

Job Opportunity with Roots to Harvest

Northern Food Systems Community Project Coordinator

The Basics:

Job Term: 52 weeks, March 1, 2018 with opportunity to renew annually

Wage: \$19/hr; 20-25 hrs/week

Location: Thunder Bay, ON and regular travel to Northern Communities

Closing Date: Feb 16th, 2018

Submit resume and cover letter in one pdf form with three references included to
info@rootstoharvest.org

The Work:

The Northern Community Project Coordinator is a part time position at Roots to Harvest and will work closely with a team of Local Food Developers (LFDs) in four Northern First Nations Communities. The Coordinator will assist the teams in assessing and developing food self-determination opportunities and priorities pursuant to the Nishnawbe Aski Nation Food Strategy Pillars, and specifically in the areas of imported foods, traditional foods and local food production (for more information see <http://kiitigaanaskihub.ca>).

Main Roles and Responsibilities

1. Facilitate Development of Community Food Systems:

- Assist in the development and establishment of four community food circles including elder and youth participation
- Help to organize community meetings regarding food systems and strategic development
- Collaboratively develop appropriate food systems curricula
- Collaboratively design and assist in health promotion activities to improve food literacy and knowledge transfer, preserve local food knowledge and establish or improve food security
- Provide information on community needs and priorities to develop further opportunities, capital and other funding and investment opportunities for northern Indigenous communities

2. Management and administration:

- Act as a knowledge resource for the LFDs, Community Food Circles and related groups interested in local food issues
- Travel to and work with communities and LFDs to set priorities and develop work plans for local food self-determination evaluations and initiatives
- Collaboratively design and facilitate workshops/trainings on diverse topics related to community-based and Indigenous research and evaluation methods, local food system development, Indigenous food systems
- Provide ongoing updates and reports to the supervisory team

3. Community-Based Participatory Research:

- Train LFDs in conducting participatory research in their community
- Coordinate community-based food evaluations - including collating data and sharing it with project partners
- Collaboratively design and deliver in-person learning meetings with the LFDs

Your Fit:

- **You see the bigger picture.** You have a deep appreciation and respect for the history, culture, and goals of Indigenous communities and food sovereignty in Canada, including experience working in Northern communities and familiarity with Oji-Cree, Ojibwe and/or Cree language.
- **You love working with people.** You have a commitment to building strong community relationships, have facilitated diverse stakeholder groups and are comfortable in a boardroom, a community kitchen or the back of a jumpy plane flying North over snowy landscapes.
- **You understand the system.** You know there are constraints and limitations, but you work towards common solutions, at a pace that is community driven and with mutual respect and a “we’re all in this together” approach.
- **You strive for excellence.** You believe that if something is worth doing, it is worth doing right—every single time. You are grounded in research skills and community action initiatives.
- **You have life experience.** Your education and training (Minimum 3 years professional and academic experience in a sector related to the project - e.g. local food system development, community-based research, First Nations economic development) is paired with rich life experiences that have broadened your understanding and enhanced your empathy for the human condition (specifically, experience working in and with First Nation communities).
- **You are an advocate, an empath and a voice of reason.** Striving towards self-determination for Indigenous peoples is a priority and you are aware and open to the impacts of ongoing colonialism, the deep inequalities of a settler privileged system and the effects of being passive.

Our Work Culture Culture:

Roots to Harvest is a small, grassroots organization and every position involves elements of organizational development and maintenance. We aim to foster a culture that is transparent, inclusive, progressive, and productive. As staff, we work collaboratively, we work hard, we do what needs to be done, and we try to keep the big picture in mind.

If you prefer to work alone, dislike ambiguity, and adhere to a very strict schedule, then working with Roots to Harvest probably isn’t right for you. But if you’re looking for a fun, fast-paced, multifaceted, energizing, and rewarding work environment that will push you every single day, then we want to hear from you. This role will involve working in partnership with Nishnawbe Aski Nation governance and administration.

Roots to Harvest is strongly committed to diversity within its community and welcomes applications from all qualified individuals including Indigenous persons, visible minority group members, women, persons with disabilities, members of sexual minority groups, and others who may contribute to the further diversification of ideas. Fluency in Oji-Cree, Ojibwe and/or Cree considered an asset.