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Palliative Approaches to Care in Aging and Community Health
School of Nursing | Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health | University of Victoria

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Graduate Student Research Fellowship - Urban Indigenous Guidance Circle

\$5,000/year [April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026]

APPLY BY MARCH 1, 2025

INFORMATION FOR INTERESTED APPLICANTS

Dr. Kelli Stajduhar at the School of Nursing, University of Victoria, is currently leading a 4-year CIHR project grant entitled, “Supporting Vulnerable and Marginalized Older Adults to be Cared for and to Die at 'Home’”. Two populations of interest for this project are (1) older adults (35 years+) experiencing homelessness and/or other structural vulnerabilities and nearing end-of-life in urban inner-city settings and (2) people who are identified or who identify as being chosen supporters of the first group. Based on previous research, and the experience of the team investigators, it is anticipated that there may be a higher proportion of Indigenous persons in these two subset populations than is representative of the general populace. In preparation of this potential outcome, the team has created a ‘living’ Urban Indigenous Engagement Plan. The team understands and believes that attention must be given to ensure respectful, trauma-informed, culturally safer and appropriate conduct of research.

To ensure culturally safer research practices, our team has brought together an Urban Indigenous Guidance Circle (UIGC) with members from Alberta, BC, and Ontario.

This Circle is co-chaired by Dr. Kelli Stajduhar (project lead), University of Victoria and Dr. Holly Prince (Indigenous scholar), Lakehead University.

Why do we want to engage an Urban Indigenous Guidance Circle (UIGC) in our project:

- Sustained collaboration: The ongoing involvement of the UIGC throughout the entire research project is crucial for maintaining a culturally safer process and ensuring Indigenous perspectives are integrated at every stage.
- Diverse representation: Including Indigenous Elders, scholars, health/social care providers, and research team members from each site ensures a wide range of perspectives and expertise.
- Comprehensive involvement: The UIGC's role in reviewing and providing input on data collection tools, engagement methods, dissemination of findings, and data sharing decisions is essential for culturally safer research.
- Respect and Value Indigenous Knowledges & Ways of Knowing and hold these to be true: By partnering with Indigenous Elders, scholars, health/social care providers, and graduate students, the importance of cultural and community-based ways of knowing from Indigenous perspectives are acknowledged.

- Community-based approach: Having a plan that reflects an engaged community-based research collaboration can help rebuild trust and lead to more relevant and impactful outcomes.
- Data sovereignty: The UIGC's involvement in decisions about data sharing respects Indigenous data sovereignty principles, such as OCAP® (Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession).
- Culturally safer focus: The ongoing collaboration with the UIGC demonstrates a commitment to creating a culturally safer research environment, which is crucial for meaningful engagement both within and outside of Indigenous communities.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Identify as Indigenous (First Nations/Métis/Inuit)
2. Currently a registered student in a Master's or PhD program* with a focus on improving health outcomes for Indigenous peoples, acknowledging the impacts of colonization on social determinants of health and overall wellness.
 - *Preference will be given to those enrolled at one of the following Universities:
 - University of Victoria (BC)
 - Lakehead University (ON)
 - University of Alberta (AB)
3. Able to participate over a minimum of 12 months. A minimum of one year term is required. Candidates will be expected to attend ongoing circles (virtually) and provide written or spoken feedback regarding the research project.

APPLICATION PROCESS – HOW TO APPLY

If you are interested and meet the above criteria, please submit your application via email to amice@uvic.ca by March 1, 2025. Emailed applications should include the following 3 attachments:

1. Proof of studentship – Confirmation letter/email from your supervisor attached to your application.
2. One document which includes the following 3 sections:
 1. 200-word biography [include a self-identification statement]
 2. 200-word statement of interest [why would you like to be considered; how might this experience help you in your studies?]
 3. 200-word statement around your connection/s to your Indigenous community
3. Current CV/Resume [3-page max]

Follow up:

- Applications will be accepted until March 1, 2025, once received you will be provided with emailed confirmation of receipt within 2 business days.
- Those being considered will be invited to participate in a virtual follow up conversation with current UIGC members, you may be asked to provide a letter of support from your Indigenous community at that time.