



## **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY (RE-POSTED)**

**Position:** Mental Health Counsellor

### **Background:**

Incorporated in 2017, the Matawa Health Cooperative (MHC) is a Matawa First Nation owned and controlled health co-operative that provides health care services to enhance existing health services to achieve long-term health and well-being for all members within the nine (9) Matawa First Nations. It is overseen by a Board of Directors and is a member of the Health Care Co-operatives Federation of Canada. The MHC is community-driven with available services being tailored to individual community's needs. It is the first of its kind in Canada.

The MHC works to incorporate traditional healing and medicines in addressing the wholistic health needs of the Matawa First Nations focusing on the priorities of mental health and addictions, diabetes and chronic diseases. It oversees an Inter-Professional Primary Care Health Team made up of a clinical coordinator, 8 nurses (3 are Certified Diabetes Educators, 1 mental health nurse), 1 dietitian, 3 physicians, 1-foot care specialist and, 2 mental health counsellors providing direct services in the Matawa First Nations or through telemedicine. The organization is accepting applications for Mental Health Counsellors.

### **Position Summary:**

The Mental Health Counsellor will work under the supervision of the MHC Director of Mental Health. The Mental Health Counsellor provides mental health counselling, case management, support and intervention services to First Nation children, youth, adults and families from communities served by Matawa. The majority of the nine communities are remote, not road accessible and only assessable by air transportation.

### **Specific Duties Include:**

- Provide solution-focused counselling services to Matawa First Nations members/clients who are in Thunder Bay and remote communities;
- Case management skills (scheduling and managing appointments, home visits, wellness checks);
- Support members in addressing mental health issues that may include but are not limited to: trauma, grief and loss, depression/anxiety, self-harm/suicide prevention services, harm-reduction, safety planning, substance misuse and addictions;
- Aid members with system navigation, support, and referrals (coordinate and network with community services and supports to provide members with services that address their individualized needs);
- Maintain accurate and confidential client records electronically and in a timely manner;
- Follow duty to report requirements as necessary;
- Work as part of a multi-disciplinary team (includes but is not limited to MHC Staff, Chief & Council, Matawa Health Directors, Crisis Teams and Workers, Elders and Traditional Knowledge Keepers);

- Facilitate community mental health promotion and education;
- Connect members to culturally relevant supports as requested/needed;
- Participate in regular supervision meetings to review all cases/issues, receive education and direction, and for debriefing;
- Travel regularly to Matawa First Nation communities, often by small aircraft;
- All other duties as deemed necessary by your immediate Lead/Supervisor.

**Preferred Qualifications, Experience, Knowledge and Abilities:**

The Mental Health Counsellor must possess Master’s or Bachelor’s degree with a major in Counselling Psychology, Social Work or related field. Applicants with a Diploma related to the area of Social Work will be considered (e.g., Indigenous Services, Native Child & Family Services, Social Service Worker). The applicant should be professionally registered with a regulatory body (e.g. College of Psychotherapy or College of Social Workers/Social Service Workers or equivalent).

Applicants should have a valid Class G Driver’s License and must be willing to provide a police criminal background check. Finally, the ideal candidate must also have the ability to display and support Matawa Health Co-operative’s vision, mission, and goals in providing respectful and effective health care/mental health services.

**The incumbent should also have proficient knowledge in the following areas:**

- Knowledge of foundational theories, principles, and practices as they relate to Social Services, Social Work, and/or Counselling;
- Knowledge of assessment tools and harm-reduction practices;
- Strong knowledge of practice regulations;
- Familiar with privacy, confidentiality, and duty to report;
- Knowledge of community support services, both in Thunder Bay and in the Matawa communities.
- Knowledge of First Nations culture, history, community-based services, geographic realities and social conditions within remote First Nations communities.

**Location:** Thunder Bay, Ontario (with extensive travel to Matawa road-access and remote communities)

**Salary:** Commensurate with experience

**Term:** Full-Time Position, Dependent on Annual Funding

**How to Apply:** Please send your cover letter, resume and three references to:

Matawa Health Co-operative  
 RE: Mental Health Counsellor  
 233 Court Street South, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
 Thunder Bay, ON P7B 2X9  
 Fax: (807) 346-2371  
 Email: [careers@matawa.on.ca](mailto:careers@matawa.on.ca)

**Deadline:** Until Filled

For additional information, please view the job description at the Matawa website:

[www.matawa.on.ca](http://www.matawa.on.ca)

(or at: [www.matawa.on.ca/recruitment/career-opportunities](http://www.matawa.on.ca/recruitment/career-opportunities) )

*We thank all applicants for their interest in working with the Matawa Health Co-operative, however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.*

***Matawa First Nations Management has adopted a COVID-19 Vaccination Policy by which all staff, who are eligible, must be fully vaccinated. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this, please contact us.***



- CIRCLE OF BELONGING -