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

Employment Opportunity – Survivor Engagement Researcher

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 Researcher** to build trusting relationships with Survivors and families, conduct voluntary interviews and oral history activities, and support community engagement sessions. The position also undertakes historical and archival research connected to Survivor accounts and the broader objectives of the IRS Project. Reporting to the IRS Project Coordinator, the Survivor Engagement Researcher works collaboratively with the Survivor Engagement Facilitator and other project staff.

Key Responsibilities

- Build and maintain respectful relationships with Survivors, families, Elders, Knowledge Keepers and communities; explain participation options and honour Survivor choice.
- Prepare for, schedule and conduct Survivor interviews and oral history conversations using informed consent, trauma-informed practices and appropriate cultural protocols.
- Document interviews accurately, arrange respectful follow-up, and identify potential historical research questions or leads for review.
- Help organize and deliver Survivor gatherings, sharing circles, ceremonies, commemorations and community engagement activities.
- Conduct historical and archival research related to Blue Quills Indian Residential School, including school operations, attendance records, institutional records and historical events.
- Review, analyze and cross-reference archival records and Survivor accounts to identify historical information, research gaps and potential leads relevant to the project's goals.
- Prepare research summaries, timelines, source references and documentation to support the ongoing investigation.
- Assist in identifying and accessing relevant archival collections, including records held by government agencies, religious institutions and other repositories.
- Collaborate with contracted researchers and other project staff to coordinate research findings and follow-up activities.
- Maintain confidential engagement records, interview documentation and activity summaries in accordance with project procedures.
- Adjust time between engagement and research activities according to Survivor needs, project priorities and team capacity.

Qualifications

- Experience in Indigenous community engagement, Survivor support, interviewing, oral history, social services or closely related community-based work.

ON UNCEDED LANDS IN TREATY SIX TERRITORY
BOX 279, ST PAUL, ALBERTA T0A 3A0
PH: 780-645-4455; TOLL FREE: 888-645-4455
FX: 780-645-5215

- Demonstrated ability to conduct research, review historical documents, organize information and prepare clear written summaries or reports.
- Understanding of Indian Residential School history and ongoing impacts, cultural safety, informed consent and trauma-informed approaches.
- Ability to listen carefully, establish trust, respect boundaries and support people sharing sensitive experiences.
- Strong communication, organization, documentation and teamwork skills, with sound judgment and commitment to confidentiality.
- Ability to work independently, travel as needed and use common office and electronic recordkeeping tools.

Relevant post-secondary education or training in Social Work, Indigenous Studies, History, Psychology, Sociology, Education, Human Services or a related field is preferred. An equivalent combination of training, lived, or community-based knowledge, and relevant experience may be considered.

Assets

- Direct experience engaging Indian Residential School Survivors, Elders or families.
- Experience conducting qualitative interviews, oral histories, archival searches or community-based research.
- Knowledge of Treaty 6 First Nations communities, Blue Quills history, Cree language and cultural protocols.
- Training in trauma-informed interviewing, mental health first aid or culturally grounded wellness supports.

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.