



## **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

**Position:** Cultural Coordinator

### **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.

MHC is accepting applications for **Cultural Coordinator**.

### **Position Summary:**

The MHC Cultural Coordinator will be responsible for the development, planning, and delivery of cultural-based wellness programming and events as well as the development, distribution, and promotion of wellness-based resources and materials that focus specifically on Indigenous ways of being, traditions, and culture. The MHC Cultural Coordinator will also be responsible for creating and building positive working relationships and partnerships with trusted Elders and Knowledge Keepers and seeking opportunities to incorporate their participation and input into program planning and development. Ultimately, the purpose of this position is to work towards ensuring Matawa members have greater accessibility to cultural and/or traditional and land-based methods for healing. All of this must be done so from a holistic perspective; seeking to address all areas of wellness including: physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual.

### **Specific Duties Include:**

- Develop, plan, and deliver cultural and land-based wellness programming and/or events to Matawa children and youth who are in Thunder Bay as well as the Matawa First Nation remote communities. Flexibility with delivery and facilitation of programming is required as this may be done in person, hands-on/land-based, or online/virtually;
- Develop, distribute, and promote cultural-based wellness resources and materials that are focused on Indigenous ways of being, traditions, and culture;
- Seek input and feedback from Matawa communities/ leadership and front-line staff as well as their trusted Elders and Traditional Knowledge Keepers to ensure that we are offering programming, resources, and information that is responsive to the unique needs and requests of each community;
- Plan, organize, offer, and delivery of cultural and land-based wellness presentations & workshops;

- Offer education and accessibility to our Matawa members as it pertains to traditional, spiritual, and land-based healing practices, approaches, and beliefs (e.g.; sweat lodge, ceremony, fasting, traditional teachings, use of and harvesting of medicines, medicinal use of plants, etc.)
- Build and establish collaborative working relationships with Elders and Traditional Knowledge to ensure that we are incorporating their presence and input into programming content and materials;
- Work to establish an on-line presence on social media platforms with the intent of reaching a greater audience/more Matawa members;
- Work as part of a multi-disciplinary team/ work collaboratively with MHC's Mental Health Team, Cultural & Land-Based Mental Health Workers, Youth Staff, MHC's Health Promotions Educator and MHC's Mental Health/Health Promoters;
- Maintain cultural competency throughout ongoing mental health and wellness activities and/or programming, and act as a cultural resource person to Matawa children and youth;
- Connect members to culturally relevant supports as requested/needed;
- May require travel to Matawa First Nation communities, often by small aircraft;

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

The Cultural Coordinator must possess a diploma related to the field of Social Work (e.g., Indigenous Services, Native Child & Family Services, Social Service Worker). Applicants with a Secondary School Diploma/equivalency may be considered in instances where they have credible hands-on experience which would have prepared them to be capable of performing the duties and responsibilities associated with this position. Minimum of 2 years' experience working with Indigenous children, adolescents and/or families in a social services field preferred.

Applicants must be able and willing to travel to the Matawa communities as required, and must have a valid G Class Driver's License (Ontario). Applicants must be willing to provide a police criminal background check and a vulnerable sector check.

Candidate should have excellent leadership skills. They should be creative, patient and encouraging. Candidate should have a genuine interest and passion for cultural, traditional and land-based activities and an ability to engage others and spark their interest and curiosity as it pertains to cultural, traditional and land-based activities. Candidate should demonstrate sound ethics (personally and professionally) and 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:**

- Diploma related to the area of Social Work (e.g., Indigenous Services, Native Child & Family Services, Child & Youth Care, Social Service Worker);
- Applicants with a Secondary School Diploma/equivalency may be considered in instances where they have credible hands-on experience which would have prepared them to be capable of performing the duties and responsibilities associated with this position;
- Experience with planning and facilitating programming considered an asset;
- Minimum of 2 years' experience working with Indigenous children, adolescents and/or families in a social services field;

- Previous experience working with First Nations communities is an asset;
- Fluency in Cree, Oji-Cree, or Ojibway is an asset.

**Location:** Thunder Bay, Ontario (with 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: Cultural Coordinator  
 233 Court Street South  
 Thunder Bay, ON P7B 2X9  
 Fax: (807) 346-2371  
 Email: [careers@matawa.on.ca](mailto:careers@matawa.on.ca)

**Deadline:** Open Until Filled

**For additional information, the job description can be found on our Matawa website:**  
[www.matawa.on.ca](http://www.matawa.on.ca)

*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 -**

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