



Working Together for Healthy Nations

Community Health Nurse

Inter Tribal Health Authority

Part-Time 3 Days/Week - 1 Year Term

Inter Tribal Health Authority (ITHA), a multi-disciplinary health organization providing services to 29 member First Nations on Vancouver Island based in Nanaimo, British Columbia is seeking **Community Health Nurse (CHN)** to provide support to the ITHA's First Nations member communities in Songhess (2 days per week) and Esquimalt (1 day per a week) reporting to the Senior Nursing Advisor.

In this position you will deliver public health programs, community, family and individual client recommendations and participate in decisions relating to such things as education and new program design, public health and communicable disease control program coordination and delivery, and community, family and individual client assessment, screening, evaluation and reporting (e.g. pre-and post-natal women, infants, children, individuals with chronic/long-term illnesses and the elderly).

The position provides general professional health advice and information to individuals, families and communities requiring health support and access to services and advocates for and bridges gaps between communities and external service agencies. The position also makes location specific, professional recommendations to Community leaders respecting development of Community Health and Emergency Preparedness plans.

Duties:

- Plans, coordinates and delivers mandatory Immunization and Communicable Disease Control program services, and as a member of an integrated health team, performs case monitoring and outbreak control functions.
- Working in assigned ITHA communities, collaborates with Health Directors, Health and Band staff, Community leaders and other health care team members to identify and define community health priorities, develop community health plans and programs that address the specific health needs of each community in the areas of Maternal/Child, Adult and Elder Health, Health Promotion and Environmental Health.

- Facilitates the planning of activities and strategies to support communities in achieving healthy outcomes, and participates in the design and delivery of community health programs (including educational programs), that address health promotion, illness prevention and health protection across the lifespan (e.g. maternal, child and Elder health).
- Serves as a community level health resource and advocates for, and facilitates access to health and other community services, programs and funding (government and non-government), on behalf of assigned communities and individual clients.
- Builds capacity by briefing external organizations on ITHA's health services mandate and programs; maintains current knowledge of programs and services available through other agencies; promotes optimal wellness for individuals suffering from chronic illness through monitoring, education and counseling in partnership with other community health care providers; supports clients in their pursuit of culturally safe health care from external providers; and makes client referrals to doctors, other health providers, hospitals and clinics.
- Carries out community health projects [e.g. Women's Health Fair, Chronic Illness Pilot Project, Community Health Surveys], both independently and as a health care team member in select ITHA Communities; collects and compiles project data and prepares analyses and reports.
- Maintains excellence in nursing practice through attendance at in-house and external professional meetings, in-services and conferences, and review of professional literature.
- Prepares and maintains hard copy and/or electronic client health records and other client related reports.
- Determines requirements and maintains supply levels for health programs, and ensures that medical and related equipment (e.g. Vaccine fridges) are in good working order.

Position Requirements:

The work requires the following knowledge, skills and/or abilities:

- Bachelor of Science, Nursing (BSN) degree, current practicing membership in good standing with the College of Registered Nurses of B.C., and/or eligibility for licensure with the CRNBC.
- Current CPR/ AED Level C certification and current Immunization certification.
- two or more years' experience working as a Community Health Nurse in a rural/remote setting, preferably in an Aboriginal community setting.
- Community health nursing concepts, principles, practices and theories inclusive of public health, communicable disease control and community development.
- Knowledge of health promotion and prevention strategies (i.e. group education, community development, educational resource development, group facilitation and individual counselling).
- Cultural competency in professional nursing practice and knowledge of traditional, homeopathic and other healing practices.
- Skill and ability to exercise independent nursing judgment in a community-based

environment, work collaboratively with team members and communities at large.

- Networking ability to foster effective contacts and networks with professionals in other organizations (e.g. VIHA Public Health Nurses), and to collaborate with and exchange information on community health nursing issues with Health Directors, Band Administrators and Community Leaders.
- Analytical and problem-solving skills and techniques to carry out community health assessments, identify and recommend/develop interventions to address multi-faceted community/public health problems and provide professional nursing advice.
- knowledge of the cultural traditions and practices in participating member Communities and knowledge of the legacy of Residential Schools, colonization, assimilation and the impact of such history on the health of individuals and First Nations communities.
- Writing and editing skills to prepare proposals, a variety of nursing and health reports, client assessments, presentation and educational materials and correspondence for a variety of audiences.
- Verbal and public speaking skills and the ability to present often complex health information in a non-threatening, culturally appropriate and clear manner, in order to provide health information and advice, and deliver educational programs to lay personnel as well as individuals, families and Community-level client groups.
- Reading skills and the ability to interpret the underlying intent of written materials in order to understand key concepts and issues.
- Skill in the use of workplace technology, i.e. computers, communications equipment, business software.

Conditions of Employment:

- Current valid Driver's License
- Successful completion of a Criminal Records Check

At ITHA you will enjoy a work life balance in a business casual environment

ITHA offers an excellent total compensation package including medical, dental, life insurance and pension plan. In addition to your entitled vacation the office is closed during the Christmas holidays. This is a great opportunity to make a difference in ITHA member communities.

Applicants of Aboriginal ancestry are encouraged to apply.

Advance your career today with a great organization! Please send resumes and covering letters by close of work **Tuesday, April 27, 2010** to Kristi Searle, Email: hr@peoplebiz.ca. Please refer to the position title when submitting your application.

We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those who are short-listed will be contacted for an interview.