UNIVERSITY
nuxełhot'įne thaa?ehots'į
nistameyimâkanak
BLUE QUILLS

Employment Opportunity – Survivor Engagement Facilitator

The Blue Quills Indian Residential School (IRS) Project – St. Paul site ("IRS Project") was created to focus on the search for missing children and potential unmarked burial sites at University nuxełhot'į thaa?ehots'į nistameyimâkanak Blue Quills (UnBQ).

UnBQ is currently seeking a full-time **Survivor Engagement Facilitator** to serve as a senior member of the IRS Project team, helping coordinate meaningful, culturally respectful and trauma-informed engagement with Survivors, families, Elders, Knowledge Keepers and First Nations communities. Reporting to the IRS Project Coordinator, the Facilitator provides day-to-day guidance to engagement staff and helps connect Survivor testimony with historical and archival research.

Key Responsibilities

- Build and maintain respectful relationships with Survivors, families, Elders, Knowledge Keepers and communities; support voluntary, informed and Survivor-centered participation.
- Coordinate Survivor outreach, interviews, oral history activities and appropriate follow-up; conduct interviews when required.
- Coordinate day-to-day Survivor engagement activities, helping ensure interviews, follow-up and community engagement commitments are completed according to project work plans.
- Help plan and deliver community gatherings, sharing circles, ceremonies and commemorative activities in accordance with cultural protocols.
- Provide guidance and mentorship to project staff involved in Survivor engagement and research, identifying emerging needs and bringing significant concerns to the IRS Project Coordinator.
- Support historical and archival research, including reviewing records, identifying research questions and connecting findings with Survivor accounts.
- Collaborate with contracted researchers and student research assistants on assigned research activities, as directed by the IRS Project Coordinator.
- Maintain accurate and confidential records; contribute to activity summaries, work plans and project reporting.
- Adjust engagement and research activities in response to Survivor needs, project priorities, cultural considerations and available resources.

Qualifications

- Post-secondary education in Social Work, Indigenous Studies, Psychology, Sociology, Education, Community Development, Human Services or a related field.
- At least three (3) years of relevant professional or community-based experience in Indigenous engagement, Survivor support, program coordination, social services or related work.
- Experience working with Indigenous communities and demonstrated ability to guide, mentor and collaborate with others.

ON UNCEDED LANDS IN TREATY SIX TERRITORY
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- Knowledge of Indian Residential School history and impacts, trauma-informed practice, cultural safety and respectful engagement protocols.
- Strong communication, organization, documentation, discretion and confidentiality skills.

An equivalent combination of education, relevant experience and demonstrated Indigenous community-based knowledge may be considered.

Assets

- Direct experience working with Indian Residential School Survivors, intergenerational Survivors, Elders and First Nations communities.
- Experience coordinating community-based research, oral history projects, Survivor interviews or culturally grounded engagement initiatives.
- Knowledge of Blue Quills Indian Residential School history, Treaty 6 First Nations communities, Cree language and cultural protocols.
- Experience mentoring staff, coordinating small project teams or supporting community-based project implementation.
- Training in trauma-informed interviewing, crisis response, mental health first aid or culturally grounded wellness approaches.
- Experience working with archival materials, historical records or Indigenous research methodologies.

Working Conditions

- The position may require travel to First Nations communities, Survivor gatherings, archival repositories and other project-related locations.
- Occasional evening or weekend work may be required to accommodate Survivor availability, community events, ceremonies and project activities.
- The work involves sensitive historical materials and accounts of Indian Residential School experiences, which may be emotionally demanding. The successful candidate must approach this work with compassion, discretion, cultural humility and respect for personal boundaries.

For additional information, please contact Joel Cardinal, IRS Project Coordinator, at joelc@bluequills.ca or 780-645-4455 ext. 282

Posted: October 29, 2026

To apply, please submit cover letter and resume to Sheila Poitras, Executive Assistant at sheilap@bluequills.ca

This opportunity is open until a suitable candidate is found. Only applicants selected for interviews will be contacted.