



## **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

**Position:** Youth Addictions Support Worker

### **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 **Youth Addictions Support Worker**.

### **Position Summary:**

The Youth Addictions Support Worker will provide mental health, addictions, and wellness support specifically to First Nation children and youth from the communities served by Matawa. This role will offer preventative addictions service delivery and programming from a holistic perspective; seeking to address all areas of wellness including: physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual.

### **Specific Duties Include:**

- Support Matawa youth in addressing addictions issues that may include but are not limited to: trauma, grief and loss, depression/anxiety, self-harm/suicide prevention services, harm-reduction, safety planning, and substance misuse and addictions;
- Assist with coordination and delivery of GAIN-SS, Global Appraisal of Individual Needs – Short Screener Assessment, as well as work towards certification of such;
- Assist with the coordination of addictions services including intake, assessment, detox, inpatient or outpatient treatment, pre or post-treatment care, discharge planning;
- Offer flexibility with the exploration of treatment options to ensure that care plans are tailored to the wants and needs of the client;
- Explore availability of recovery circles/sharing circles including but not limited to: Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Narcotics Anonymous (NA), Al-Anon Family Groups, and Alateen;
- Assist with the coordination of after-care planning, especially as it pertains to ensuring necessary supports are in place for children and youth living in the Matawa communities;
- Work collaboratively with MHC staff and partners to deliver addictions programming including

- Naloxone distribution and training, and other harm-reduction approaches to substance use;
- Work collaboratively with all Systems Navigation roles under MFNM to ensure that Matawa children and youth are able to access any necessary supports or services to address substance misuse and addiction issues;
- Resource development: supporting Matawa children and youth with culturally appropriate addictions/recovery resources, materials, and tools;
- Support as best as possible the front-line staff of our Matawa communities to access resources and services based on the individualized needs of each community;
- 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, Choose Life Workers, Youth Workers, Elders and Traditional Knowledge Keepers);
- Establish and nurture collaborative working relationships with Elders and Traditional Knowledge Keepers to ensure their knowledge is incorporated into content and resources, and are present through program delivery;
- Maintain accurate and confidential client records electronically and in a timely manner;
- Follow duty to report requirements as necessary;
- Maintain competency throughout ongoing mental health and addictions education and/or programming, and act as a resource person to Matawa children and youth;
- Participate in regular supervision and team meetings as required;
- Travel to Matawa First Nation communities, often by small aircraft, is required;
- All other duties as deemed necessary by your immediate Lead/Supervisor.

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

Applicant must possess at minimum: a bachelor's degree in Social Work or related field. Applicants with a diploma related to the area of Social Work will be considered (e.g., Indigenous Studies, Native Child & Family Services, Social Service Worker). Must be registered with a professional regulatory body (e.g., College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers, or equivalent). Two years of experience working in a mental health related field in a supervisory role and with Indigenous populations preferred.

Applicants must be willing to travel to the Matawa communities as required, and must have a valid G Class Driver's License (Ontario). Must be willing to provide a police criminal background check and a vulnerable sector 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 healthcare/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;
- Strong knowledge of practice regulations;
- Familiar with privacy, confidentiality, and duty to report;
- Knowledge of assessment tools and harm-reduction practices;
- Knowledge of community support services, both in Thunder Bay and in the Matawa communities;
- Familiarity with available addictions services or facilities locally, regionally, and provincially including assessment, detox, inpatient or outpatient treatment, and pre or post-treatment care;
- Knowledge of Western and First Nations approaches to and models of addictions recovery;
- Experience planning, developing, and delivering events and programming;
- Cultural Competency;
- Knowledge of First Nations culture, history, community-based services, geographic realities, and social conditions within remote First Nations communities.

**Location:** Thunder Bay, Ontario (with travel to Matawa 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: Youth Addictions Support Worker  
233 Court Street South  
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 2X9  
Fax: (807) 346-2371  
Email: [MHC-Careers@matawa.on.ca](mailto:MHC-Careers@matawa.on.ca)

**Deadline:** Open Until Filled

***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 -