



Oahas

Ontario Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Strategy

TORONTO | SUDBURY | LONDON | OTTAWA | THUNDER BAY | SAULT STE. MARIE

Call for Board Members - Volunteer Opportunity

Location: Ontario – Province Wide Opportunity

Ontario Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Strategy (OAHAS) is seeking community leaders to join our Board of Directors (BoD) for the 2018-2021 period. The BoD provides leadership to OAHAS in the areas of organizational direction, policy, strategic planning, and fiduciary accountability. We aim to attract skilled and committed individuals to assist us in these key areas.

OAHAS was founded in 1995 and has consistently evolved since then, in order to respond to the changing needs and priorities of Indigenous Peoples Living with HIV/AIDS (IPHAs) in our communities. OAHAS was founded on the recognition that, as Indigenous peoples, we need to develop our own parallel province-wide HIV/AIDS strategy that is grounded in our cultural knowledge and understanding of who we are as Indigenous peoples (First Nations, Métis and Inuit). In addition, we also embrace the principles of 1) the Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV/AIDS (GIPA), and 2) Meaningful Engagement of People Living with HIV/AIDS (MEPA). As the organization has evolved, we have adopted these additional values and principles:

- Be inclusive and responsive to the diverse and the diversity of needs of the Indigenous community including; women, children, youth, elders, traditional teachers and respectful of all people regardless of status, residency, religion, gender or sexual orientation
- Directly involve Indigenous people who are living with HIV/AIDS in all aspects of the Strategy
- Be non-judgmental and embrace the harm reduction philosophy
- Promote a holistic continuum of care that address, mind, body and spirit
- Protect and support those who are directly impacted by HIV/AIDS, and those who are particularly vulnerable including children, women, youth, prisoners and people who use substances
- Respect an individual's right to choose programming and services
- Respect an individual's privacy and confidentiality
- Affirm the value of Indigenous medicines and incorporate healing practices and teachings at the request of Indigenous people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS

In addition to our guiding principles, Oahas has two primary goals:

1) To provide culturally respectful and sensitive programs and strategies to respond to the HIV/AIDS epidemic amongst Indigenous people living off-reserve in Ontario, through promotion, prevention, long-term care, treatment and support initiatives consistent with harm reduction.

2) Working with our community partners (Schools Boards, Indigenous Service Providers, AIDS Service Providers etc.) to provide educational workshops and training in the areas of HIV/AIDS, healthy sexuality, health promotion, and reconciliation.

Our ideal candidate will possess the following qualifications and experience:

- Be passionate about supporting and improving the lives and experience of Indigenous Peoples Living with HIV/AIDS (IPHAs).
- Support OAHAS' dedication to harm reduction and related approaches
- Support centering GIPA and MEPA principles within an Indigenous context
- Possess a track record of community leadership and active participation
- Be independent of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, and/or any organization with an identical mandate
- Have prior experience working within an Indigenous agency, First Nations reserve, Métis settlement, Inuit community initiative
- **Must identify as First Nations, Inuit, Métis, or Non-Status First Nations person**
- Possess skills and experience in any one or more of the following areas:
 - a. Policy review/development
 - b. Knowledge of Indigenous culture and community
 - c. Indigenous research methods and protocols
 - d. Financial planning and oversight
 - e. Prior Board experience
 - f. Community engagement
 - g. Human Resources expertise
 - h. Accounting
 - i. Legal expertise

The board meets on a monthly basis, with an estimated 5-10 hours/month of Board and Committee related work. Each member is expected to commit to a three-year term. In addition to our meetings, each board member is asked to serve on at least one committee, which may include, but is not limited to the following:

- Finance
- Executive
- Nominating (i.e. Recruitment)
- By-Law & Policy Review
- Strategic Planning
- Research Initiatives

Applications are welcomed from everyone within the Indigenous community, including: women, men, two-Spirit, gender fluid/gender non-binary persons, Indigenous People living with HIV/AIDS, persons with disabilities, visible and non-visible. It is our aim to have a Board, which reflects the diversity of the communities we serve.

Submissions will be accepted on an ongoing basis until all board positions are full. Those candidates who possess the required skills and/or lived experience will be contacted for an interview.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS ARE PARTICULARLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY

Please submit your expression of interest and current resume by **August 17, 2018** to:

Executive Director:
Mark Atanasoff
mark@oahas.org