



**Internal/External Job Posting
Women's Legal Counsellor/Advocate
Full-Time Permanent Position
South/North Location**

Interim Place is a dynamic anti-violence organization providing shelter, counselling and advocacy supports for women, youth and children experiencing violence in the Region of Peel. Interim Place offers a positive work environment for its employees and service excellence to its clients. We are committed to ending violence against women by acknowledging and addressing the multitude of barriers facing women who have experienced violence and by providing crisis intervention and a range of supports and services. Interim Place works within a feminist, anti-oppressive, anti-racist, queer and trans positive, disability positive, harm reduction framework.

We require a **Full Time Permanent Women's Legal Counsellor/Advocate**. The Women's Legal Advocate/Counsellor will help support women and their children who have experienced and/or are experiencing violence and provide support including assessment, counselling, advocacy at legal appointments, attending court, outreach, information & referral and advocacy to both women and their children who are residents of the shelter.

Responsibilities

- Provide support and counselling, referrals and advocacy.
- Advocate for women by accompanying them to court and to appointments with police, lawyers, and court etc.
- Assist women to take practical steps to address their self-identified priorities by providing information and referrals.
- Respond to the needs of the women for information on their legal options regarding separation, divorce, custody, access orders for their children, peace bonds, restraining orders and orders of child support.
- Make referrals to appropriate community and legal resources in order to facilitate the women's access to maximum support within the guidelines of the agency.
- Familiarize women with court proceedings as applicable.
- Advocating on behalf of the women with legal and other professionals.
- Provide information and referral to community supports and services i.e. government agencies; court services; etc.
- Maintain knowledge and understanding of the systemic barriers experienced by women and the intersectionalities of oppressions i.e. Social Housing Reform Act; Mental Health Act; Landlord Tenant Act; O.W. Act, ODSP Act, etc.
- Maintain appropriate and accurate file documentation and uphold the confidentiality of client's file, subject to legal and policy parameters.
- Complete all support documents and advocacy letters required to assist a woman in meeting her needs.
- Perform other duties as assigned for the effective operation of Interim Place.

Qualifications:

- University or college education in a related field, such as Aboriginal Studies, Gender and Women's Studies, Sociology, Social Justice, Assaulted Women's and Children's Program or the equivalent in education and extensive experience.
- Understanding of the legal system, including Family Law, Criminal Law and Immigration Law.
- Demonstrated commitment to women's and children's issues, working within a Critical Race Feminist, Anti-Black Racism and Anti-Colonialism framework.
- Experience in working with women in areas such as poverty, violence, and homelessness.
- Understanding violence against women as a complex social problem and the intersectionalities of sexism, racism, classism, colonialism, homophobia, transphobia, islamophobia, sanism, etc. on women's and their children's lived experience of violence.
- Strong advocacy skills.
- Proven ability in case management and supportive counselling skills from a decolonizing approach.
- Strong knowledge and experience with Harm Reduction Strategies.
- Demonstrated experience in crisis support and ability to mediate conflict.
- Strong organizational and time management skills.

- Professional communication skills; dedicated to team building.
- Ability to maintain confidentiality.
- Ability to manage many conflicting priorities simultaneously with the ability to prioritize.
- 2nd language is an asset.
- ASL is an asset.
- Current CPR and First Aid training is an asset.
- Must have a reliable car and drive clients to legal appointments/accompaniments and possess G2 Driver's License.
- Preference will be given to Indigenous women.

Hours: 37.5 hours per week, including evening hours and weekends as required

Hourly Rate: \$24.95

Interim Place is committed to the development of an organization that reflects the community and women it serves. Applications from Indigenous Women who are 2 Spirit, World Majority Women/Women of Colour, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Queer, Consumer Survivors and/or have Disabilities or are Deaf or Hard of Hearing are strongly encouraged to apply.

Please send a letter of application and current resume to Human Resources, Interim Place by February 24, 2020 via email at admin@interimplace.com. Please include in your cover letter the position that you are applying for.

Interim Place is a unionized workplace with OPSEU. This position is within the bargaining unit and as such the terms and conditions of employment are in accordance with the Collective Agreement

Date of Posting: February 24, 2020
Deadline: March 06, 2020

