



D I G N I T A S

Research Assistant, Indigenous HIV Prevention and Care

Time Commitment: Approximately 7-8 hours/week for 12 weeks

Location: Toronto, ON*

Compensation: A stipend will be provided corresponding with the Research Assistant's time commitment and level of experience. Related costs for travel will also be reimbursed.

Anticipated Start Date: March 1, 2018

*Remote working conditions will be considered for applicants living outside of Toronto

Dignitas International: At Dignitas (DI) we believe in the inherent dignity of every human being and that the right to health belongs to everyone. We work on the frontlines to deliver medical care, conduct high-impact research to strengthen health systems, and use our experience and evidence to advocate for equitable national and global health policy. Dignitas is a registered charity in both Canada and the United States with its headquarters in Toronto, Canada. For more information, please go to our website <http://dignitasinternational.org/>

Context: Since 2004, DI has been working in partnership with the Malawi Ministry of Health to support HIV treatment and care for more than 200,000 Malawians living with HIV. In an effort to explore potential opportunities to take lessons learned from scaling up high-quality care in remote and rural settings in sub-Saharan Africa to remote and rural areas of Canada, DI's Indigenous Health Program was launched in 2014.

HIV disproportionately affects Indigenous populations in Canada and First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities continue to be overrepresented in Canada's HIV epidemic. While lessons learned from working in HIV care with rural and remote populations in Malawi may be applicable to underserved and remote Indigenous populations in the Canadian context, the potential role and opportunities for DI to contribute to this area of work remains unknown.

Aim: This exploratory project aims to gather information and determine the potential for expanding DI's Indigenous Health Program to support HIV prevention and care for First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples living in rural and remote settings in Canada. The knowledge generated from this project will contribute to a shared learnings report, which will include recommendations for Dignitas on collaborative partnership opportunities to provide support or delivery of HIV prevention and care that is responsive to the needs and realities of Indigenous people affected by HIV.

Methods: The project focuses on two core initiatives: i) executing a desk review focused on identifying existing gaps and key collaborators in HIV-related knowledge, attitudes and behaviors and services amongst rural and remote communities in Canada; and b) engaging with key informants and collaborators to identify DI's organizational strengths in HIV treatment and support, along with promising practices in HIV care and support among Indigenous communities.

Responsibilities: We are seeking an individual to assist the Project Lead with the following activities and bi-directional learning opportunities related to this project, including but not limited to:

- Assisting with desk review and identification of key informants (Dignitas International) and collaborators (community organizations)

- Building and maintaining relationships with key informants and collaborators, and engaging in general communication/meetings
- Assisting with study design including questions for key informants and collaborators
- Organizing, coordinating and scheduling key informant and collaborator interviews
- Assisting with data collection by engaging with key informants and collaborators to conduct knowledge interviews
- Assisting with write up, compilation of interim report and programmatic recommendations, as well as sharing and distribution of project outcomes and key learnings

Qualifications:

- Training and/or experience related to health research
- Demonstrated interest or experience working/volunteering in HIV/AIDS community-based research with Indigenous communities
- A university degree is an asset but not required; applicants can have a combination of life experience as well as research experience

Skills, Experience and Knowledge:

- Strong communication skills (verbal, written and computer – MS Office, research databases, etc.) with the ability to prepare reports and presentations for a variety of audiences
- Ability to develop personal and community relationships, with an ability to interact and work effectively with community organizations
- Critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Experience and/or knowledge of HIV and AIDS research, prevention, care, treatment and support
- Experience working as a Peer* Research Assistant is considered a strong asset
- Knowledge of the Indigenous HIV and AIDS epidemic in Canada, as well as related social and health concerns
- Demonstrated knowledge of ethical research principles specific to First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities
- Open-mindedness and sensitivity towards issues of racism, sexism, homophobia and other forms of stigma and discrimination
- Interest in working as part of a small collaborative team, with the ability to be self-directed and work independently as well
- Flexibility in working hours and ability to travel

Preference will be given to candidates who identify as First Nations, Métis or Inuit *For the purposes of this project, the term “Peer” is defined as a person living with HIV/AIDS.

Interested applicants should send their resume and cover letter detailing their interest in the position, as well as applicable skills and experience to jobs@dignitasinternational.org. **Applications are being accepted until February 1, 2018.**