



Minwaashin Lodge
Indigenous Women's Support Centre
2323 St. Laurent Blvd
Ottawa, ON K1G 4J8
www.minlodge.com

Job Posting
Mental Wellness and Substance Use Counsellor
Full-time Contract (female)

(Relying on Provisions of Section 23 of the Ontario Human Rights Code)

Position reports to: Manager, Counselling Services
Location: 2323 St. Laurent Blvd, Ottawa, Ontario
Work Conditions: Located in an office setting; low risk environment
Start Date: Immediately
Salary: Salary range depending on education & experience \$50,470.
- \$54,470.
Benefits: Attractive and comprehensive benefits package including an employee pension plan

Summary

The Mental Wellness and Substance Use Counsellor (MHSU) reports to the Manager of the Counselling Services or designate and is responsible for the development and implementation of individual and group counselling to First Nations, Inuit and Metis women and youth experiencing mental health challenges, including problematic alcohol and substance use disorder. The MHSU Counselor employs contemporary and traditional healing practices to support clients of Minwaashin Lodge and Oshki Kizis Lodge and participates in a collaborative and holistic community of care to ensure comprehensive service coordination related to individual client needs.

Responsibilities

- Conduct intakes and assessments with community members requiring support with problematic alcohol and substance use.
- Provide individual counselling to clients using Indigenous counselling methodologies and/or other culturally appropriate and safe approaches.
- Support clients to manage their substance and/or alcohol use using an Indigenous harm reduction approach, including medicines, teachings and cultural activities.
- Assist clients to apply to and attend day and residential treatment programs.
- Collaborate with other members of the counselling team to offer a weekly substance and alcohol support and recovery group to community members.

- Work in close collaboration with other members of the counselling team and Minwaashin staff to ensure holistic wraparound support is provided to clients.
- Work in partnership with Indigenous and non-Indigenous agencies in the Ottawa area to support client advocacy, case management and systems navigation.
- Maintain accurate statistics and progress notes.
- Ensure client confidentiality is respected and upheld to create a safe and supportive therapeutic environment.

Qualifications

- Graduate or undergraduate education in social work, counselling, psychology, or a related field; college certificate with extensive work experience in related fields will also be considered.
- Experience providing crisis intervention and stabilization to individuals who are experiencing or have experienced the impacts from substance use in a non-judgmental and supportive manner.
- Knowledge of and experience with mainstream and Indigenous approaches to harm reduction.
- Demonstrated understanding of and experience with a variety of counselling techniques, as well as group facilitation.
- Good understanding of cultural competency and sensitivity, as well as knowledge of theories and approaches surrounding problematic substance use.
- Committed to a feminist, holistic approach working in close collaboration with team members, Grandmothers and Elders.
- Knowledgeable of the Indigenous and non-Indigenous service system of Ottawa.
- Excellent knowledge of the intergenerational impacts of Residential Schools and the 60s Scoop, with specific emphasis on the relationship between these systems and problematic substance and alcohol abuse.
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively as part of a team and collaborate with workers from a variety of agencies.
- Excellent understanding of the need for confidentiality involving clients and other employees.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills, as well as the ability to complete and maintain monthly statistics. Ability to speak an Indigenous language is an asset.
- Excellent problem-solving, organizational and time management skills.
- Proven ability to work independently with strong sense of focus and a clear sense of professional boundaries.

Employer Specifications

- Some evening and weekend work required.
- High computer skills and literacy
- A minimum of 2 references required.
- Current First Aid and CPR certification required.

- Current CPIC clearance required.
- Indigenous descent preferred.
- A Valid Driver's License is an asset. Clean driving record is required.

To apply:

Send a cover letter, resume and 3 references to Katherine Holden, Director, HR and Finance, Minwaashin Lodge, 2323 St. Laurent Blvd, Ottawa, Ontario K1G 4J8 or email to: kholden@minlodge.com

We thank all those that apply; however, only those invited for an interview will be contacted. No phone calls please.