

## **URGENT - Employment Opportunity (Aug 12, 2021):**

Dr. John O'Neil, Professor and former Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences, Simon Fraser University, has recently been appointed to Chair the Grassy Narrows First Nation Detailed Services Planning Committee (DSPT). The DSPT is a Panel of Experts that has been mandated to develop a Detailed Health Services Plan in accordance with the Mercury Care Home Framework Agreement recently signed between Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishinabek (Grassy Narrows First Nation) and Canada. This \$69 million agreement will fund long term care and services to the people of Grassy Narrows suffering from the effects of mercury poisoning.

During the 1960s and early '70s, the Dryden chemical plant at the Reed Paper mill upstream of Grassy Narrows First Nation in northwest Ontario dumped 9,000 kilograms of mercury into the English-Wabigoon River. The fish were heavily contaminated, and the people from Grassy Narrows, who relied on the fish as a staple in their diet and for their livelihoods, have suffered the effects of mercury poisoning and the destruction of their local economy in the ensuing decades. After consistent pressure on government and a recent study demonstrating the devastating long term health effects of mercury poisoning on community members, this historic agreement was signed.

As Chair of the DSPT, Dr. O'Neil is looking to hire an Executive Assistant/Senior Researcher to support the Committee's work. The position is projected to be at least six months in duration with a 20 hr/week commitment. Compensation is in the range of \$100 - \$125 per hour. Much of the work will be virtual so home location is flexible, but the incumbent will be expected to travel to meetings in Grassy Narrows First Nation or Toronto approximately once per month. The position is expected to start immediately.

The duties for this position will include supporting the Chair with research, report writing, note-taking at meetings and conference calls, and general organization of the DSPT's workplan. Interaction and communication with senior political and administrative leaders in Grassy Narrows First Nation, senior leaders in the Ontario Health and Indigenous Services Canada system, and scientists at several Universities will be an important component of the position. The DSPT will also be supported by an administrative secretary responsible for logistical support for meetings.

The other Members of the DSPT are:

Dr. Chantelle Richmond (Biigtigong Anisinaabe), Associate Professor and CRC in Indigenous Health and the Environment, Director, Indigenous Health Lab, Dept. of Geography, Western University.

Dr. Miriam Fillion, Associate Professor of Neurotoxicology, Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Well-being, Health, Society and the Environment, University of Quebec in Montreal.

Dr. Ojista Horn, MD, Kahnawake, Family Physician, Kateri Memorial Hospital and Medical Consultant to Grassy Narrows First Nations.

Dr. Suvendrini Lena, MD, Neurologist, CAMH, University of Toronto and Medical Consultant to Grassy Narrows First Nation.

Candidates for this position should preferably be Indigenous, have experience working with Indigenous communities and organizations, have at least a Master's level qualification, and have excellent written and verbal communication skills. The project is already underway so we will need the position to start as soon as possible.

Interested persons should contact Dr. John O'Neil directly at [joneil@sfu.ca](mailto:joneil@sfu.ca) before August 20, 2021.