

# **Peer Support Worker**

**Posting ID#: SPSW-19-001**

The Downtown Eastside Women's Centre is a drop-in Centre and Emergency Night Shelter offering a wide variety of services to a diverse community of women and children living in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver.

The Peer Support Worker will work in collaboration with other DEWC staff to promote integrated services to women. She is responsible to uphold and understand the principles of peer support to women in securing practical services and needs. Working with DEWC employees, she takes responsibility that policies, procedures, and operational systems are implemented and followed throughout the shift. The successful candidate must work from a feminist analysis and within a strong anti-oppression framework while managing crises in the Emergency Night Shelter. She must identify with the goal of addressing barriers to uphold the seamless day to day functional operations of the Shelter.

## **Primary Responsibilities:**

**Peer Support:** Support women in developing peer networks and peer support opportunities including by modeling peer support and self-help behaviours. Coordinating opportunities for women to exchange self-help and peer support strategies through workshops, forums, discussion groups, support groups etc.

**Shelter:** Monitor women in the Shelter using peer support & self-help tools to address conflicts. Use self-help tools to ensure women who appear in crises are offered appropriate supports such as medical, counselling, or advocacy. Responsible for a clean and comfortable environment that operates in compliance with the Centre's Mission Statement, Statement of Principles, and Policy and Procedures. Supports women with practical needs.

**Conflict Resolution/Crisis Management:** Manages crisis and conflict between co-workers, volunteers and members within and among various groups and individuals including by mentoring a variety of self-help coping skills and different approaches to personal situations. Maintains a culture of 'People helping people help themselves'.

**Education and Training:** Initiates the development & facilitation of workshops & training for employees relating to the Drop-In issues affecting Women & Children on the Downtown Eastside. Supports group facilitators and assists with special events that promote the principles of self-help and peer support reflecting the mission and mandate of the DEWC.

## **Qualifications:**

- Must have a strong working knowledge and analysis of the issues impacting women in the DTES, including violence against women, mental health, homelessness, and addictions
- Minimum 3 – 5 years related experience working with low-income women, preferably in a woman serving or inner-city drop-in environment
- Familiarity of referral with support services, agencies and community resources in the Downtown Eastside
- Excellent communication skills required, including the ability to work in a respectful and cooperative manner with co-workers, and DEWC Centre members - Strong conflict resolution skills and social practice,
- Capability to manage stress within a chaotic workplace and with a diverse community of women
- Has the ability to prioritize situations and communicates accordingly while problem-solving rationally
- First Aid / CPR Training requirement
- Candidate must undergo a Criminal Records Check for working with Vulnerable Adults & Children
- Women with addiction issues must be 2 years clean and sober

## **Position Details:**

- Start Date: ASAP - Permanent – Part-Time, Sunday- Monday & Friday-Saturday, 4:00pm – 12:00am
- Union (BCGEU) - Salary - \$19.00-23.00 per hour + generous health and welfare benefits
- Location – DEWC Emergency Night Shelter, 412 East Cordova St., Vancouver
- Posting Closing Date: Until Position is Filled

***Additional languages spoken an asset / Aboriginal Women and Women of Colour are Strongly Encouraged to Apply***

**Please submit resume and cover letter to the HR Administrator via e-mail, mail or fax to:**

302 Columbia Street, Vancouver, BC, V6A 4J1 / Fax: 604-681-8470 / Email: [humanresources@dewc.ca](mailto:humanresources@dewc.ca)