



**Internal/External Job Posting
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 all women and two-spirit, genderqueer, trans and non-binary people with or without dependents, who experience, have experienced or are at risk of experiencing any form of violence in the Region of Peel. Interim Place offers a positive work environment for its employees and service excellence to its clients. Interim Place works within a feminist, anti-oppressive, anti-racist, anti-colonial, queer and trans positive, disability positive, and harm reduction framework.

We require 1 candidate to fulfill the **Full Time Permanent Legal Counsellor/Advocate** position. The Legal Advocate/Counsellor will support residents of the shelter and their children who have experienced and/or are experiencing violence based on their needs. Supports can take many forms including but not limited to risk assessment, counselling and emotional support, accompaniments to legal appointments and attending court, outreach support, information, referral, and advocacy to clients and their children who are residents of the shelter.

Responsibilities

- Provide supports, counselling, and advocacy within a feminist, anti-oppressive, anti-racist, gender inclusion, decolonizing, and harm reduction approach.
- Complete intake, risk assessment and safety planning.
- Provide crisis intervention supports.
- Advocate for clients by accompanying them to court and to appointments with police, lawyers, court.
- Assist clients to take practical steps to address their self-identified priorities by providing information, referrals and facilitating access to resources.
- Respond to the needs of the clients for information on their legal options regarding separation, divorce, custody, access orders for their children, peace bonds, restraining orders and orders of child support.
- Familiarize clients with court proceedings as applicable.
- Encourage a sense of community in the shelter by facilitating conflict resolution.
- Advocate on behalf of the clients with legal and other professionals.
- Maintain knowledge and understanding of the systemic barriers experienced by clients and their intersectionality of oppressions i.e. Social Housing Reform Act; Mental Health Act; Landlord Tenant Act; O.W. Act, ODSP Act, etc.
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Duty to Report; CAS /VAW Agreement and protocol; Sexual Assault protocol.
- 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 clients in meeting their needs.
- Provide supporting letters and documentation on behalf of clients only upon consultation and approval by immediate Supervisor.
- Participate in local, regional, and national committees and activities of relevance to the issue of Gender Based Violence (GBV) as requested or required.
- Conduct public speaking engagements to promote public awareness and foster understanding of the organization, its mission and vision; as well as issues surrounding Gender Based Violence (GBV).
- Utilize computer software including case management database system, Microsoft applications as required.
- Adhere to all Health and Safety Policies and Procedures as outlined by the organization to minimize risks.
- Participate in ensuring 7-24 staffing of shelter; shelter cannot be left unattended.
- Perform other duties as assigned for the effective operation of Interim Place.
- Ensure adherence to all Interim Place Policies and Procedures.

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, Immigration Law.
- Demonstrated commitment to clients' and their children's issues and working within a Critical Race Feminist, Anti-Black Racism and Anti-Colonialism framework.
- Experience working with clients in areas such as poverty, violence, and homelessness.
- Understanding Gender Based Violence (GBV) as a complex social problem and the intersectionality of sexism, racism, classism, colonialism, homophobia, transphobia, islamophobia, sanism, etc. on clients' and their children's lived experience of violence.
- 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.
- Current First Aid and CPR level C training is required.
- 2nd language an asset.
- ASL is an asset.
- Must drive clients to appointments and accompaniments and hold a G Driver's License.
- Preference will be given to an Indigenous person.

Hours of Work: 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 communities it serves. We actively encourage applications from members of groups with historical and/or current barriers to equity, including:

- First Nations, Métis or Inuit peoples, and all other Indigenous peoples.
- Members of groups that commonly experience discrimination due to race, ancestry, colour, religion, and/or spiritual beliefs, or place of origin.
- Persons of marginalized sexual orientations.
- Persons with visible and/or invisible disabilities.
- Survivors of the psychiatric system/consumer survivors.
- Two-Spirit, genderqueer, trans and non-binary people.

Please send a letter of application and current resume to Interim Place by September 08, 2020 via email at admin@interimplace.com.

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:

August 26, 2020

Deadline:

September 08, 2020

