Employment Opportunity
Mental Health Education Coordinator
Mawlugutinej Mental Wellness Team
Natoaganeg (Eel Ground) First Nation
Competition 2026-MW-04

Mawlugutinej Mental Wellness Services is seeking an experienced healthcare or mental health professional to join our multidisciplinary team as a Mental Health Education Coordinator. Mental health education is approached as a health intervention that strengthens prevention, early identification, crisis preparedness, referral pathways, cultural safety and the capacity of local health teams to respond to community mental wellness needs.

The position will work alongside the Director of Mawlugutinej to develop and implement trauma-informed, culturally safe and community-grounded mental health education, prevention, health promotion and community capacity-building initiatives in collaboration with Natoaganeg, Esgenoôpetitj, Metepenagiag, Oinpegitjoig and Ugpi'ganjig Mi'kmaq nations.

Key Responsibilities

Mental Health Education & Health Promotion

- Develop and coordinate community mental health education, prevention and health-promotion initiatives.
- Translate mental health and healthcare knowledge into practical and culturally relevant community education.
- Support local health teams in implementing evidence-based, evidence-informed and culturally grounded mental health programs.
- Build local facilitator capacity through training, mentorship and implementation support.
- Develop education addressing mental health literacy, trauma, suicide prevention and life promotion, addictions, harm reduction, grief and loss, healthy coping, family wellness and early help-seeking.
- Ensure education reflects appropriate healthcare standards while remaining responsive to Mi'kmaq knowledge and community priorities.

Trauma-Informed & Culturally Safe Mental Healthcare

- Provide guidance in advancing trauma-informed practice throughout mental health and community health programming.
- Promote the principles of safety, trust, choice, collaboration, empowerment, dignity and prevention of retraumatization.
- Build understanding of historical, intergenerational, collective and systemic trauma.
- Provide education on Indigenous-specific racism, cultural safety, cultural humility and systemic barriers within healthcare.
- Help health professionals understand how trauma and previous healthcare experiences may influence communication, trust, engagement and help-seeking.
- Work with Elders and Knowledge Keepers to appropriately incorporate Mi'kmaq perspectives on wellness, healing and health.
- Promote culturally safe communication, referral and care pathways.

Community Crisis Preparedness and Capacity Building

- Work with each partner community to assess existing mental health crisis-response capacity, strengths, resources and gaps.
- Identify key community-based health personnel, helpers and partners who can contribute to community crisis-response teams or networks.
- Strengthen community preparedness for suicide, overdose, sudden deaths, traumatic events, violence, significant grief and other mental health emergencies.
- Clarify local roles, activation processes, communication protocols and referral pathways.
- Coordinate community-based, culturally safe and trauma informed crisis-response education and training opportunities.
- Strengthen connections between community-based responders and clinical, emergency, addictions and other healthcare services through the education process.
- Promote culturally safe and trauma-informed community-led responses that protect confidentiality, dignity and the wellbeing of affected individuals and families.

Evidence-Informed Community Programming

- Identify community-led, evidence-based mental health interventions for community implementation.
- Work with each health team to select programs responsive to local priorities.
- Coordinate facilitator training and certification from within the community.
- Support appropriate cultural adaptation to evidence-based initiatives in collaboration with community representatives, Elders and Knowledge Keepers.
- Monitor implementation, participation and outcomes.
- Develop strategies to sustain successful programs within individual community health teams.
- Promote a **train-the-trainer approach** that builds long-term local capacity rather than dependence on outside providers.

Healthcare Workforce Education & Wellness

- Coordinate professional development for health and wellness staff.
- Support training in Mental Health First Aid, ASIST, SafeTALK, trauma-informed care, cultural safety, suicide postvention and other related areas.
- Provide education regarding vicarious trauma, secondary traumatic stress, compassion fatigue and burnout.

Qualifications

Preference will be given to applicants with post-secondary education in a health or mental health discipline, such as:

- Nursing
- Psychiatric/Mental Health/Addictions Nursing
- Counselling or Counselling Psychology
- Indigenous Health
- Community Health
- another relevant regulated health profession

A combination of relevant healthcare education, Indigenous/community knowledge, mental health training and significant experience may also be considered.

Experience
The ideal candidate will have:

- A minimum of **5 years of relevant healthcare, mental health, addictions or community health experience**.
- Experience working within a multidisciplinary healthcare or mental wellness environment.
- Experience in community or population health, mental health promotion, prevention or capacity building.
- Experience providing mental health education or professional development to health professionals, community workers or community members.
- Knowledge of mental health assessment, intervention and referral pathways sufficient to provide safe education and recognize when clinical intervention is required.
- Experience coordinating health projects, programs or multi-partner initiatives.
- Experience working with First Nations or Indigenous communities is strongly preferred.
- Experience working respectfully with Elders and Knowledge Keepers is an asset.

Required Knowledge and Competencies
The successful applicant should demonstrate strong knowledge of:

- Mental health and mental illness;
- Trauma-informed healthcare;
- Indigenous cultural safety and cultural humility;
- Suicide prevention and postvention;
- Addictions and harm reduction;
- Grief and bereavement;
- Mental health crisis response;
- Health promotion and prevention;
- Community-based healthcare;
- Historical and intergenerational trauma;

Strong knowledge of **Mi'kmaq culture, communities and approaches to wellness** is preferred.

Special Requirements

- Valid driver's license and reliable transportation.
- Recent and satisfactory Criminal Record Check/Vulnerable Sector Check.
- Ability to travel regularly between Natoaganeg, Esgenoôpetitj, Metepenagiag, Oinpegitjoig and Ugpi'ganjig.
- Flexibility to work occasional evenings and weekends.
- Commitment to ongoing professional development, cultural humility, reflective practice and personal wellness.

Main Office: Natoaganeg Community Development Centre, 40 Micmac Road, Eel Ground, NB
Program Location: Natoaganeg, Esgenoôpetitj, Metepenagiag, Oinpegitjoig and Ugpi'ganjig Mi'kmaq nations
Hours of Work: 75 hours biweekly, with occasional evenings and weekends as required
Salary: Commensurate with education and experience
Term: One-year term – possibility of renewal based on funding

How to Apply
Please submit a **resume and cover letter** outlining your healthcare or mental health experience, community experience, and understanding of trauma-informed and culturally safe Indigenous mental healthcare to **Careers@natoaganegfirstnation.ca on or before December 11th, 2026**, citing competition **#2026-MW-04.**

Only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.