places for Indigenous people to seek care. By removing barriers to healthcare for Indigenous Peoples experiencing homelessness, we hope to be able to improve their access and health outcomes.

ICHA recognizes the importance of aligning with domestic and international law, ethics guidelines, and the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada and the importance of advancing First Nation, Inuit and Metis leadership and worldviews in the address of Indigenous health inequities.

Call Auntie Clinic is a community based, community led, mobile Indigenous social medicine health care partnership between ICHA and Seventh Generation Midwives of Toronto (SGMT) and other community partners. Care is culturally grounded and community-led, providing low-barrier, community-based, professional wrap-around support to Indigenous peoples and their families in Toronto living under a variety of circumstances, with a focus on Indigenous sexual and reproductive health and outreach midwifery care for all.

Role Description:

Indigenous Outreach Midwives can be either a Registered Midwife licensed to practice by the College of Midwives of Ontario or an Aboriginal Midwife practicing under the Exemption found in both the Midwife Act and Regulated Health Professions Act recognized by their community to provide Indigenous midwifery services to members of the Indigenous community. Midwives will provide sexual and reproductive health services, including primary care of pregnant and postpartum individuals, in line with their scope of care. Midwives do not provide antepartum care as a part of this role.

Roles and Responsibilities

- Provide direct preventive, urgent and episodic care to adults, children and infants seeking sexual, reproductive and family health services, including prenatal and postpartum primary midwifery services at the Call Auntie clinic that are accessible, culturally safe, comprehensive, and effective.
- Coordinate care and referrals with health relevant community and specialist providers
- Willingness and ability to provide safe home visits for patients facing barriers to accessing care in the clinic
- Application and understanding of approaches to care that respect wholistic health and well-being, with an openness to the unique needs and beliefs of each individual
- Provide supportive coverage within scope of practice for other clinicians on the team, as needed
- Works collaboratively as part of an interdisciplinary team

Qualifications

- Maintains competence and knowledge relevant to current clinical midwifery practices and guidelines
- Letter or other documentation of community support and recognition of your practice, including vouching for your skills and confirming your good standing in the community.
- Maintains registration with the CMO or Provides Letter of Recognition from Indigenous Community to practice under the Exemption
- Maintenance of required CMO professional development requirements

- 3 - 5 years minimum work experience with Indigenous midwifery practice serving Indigenous communities
- 3 - 5 years minimum midwifery experience in a direct care provision role with complex or at risk communities, preferably in Indigenous setting
- Indigenous exemption midwives are particularly welcome to apply

The Indigenous Outreach Midwife reports to the Director of Indigenous Health. It is expected that the Indigenous Outreach Midwife will devote 10 hours per week carrying out the described roles and responsibilities.

First Nation, Inuit and Métis applicants are encouraged to identify themselves in their cover letter. We thank all applicants however only those selected for an interview will be contacted. If you are invited to an interview and require accommodation, we will make every effort to accommodate you.

Closing Date: September 6, 2022

A resume, cover letter, and references can be sent to ICHA Director of Indigenous Health Dr. Suzanne Shoush at Suzanne.Shoush@utoronto.ca. Please also cc callauntieclinic@sgmt.ca and ICHA Medical Director Dr. Andrew Bond at Andrew.bond@icha-toronto.ca. If you prefer to fax your application, it can be sent to 416-430-7478 Attn: Call Auntie HR.