



## **Position for Part-time Student Researcher**

**Research Project from April 2019 to March 2020**

**Social Media and Mobilizing Change for Community Impacts (12 months)**

**Canadian Women's Foundation in partnership with IMPACTS (McGill / SSHRC)**

### **Description**

Social media has become a pivot for individual level activism and community level change. With the speed of adoption of different platforms, as well as the multiplication of campaigns that are both individually based and based in movement building, this research project will investigate connections between social media and action for social change in the context of sexual assault. We aim to do this by developing a research framework based on emerging scholarship on the effects of social media and by posing key questions that relate to the increased understanding of the prevalence and the impacts of sexual violence.

The research will identify key gaps in our knowledge of the current understanding of how sexual violence is disclosed and denounced on social media, and how movements are built on social media platforms. To start to fill those gaps in our understanding, the project will engage with social media users/ survivors and activists, researchers, movement leaders, front-line service staff, policy makers and industry insiders.

### **Student Researcher Role**

An MA (or PhD) student in social work, education, law, psychology or similar field will be hired to undertake this work, part-time, supervised by the Director of Community Initiatives. The student can work remotely from their location of choice, but must have their own computer, wi-fi connection and communications tools. Experience in social justice / social service agencies would be an asset.

### **Hours / Duration**

245 hours @ \$25/hr from April 2019 - March 2020 (There is a potential for an extension on this project).

## **Research Questions**

The student research will consider the effects of social media individually and in social change sectors and outline the connections between the social media campaigns and hashtag conversations and the action for social change in the context of sexual assault, both on campus and off campus.

## **Methodology**

- Conduct a literature review, to identify frameworks that can describe both social media use and effects.
- Develop key research questions using this theoretical framework and working in partnership with the Foundation and stakeholders.
- Carry out Key Informant Interviews (KII) with about 20 social media users/ survivors and activists, researchers, movement leaders, front-line service staff, policy makers and industry insiders.
- Organize data results thematically according to theoretical framework to test framework.

## **Application**

Please submit a short covering letter, CV, and a sample of writing (relevant assignment or essay or research project) quoting reference #CI-004 to [humanresources@canadianwomen.org](mailto:humanresources@canadianwomen.org) by April 12, 2019.