POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: MITACS Postdoctoral Fellowship
Duration: 4-month stipend 15K + 5K research funds, latest start date August 31
Reports to: Director of Strategy and Operations
Office Location: Remote in Canada

Overview

The unique challenges created by COVID-19 have created additional strain for autistic individuals and their families in Canada. Information and surveys about COVID-19 that are continuously being developed and shared via various outlets throughout Canada. It is necessary to coordinate autism-related data and pan-disability data collection initiatives as we rebound from the pandemic. This 4-month project aims to select meaningful indicators, mitigate duplication, and ensure that collected information leads to action in bridging the research-practice gap for autistic people and their families.

CASDA is a coalition of organizations and individuals focused on the development of a comprehensive National Autism Strategy (NAS). It is committed to ensuring the implementation of a comprehensive National Autism Strategy that addresses the critical gaps in funding and policies which are preventing individuals with autism and their families from exercising their equal rights as Canadians.

The Position

You will lead national-level stakeholder engagement with autism researchers, persons with lived experience, and organizations in the pan-disability sector to build up and propose ways to transform the way data is coordinated as we build back from the pandemic. You will be analyzing current policies and practices and reporting on findings.

Specifically, you will be:

1. Selecting meaningful indicators and mitigate duplication in the sector: Work with autism and disability researchers to include measures that can inform meaningful policy change at the federal level.
2. Ensuring collected information leads to action: With the collaboration of stakeholders, the community, and international advisors (e.g. autistic researchers), meet with groups to co-create concrete recommendations to share with the federal government as part of a NAS on how research can be transformed – better coordinated and co-created with the autistic community
3. Disseminating information: Create reports from each meeting with community leaders and researchers. Share insights from each meeting at future meetings to foster continued conversations around how COVID-19 has allowed for disruptive change in the sector. Compile results and use to create recommendations to be shared with federal government as part of a NAS. Use emergent findings to Inform how we structure governance around a NAS and pan-disability challenges in Canada.
4. Support and assist with other related projects at CASDA as needed.

Deliverables

- A report for CASDA's Summit meeting with recommendations for federal government to be included as part of a National Autism Strategy
- Creation of a policy brief on research coordination in the autism sector

- A map of new partnerships that are built during the process in the form of an impact evaluation report (one for disability community partnerships and another for collaborations between researchers)

Position requirements
Education: PhD and interest in autism research policy and systems level change
Languages: English
Assets: knowledge of the autism community, lived experience with autism

Specialized skills and Knowledge:

- Ability to work collaboratively with internal staff and affiliated organizations.
- Strong ability to facilitate meetings with stakeholders.
- Strong organizational, project, and program management skills; ability to work on a wide range of issues simultaneously.
- Strong written communication skills.
- Attention to detail, dependable, reliable, self-motivated and goal-oriented
- Passion, Integrity and Energy

Interested applicants are invited to submit a current resume to jlai@casda.ca. Please quote:

MITACS Post-Doc - Job Posting

We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.