



## **Indigenous Youth Co-researcher Role Information Sheet**

**We are looking for 3 to 6 Indigenous youth co-researchers (ages 18 to 30) across the gender spectrum and of diverse sexual orientations to join our research team.**

### **Title of Project:**

Exploring the needs of Calgary's urban Indigenous youth across the gender-identity spectrum in relation to culturally relevant programming and services to support sexual health, identity, and belonging

### **Sponsor:**

Canadian Institutes of Health Research – Indigenous Gender and Wellness Development Grant

### **Purpose of the Study:**

The purpose of this study is to explore the gaps in sexual health programming and services needed by Calgary's urban Indigenous youth (18-30 years old) across the gender-identity spectrum and of diverse sexual orientations. The aim is to improve and create new programs that better support sexual health, identity and sense of belonging for urban Indigenous youth.

**Why this work is important:** Colonial violence and historical trauma impact the experiences of urban Indigenous youth, who experience higher levels of child sexual abuse, teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, and suicide compared to non-Indigenous youth. This can be especially true for those who identify as gender and/or sexually diverse, and two-spirit. The development of cultural and sexual identities can be complex and impacted by these experiences. This project is grounded in the idea and understanding that life experiences differ based on the interplay of Indigeneity, gender, class, sexuality, geography, age, and ability. We are inviting urban Indigenous youth to have a voice in sharing their stories and needs to support their wellbeing.

### **About This Role:**

This is a youth participatory action research (YPAR) project, which may be different than other research you have heard of before. In this research study you will be a co-researcher. This means you will be involved in making decisions, collecting data, analyzing data, and deciding how to share the results.

The Indigenous youth co-researcher role is a hired part-time position – you will be paid hourly. The total time will be about 80 hours (spread over the length of the project). You will be mainly involved from July to December 2020 but there will be opportunity to remain involved after that if you wish.

Given the current social distancing practices in place in response to COVID-19, the work will be done remotely through various online resources. You will need access to a computer or a smartphone to connect with the research team and participants.

## **The Project will Happen in Different Phases:**

### **Mentoring Phase:**

In this phase, you and the other youth co-researchers will learn about how to conduct research. This training will include research methods, confidentiality and consent, and research ethics. In this phase, you will learn about Indigenous storywork principals and methodology. You will learn how to conduct research interviews.

### **Gathering Phase:**

In this phase, you and other youth co-researchers will review and edit the guiding questions for participant interviews. You will conduct research interviews with Indigenous youth participants. We are aiming to interview a total of 24 urban Indigenous and include youth that identify across the gender spectrum and sexual orientations.

### **Collective Meaning Making Phase:**

In this phase, you and the other youth co-researchers, with the rest of the research team, will review the interviews you conducted in the Gathering Phase. The team will work together to collectively make meaning of the interview transcripts and identify knowledge bundles. These knowledge bundles will be used to build the framework of new programs/services to support sexual health, identity, and belonging for urban Indigenous youth.

### **Knowledge Generation Phase:**

In this phase, you and other youth co-researchers will help review the results and discuss the extent to which the results reflect the experiences and stories of the participants. In this phase, you will also have the opportunity to work with the other youth co-researchers to decide on different ways to share the research results. You may decide to create a video, artwork, or other creative forms of expression.

### **Sharing and Dissemination Phase:**

In this phase, you will be invited to participate in various presentations, written articles, and community events as a way to share the research project.

### **Selection Process:**

We are looking for 3 to 6 Indigenous youth co-researchers (ages 18 to 30) across the gender spectrum and of diverse sexual orientations to join the research team. If you are interested in this position, please let Natalie know by sending her an email (see contact info below) by June 15<sup>th</sup>. We will then offer an information session and proceed with an interview process at the end of June.

If you have any questions or want clarification regarding this research, please contact:

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