

Ontario Education Advisor: Request for Proposals

23 August 2023

Are you a strategic leader who is passionate about providing youth experiencing vulnerabilities with an environment where they can thrive? Can you bring together the best parts of education, mental health, and community? Are you a natural networker who can open doors and promote a new program? Does being part of a rapidly growing youth mental health organization launching its first programs in Ontario excite you? This just might be the opportunity for you!

THE ORGANIZATION:

Take a Hike Youth Mental Health Foundation empowers youth who experience vulnerability to change the trajectory of their lives with a full-time mental health and emotional well-being program embedded in an alternate education classroom. Take a Hike engages youth with intentional, continuous clinical counselling, experiential land-based learning, and community. Our public school district partners provide high quality education, and together, we empower youth with the skills and resilience they need to graduate high school, build healthy relationships, and achieve success – however they define it.

Over the past five years, Take a Hike has more than quadrupled its reach – from three to thirteen program locations in BC. We have a strategic objective to grow to 16 locations in the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island and Thompson/Okanagan regions and launch programming in Ontario by September 2025.

For more information on the program, please visit www.takeahikefoundation.org.

THE OPPORTUNITY:

Reporting to the Chief Executive Officer and serving as a key member of the Ontario Growth Working Circle, the Education Advisor is empowered to build interest and awareness in Ontario District School Boards and the Education and Mental Health Systems, as well as adapt the program to the Ontario context.

The ideal candidate is a seasoned education, mental health, or community services leader with 10+ years experience. They are a natural networker and willing to build awareness and interest for a school based mental health program. They have hands on experience working with curriculum and will be able to translate Take a Hike's BC based program to the Ontario context.

Take a Hike is located in Vancouver, BC. **This position will be based in Ontario working approximately 10-15 hours per week from a home office with flexible work hours.**

KEY COMPETENCIES:

- Knowledge of, and a network in, the Ontario Education and Mental Health systems.
- Excellent relationship building skills.
- Ability to adapt a BC based mental health program to the Ontario context.
- Ability to work independently, keeping the CEO informed of progress.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Review Take a Hike’s Ontario Growth Strategy and promotional materials and make recommendations for improvements.
- Build awareness and interest for Take a Hike with through direct contact of senior leadership in Ontario District School Boards in the Golden Horseshoe.
- Represent Take a Hike at relevant meeting and conferences, in some cases along with staff from the organization.
- Identify and build relationships for Take a Hike with key stakeholders in the education and mental health systems.
- Review Take a Hike’s program guidebooks and make recommendations to adapt them to the Ontario context.

QUALIFICATION & REQUIREMENTS:

- 10+ years experience managing complex programming, with at least two years at the executive/ senior manager level.
- Significant experience working within/ alongside the Ontario education and mental health systems.
- Prior experience contracting and working independently is considered an asset.

COMPENSATION AND TERMS:

This is a temporary contract position starting as soon as possible and running to the end of December 2023, with possibility for extension beyond that date. Weekly hours will be flexible, and we estimate an average of maximum of 15 hours per week and will start as soon as possible. Hourly consultant fees are flexible; however, we estimate in the range of \$100-\$150 per hour.

HOW TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL:

If this role is of interest to you, please submit a cover letter and resume to Gordon Matchett, Chief Executive Officer at gordon@takeahikefoundation.org. **Applications will be evaluated, and interviews conducted, on a rolling basis and you are encouraged to submit early.**

Take a Hike values the diversity of the people it hires and serves. Diversity at Take a Hike means fostering a workplace in which individual differences are recognized, appreciated, respected, and responded to in ways that fully develop and utilize each person’s talents and strengths. Individuals who identify as LGBTQIA+, Black, Indigenous, racialized Canadians, or candidates with lived experience in mental health are encouraged to consider this opportunity.

Our commitment to reconciliation can be found on our website [here](#).