



## **SOMALI-CANADIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY OF EDMONTON**

*P. O. Box 64088, Edmonton, Alberta, T5H 4K2*

*Phone: (780) 441 - 9878*

[www.somaliedmonton.com](http://www.somaliedmonton.com)

### **THE POSITION: CULTURAL RESOURCE PERSON (CRP)**

A Cultural Resource Person is required to foster a positive relationship between the Somali community and the Edmonton school system. The ultimate goal of the initiative is to develop a collaborative partnership between the Edmonton school system and the Somali community so that the Somali children and youth in Edmonton will enhance their learning skills and community involvement in order to be successful in school.

### **PROJECT SUMMARY:**

This project is a three-year initiative that will engage Somali children, youth, parents and educators to develop strategies, tools and resources that will promote a positive and collaborative partnership between the Somali community and the schools across Edmonton. This project will increase Somali parents' understanding of the Canadian school system, their role in it and how to be effective partners in their children and youth's education. It will also improve the cultural competencies for educators, specifically as it relates to their understanding of Somali cultural norms and practices.

The project is a collaborative one and involves the Somali Canadian Cultural Society of Edmonton, Edmonton Public Schools, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and Alberta Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Education Fund. Monitoring and evaluating are two key areas of focus for the partnership.

### **PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### **For the Students:**

- To help students understand the school system and derive from it maximum benefit.
- To assist and support students with cultural adjustment and social/emotional development.
- To help provide lay counseling in a variety of situations and conflicts which may arise due to cultural differences.
- To work cooperatively with school-based staff to enhance the student's full development in the school system.
- To help design/implement a mentorship program for students.

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**For the Parents:**

- To help parents understand the Alberta school system.
- To encourage parents to participate in their children's education.
- To enhance communication between home and school through linguistic and cultural interpretation.
- To work together with school counselors and other professionals in the provision of cross-cultural counseling and in encouraging families to seek other professional and community services when necessary.

**For the Schools:**

- To create and coordinate after school programs for students.
- To help schools share concerns with parents regarding their children.
- To provide school staff with information on community resources.
- To help plan programs to suit students from a variety of cultural backgrounds.
- To provide interpretation/translation services.
- To present workshops for staff and students to increase cross-cultural awareness and understanding
- To serve as a resource and to collaborate with staff in central services with Edmonton Public Schools as needed.

**For the Community:**

- To liaise between the school and the community about changes in the community's demographic profile, partnership possibilities, and issues of concern.
- To inform the Somali community of the resources in the school system which can help its members in their transition to Canadian life.
- To present workshops for the community members to increase cross-cultural awareness and understanding

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

- Degree or Diploma in Social Work, Education, Social Sciences or related areas. ( a combination of related experience and education may be considered)
- Excellent interpersonal, communication, and problem solving and analytical skills
- Good knowledge of computer applications including: Word processing, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook.
- Good knowledge of the Alberta school system and available community resources.
- Ability to work independently and effectively in a team, and with other professionals in a school environment.
- Excellent English and Somali verbal and writing skills.
- Current Police Security clearance, vehicle and a valid Alberta driver's license.
- A demonstrated ability to work independently in both thought and action, in research, community engagement, collaboration and organizational development, issue identification and problem solving
- Knowledge of the Edmonton Somali Community, social, religious, economic, employment and educational related issues are definitely an asset

## **HOURS OF WORK**

Full time position. Evening and weekend work required.

## **SALARY**

Competitive salary, depending the qualifications and the experience.

Resumes will be accepted until March 31st, 2009 by:

Attention: Hassan Ali

E-Mail: [hassan@somaliedmonton.com](mailto:hassan@somaliedmonton.com), Fax: (780) 406 3003

Mail to: ***Somali Canadian Cultural Society of Edmonton Box 64088 , Edmonton, AB T5H 4K2***

We thank all applicants for their interest in this employment opportunity. Only candidates considered for the position will be contacted.

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