



**SASKATCHEWAN FIRST NATIONS AND MÉTIS HEALTH AND WELLNESS  
RESEARCH, TRAINING AND KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION NETWORK**

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We are hiring a Community Research Facilitator to work with First Nations and Métis community members and researchers in Saskatchewan

Strong preference for Indigenous candidate  
University of Saskatchewan position

Review of applications will start June 30, 2021

**Job Title: First Nations and Métis Community Research Facilitator, with the Saskatchewan First Nations and Métis Health and Wellness Research, Training and Knowledge Mobilization Network**

**Location:** Saskatoon (with regular travel in Saskatchewan, once allowed)

**Status:** term position of one or more years, with a strong possibility of extension

**Employment Group:** Non-Union Employee group (Research), University of Saskatchewan

**Full Time Equivalent (FTE):** 1.0

**Salary Information:** the salary range starts at \$60,000 and is negotiable, depending on experience and expertise. It includes a full research staff benefits plan (health, dental, life insurance, disability, pension).

**To apply:** Please send a resume, detailed cover letter including information about your experiences working in Indigenous communities, and two writing samples to: [neihr.fmhrn@usask.ca](mailto:neihr.fmhrn@usask.ca). Your email should have the subject line: "Application for First Nations and Métis Community Research Facilitator position." We will begin reviewing applications by the end of June 2021, with the position to start by late summer/early fall.

For more information about our network and its activities, we encourage you to visit our [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page. For questions on this position, please contact us at [neihr.fmhrn@usask.ca](mailto:neihr.fmhrn@usask.ca).

This position is also posted on our [website](#) (under the Careers tab) and on our [Facebook](#) page.

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**Background:**

In March 2020, Canada's national health research funder, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, announced funding to establish nine Indigenous health research centres across the country under its Network Environments for Indigenous Health Research (NEIHR) program. This network of centres is intended to be funded from 2020 to 2035 (15 years), to create and sustain supportive research environments driven by and grounded in Indigenous communities in Canada.

The Saskatchewan First Nations and Métis Health and Wellness Research, Training and Knowledge Mobilization Network (abbreviated as FMHRN, [www.fmhrn.ca](http://www.fmhrn.ca)), is currently housed in leased University of Saskatchewan space at Station 20 West, a community enterprise centre in Saskatoon's westside core neighbourhoods. Also housed alongside this network are the NEIHR National Coordinating Centre ([www.neihrcoordcentre.ca](http://www.neihrcoordcentre.ca)), and the Saskatchewan Indigenous Mentorship Network (<https://groups.usask.ca/indigenous-mentorship/>).

The First Nations and Métis Health Research Network is a dynamic, vibrant network of over 100 researchers and community partners, led by Indigenous academics, in partnership with Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, FSIN, and other community partners. Our community-post secondary network celebrates our diverse Indigenous identities, cultures, languages and traditional homelands, including the resistance and resilience of our ancestors to European colonization and Settler society. The majority of our network members are First Nations and Métis people of this territory, and as such our commitment to one another extends far beyond research partnerships and funding opportunities. Collectively, we, our parents, grandparents, and our children spent our childhoods in the families and communities this network serves.

For generations our families lived the beauty of our cultures, languages, and lands. Sadly, our families also endured the brutalities of colonial-Settler oppression, racism, relocation, and forced assimilation. It is from this complex history that our commitment is derived, and from the depth and breadth of our relationships to one another, that we grow our vision and practices. The relationship of First Nations and Métis Peoples to this land, and the relationship of our traditional territories to the resilience and spirit of our people, is where our future is cultivated. We come together in the spirit of working for our young families, for their futures, and the futures of seven generations to come—for all our relations.

**Our Network's Vision:** For all First Nations and Métis people in Saskatchewan to experience optimal health and wellness across their lifespan. At the heart of our vision is a shared understanding that the knowledge, wisdom, resilience, and innovation of Métis and First Nations Peoples are foundational to the wellbeing of our families and communities, and is key to research and interventions aimed at eliminating endemic health disparities and structural inequities that contribute to poor health and social outcomes.

For more information about our network and its activities, we encourage you to visit our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

**Primary Purpose of this Position:** The Community Research Facilitator will act as a resource and support for community members and researchers interested in conducting research in Saskatchewan. Their primary purpose is to facilitate research, acting as a connector between First Nations and Métis community members who are interested in research, and researchers who are interested in conducting research with Indigenous community partners, matching them and supporting their partnerships while they develop research projects together. The Facilitator will spend much of their time in communities, developing relationships and connecting community members who want to engage in research with researchers, funders, and other people and resources needed to begin this process.

