



Optimism Place Women's Shelter and Support Services

Are you committed to ending the cycle of abuse and violence by raising awareness through prevention, education, and advocacy? Are you looking for the opportunity to support women alone or with children to live free of abuse by providing shelter and confidential, non-judgmental services? If this sounds like you then please consider joining the team at Optimism Place!

Optimism Place Women's Shelter and Support Services is an organization that provides emergency shelter, counselling, advocacy and support for women and their children fleeing domestic violence in Perth County.

The Opportunity: **Frontline Counsellor**

Information / benefits:

- Full Time (35 hours per week) Contract position (up to 13 months)
- Salary range \$40,000 to \$45,00 per annum
- 2 weeks' vacation
- Requirements to:
 - able and willing to work day, afternoon and midnight shifts, any day of the week
 - potentially work alone in a safe environment with the possibility of encountering high-risk situations
 - complete CPR/First Aid training upon hire
 - provide a valid and recent vulnerable sector check
- Eligibility to participate in health and dental benefits program and RRSP contribution plan
- Reports to the Residential Manager
- Have a positive impact on the lives of women and their children
- Work with like-minded individuals in an anti-oppressive, feminist framework

Application information:

Optimism Place is committed to equity and encourages applications from all qualified candidates including women, persons with disabilities, members of visible minorities and aboriginal persons, individuals of diverse gender and sexual orientation and all groups protected by the Human Rights Code. In alignment with its commitment to equity, Optimism Place values diversity and provides a positive and supportive environment. Optimism Place offers reasonable accommodation for applicants with disabilities to participate the recruitment process. If you are contacted regarding this opportunity, please advise if you require accommodation. While we appreciate all interest in our positions, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.



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Interested candidates are asked to send their cover letter and resume to Alicia Houston, Senior Manager, Programs, at alica@optimismplace.com with the subject line, "Frontline Counsellor"

The opportunity details:

The Frontline Counsellor is responsible for the delivery of 24/7 confidential, non-judgmental immediate, and initial responses to women in crisis, including answering the crisis line, responding to walk-in clients, and women and children residing in the secure shelter.

Individuals connecting with counsellors could include victims of woman abuse, sexual assault, workplace harassment and may have experienced homelessness, addiction, and challenges with mental health. Acts as an ambassador and role model for the agency at all times.

In order to be considered for this opportunity you will bring the following:

A Community College diploma in a Social Service Worker program. A Bachelor of Social Work or Bachelor of Arts in Social Work would be an asset. A minimum of six (6) months of related experience in the field of violence against women services or sexual assault services. Volunteer or placement student experience is welcomed. Experience in a residential services setting is an asset.

Demonstrated knowledge or skills in the following areas:

- Differential crisis response
- Engagement and assessment of clients in crisis
- Risk assessment and safety planning
- Case management
- Individual and group counseling
- Problem-solving
- Mediation
- Advocacy
- Crisis de-escalation

Demonstrated commitment to the women's anti-violence movement. Continued commitment to ongoing education and professional development, keeping up with current trends and research in the Violence Against Women field. Proven ability to communicate effectively verbally and in writing, including the ability to generate professional documentation (note-taking, preparing letters, and reports). Understanding and welcoming of diversity. Computer literacy in various applications (e-mail, word processing). Ability to operate with independence and as part of a team.

To obtain a complete description of the duties and responsibilities of the position, please see the job description which can be found at www.optimismplace.com.