

# PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE

## Expression of Interest

***Are you interested in an opportunity to uphold the rights of individuals with mental health issues?***  
***Do you have a personal passion for the improvement of the mental health system?***  
***Are you committed to improving the lives of individuals living with mental health disorders?***

The Department of Health and Social Services invites **interested members of the public** to submit an application to serve as a representative on the Northwest Territories *Mental Health Act* Review Board. The Review Board is comprised of a chairperson and members who are appointed by the Minister of Health and Social Services. The Chairperson is appointed to a three-year term, and Board members are appointed for two-year terms, both with the option of renewal.

### **Background**

In October 2015, the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories passed the new *Mental Health Act*, which will come into effect in 2017. The *Mental Health Act* was modernized to protect the rights and safety of individuals and address gaps in the current system. Until the new Act comes into effect, the existing *Mental Health Act* (1988) remains in place.

The new Act includes the addition of a Review Board, operating at arm's length from government, to ensure that individuals who are being held involuntarily under the Act, and those acting on their behalf, have access to an objective review process. The Review Board will also have the authority to establish review panels to conduct hearings to decide whether persons admitted involuntarily to a designated facility should continue as involuntary patients under the Act.

### **KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES**

- Commitment to improving the mental health system of care
- Knowledge of mental health disorders and issues relating to individuals with mental health disorders;
- Interpersonal skills and ability to work as part of a team;
- Strong listening and communication skills;
- The ability to read, speak, and understand English to the degree required to comprehend hearing documents and notices;
- Well-developed analytical and decision-making skills exercising objectivity and sound judgement based on the legislation.

### **REQUIREMENTS**

- Must be a resident of the Northwest Territories;
- Willingness to be a consistent and reliable member on the Review Panel hearings;
- Flexibility and a willingness to travel;
- Criminal records check and vulnerable sectors check;
- Review Board members must be able to enter into a contract with the GNWT. These are not salaried positions.

### **ASSETS**

- Previous lived experience, advocacy or support to individuals or family members living with a mental health issue;
- Prior experience with quasi-judicial hearings;
- Professional training or relevant experience in mental health or related issues/disciplines;
- Knowledge of communities and facilities within the Northwest Territories;
- Prior group decision-making and board or committee experience.

Job descriptions are available upon request. Applications should be marked "Northwest Territories *Mental Health Act* Review Board: Application for Appointment".

**Please send a resume, experience and references by 3:00 pm on February 17, 2017 to:**

Department of Health & Social Services | 6th Floor, New Government Building

PO Box 1320 | 5015-49th Street | Yellowknife, NT | X1A 2L9

Email: MHAct\_ReviewBoard@gov.nt.ca | Phone: (867) 767-9061 ext. 49179 | Fax: (867) 873-7706

*Only individuals selected for interviews will be contacted. Seats are to be filled by individuals reflecting diversity and gender balance in composition.*

