Dr. Lucie Lévesque's USSRF opportunity for Summer 2025

<u>Community-Engaged Health Promotion Research Laboratory - Indigenous Health Research</u>

The research project will be conducted within the scope of ongoing community-engaged health promotion research with Indigenous communities that is being conducted in collaboration with the Kahnawake Schools Diabetes Prevention Program (KSDPP) and with Indigenous communities from Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec, in particular the Community-to-Community Mentorship Research Project (C2C Project). The successful candidate will work with research and community members from the C2C Project Team, and the KSDPP Research Team, who are responsible for developing and implementing interventions that promote living in balance among youth in communities. The research objective is to support the engagement and mobilization of communities during the C2C Project's Annual Gathering (held in the Spring/Summer of each year). Activities may entail developing strategies for the C2C Team and participating communities to enhance environmentally-friendly practices during project implementation. Qualitative and quantitative methodologies will be used – e.g. modified talking circles, participatory video– making; and surveys and questionnaires. In keeping with the collaborative underpinnings of our community-based participatory research (CBPR) approach, data will be analyzed in collaboration with community participants using a reflexive thematic analysis. Findings will be used to inform best practices in community mobilization and mentorship activities.

Preference will be given to a qualified Indigenous student or a student with experience working with Indigenous communities.

<u>Key Roles and Responsibilities</u>

Under the supervision of Dr. Lucie Lévesque, the student will be provided unique opportunities to participate and contribute to C2C Project activities. Guided by the KSDPP's Code of Research Ethics©, the student will be invited to attend and support team meetings to develop and strengthen relationships that are critical to undertaking a research project. The student will be guided through the development of a positionality statement to unpack their position relative to that of community members. The student will meet regularly with experienced C2C Project and KSDPP Team members, virtually and in

person, and will be assigned readings to help guide their project. The student will be involved in the following activities:

- undertake readings and relevant trainings (e.g. TCPS II Core)

- organize, plan and attend meetings and events

- document project activities

- develop protocols and ethics documents

- conduct data collection activities

- facilitate talking circles

- transcribe and analyse talking circle recordings

- make presentations to research teams at Gatherings and events

Dr. Lévesque will provide direction and feedback, in collaboration with other academic and community team members, as per CBPR principles. The student will be provided with relevant research documents and will be provided with all required equipment (e.g., audio-recorders, cameras, transcription equipment) as well as travel funding to attend meetings.

Learning Outcomes

The student will learn about CBPR, Research Ethics in Indigenous contexts, and Indigenous Knowledge practices. With a focus on the 4 R's of research with Indigenous communities – Respect, Relevance, Reciprocity and Responsibility, the student will learn to work as part of a large collaborative project that includes allied and Indigenous researchers from Queen's, McGill, and the Université de Québec à Rimouski. Beyond their own project, the student will have the chance to participate in other research team activities and will have the opportunity to learn new research methodologies (Indigenous and Western), contribute to research planning and design, as well as to interpretation and analysis of data. A goal will be to enhance the student's presentation and communication skills to learn how to communicate effectively to both community and academic audiences.