

NEW OPPORTUNITY: HIV Community Consultants

As HIV treatments available in Canada are highly effective, the conversations have shifted from “**How can I live with HIV?**” to “**How can I live well with HIV?**”

HIV community advocate, Muluba Habanyama and pediatric infectious disease specialist, Dr. Jason Brophy were awarded a Canadian Institutes of Health Research grant entitled: **CAN lhIVE WELL: The Canadian HIV Wellness Research Initiative**. The team's goal is to define what *living well* means to people living with HIV by engaging key populations of people living with HIV across Canada. As a key part of this work, the team is collaborating with **Realize**, the leading national, charitable, organization working to improve the health and well-being of people living with HIV and other episodic disabilities, across their lifespans, through integrated research, education, policy and practice.

To lead this conversation around *living well*, we are seeking dynamic **HIV community consultants**. For the purpose of this role, ‘HIV community consultants’ refer to **persons living with HIV**. These are **casual temporary** positions (duration approximately five months), with possible extension for subsequent project development, related activities, and ad hoc consultation.

Please note, people living with HIV from traditionally marginalized and/or silenced communities are strongly encouraged to apply, including: men who have sex with men; African, Caribbean and Black communities; Indigenous peoples; youth (18-29 years old); those aging with HIV (50 years old and over); women; trans persons; people who use drugs; and people with experiences of incarceration, sex work or homelessness.

➤ Ideal candidates will be people living with HIV in Canada who are:

- Interested in leading consultations (i.e., discussions about HIV and wellness) with other people living with HIV.
- Engaging and also good listeners; empathetic and make others feel at ease to join discussions.
- Interested in learning about the wellness priorities of other people living with HIV in Canada.
- Interested in, and able to **work remotely (i.e., where they live)**, as there are no in-person meeting requirements.
- Able to commit to a five-month position that starts in October 2020.

This position plays a critical role in acting as an advocate for safety and will demonstrate principles, practices and processes that will foster a safe environment for all.

➤ Summary of time commitment and duties include, but are not limited to:

- Approximately **60 hours over the five-month time frame**.
- All tasks will be given a set pay (including training) in line with other peer research assistant positions (\$25/hour).
- Training will take place virtually over two sessions.

- Participate in small team teleconferences with the core team which includes people living with HIV, clinicians, and other researchers.
- Assist in planning community consultations with people living with HIV from diverse backgrounds and experiences.
- Recruit, prepare for, and facilitate community consultation(s) with 5-10 participants (disclosure of HIV may be involuntary in this setting).
- Complete administrative work associated with the consultations.
- Record, summarize, and present notes from the community consultations by teleconference or video conference to the core team.

➤ **Qualifications/skills:**

- Fluency in English is required. Bilingualism is an asset.
- Experience leading or participating in community consultations.
- Experience with HIV advocacy work (paid or volunteer) or work related to HIV research projects (clinical or community-based projects) is considered an asset.
- Experience in presentation, communication and time management skills.
- Ability to follow protocol and procedures, including a commitment to confidentiality.
- Sensitivity towards issues of homophobia, racism, sexism and other forms of stigma and discrimination.
- Being familiar with Zoom or other video conferencing platforms.
- Flexibility with regards to timing of teleconferences and virtual meetings for discussion group.

➤ **Applicant requirements:**

- ✓ Applicants must be a person living with HIV who is 18 years or older.
- ✓ Applicant must currently live in Canada and be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident and have a valid Social Insurance Number (SIN). Successful applicants will need to provide their address and SIN in order to receive their payments.
- ✓ The applicant must feel comfortable disclosing their HIV status. During the training or group discussions, disclosure may be involuntary in settings with other people living with HIV.
- ✓ Applicants require access to internet/wifi and either a smartphone, tablet or computer.

CLOSING DATE: SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

Please forward resume and cover letter via email to

Joanne McBane jmcbane@ohri.ca with your name and **HIV Community Consultant Position** in the subject line.

We thank you for your interest, however, only qualified applicants who are selected to be interviewed will be contacted.