



POSITION DESCRIPTION

POSITION (TITLE):	Associate Medical Officer of Health – First Nations	DIVISION:	Office of Medical Officer of Health/Chief Executive Officer
REPORTS TO:	Medical Officer of Health/Chief Executive Officer	UNION AFFILIATION:	Non-Union
REVIEWED: Direct Supervisor	Medical Officer of Health/Chief Executive Officer	DATE: (R) if revised	(R) September 2020 (R) August 2016
APPROVED: MOH/CEO, Director	Medical Officer of Health/Chief Executive Officer	DATE:	
ORIGINAL VERSION DATE:	April 2014	REVISION DATES:	September 2020 August 2016

POSITION SUMMARY:

The Associate Medical Officer of Health – First Nations serves as a Public Health Physician and provides leadership and consulting expertise in the implementation of a First Nations-based and governed public health system for the people and communities in the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority area.

The Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority (SLFNHA), with the support of Ontario’s Ministry of Health, Indigenous Services Canada (First Nations Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB)), and the two regional Public Health Units (Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU) & Northwestern Health Unit), is leading the delivery of public health services through the “Approaches to Community Wellbeing” (ACW). ACW is a First Nations-based and governed public health system for 31 First Nation communities in the SLFNHA catchment area.

The Public Health Physician/Associate Medical Officer of Health is based in Sioux Lookout and takes direction from the Chief Operating Officer of SLFNHA in conjunction with the Medical Officer of Health/Chief Executive Officer of TBDHU. The successful candidate is supported by strong connections with TBDHU and the Northwestern Health Unit, Ontario’s Ministry of Health, and Indigenous Services Canada. This work fulfills the next phase in an ongoing Quadripartite First Nations Public Health project that aims to improve public health in remote First Nation communities in Northwestern Ontario.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Strategically applies a population health approach to addressing public health issues and in assessing and planning programs and projects. Adapts population health approaches in the context of community empowerment and First Nation traditional knowledge and approaches to wellbeing.

2. Provides medical and public health expertise and oversight to staff and management in the areas of communicable disease (e.g., case, contact, outbreak management) and environmental health. Understands and works within the jurisdictional complexities associated with the application of public health legislation in First Nation reserve communities.
3. Understands and works within the jurisdictional and legal complexities associated with the application of privacy legislation in advancing the implementation of the Approaches to Community Wellbeing (ACW) system.
4. Assesses sources of epidemiological and other data that would be beneficial in understanding and assessing the health of the population and explores opportunities to improve access to such data sources to support the ACW system.
5. Participates in epidemiological evaluation of health needs of the population and oversees the epidemiological investigations for health status reporting and health surveillance while ensuring data governance policies are consistent with the principles of Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession (OCAP®).
6. Participates in the response to public health emergencies and other key issues of concern.
7. Provides guidance on the development of regional strategies and services in the areas of Roots for Community Wellbeing, Raising our Children, Preventing Chronic Diseases, Preventing Infectious Diseases, and Safe Communities of the ACW system.
8. Develops relationships with First Nation community leaders, Tribal Councils, regional and provincial First Nation organizations, provincial public health units, the Ministry of Health and FNIHB. This includes travelling and staying overnight in remote communities as well as travel in the region and to Toronto or Ottawa, as required.
9. Supports the development of effective partnerships and collaborations with various health and non-health sector partners to advance the implementation of the ACW system in the communities and in the region.
10. Effectively responds to inquiries and requests from First Nation community leadership, SLFNHA leadership, and partner organizations through formal, informal, written and oral communication.
11. Presents and facilitates discussion at the community level on ACW and on priority public health issues.
12. Communicates effectively with regional, provincial, and federal partners on the implementation of ACW or sections thereof including the barriers encountered, and facilitates discussion among partners to deepen understanding of the issues and determine solutions.
13. As directed by SLFNHA, participates in meetings at SLFNHA including senior management meetings, board meetings, Chiefs' meetings, etc.
14. Participates on key working groups focused on the implementation of the ACW system.
15. Provides leadership and consultation to staff in planning, developing, implementing and evaluating programs in Approaches to Community Wellbeing.
16. Maintains workplan for the Public Health Physician position; contributes to work planning for other members of the ACW staff.

17. Assists in determining staffing roles and budget requirements and reviews other work/documents related to the ACW system, as requested.
18. Performs other prescribed duties as approved by SLFNHA.

QUALIFICATIONS / REQUIREMENTS:

Education:

1. Possession of a degree in medicine and with a current licence to practise medicine from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO) and be in good standing with the CPSO.
2. Further training in public health, with a fellowship with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in Public Health and Preventive Medicine (Community Medicine), or a Master of Public Health degree or equivalent from a recognized university, in accordance with the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*, and Ontario Regulation 566.
3. Candidate must be in good standing with the Royal College or College of Family Physicians of Canada or other professional body, as applicable.

Eligibility:

The candidate must meet the requirements of the *Health Protection and Promotion Act (1990)* (HPPA) S. 64 which states: "No person is eligible for appointment as a medical officer of health or an associate medical officer of health unless,

- (a) The individual is a physician;
- (b) The individual possesses the qualifications and requirements prescribed by the regulations for the position; and
- (c) The Minister approves the proposed appointment. R.S.O. 1990, c H. 7, s. 64."

Skills:

- Demonstrated cultural competency and experience in applying a culturally safe approach to working with Indigenous people, organizations, and populations.
- Understanding of the impacts of geography, colonialism, systemic discrimination, and continued jurisdictional complexities in the Sioux Lookout region First Nation communities on public health issues and programming.
- Knowledge and experience in the population health approach and an understanding of the associated principles and methods including population health assessment, determinants of health, healthy equity, epidemiology, evidence informed public health, program evaluation, healthy public policy, community and stakeholder engagement, and the ability to adapt and apply these concepts in a First Nation context.
- Understanding of, and ability to apply, the principles of Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession®
- Ability to think strategically in developing and implementing a comprehensive approach to public health issues.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to work in an evolving team environment and support a rapidly growing organization and program.

- Ability to adapt to changing work environments and delays associated with geography, weather, and other factors.
- Leadership and management skills, i.e., ability to lead and engage others within an interdisciplinary team environment, change management skills.
- Strong relationship building skills at the local, regional, and provincial levels with a commitment to developing effective partnerships and collaborations.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY:

- Follows all policies and procedures to ensure personal safety and safety of others.
- Reports any equipment or safety problems to supervisor.