



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Participatory and Community-Based Researcher Specialist in Indigenous and Trauma Informed Research Submission Deadline: June 11, 2024

YWCA Canada is seeking a Participatory and Community-Based Indigenous Researcher/Research Team with specialist knowledge in Indigenous research, colonial records and trauma informed research. The project will run from the end of June 2024 to the end of August 2025.

Overview of Organization

YWCA Canada is the country's oldest and largest women's multi-service organization. YWCA Canada represents 29 member associations whose programs and services create change for 1 million women, girls, and their families. Annually, YWCAs invest over \$258 million to support 330,000 women and girls, in 300 communities across Canada. YWCA Canada strives to strengthen women and girls' equality, allowing them to see themselves as empowered and engaged.

Vision : Women and girls empowered in a safe and equitable society.

Mission : Advance gender equity through research, advocacy and sustainable Member Associations.

Request for Proposals (RFP)

Indigenous-Led research on impacts of YWCA's Canada participation and role in residential schools, Indian hospitals and programming

Background

YWCA Canada federation, an organization committed to empowering women and promoting social justice, has a long history in Canada. However, as a legacy institution that benefited from and contributed to colonial policy, YWCA Canada is committed to centering decolonization and supporting Indigenous communities, Elders, and knowledge keepers. YWCA commits to being accountable to the impact that the organization has played in participating in actions of Indian hospitals and residential schools that it continues to benefit from.

Building on work done in previous years as part of truth and reconciliation with Indigenous communities, in 2019, YWCA Canada commissioned research to begin this work. A draft report based on existing archives was produced. The work was limited and after much discussion and ceremony in 2023, with Indigenous staff and volunteers, YWCA Canada national Board and the movement recommended a new research project to center Indigenous lived experience. To address these concerns and foster accountability, an independent research project led by Indigenous voices and ways of knowing is crucial. The original report will serve as a preliminary cause to address the further research and recommendations.

YWCA Canada is committed to taking actionable steps to repair the harms done and ensure no further harm is not done to Indigenous Peoples in this process, and acknowledges that any meaningful dialogue starts with truth-telling.

Objective

The primary objective of this research initiative is to investigate and document the historical and contemporary harms experienced by Indigenous Peoples through local YWCAs' compliance in residential schools, Indian hospitals and programming. The findings will contribute to understanding the systemic issues within the organization and inform necessary actions for reconciliation and justice.

Scope of Work

The research should encompass, but not be limited to, the following areas:

1. Examination of the YWCA's interactions with Indigenous communities and individuals, with focus on Indian hospitals and residential schools since the founding of 1870 to current.

2. Analysis of policies, practices, and incidents within the YWCA that have negatively impacted Indigenous peoples.
3. Collection of personal narratives, testimonials, and lived experiences of Indigenous individuals associated with the YWCA.
4. Identification of systemic barriers and power dynamics contributing to marginalization and harm.

Methodology

The research should employ a participatory and culturally sensitive approach, centering Indigenous methodologies and perspectives. This may include:

1. Engaging Indigenous community members, leaders, and organizations throughout the research process.
2. Utilizing both qualitative and quantitative methods, such as interviews, surveys, and archival research.
3. Prioritizing Indigenous voices and ensuring their ownership and control over the research process and outcomes.

Deliverables

1. Comprehensive research report documenting the findings, analysis, and recommendations.
2. Presentation materials of the final findings and recommendations to relevant role/rights holders, including Indigenous communities, YWCA leadership, government agencies, and advocacy groups.

Timeline

The proposed timeline for the research project is 15 months with flexibility to accommodate community needs and unforeseen circumstances. The Researcher/Research Team is invited to propose a breakdown of the phases of the project as part of their proposal submission.

Budget

Funding is available for this research initiative, including expenses related to personnel, travel, data collection, and dissemination of findings. Applicants are required to provide a detailed budget proposal outlining their financial requirements.

Submission Guidelines

*** A more-detailed RFP package is available upon request at the contacting below. ***

Interested parties are invited to submit their proposals addressing the outlined objectives, methodology, deliverables, timeline, and budget. Proposals should be sent to Jessica Gordon, Director of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation at jgordon@ywcacanada.ca no later than **June 11th, 2024 4:30pm CST**.

Selection Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Alignment with the objectives and scope of the research (15%).
2. Demonstrated expertise in Indigenous research methodologies, community engagement, and anti-oppressive practices (50%).
3. Capacity to conduct the research within the specified timeline and budget (30%).
4. Relevance of recommendations to support YWCA Canada and its federation's work and commitment to reconciliation (5%).

Contact Information

For inquiries or further information, please contact Jessica Gordon, Director of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation at jgordon@ywcacanada.ca.

We look forward to receiving innovative and collaborative proposals from Indigenous-led researchers or research teams committed to advancing justice, healing, and empowerment for Indigenous Peoples affected by the YWCA federation in Canada.

YWCA Canada

National Advocacy. Community Action. | Une voix nationale. Des actions locales.

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