

Research Assistant - Community Engagement Coordinator (WLN Indigenous Communities)

Institute of Population Health, University of New Brunswick

The Institute of Population Health (IPH) at the University of New Brunswick (UNB) in Fredericton, New Brunswick, is seeking a highly motivated Research Assistant (RA) - Community Engagement Coordinator to support community-engaged research initiatives with Wabanaki-Labrador Indigenous Nations (WLN).

This role provides a unique opportunity for a student to contribute to community-driven research and partnership development with Indigenous communities in Atlantic Canada. The successful candidate will play an important role in supporting respectful engagement, relationship-building, and collaborative knowledge exchange with Indigenous partners, ensuring research activities are conducted in alignment with OCAP® principles (Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession) and Indigenous research ethics.

The Research Assistant will work under the supervision of the Institute's leadership and collaborate closely with researchers, Indigenous community representatives, partner organizations, and project teams to strengthen Indigenous partnerships and support inclusive research practices.

Responsibilities

1. Support community engagement and relationship-building with Indigenous communities and organizations across Canada, particularly with the Wabanaki-Labrador Indigenous Nations.
2. Coordinate meetings, consultations, and collaborative activities with Indigenous partners, advisory committees, and community leaders, ensuring respectful and culturally appropriate engagement.
3. Assist with the planning and implementation of community-based research activities, including workshops, consultations, and knowledge-sharing sessions.
4. Contribute to the development of community engagement strategies that prioritize Indigenous voices, perspectives, and priorities in research design and implementation.
5. Ensure research activities involving Indigenous communities follow ethical guidelines, OCAP® principles, and UNB research ethics protocols.
6. Assist in preparing reports, knowledge translation materials, and communication outputs that share research findings with Indigenous communities and stakeholders in accessible formats.

7. Maintain documentation of engagement activities and partnerships to support transparency, accountability, and long-term relationship development with Indigenous partners.
8. Work collaboratively with interdisciplinary teams to ensure Indigenous perspectives are integrated into population health research initiatives.

Qualifications

Required

- Current enrolment in a program (Master's or PhD) in public health, Indigenous studies, social sciences, health policy, public administration, community development, or a related field.
- Demonstrated interest or experience in community engagement with Indigenous peoples in Canada.
- Strong interpersonal skills with the ability to build respectful relationships with Indigenous communities and partners.
- Knowledge of or willingness to learn OCAP® principles, Indigenous research ethics, and community-based research practices.
- Excellent communication, facilitation, and organizational skills.
- Ability to work collaboratively in a team-based research and community partnership environment.

Preferred

- Experience working with Indigenous organizations, communities, or advisory committees in Canada.
- Familiarity with Indigenous health, population health research, or community-engaged research approaches.
- Experience coordinating community consultations or engagement activities.
- Knowledge of Indigenous governance structures or community protocols.
- Bilingualism (English/French) is considered an asset.

Salary and Duration

- **Salary:** Commensurate with UNB Research Assistant pay scales and hours of work
- **Start Date:** Immediately
- **Duration:** Immediate Hire for 12 months, with possible renewal subject to funding and academic standing
- **Location:** Fredericton, NB (Hybrid work arrangement may be possible)

Application Process

Interested candidates should submit the following documents to **[Jennifer.russell@unb.ca]**:

- Cover letter outlining your academic background, experience engaging with Indigenous communities, and interest in the role
- Curriculum vitae
- Confirmation of graduate program enrolment
- Contact information for one academic or professional reference

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Acknowledgement and Commitment to Indigenous Partnerships

UNB respectfully acknowledges that all interactions in Fredericton take place on the traditional and unceded territory of the Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) people.

The Institute of Population Health is committed to respectful engagement with Indigenous communities and supporting research that reflects Indigenous priorities, knowledge systems, and self-determination. Applications from Indigenous students and candidates with experience working with Indigenous communities in Canada are strongly encouraged.