Seeking Research Assistant

Project Title: Family factors surrounding the phenomenon of Indigenous homelessness  
SSHRC Insight Grant  
McGill REB# 20-02-019

Research Project PI: Stéphane Grenier Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue;  
Co-Investigators: Brent Angell, University of Windsor; Cyndy Baskin, Ryerson University; Dahlia Namian, University of Ottawa; Katherine Maurer and Wanda Gabriel, McGill University

Employment Period: September 2020 – July 1, 2021  
Hours per week: Approximately 5-10 hours per week over 9 months, flexible to the needs of the project

Compensation: Applicants must be a currently enrolled McGill student and will be paid by tax-free stipend commensurate with AMURE RA pay scale

Project Summary: In order to document and understand the migration phenomena of homeless members of Indigenous communities towards urban centers, our research aims to answer the following question: which family factors need to be considered to explain the Indigenous homelessness (migration) phenomenon and improve associated social intervention practices? To answer it, we will conduct an exploratory research that is congruent with an ecological perspective and a holistic research perspective based on the medicine wheel. We seek to describe qualitatively the journey of Indigenous individuals experiencing homeless between the community and the street by mobilizing their knowledge, those of their family (when possible), and their social worker. An important focus of the study will be addressing the family factors that may contribute to Indigenous people becoming homelessness, as well as those factors that maintain them or help them pull through. Over the course of the study, we will conduct 45 qualitative interviews with stakeholders at each of the four sites in Québec and Ontario.

Research Assistant: In collaboration with the Regulation, Affect, and Development Lab (RAaD Lab) and Professors Wanda Gabriel and Katherine Maurer, the Research Assistant will conduct interviews with Indigenous individuals experiencing homeless, members of their family (when possible), and their social workers on the family factors that inform the migration experiences of homeless members of Indigenous communities.

Project Management Duties:
- Meet with community members, participating agency partners, and Project Coordinator to plan and schedule interviews.
- Meet with Indigenous individuals experiencing homelessness, members of their family (when possible), and their social workers to conduct interviews on the family factors that inform the migration experiences of homeless members of Indigenous communities.
Qualifications

- Applicants must have experience working with Indigenous communities including knowledge of a cultural safety approach.
- Knowledge and experience with individuals experiencing or formerly homeless and families are an asset.
- Knowledge of trauma-informed practice is an asset.
- Minimum of DEC III plus three (3) years' related experience.
- Graduate degree (received or in process) in a field relevant to the goals of the project (i.e., social work) is an asset.
- Prior interviewing experience with vulnerable individuals is required to conduct interviews.
- Ability to use specialized databases, Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), email, and the Internet.
- Excellent English and French verbal and written communication. Knowledge of Indigenous languages a plus.

Note: While all qualified candidates are invited to apply, the co-investigators particularly welcome applications from First Nations, Métis and Inuit community members.

How to Apply:
Please send cover letter and CV to Professor Wanda Gabriel (wanda.gabriel@mcgill.ca). References will be sought following successful interviews.

McGill University hires on the basis of merit and is strongly committed to equity and diversity within its community. We welcome applications from racialized persons/visible minorities, women, Indigenous persons, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, and persons of minority sexual orientations and gender identities, as well as from all qualified candidates with the skills and knowledge to productively engage with diverse communities.

McGill implements an employment equity program and encourages members of designated groups to self-identify. Persons with disabilities who anticipate needing accommodations for any part of the application process may contact, in confidence, accessibilityrequest.hr@mcgill.ca or 514-398-3711.