Outreach and Advocacy Specialist – Beyond Neglect

The Child Welfare League of Canada (“CWLC”) is a national, membership-based charitable organization dedicated to promoting the safety and well-being of young people and their families, especially those who are most marginalized. We advocate for and promote legislation, policy, research, programs, and services that address the underlying causes of precarity and trauma. We convene leaders, organizations, researchers, governments, and people with lived experience to learn and to improve sector practices. Find out more here: www.cwlc.ca.

CWLC is seeking to hire an Outreach and Advocacy Specialist with knowledge and experience of the Canadian child welfare system, specifically related the issue of ‘neglect’ and the overrepresentation of poor, Indigenous, Black and racialized children and youth in care.

In partnership with the Children’s Aid Foundation of Canada, Beyond Neglect advanced into its third year of work in 2021-2022. The initiative seeks to promote an understanding of how we can best respond to the conditions that place children at an increased risk of “neglect.” Following an in-depth 6-month literature review unearthing decades of recommendations made by community organizations and advocates between 1992 and 2019, CWLC published a comprehensive report – Moving Beyond Neglect – including three summary sections with uniquely tailored recommendations for policy makers, child welfare agencies, and child welfare workers.

This year of the project will focus on building momentum to secure policy, practice, and legislative change. We will develop a measurable dissemination and advocacy plan, including provincial, territorial and federal outreach activities, social media engagement, recruitment and activation of champions. More specifically, the in-depth knowledge accumulated through our research and expert convenings has given us the tools to build workshops and workplace packages. These packages will help train senior management and all stakeholders involved in child welfare towards implementing changes in their practices that better respond to family needs.

Find out more about the project here: https://www.cwlc.ca/beyond-neglect.

The Outreach and Advocacy Specialist will join CWLC’s dynamic remote staff team. They will work closely with CWLC’s Project Manager and Executive Director and connect with a broader advisory group consisting of academics, people with lived experience, advocates, Elders and Indigenous youth.
The Outreach and Advocacy Specialist will be responsible for the following deliverables:

- Develop a measurable dissemination and advocacy strategy for the Beyond Neglect recommendations and calls to action for stakeholders
- Recruit partners who will champion the dissemination of the program and its recommendations
- Help Project Manager and Communications team create training packages for stakeholders to implement recommendations in their workplace and practice
- Host meetings with decision-makers for dissemination (agencies, government, etc.)
- Build and maintain relationships with stakeholders and partners
- Develop provincial, territorial, and federal outreach activities
- Develop policy advocacy for legislative change
- Host supporting workshops for organizations around implementation of changes

**Desired Qualifications and Experience:**

- Graduate studies in a relevant discipline (e.g., community development, sociology, social work, policy development, government relations), specifically studying issues related to ‘neglect’ and the overrepresentation of poor, Indigenous and racialized families in child welfare.
- Experience advocating for specific issues, ideally in child welfare, with all stakeholders including government and policymakers.
- Experience providing public awareness, outreach, and education functions
- Knowledge and experience of working within anti-oppression and anti-racist frameworks.
- Strong written and oral English communication skills. French is an asset (some reports are available in French only).
- Resourcefulness, initiative and flexibility to function effectively as part of a small team working remotely.
- Must have access to a personal computer and the Internet.
- We especially encourage those with lived experience in child welfare, who are Indigenous, Black, racialized, LGBTQ2S+, or who have a disability.

**Employment Period and Compensation:** September 5, 2022 to March 31, 2023 part-time (10 hours per week) at a rate of $25 per hour.

**Location:** The Researcher will work remotely and can be based anywhere in Canada.

**How to Apply:** Interested candidates are invited to submit a cover letter and resume to hiring@cwlca.ca by August 01, 2022. We thank all who apply; only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted by CWLC.