



Urban Native  
Youth Association

## Training the Leaders of Tomorrow

### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

#### Volunteer Mentor – UNYA Mentorship Program

Urban Native Youth Association (UNYA) was formed in 1988 to address Indigenous youth concerns, at a time when growing numbers of young people began leaving reserves for the city. UNYA continues to meet the needs of Vancouver's Indigenous youth by providing a wide range of services, resources, and opportunities that support them to reach their fullest potential.

Through over 20 programs, UNYA strives to address issues that negatively affect the lives of Indigenous youth by providing a supportive continuum of care, focussing on prevention-based activities such as peer leadership, mentorship and mental wellness. Youth are active at all levels of the organization, as participants, peer leaders, employees, and board members.

Urban Native Youth Association (UNYA) is a registered not-for-profit society with the Province of British Columbia and a federally registered charitable organization.

#### **About the Mentorship Program**

The mandate of the Mentorship Program is to connect Indigenous youth, ages 12 to 15, to volunteer mentors in the community. With the support of positive role-models, youth have the opportunity to realize their strengths and work towards future goals. Our aim is to empower youth and provide them with the tools they need to make positive choices and changes, helping them grow into strong, capable and confident adults.

#### **Volunteer Position Description**

We are seeking committed volunteer mentors, from all backgrounds, to engage in meaningful and supportive relationships with 12 to 15 year old Indigenous youth. Volunteer Mentors will meet with their youth throughout the month, and participate in one-on-one, fun, consistent and goal-oriented activities together. Both Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons are encouraged to apply.

#### **Qualifications**

- You are a mature, positive role-model;
- You are energetic, and able to relate well to youth;
- You are goal-oriented, and motivated to work with youth on skills development and confidence building;
- You successfully complete a Criminal Records Check, specific to working with the Vulnerable Sector;
- You are able to commit to a mentorship lasting a minimum of 1 year, but preferably long-term;
- You are able to devote 2-4 hours per week to meet with your mentee.

#### **Benefits**

- Mentor training session prior to beginning your mentorship;
- Ongoing follow-up and support from program staff throughout your mentorship;

- Opportunity to develop long-lasting relationships with youth;
- Cross-cultural experience and training;
- Develop a deeper understanding of challenges faced by urban Indigenous youth;
- Free monthly group activities;
- Tickets to sporting, arts and cultural events;
- Free bi-monthly workshops on subjects pertaining to effective mentoring and issues faced by urban Indigenous youth.
- Potential references to post-secondary institutions or employers after six successful months of mentoring.

## **Accountability**

Volunteer Mentors report to the Mentorship Program Manager.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor, please send a cover letter and resume to UNYA's

**Mentorship Program Manager** at [mentorship@unya.bc.ca](mailto:mentorship@unya.bc.ca).

To learn more about the program, call **604-254-7732 ext 5542**