

Volunteer – Lived Experience Storyteller

The organization: QMUNITY is BC's LGBTQ2S community hub and exists to improve queer, trans and Two-Spirit lives. We do this in three ways: by supporting individuals, by strengthening our communities, and by leading the way towards legal and lived equality. We currently have 12 staff, and a large pool of volunteers.

QMUNITY operates on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of Indigenous people across British Columbia. In particular, QMUNITY offices are located on the Coast Salish territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

QMUNITY has collaborated on this project with Anita Harding and Bryan Hemingway, in support of centering the experiences of LGBTQ2S+ people who are D/deaf, hard of hearing or Deafblind

The program: QMUNITY's Education & Training program consists of the timely and relevant delivery of queer competency presentations, workshops and trainings (QCTs) to health care professionals, service providers, educators, and for-profit businesses to better understand where their services and LGBTQ2S clients, staff and volunteers intersect; LGBTQ2S consultation services; the publication of educational print materials; and on-going thought development to help shape the cultural conversations of LGBTQ2S inclusion in media, politics, business, art and beyond.

Purpose: Provide a platform for Deaf LGBTQ2S+ folk to share how, when and if they acquired information to express their gender, sexuality and sexual health needs. Explore and provide a platform for Deaf LGBTQ2S+ folk who use sign language to share experiences of accessibility and access points for identity and sexual health. At project completion, QMUNITY will create and distribute a video resource centering Deaf LGBTQ2S+ experiences and insights, from stories solicited throughout the project.

Qualifications:

- Deaf, hard of hearing, and Deafblind folk who use sign language
- Comfortability in sharing and telling your own stories and experience
- Lived experience as a queer, trans, Two-Spirit and/or questioning person

Responsibilities:

- Participation in 2 interviews over the course of 4-6 months; interviews will be done in ASL and will explore topics of: personal history, access to information on LGBTQ2S+ identities and experiences, sexual health information and resources, and sense of belonging in LGBTQ2S+ culture, in both Deaf and hearing communities

Requirements:

- Fluent in ASL

- Available to participate in 2 research and informant interviews, with an interviewer fluent in ASL

Time commitment:

- Applicants can expect to participate in 2 interviews which will be recorded; each interview will be 45-60 minutes in length; the project end date is Fall 2019.

Remuneration:

- An honorarium of \$100 is provided for participation
- Transit fare and/or mileage can be provided
- Free access to queer-competent counseling sessions (2 per participant) during the project period, if desired.

Benefits:

- Opportunity to advocate for better and more equitable access to information and acceptance for Deaf, hard of hearing and Deafblind LGBTQ2S+ people
- Assist in the development of a video resource for Deaf and hearing LGBTQ2S+ and allied communities
- Continued support from staff and other volunteers
- Potential for letters of recommendation and references
- Eligibility for Volunteer of the Month and Volunteer of the Year awards

Accountability:

The Specialist, Education & Training will be a primary point of contact for volunteers engaged in this project.

To apply

Please answer the following questions when applying:

1. Who are you, and what is your background (introduction)?
2. It is important for our work to be reflective of the diversity and intersections within our community; can you tell us a little bit about how you work, live or stay connected to the LGBTQ2S+ community?
3. In your opinion, what makes a “good” story? What qualities, characteristics or details help tell a good story?
4. Briefly, what has been your experience accessing and navigating sexual health information and services, gender and sexuality information, and the LGBTQ2S+ community as a person who uses ASL?
5. Why do you want to be a part of this project? Why are the topics of sexual health, gender, and inclusiveness in the LGBTQ2S+ important to you?

Applicants are invited to apply in one of 3 ways.

1. Send a letter of interest detailing relevant experience and why you are interested in participating to Rana Nu, Specialist, Education and Training, at education@qmunity.ca
1. Via Glide to account QMUNITY @QYPNHLA
1. In-person with a fluent ASL speaker. Drop-in applicants are invited to interviews on **July 22nd, 12:30 – 5:30 PM**, QMUNITY accessible office: 1033 Davie St- unit 610

Deadline: August 8th, 2019.

Accessibility: This project will be conducted out of QMUNITY's accessible office space, 610 - 1033 Davie St. This unit is accessible via elevator.

Privacy: All information you share in your application will only be viewed by the project team and your personal information will not be shared or discussed with anyone else. After applicants are selected, all other applications will be destroyed to ensure privacy.

Diversity: QMUNITY is committed to equity and prioritizes applications from underrepresented groups including trans and gender variant persons, Indigenous persons, persons of colour, newcomers, youth, seniors, adults and persons with disabilities.