The Facilitator will join a small, highly collaborative team. They must have in-depth knowledge of Indigenous health and health research, and knowledge of issues in reconciliation and decolonization. There is a strong preference for an incumbent of Indigenous ancestry.

This is the first of several Community Research Facilitators we plan to hire, along with community research assistants who will work in Métis and First Nations communities across the province. We are currently developing training for new staff focused on research skills and Indigenous research methodologies.

**Nature of Work:** The Community Research Facilitator is accountable to Drs. Caroline Tait, Robert Henry, and Simon Lambert, research leads of these networks, with day-to-day oversight from FMHRN's Manager, Fleur Macqueen Smith. The Facilitator will be part of a core staff team who work collaboratively and are accountable to each other to support these networks. This is a fast-paced work environment, and the Facilitator will need to balance competing priorities and shifting timelines and exercise judgment and discretion.

The networks' offices are located at Station 20 West in Saskatoon, although we are currently working primarily from home due to COVID-19. There will be considerable travel with this position, to meet with people in First Nations and Métis communities throughout Saskatchewan, and with community organizations, once allowable as Public Health restrictions are lifted. We follow the University of Saskatchewan standard work hours, with some variability for evening and weekend work. This position is professional or supervisory in nature and is therefore exempt from overtime.

**Typical Duties or Accountabilities:**

Work will be undertaken with the direction, guidance, and support of FMHRN's Executive Director, research leads, manager, and core staff team.

The Community Research Facilitator will be involved in a range of tasks, which will include:

- meeting with Métis and First Nations community members (health directors, Chief and council, members of Métis locals, staff at community organizations) to introduce them to our research network, explore their research interests, help match them with researchers, and supporting these developing relationships so they can collaborate on research projects
- meeting with researchers who are interested in conducting research with First Nations and Métis community partners, to explore their research interests and help match them with community partners, and these developing relationships so they can collaborate on research projects
- identifying research funding opportunities, and bringing them to the attention of researchers and community members who may be interested in pursuing them
- developing and offering training (workshops, webinars etc.) on community-based research and research with Indigenous Peoples
- providing support in grant writing, research ethics applications, and knowledge translation, and connecting researchers and community members with other research administrative staff and services in the province. This may include writing and reviewing initial drafts, assisting with letters of support, and preparing CVs.
- maintaining a database of researchers, community stakeholders, meetings, funding opportunities, and projects supported
- Representing FMHRN in academic and community settings
- Other duties as needed.

## **Qualifications:**

**Education:** An undergraduate degree in a related field (Social Sciences, Indigenous Studies, Health Sciences, Arts). A Master's degree would be an asset.

**Experience:** Several years of related experience, including some familiarity with academic research environments. The incumbent must have familiarity with First Nations and Métis communities in Saskatchewan and strong relationship building skills. Knowledge of Indigenous health and health research, and issues in reconciliation and decolonization would be an asset.

They should be comfortable with technology, including hosting online meetings using remote technologies such as Zoom, WebEx, and Microsoft Teams, and be familiar with using Microsoft 365 and other common research and office applications. They should exercise discretion in written correspondence (including email and other technologies) and with in-person and online meetings.

**Strong preference for Indigenous candidate.** The University of Saskatchewan is committed to employment equity and diversity. Applications from Indigenous persons are especially encouraged for this role, particularly those with First Nations, Métis or Inuit identity. The University of Saskatchewan relies on section 48 of The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code to give preference of employment to Indigenous candidates. If relevant, please self-declare as part of your application, and describe your relationship with your community or communities.

## **Skills:**

*Communications and leadership:* Ability to exercise independent initiative and work collaboratively with community members, academics, and research staff; ability to work well in a team environment; strong planning, organizational and networking skills. Written communications skills would be an asset, as the Facilitator may be involved in writing grants, potential research project descriptions and other research materials.

*Indigenous health:* Knowledge of Indigenous health research, Indigenous cultures, languages and governance, particularly those in Saskatchewan. Familiarity with issues in Indigenous truth and reconciliation, and decolonization. They should be familiar with principles of research with Indigenous Peoples, and Indigenous data sovereignty, including the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans, Chapter 9: Research Involving First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples, the First Nations Information Governance Centre's OCAP® Principles, and similar principles for Métis data governance.

*Research:* Some experience with academic research would be an asset, including research grant application processes, funders, and familiarity with Indigenous research methods.

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