

Indigenous Health

Did you know that Alberta is home to the third largest Indigenous population in Canada with 220,700 Albertans self-identifying as Indigenous? Did you know that Alberta's First Nation population demographic is younger than the general provincial population? More than 52% is under 25 years of age and less than 5% is over the age of 64 years. (Government of Alberta).

First Nations, Inuit and Métis are diverse populations whose health is affected by all social determinants of health, as well as a complex history of colonialism, racism, and residential schools. Social determinants have a significant impact on disease and recovery experiences within these communities.

Alberta Health Services has a specific program called The Indigenous Health Program that works in partnership with Indigenous peoples, communities and key stakeholders to provide accessible, culturally appropriate health services for First Nations, Métis and Inuit people in Alberta.

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Indigenous liaison

Generic job description:

- Help build and maintain positive and effective relationships between indigenous and nonindigenous people
- Work co-operatively with other community agencies to promote awareness of indigenous community issues and support indigenous employment and career development.
- Promote cross-cultural understanding and facilitate communication between peoples of indigenous and non-indigenous origin
- Work with their organization and indigenous customers and communities to facilitate the consultation process and act as a mediator when necessary
- Advise others in their organizations regarding indigenous issues, cultures, trends and demographic

Skills:

- an interest in and respect for different indigenous cultures (for example, First Nations, Metis, Inuit)
- excellent communication skills, in person and in writing
- the ability to work effectively as part of a team
- the ability to consistently project a positive, professional image, on and off the job
- the ability to maintain a balanced perspective
- excellent organizational and time management skills
- an interest in facilitating individual and organizational growth
- negotiation skills

Qualifications:

- A bachelor's degree or college diploma in an appropriate discipline and/or the equivalent relevant professional experience
- able to write concise reports and facilitate communication and group learning
- knowledgeable about local Aboriginal history, cultures and issues
- knowledgeable about the field in which they work (for example, health care)
- knowledgeable about their employer's organizational structure, culture and services or products
- knowledgeable about First Nations, Metis and Inuit communities