



## **Posting for Chair of the Mercury Disability Board**

*An exciting opportunity exists in the position of Chair of the Mercury Disability Board, to provide strategic direction and guidance on issues impacting First Nation communities in Ontario.*

### **Background**

In November 1985, an out of court settlement agreement was reached that included Wabaseemoong Independent Nations (formerly Islington, formerly Whitedog), Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishinabek (also known as Grassy Narrows First Nation) and the federal and provincial governments. The settlement dealt with mercury contamination in the English and Wabigoon river systems, and provided for the establishment of a Mercury Disability Board (Board) and a Mercury Disability Fund (Fund).

In 1986, both Canada and Ontario enacted legislation to carry out the terms of the settlement, including the creation of the Board.

The Board supervises the administration of the Fund and oversees a claims and appeals process that is available to all eligible First Nation members. To learn more about the Board and the position of Chair, please visit: <http://www.mercurydisabilityboard.com>

### **Job Description**

#### **Role:**

The Chair is responsible for providing leadership, and overall strategic, operational and financial direction to the Board, which includes fostering an environment of transparency, respect, fairness and equity. The Chair acts as an ambassador for the Board, and is the Board's public face when engaging with First Nation communities and governments.

#### **Responsibilities:**

- Understand the role and powers of the Chair and Board under the legislative framework
- Chair Board and Committee meetings in accordance with Board policies and procedures
- Consult with, and communicate the Board's work to, the impacted First Nation communities, as may be required

- Lead the Board in strategic planning, and provide leadership regarding organizational priorities and governance
- Provide guidance and support to the Board and its members in updating, developing and/or applying Board policies and procedures in compliance with governing legislation and any applicable human rights or other legislation as may be required
- Facilitate and support the Board's ability to consult with professionals and government officials as the Board considers necessary
- Serve as spokesperson and ambassador for the Board
- Oversee Board operations and performance within its mandate
- Evaluate annually the performance of the MDB in achieving its mandate.
- Represent the Board at external functions, meetings and events
- Oversee updates to Board's website to ensure accuracy and currency, as necessary
- Ensure effective financial controls and risk management strategies are implemented
- Consider and support the capacity needs of Board members to enable their full participation in Board meetings and Board-related work
- Demonstrate and foster respect for the affected First Nations' cultures and history, and their communities' strengths and challenges

The above list is indicative only and not exhaustive. The Chair will be expected to perform all such additional duties as are reasonably commensurate with the role.

### **Qualifications:**

#### Professional Skills:

- Strong leadership, facilitation, organizational and administrative skills are required
- Knowledge of board governance practices and previous board experience is required
- Knowledge of issues that face Indigenous people and communities, as well as demonstrated cultural awareness and sensitivity are required
- Experience working with or for Indigenous people or organizations is an asset
- Professional knowledge of law, medicine and/or adjudication of disability benefits is an asset
- Previous experience Chairing a Board or leading an organization is an asset
- Experience working in an environment pursuant to a legislated mandate is an asset
- Experience in developing and/or updating policies and procedures, including to compliance with human rights requirements is an asset
- Experience in financial management and finance issues, particularly in a non-profit setting is an asset

#### Communication and Interpersonal Skills:

- Superior group facilitation skills to support consensus decision-making
- Strong inter-personal and relationship-building skills to foster productive internal and external relationships
- Tact, respect and diplomacy in all situations, with the ability to listen and engage effectively

### **Commitment Required:**

- Strong commitment to implementing the Board's mandate in a manner that is respectful of the affected First Nation communities and consistent with human rights principles and standards
- Strong commitment to developing, renewing and updating Board procedures and policies in accordance with the governing legislative framework, and any applicable human rights or other legislation as may be required
- Strong commitment and capability to establish respectful relationships between the Board, its members, and the affected First Nation communities
- Part-time position for a two-year term, which may be renewed
- Attendance at: 4 Board meetings, including 3 in Kenora and one in Winnipeg; 2 Finance Committee conference calls; Service Committee meetings as required; and 1 in-community meeting (altering between the two First Nation communities each year)
- Attendance at special events and meetings with the First Nation communities and stakeholders, which may include travel and time commitments outside regular office hours

### **Remuneration:**

Per diem remuneration commensurate with experience as agreed by the Board; travel expenses and disbursements to be reimbursed according to Board policies.

### **How to Apply**

To apply for this position, please submit a résumé and cover letter outlining your interest and experience to:

Mercury Disability Board  
P.O. Box 621  
Kenora, Ontario  
P9N 3X6

Or by email at: [info@mercurydisabilityboard.com](mailto:info@mercurydisabilityboard.com).

The Board encourages applications from Indigenous persons and other equity-seeking groups.

Applications will be accepted until May 31, 2018.