Regional Director

Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre
The Organization

The Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre (SOAHAC) is one of ten Aboriginal Health Access Centres (AHACs) in Ontario. The organization is focused on improving Indigenous health and increasing access to high quality, culturally safe care through the planning, coordination and delivery of wholistic, integrated health services for Indigenous people and communities.

SOAHAC currently operates four main sites across a large geographic region that includes 10 First Nations communities and diverse rural and urban Indigenous communities. These are located in Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, London, Owen Sound, and Windsor. Each site houses an Integrated Care Team of allied health professionals that works together to address the health and wellness needs of their clientele. The teams include doctors and nurse practitioners, nurses, dietitians, physiotherapists, social workers, mental health and addictions counsellors, medical administrators, child and youth workers, traditional Indigenous healers and Elders, and more.

Services include:
- Primary health care
- Traditional healing
- Health promotion
- Culture based programming
- Mental health and addictions support
- Social support services
- Community development initiatives
- Outreach services in First Nations communities
- Aboriginal midwifery
- Physiotherapy
- Dental services
The AHAC Model of Wholistic Health and Wellbeing

AHACs operate from a wholistic Indigenous health framework, focusing on the restoration and rebalancing of the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being of Indigenous people, families, communities and Nations. They recognize the social determinants of health – income, education, adequate housing and diet – and work to address the underlying causes of poor health including intergenerational trauma and impacts of systemic racism.

The model of care recognizes Indigenous rights to determination in health, and traditional healers and healing approaches, as essential components of health services for Indigenous people. The governing boards of AHACs include community members, and decisions are directly rooted in what is learned from ongoing community outreach.

SOAHAC Vision, Mission, and Values

Vision
A healthy balanced life through mental, physical, spiritual and emotional well-being.

Mission
To empower Aboriginal families and individuals to live a balanced state of well-being by sharing and promoting wholistic health practices.

Values
• Respect for all
• Compassion
• Quality in health promotion and care
• Honouring all traditional values
The Opportunity

SOAHAC is excited to announce the creation of three (3) new Regional Director positions, each based in one of three geographic regions in which SOAHAC operates: Chippewas of the Thames/London, Owen Sound, and Windsor. These new leadership positions have been created in order to best address the unique health needs of Indigenous individuals, families and communities in each region. Reporting to the Chief Executive Officer, the Regional Directors will provide leadership related to service planning and implementing a unique vision for growth in their region.

The Regional Directors will fulfill a strategic, systems level role with regard to securing funding, enhanced consultation with Indigenous communities, service planning and evaluation, quality improvement, and meeting funding obligations. They will lead, direct, supervise and support projects and oversee service delivery, maintaining a focus on quality of care. This includes ensuring that the allocation of all resources is achieving results for their region. They will optimize policies, processes and procedures in support of this goal, maintaining an on-going awareness of changing legislation which may impact projects and/or services while planning for and implementing changes accordingly. They will survey the community on a periodic basis and ensure constant communication and messaging within all levels of the organization, supporting both quality and accessibility of services for their region. Leading a team and coordinating with internal stakeholders, they will ensure the mission, vision and values of the organization are upheld and successful. They will also liaise regularly with funders, including the Local Health Integration Network (LHIN), with regional health planning committees, and with various community partners.

The Regional Directors will have a knowledge of the legacy of residential schools, colonization, assimilation, and their impacts on the health of individuals, combined with a strong understanding of the Provincial and Federal health systems. With a proven track record in establishing strong relationships, the Regional Directors will thrive working in a multi-stakeholder environment. Moreover, candidates will be politically astute, analytical, and will bring strong decision making and risk management skills to the position. The ability to balance multiple and competing priorities and manage resources effectively, combined with a well-rounded background in health sciences will enable success in this leadership role. A complementary background in health research is considered an asset.
The Locations

Windsor

The city of Windsor is the southernmost city in Canada, making its' climate one of the warmest. With a combined population of nearly 400,000, the Windsor-Essex County region is comprised of nine diverse and vibrant local communities. The largest of these is the City of Windsor, which also ranks as the top Canadian border city. It is a well connected, international gateway to major cities but with an affordable cost of living; Toronto, Chicago, Indianapolis, and Pittsburgh are no more than a half day’s drive and Ottawa, Minneapolis, Washington DC, Boston and New York City are amongst others that are no more than one day’s drive. Windsor has its own international airport, the Detroit-Windsor tunnel to the United States, a VIA rail station and a newly constructed Greyhound Transit Terminal.

