



# Nanaimo Family Life Association

*Healthy individual and family relationships are the heart of a strong and resilient community.*

## Counselling Practicum Placements

Nanaimo Family Life Association (NFLA) offers unpaid practicum opportunities to Master's level students in counselling and clinical psychology programs. The experience is designed to enable students to continue to develop their counselling skills, interests, and professional identities.

### AGENCY INFORMATION

Since 1967 Nanaimo Family Life Association has positively impacted over 70,000 people in the Nanaimo Community by providing programs and services that support people in achieving their full potential through all stages of life.

NFLA is a passionate, dynamic, and inclusive community-orientated organization that delivers interconnected personal and professional growth services responsive to the needs of the community at all stages of life.

### VALUES

NFLA is a radically passionate organization that delivers creative and innovative opportunities to the community, families, and individuals through intra-connective activities, training, counselling, and personal/professional development.

- We are open-minded, accepting, inclusive, affordable, accessible, resilient, and accountable.
- We believe in innovation, and visionary leadership, and we thrive in a dynamic, passionate, caring, community-based setting.
- We are a safe space.

### VISION

- A central resource that provides accessible, family-centered services, practically responding to current community needs and helping people to navigate the social service system in dealing with their challenges.
- Skilled professionals and volunteers provide a range of preventative and intervention services through fee-for-service and voluntary programs.
- We maintain effective partnerships with other community organizations and are respected as leaders in providing professional development, research, training and mentorship.
- NFLA is a fiscally responsible organization with a balance between social goals and financial sustainability.

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

- Work one on one with individuals (requires previous experience or training)
- Shadowing experienced counsellors, debriefing, and opportunities to ask questions regarding the counselling process.
- Learning co-facilitation skills by attending Essential Life Skills Workshops.
- Being part of the youth intake process and with supervision performing the intake with the youth.
- Being part of community events and promotion of counselling programs and agencies.
- Being part of Collective Learning Opportunities and Peer Consultation Group to improve counselling skills.

## **OUR EXPECTATIONS**

- Enrollment in a Master's level counselling or clinical psychology program
- Mastery of basic counselling skills
- Commitment to the value of learning and to maintaining the ethical and professional standards as established by the British Columbia Association of Clinical Counsellor (BCACC)
- Adhering to the standards and policies of NFLA

## NFLA CODE OF CONDUCT

The “Tree of Life” has been represented in various cultures, religions, mythologies and philosophies throughout the ages. It is a common symbol of the connectedness of all life on earth. At NFLA we believe this connection is essential to our survival as a human family and our evolution toward a more kind and open society. Our “Tree of Life” represents our connection to all of our relations and to our ancestors (roots) and our descendants (branches). The many colours of our Tree represent the diversity within our human family; diversity that accepts all people, all forms of love and all expressions of self as tremendous contributions to the whole of our community.

**BELIEF STATEMENT:** Healthy individual and family relationships are the heart of a strong and resilient community.

**VISION STATEMENT:** NFLA is a passionate, dynamic, and inclusive community orientated organization that delivers interconnected personal and professional growth services responsive to the needs of the community at all stages of life.

- We are open-minded, accepting, inclusive, affordable, and accessible, resilient and accountable.
  - *I strive to accept all people and include them in my evolution as a professional within this organization. I acknowledge my judgements and limitations having been raised in a misogynistic, racist, ableist, ageist, heteronormative culture and I commit to owning my internalization of these and to not allowing these to lead me.*
- We believe in innovation, visionary leadership, and we thrive in a dynamic, passionate, caring, community-based setting.
  - *Leadership is for all of us, from client to Senior Management. I commit to contributing my vision, passion and compassion in this work, being an example to others to walk a path of authentic growth and service.*
- We are a safe space.
  - *My workplace should be a “soft place to fall” for me. I commit to ensuring it is a soft place for all. I commit to examining the ways in which I contribute to this deeply held value.*
  - *I commit to being a resource for clients, volunteers and colleagues in finding a solution-focused, compassionate resource in me when needed.*
  - *When confronted with difficulties internal to my workplace, I commit to seeking out those change-makers to voice my concerns.* A central resource that provides accessible, family-centered services, practically responding to current community needs and helping people to navigate the social service system in dealing with their challenges.

- *As an integral part of this central resource, I commit to maintaining a level of professionalism that sees me honouring the needs of all – within and outside of the organization – and when I am unable to meet these needs, I commit to helping seek these out where possible.*
- Skilled professionals and volunteers provide a range of preventative and intervention services through fee-for-service and voluntary programs.
  - *My skills are honoured when I invest in honing them in service to the work I put my hands to. I commit to asking for help, training, insight when I am met with a challenge that threatens to impede my progress.*
- We maintain effective partnerships with other community organizations and are respected as leaders in providing professional development, research, training and mentorship.
  - *I honour the work of others in the community and provide positive feedback when that work shines through in service to myself, my clients and/or volunteers.*
  - *I commit to speaking up when practices fall short or when I encounter systemic barriers that disallow growth and meeting essential needs.*
- NFLA is a fiscally responsible organization with a balance between social goals and financial sustainability.
  - *I commit to investing in my professional growth so that my goals can be realized.*
  - *I commit to engage in all trainings offered with a view to continuously improving in this work by approaching these opportunities with an open mind and heart.*

By signing this I acknowledge that these statements are a process and that I commit to growing into them to the best that I am able. I acknowledge that the team that supports me is also committed to my growth and me to theirs, and that these statements are reflective of our desire to be a grassroots organization committed to growth, justice and equity.

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PRINT NAME

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SIGNATURE

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DATE

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WITNESS

## **YOUR CONTACT PERSON**

The Training and Program Development Coordinator will be your contact person. The Training and Program Development Coordinator for the Volunteer Counselling Program will be your contact person during your practicum placement at the Nanaimo Family Life Association.

During your practicum placement at the Nanaimo Family Life Association, your contact person's role is to:

- Collaborate with you on your learning plan.
- Make sure you have opportunities to fulfill your goals in your learning plan.
- Connect you with program coordinators of other NFLA programs.
- Be part of the evaluation process
- Support with any issues that arise during your practicum placement.

Please contact Ardith Finnamore for an interview appointment.

Ardith Finnamore

Email: [a\\_finnamore@nflabc.org](mailto:a_finnamore@nflabc.org)

Phone: 250 754 3331 ext.427

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

Please provide the following information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Academic Institute: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home # \_\_\_\_\_ Work # \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name & Phone Number of Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Department of Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Academic Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Successful applicants will be required to present a Criminal Records Clearance Letter stating that they are cleared to work with minors and members of vulnerable populations. The period covered must include the entire duration of the practicum.

## TWO REFERENCES

1. Reference Name:

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Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Reference Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

