

<b>Job title:</b>	Peer Researcher
<b>Organization:</b>	Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) BC Division
<b>Location:</b>	Vancouver, with an option to work remotely from anywhere in the BC
<b>Status:</b>	Temporary Part-time, 10 hours per week
<b>Duration:</b>	February 2020 – August 31 <sup>st</sup> 2020
<b>Wage:</b>	\$19 per hour (applicable taxes will be deducted)

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### **Who is CMHA BC?**

CMHA BC is part of one of Canada's oldest charities. Across Canada, CMHA provides vital services and support to well over half a million people every year, facilitating access to the resources they require to maintain and improve their mental health, and integrate within their communities. The policy team at CMHA BC informs provincial policy, planning and service delivery with a goal to make mental health possible for all.

### **What is a Peer Researcher?**

Peer can mean many different things depending on the context. At CMHA BC, we use the term "peer" to refer to someone who has personally experienced a mental health challenge and accessed our system of care for support or treatment. We greatly value the expertise that comes from such experience. Peer research is research that is steered and conducted by people with lived experience of the issue being studied.

### **What is the job?**

The project is funded by the Vancouver Foundation and will explore how peers can and should be supported to contribute to the design, delivery and evaluation of our mental health system. The peer researchers will be responsible for conducting a series of interviews with peer workers across the province by phone, and collecting and reviewing the information gathered.

### **What is involved?**

- Coordinate and conduct a series of phone interviews
- Collect and review information gathered during interviews
- Provide written content for the project reports that document interview findings
- Attend and contribute to any project-related meetings by phone or in-person
- Complete research training and skills building activities as necessary

Peer researchers need to feel comfortable working both on their own and collaboratively with others. The bulk of their research activities will be independent, with support from CMHA BC policy staff. The project itself will be directed by an advisory committee of mental health and substance use peers

### **What is the time commitment?**

The peer researchers will be expected to complete a paid orientation and research training (if applicable). The job is for a period of 6 months (approx. 10 hours per week), with a flexible start date in February 2020.

### **What Else You Can Expect:**

- To learn and practice qualitative research skills
- The option to work at CMHA BC's office located in downtown Vancouver or remotely at a location of your choosing. Applicants are encouraged from all regions of BC.
- To learn about the work that CMHA BC does in policy, research and programs
- To become part of a larger network of people and organizations advocating for improvements to our mental health system
- To connect with peer workers across the province and be part of a growing workforce
- Opportunities for mentorship from our advisory committee and policy staff

### **What are we looking for in a peer researcher?**

We are looking for a person who has experience of a mental health challenge and a keen interest in exploring the topic of peer employment and empowerment within BC's mental health system. The work itself is best suited to someone who feels comfortable communicating on the phone, hearing about diverse and potentially difficult circumstances, and has some familiarity with using computers for writing and internet searching.

Prior research experience is *not* required. CMHA BC will provide any necessary training. We encourage people to apply who would like to develop their skills and work on research studies in the future.

### **How do you apply?**

- (1) Visit our [application webpage](#) to complete an online form; **OR**
- (2) Email your resume and cover letter to Amelia Hamfelt at [amelia.hamfelt@cmha.bc.ca](mailto:amelia.hamfelt@cmha.bc.ca).

Tell us:

- What excites you about being a peer researcher
- What previous experiences (i.e., work, volunteer or personal) will help you succeed
- What motivates you to work in the mental health sector
- Your opinion on why organizations should engage peers in planning, providing and evaluating mental health services
- What you are hoping to gain from the experience working as a peer researcher
- Anything else you'd like to share

Please feel free to email or call **Amelia** at 1-800-555-8222 ext. 5085 if you have any questions!

*We are an employer who values diversity and encourages applications from women, people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, persons with disabilities, members of visible minorities, and Indigenous people. Please do not hesitate to self-identify in your application if you feel comfortable doing so.*