

## Research and Outreach Coordinator – *Cedar Blankets: Building Wraparound Supports & Reducing Barriers for Indigenous Women and Children to Transition Houses and Safe Homes*

### Overview of the BC Society of Transition Houses:

The BC Society of Transition Houses <http://www.bcsth.ca/> (BCSTH) is a provincial umbrella organization. Our role is to provide support, training, education, resources and advocacy to the network of over 120 Transition Houses and Safe Homes and 86 PEACE programs for children and youth across the province. These programs provide emergency safe shelter and specialised counselling support to women, children and youth. We are a member-based organization - our mandate is to support the vital direct service that they provide.

### Overview of the *Cedar Blankets* Project:

This 5-year project is funded by the Department of Women and Gender Equality (WAGE – formerly Status of Women Canada) and commenced in May of 2019. It addresses the barriers that prevent Indigenous women experiencing violence from accessing BC Transition Houses and Safe Homes and receiving accessible wraparound supports and services. *Cedar Blankets* involves the testing and evaluation of a promising practice that BCSTH has developed and the ultimate dissemination of the *Cedar Blankets* project's findings through a Project Blueprint with provincial and federal knowledge dissemination.

BCSTH has researched and developed a culturally safe and inclusive service model – ‘Reducing Barriers for Indigenous Women and their Children’ through sharing circles with Indigenous women with lived experience of violence, and surveys and interviews with transition house staff. The Reducing Barriers Inclusive Service Model is the promising practice that is to be tested through this proposed pilot site project. Its overarching framework is informed by the concepts of GBA+ analysis, survivor engagement, cultural safety and trauma- and violence- informed practice. It includes partnership stakeholder oversight, pilot site project coordination, monitoring and evaluation, pilot site training components, policy and practice templates, suggestions for practical modifications to the physical living spaces of transition houses and safe homes, community outreach to local First Nations and other Indigenous groups and organizations, the incorporation of cultural practices, Elder and knowledge keeper support and healing activities.

### Objective

The objective of this project is to reduce the barriers for Indigenous women and their children accessing transition houses and safe homes by assisting transition houses and safe homes to develop culturally safe practices and to decrease perceived and actual barriers to access for Indigenous women and their children. Once sheltered, the objective is to provide culturally safe, effective wraparound supports for Indigenous women and children that foster longer stays at the houses and safety and healing for gender based violence survivors.

## Overview of the Position:

This position will provide research support and outreach coordination for the *Cedar Blankets* project. The Research and Outreach Coordinator will work closely with the BCSTH *Cedar Blankets* Project Coordinator, Reciprocal Consulting [www.reciprocalconsulting.ca/](http://www.reciprocalconsulting.ca/), the Partnership Stakeholder Committee, the four BCSTH member pilot sites and the BCSTH member programs.

The Research and Outreach Coordinator reports directly to the Executive Director at BCSTH and is expected to work from an intersectional feminist framework and to carry out the work of the organization so as to achieve its overall mission, strategic plan and to meet the outcomes of this funded research project.

## Job Description:

### Research and Outreach Coordinator Responsibilities

- Support and work with the BCSTH Project Coordinator (PC)
- Assist the PC with supporting the Partnership Stakeholder Committee and calendar quarterly meetings for Partnership Stakeholder Committee
- Assist the PC with the review and revision of the Reducing Barriers Inclusive Service Model in consultation with Reciprocal consulting, the Partnership Stakeholder Committee and BCSTH member programs (includes research, literature review, surveys of BCSTH member programs)
- Assist the PC with the implementation plans for each pilot site (4) with local consultations that include survivor engagement, pilot site support and structures, community engagement, connection with local community Indigenous partners and cultural practices, and evaluation processes customized for each pilot site
- Assist the PC with training for the four pilot sites on the Reducing Barriers Inclusive Service Model (online and in person) and additional training provided to new staff if staff turnover
- Assist the PC with the monitoring and coordination of the Reducing Barriers Inclusive Service Model at the four pilot sites in consultation with Reciprocal Consulting and the Partnership Stakeholder Committee
- Assist the PC with the final evaluation and reporting of findings drafted and incorporated in a blueprint document
- Assist the PC with the research, drafting and dissemination of the blueprint and promising practices through networks of BCSTH, Reciprocal Consulting, the Partnership Stakeholder Committee and key NGO and government stakeholders locally, provincially and federally.

## Selection Criteria:

- Minimum of an Associate Degree in Social Sciences or a related discipline.
- Minimum of three years' experience of research, research coordination or related employment experience.
- Must Practice, and have Knowledge of local First Nations and understanding of Indigenous culture and traditions and have a full understanding of Cultural Safety practices.

- Demonstrated experience of conducting community-based, feminist/anti-oppression trauma and violence informed research, project work and community engagement.
- Demonstrated experience of research, writing project reports and publications.
- Demonstrated experience of assisting with the development and delivery of trainings and presentations.
- Demonstrated understanding of and commitment to preventing violence against women and their children and women's issues.
- Knowledge and/or experience of issues relating to violence against Indigenous women and children is an asset.
- Knowledge and/or experience of issues relating to housing, homelessness and violence against women is an asset.
- Competent in computer software: Excel, Word, Power Point, Outlook.
- Well organized, self-motivated, able to prioritize multiple responsibilities and a keen attention to detail.
- Excellent writing, communications and interpersonal skills.
- Able to work under pressure and meet deadlines.
- Strong analytical and innovative problem-solving skills.
- A positive, enthusiastic and professional approach with a 'can-do' attitude.
- Ability to work in a small team environment that demands flexibility, resourcefulness, commitment and a sense of humour.
- Ability to work flexible hours and when safe to do so per health mandates, travel which involves overnight stays. A current and valid driver's license is desirable.
- The qualified candidate is required to undergo a criminal record check.
- The Research Coordinator position is an independent contractor position for a year.
- The rate of pay is \$35.50/hr. including GST for 14 hours a week.
- The contractor will invoice every 2 weeks.
- BCSTH will also pay reasonable out of pocket expenses incurred by the Contractor in the course of performing the Services with notice provided to BCSTH via email beforehand.
- Any related accommodation and travel will be scheduled in consultation with the contractor and provided for by BCSTH.
- BCSTH will reimburse the contractor ground transportation related to travel days.
- BCSTH will reimburse the contractor's meals as required at the per diem rate of \$15 breakfast, \$20 lunch and \$30 dinner on travel days.
- Expected start date: August 2021
- This position is based in Vancouver and requires travel but because of COVID-19 and the Provincial State of Emergency the work is remote temporarily. The interview will also be conducted remotely.

As an employer, the BC Society of Transition Houses is dedicated to building an organization that reflects the diversity of our membership and the communities we serve. This includes an employment equity policy and diversity in languages spoken, culture, sex, race, sexual orientation and gender identity. In accordance with the Cedar Blankets Project funding and pursuant to Section 41 and 42 of the BC Human Rights code (RSBC 1996 Ch. 210) preference will be given to members of the following designated groups:

Aboriginal peoples and Indigenous peoples. Candidates from this group who wish to qualify for preferential consideration should self-identify.

### Application Process:

To illustrate your ability to fulfill this position, please enclose a cover letter, along with your resume, indicating why your skills will be the right ones for this position. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

To apply, please email your full application to Cori Kleisinger, Cedar Blankets Project Coordinator, [cori@bcsth.ca](mailto:cori@bcsth.ca).

Thank you very much for your interest in BCSTH and this position - only those candidates shortlisted will be contacted.