



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Participatory and Community-Based Researcher Specialist in Indigenous and trauma informed research

Submission Deadline: September 2nd at 5pm ET

YWCA Canada is seeking a Participatory and Community-Based Indigenous Researcher with specialist knowledge in Indigenous research, colonial records and trauma informed research. The project will run from September 2024 – September 2025.

By retaining an independent and expert Participatory and Community-Based Indigenous Research services firm YWCA Canada wishes to build on the federation’s history and strengths and addresses current and emerging needs and trends to ensure a just and equitable future for all. The Participatory and Community-Based Indigenous Research may also identify issues that require further research and exploration.

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 \$260 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.

YWCA Canada’s Vision

Women and girls empowered in a safe and equitable society.

YWCA Canada’s Mission

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

Background

In 2022, YWCA Canada commissioned a preliminary archival report to uncover records of its participation in residential schools and 'Indian' hospitals. The work continues as the organization is looking to follow up with a Participatory and Community-Based Indigenous Research project which was approved by its membership in 2023.

The Participatory and Community-Based Indigenous Research guides the work of the YWCA at the local and national levels, contributing to understanding the systemic issues within the organization and inform necessary actions for reconciliation and justice.

Project Requirements

YWCA Canada is looking to engage an Indigenous research consultant or firm(s) to support our work. Based on expertise, applicants will;

- A. *Community Consultation & Needs Assessment: YWCA Canada aims to seek Indigenous oral history and recommendations. Through community-based research and stakeholder consultations with Indigenous communities and key informants, the consultant/researcher will plan and execute community consultations and recommendations.*
- B. *Historical & Archival Research: With a commitment to reconciliation and healing within Indigenous and truth telling in non-Indigenous communities, we are seeking a like-minded consultant or firm to undertake focused research and information gathering to understand YWCA's involvement and legacy with Residential Schools and Indian Hospitals, and Indigenous peoples in Canada. The research will be initiated by reviewing the preliminary report that was completed in May 2022.*

Project Description

YWCA Canada has been given the responsibility to produce a report addressing the involvement and role of YWCAs in Canada as colonial institutions in Indian hospitals, residential schools, boarding schools, and programs delivered. YWCAs are now commissioning a report to examine these truths led by Indigenous researchers and including Indigenous communities.

YWCAs are committed to taking actionable steps to repair the harms done and ensure no further harm is done to Indigenous Peoples in this process.

This report will address the impacts of the role and involvement of YWCAs in colonial and assimilation policies and programs, and give recommendations to how the YWCA movement can address these through:

- Researching, documenting the practices, projects, and partnerships YWCA'S were involved.
- Meeting with Indigenous groups to share findings and receive recommendations.

- Disseminating and encouraging the adoption of recommendations through reconciliation and relationship repairing policies, programs, and practices.
- Producing a full report on findings and recommendations to be published for the public to view, as part of truth telling.

Activities & Objectives

- Use existing preliminary findings, identify archives, records, oral history, and identify policies and practices of the YWCA as a movement and Member Associations in relation to assimilation practices.
- Release a report, first with Indigenous communities to ensure recommendations are inclusive and accountable and gain further insights and guidance.
- Disseminate the findings of this study to Member Associations across Canada.
- Agree to publicly release the report and advocate for other institutions, organizations, and governments to do the same.

Scope of Research Work:

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

1. Historical archival and records examination of the YWCA's interactions with Indigenous communities and individuals, with focus on Indian hospitals, residential schools and programming.
2. Historical and current analysis of policies, practices, and incidents within the YWCA that have negatively impacted Indigenous peoples including identification of systemic barriers and power dynamics contributing to marginalization and harm.
3. Collection of personal narratives, testimonials, and lived experiences of Indigenous individuals and communities named in the preliminary report or any further findings associated with the YWCA.

Qualifications:

- Indigenous (First Nation, Metis, Inuit)
- Strong analytical, qualitative, and quantitative research and excellent writing skills including experience conducting focus groups and in-person interviews
- Experience with Indigenous methodologies and participatory community-based research
- Knowledge of colonial violence and trauma informed approaches
- Extensive understanding of OCAP and CARE Principles
- Able to work with an anti-oppression framework and a feminist perspective.

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.

Evaluation:

Criterion	Weight
1. Alignment with the objectives and scope of the research.	15%
2. Demonstrated connection to Indigenous communities and expertise in Indigenous research methodologies, community engagement, trauma informed approaches, anti-oppressive practices, OCAP principles, as well as a demonstrated ability and capacity to understand diversity of Indigenous protocols.	50%
3. Capacity to conduct 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%
GRAND TOTAL: 100 points	100%

Proposal Requirements and Submission Process

Applicants are invited to submit a proposal, including:

- Covering letter.
- Curriculum vitae or Firm/Consultant Profile
- Key members of the team who will work on this project with a concise summary of their expertise and roles. If you will use sub-contractors, please provide details of their roles and expertise here.
- Proposed work plan outlining methodology, timeline, allotment of community consultations.
- Budget

Submit proposals by email to:

Jessica Gordon, Director of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation jgordon@ywcacanada.ca

Proposals must be received by: 5pm ET September 3rd, 2024.

Questions may be directed to Jessica Gordon at the above email address.