

Environmental Health – Healthy Environments and Climate Change Student Placement Position

NAME OF ORGANIZATION/AGENCY: Timiskaming Health Unit (THU)

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION/AGENCY:

Timiskaming Health Unit is the official public health agency for the district of Timiskaming to deliver the Ontario Public Health Standards. The health unit is governed by a board of health, which is an autonomous corporation under the Health Protection and Promotion Act and is administered by the medical officer of health. THU is the smallest health unit in the province and serves a sparsely populated urban/rural geographic area in northeastern Ontario. www.timiskaminghu.com

POSITION TITLE: Practicum Student - Masters of Public Health (MPH) or Masters of Science (MSc) in Environmental Health or related discipline.

NUMBER OF POSITIONS AVAILABLE: 1

WORKSITE LOCATION & CONDITIONS: Fully remote or in THU office. Requires ability to work remotely, and have access to reliable internet, camera and microphone to support virtual meetings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PRACTICUM PROJECT:

We are seeking a master's student to assist the Timiskaming Health Unit (THU) in furthering our knowledge on local vulnerabilities associated with climate change and identifying potential adaptation opportunities. The successful applicant will develop a rapid evidence review of current literature and support the development of a climate adaptation strategy for THU.

In partnership with Northern Ontario Climate Change & Health Collaborative (NOCCHC), the THU completed a report titled, *"Changing Climate and Health in Northern Ontario: An overview of the health impacts of climate change in northern Ontario"*. This report explores what we know about climate change in northern Ontario and special factors that may affect the health impacts of climate change in the north. It includes chapters on issues such as extreme temperatures, extreme weather events, food and water contamination, and vector-borne diseases.

The next step is to conduct a rapid evidence assessment of available literature and develop an adaptation strategy for the Timiskaming Health Unit that builds on the work completed by the NOCCHC.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) has included climate change in the Standards for Public Health Programs and Services (SPHP&S). The relevant goal in the Standards is, *"To reduce exposure to health hazards and promote the development of healthy natural and built environments that support health and mitigate existing and emerging risks, including the impacts of a changing climate."*

Climate change and health vulnerability and adaptation (V&A) assessments and strategies are conducted to understand current impacts and projected future risks of climate variability and change, and to identify policies and programs to increase resilience to these risks.

Applicants should have specific knowledge related to literature reviews, rapid reviews, and evidence-informed public health practice. General environmental health knowledge related to climate change is also an asset.

LEARNING OUTCOMES/GOALS:

The student will gain experience in integrated learning working with a multidisciplinary public health team while contributing to knowledge and climate change policy development specific to rural communities in Northern Ontario.

QUALIFICATIONS/COMPETENCIES REQUIRED:

An ideal candidate will be a current master's student (in a relevant field) or equivalent seeking practicum experience in a local public health unit (Timiskaming Health Unit) or research experience in general, associated with their current learning program in public health, social sciences or a related field. Strong written and oral skills in English are a requirement for a successful applicant, and applicants will be expected to demonstrate excellent communication, writing, and organizational skill. There will be opportunities to contribute to the publication of research results. Those with experience in community-based research are encouraged to apply.

BENEFIT TO STUDENT:

This practicum student opportunity is ideal for an individual seeking experience in an applied local public health setting and/or within a small, urban-rural mix context.

COMPENSATION: There is no financial compensation for this practicum placement.

EXPECTED START AND END DATES:

This research position will begin in January 2023 or later (negotiable) and last a minimum of 4 months, with possible extension.

PLACEMENT PERIOD:

4 months, with possible extension (negotiable).

SUPERVISOR NAME AND CONTACT:

The successful practicum student will report to Ryan Peters, Program Manager of Environmental Health at Timiskaming Health Unit.

HOW TO APPLY:

Interested individuals should email Randy Winters, Director of Corporate and Protection Services at wintersr@timiskaminghu.com with a statement of interest in the form of a cover letter (1-2 pages), a recent CV including two references that can be contacted, and an academic writing sample. Please specify in your application how your past academic and work experience has prepared you for fulfilling the tasks required of this position. Only complete applications will be considered.