Windsor offers fascinating historical and cultural landmarks and an abundance of waterfront parks and gardens. The city has 215 parks encompassing 2,800 acres of green space which includes a waterfront trail along the Detroit River to be enjoyed by pedestrians and cyclists alike. World-class entertainment includes Caesars Windsor, a casino-resort the largest of its kind in Canada, and the Adventure Bay Family Waterpark, a 35,000 sq. ft. facility. Connected by ferry service is Pelee Island, Canada’s southernmost community and home to award-winning wines. The Windsor Symphony Orchestra and the Art Gallery of Windsor are staples in an emerging arts scene, where new restaurants, artists and music are taking the city by storm.

Each summer, Windsor co-hosts the two-week-long Windsor-Detroit International Freedom Festival that celebrates Canada Day and the Fourth of July, culminating in one of North America’s largest firework displays.

Four school boards offer options for public, Catholic and French public education. The University of Windsor is a research-oriented, comprehensive university with a student population of 16,000.
The Locations

Owen Sound

The City of Owen Sound is located on the southern shore of Georgian Bay in a valley below the limestone cliffs of the Niagara Escarpment. A beautiful city of 21,000, it lies at the foot of the Bruce Peninsula and is famous for its exceptional geography.

Known as the Scenic City, Owen Sound features an expansive harbour and bay, winding rivers, tree-lined streets, extensive parks and trails and a thriving, historic downtown. Key natural attractions include Inglis Falls, Harrison Park, Kelso Beach Park and several conservation areas. The Bruce Trail forms a ribbon around the city along the escarpment, connecting waterfalls and creating many outdoor recreation opportunities. Excellent boating and fishing are available on the bay, and during the winter residents can access thousands of kilometres of snowmobile and cross-country skiing trails. Hiking and cycling are popular pursuits as is golf. The city is home to numerous festivals and events, such as the Summerfolk Music & Crafts Festival, the Salmon Spectacular fishing derby, and the Festival of Northern Lights.

In Owen Sound, you’ll find a downtown economy that is balanced and diversified. The Heritage Place Shopping Centre and Heritage Grove complex on the east side complement the vibrant, scenic downtown core and other shopping areas. Public, Catholic and French Catholic education are available in the City and post-secondary education is offered through the Georgian College Owen Sound Campus.
The Locations

Chippewas of the Thames and London

The Chippewas of the Thames First Nation is located on the north bank of the Thames River approximately 30 km southwest of London, Ontario. It is an Ojibway community whose land base comprises 3,331 hectares of unceded land in Southwestern Ontario. It is located alongside two other First Nations communities: Munsee-Delaware, and Oneida Nation of the Thames.

London is often recognized as one of Ontario’s most liveable cities. Like a small town, it is affordable, safe, clean and friendly. Like a big city, London has excellent business opportunities, world-class public healthcare, and a reliable public transit system. It is a conveniently located approximately 200 kilometres from Toronto and has easy access to US border crossings in Windsor and Niagara Falls. The city is serviced by VIA Rail, Greyhound and the London International Airport which offers direct flights to Toronto, Chicago, Ottawa and Calgary, as well as flights to Mexico, Cuba, Jamaica and several locations in Europe. London’s population of nearly 400,000 makes it Canada’s 11th largest metropolitan area.

Affectionately known as the Forest City, London manages more than 200 parks. There is an extensive trail system that runs along the Thames River for walking, running, and biking. Aside from outdoor recreation, a full calendar of special and cultural events brings numerous festivals to the city, including Snowfest, Sunfest, Rock the Park, London Film Festival and World Beat and Jazz weekends. Other entertainment options are provided by Budweiser Gardens; a 10,000-seat, multi-purpose facility focused on major touring acts and sports. Additionally, Richmond Row is one of the city’s most interesting shopping districts and home to a lively nightlife scene, including live theatre and jazz as well as casual and fine dining.

Internationally recognized educational institutions in London include the University of Western Ontario, Fanshawe College and Collège Boréal, as well as several private colleges. Four school boards – one public, one French public, one Catholic, and one French Catholic – as well as more than twenty private schools, ensure a wide array of options for families.
To Apply

SOAHAC values diversity and is an equal opportunity employer; however, hiring preference will be given to qualified Indigenous applicants. SOAHAC is committed to providing employment accommodation in accordance with the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

To apply for one of these opportunities, please submit your covering letter and resume, specifying your regional preference, in confidence to Brock Higgins at brock@higginsinc.com. Mr. Higgins can be reached at 613-788-8254 x101 to further explore these exciting positions at an organization with strong benefits and work-life values.

To learn more about SOAHAC, please visit http://soahac.on.ca.