



Position: Community Engagement Specialist for Indigenous and People Living in Poverty

Background:

Vibrant Communities Calgary (VCC) is an organization that works with various stakeholders and partners to engage Calgarians and advocate for long-term strategies that address the root causes of poverty in Calgary. VCC is part of a national network of communities across Canada that share ideas, practices and policies to strengthen community based poverty reduction initiatives.

The City of Calgary and the United Way entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) in 2014 to align and invest resources to facilitating and convening the diverse stakeholders in the Calgary area to advance the *Enough for All* poverty reduction strategy. VCC has been engaged by the City and United Way to lead and guide the implementation of the strategy as a backbone organization using a collective impact approach.

The *Enough for All* Strategy has a bold aspirational goal to reduce the number of Calgarians living in poverty by 50% by 2023. The complexity of poverty cannot be solved by any one person, organization or sector; it will take the collective will and engagement of the entire community. Thus, VCC builds on the great work of so many in the community and strives to leverage these efforts through increased collaboration.

The vision of VCC is to see Calgary be a city in which all citizens fully participate in their communities.

Role of VCC's Community Engagement Specialist for Indigenous and People Living in Poverty:

The role of the Community Engagement Specialist is to bring knowledge and expertise about Calgary's diverse Indigenous community and those living in poverty to VCC's work. This role collaborates with VCC's Indigenous strategist and the VCC staff team to refine and implement the *Enough for All* Aboriginal Strategy using a collective impact approach, thereby strengthening VCC's capacity to model culturally appropriate strategies and actions.

The successful candidate will have working knowledge of collective impact and familiarity with the *Enough for All* Strategy. Knowledge of traditional Indigenous protocols is a requirement for this position. Familiarity with Treaty 7 Territory and traditional Indigenous languages would be an asset. Experience working with Elders and traditional knowledge keepers is a requirement. Skills in professional writing, facilitation, advocacy, fiscal management, supervision, public speaking, chairing meetings, writing reports and collecting data are requirements.

The successful candidate will have a demonstrated competency and passion in working with people living in poverty. This individual will facilitate and support grassroots groups in building capacity for self-advocacy.

Areas of Responsibility

Strategy & Implementation

- Review VCC current practices and develop and implement a plan on the meaningful engagement of people who have the experience of living in poverty in the implementation of *Enough for All*.
- Provide facilitation and staff support to Poverty Talks, a committee of the VCC Board.
- Assist the VCC Indigenous Strategist in forming an Indigenous Youth Committee.

- Assist with translation of documents for events into Blackfoot (and, if possible, Tsuu T'ina, Stoney Nakoda or Cree languages).
- Support the Communications Advisor in the development of Fact Sheets, FAQ's, statistical data, websites and other material about VCC initiatives.
- Provide expertise to VCC on the issues facing urban Indigenous people living in poverty.
- Work with the VCC team to identify linkages for people who are Indigenous and have the experience of living in poverty to inform engagement, protocols, and worldviews in all areas of *Enough for All* implementation.
- Develop strategies to build the capacity of all *Enough for All* project partners to address issues facing Indigenous people in Calgary.
- Support efforts to develop and implement shared evaluation and measurements.
- Engage with stakeholders nationally to engage on and develop best practices in reducing poverty amongst Indigenous peoples, including the ongoing meaningful engagement of people who have the experience of living in poverty.

Community Engagement

- Seek and build formal and informal relationships with groups of families and individuals living in poverty.
- Assist and facilitate community organizations to meaningfully engage those living in poverty.
- Help build relationships with leadership and organizations from Piikani, Kainai, Tsuu T'ina, Siksika and Stoney Nakoda (Chiniki, Wesley & Bearspaw) Nations.
- Assist VCC's Indigenous Strategist in identifying and implementing strategies to engage new and established Indigenous community partners in VCC's work.
- Actively engage low-income Calgarians, the non-profit sector and others as appropriate in VCC projects and programs.
- Represent VCC at community meetings when strategically aligned with *Enough for All* priorities.

Monitoring & Evaluation

- Support efforts to work collaboratively with project partners to establish shared measurement practices.
- Help build the capacity of partner organizations to gather data and use results to adapt and refine their own work.

Staff communications

- Participate in weekly staff meetings.
- Draft and present committee reports on VCC initiatives as required/requested.
- Meet and communicate with VCC committees and Board as necessary.
- Write blogs on a bi-monthly basis.

Accountability Agreement: In addition to Operational Planning, each VCC staff member completes an annual Accountability Agreement that outlines their performance goals.

This position reports to the Indigenous Strategist.

Qualifications

- Degree in the Social Sciences or a related field, with a minimum of five years of experience in urban Indigenous social issues.
- Demonstrated ability to work with people living in poverty.
- Demonstrated capacity to facilitate and support grassroots groups.
- Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively within the Indigenous community and with a broad range of stakeholders from across all sectors (government, business and nonprofit).
- Experience in facilitation, community development, and collaborative work.

- Strong organizational skills, ability to prioritize.
- Experience in strategic planning, project management and outcomes evaluation.
- Excellent spoken and written communication skills.
- Knowledgeable about root causes of poverty and poverty reduction strategies.
- Experience with the Collective Impact model will be considered an asset.

Deadline to Apply: February 17, 2017 or until a suitable candidate is found.

To apply forward resume with covering letter via e-mail to: franco@vibrantcalgary.com

Attention: Franco Savoia, Executive Director

Subject Line: Community Engagement Specialist for Indigenous and People Living in Poverty

Applicants must state salary range expectations in their cover letter.

For more information about Vibrant Communities Calgary please visit www.vibrantcalgary.com