

ii' taa'poh'to'p

The University of Calgary plays a key role in the Calgary community as is it a hub of curious inquisitive and civic-minded students, faculty and staff. Our campus community is foundational to fostering an environment that is respectful and inclusive of Indigenous peoples as demonstrated by the development of ii' taa'poh'to'p, the University of Calgary's Indigenous Strategy. ii' taa'poh'to'p is a commitment to deep evolutionary transformation by reimagining ways of knowing, doing, connecting and being. Walking parallel paths together, "in a good way," UCalgary is moving toward genuine reconciliation and Indigenization.

The Indigenous Summer Student Program is an opportunity for Indigenous post-secondary students to contribute to our Indigenization, while also gaining valuable work experience. This program is in partnership with Community Futures Treaty 7 and the Rupertsland Institute. As per funding rules, currently these roles are only available to First Nation treaty-status or Métis students.

Job Title: Indigenous Sky-lore Ambassador

Department/ Unit: Rothney Astrophysical Observatory, Department of Physics and Astronomy, Faculty of Science

The University of Calgary, Faculty of Science operates the most diverse and community-inspiring astronomical observatory in Canada – the Rothney Astrophysical Observatory (RAO). In addition to its very successful teaching and research efforts, thousands of people from all walks of life leave the RAO energized with renewed enthusiasm for the wonder and awe of the Universe. With special attention, we focus our educational programs on our Indigenous neighbors near and far, including the Tsuu T'ina and Siksika nations.

The walls of the RAO's Interpretive Center are adorned with several informative text-panels that describe the wonders of the universe.

There are also a few panels that talk about the traditional history of the land the observatory resides upon. However, there is an important piece missing – the indigenous sky-lore stories that connect the nighttime sky to land and people.

The tactile goal of this project is to create visually appealing and informative wall mounted text-panels, which describe the traditional stories of Indigenous Peoples in Alberta. This is a great opportunity to develop artistic and written story-telling skills, as well as research skills, which will involve speaking to Elders and other Indigenous community members, and information gathering from the literature and the internet.

With an eye for extending the outcome of this work even further, the RAO is looking to hire an energetic Indigenous person with imagination and artistic skills

Qualifications/Expertise Required:

- Completed third or fourth year of post-secondary program
- Must be returning to full-time post-secondary studies in Fall 2020.
- Strong work ethic
- Well-developed artistic ability and vision

- Ability to facilitate programming to a broad audience of visitors
- Flexible schedule as some evening and weekend work will be required
- As this position is located near the hamlet of Priddis, Alberta, reliable transportation is a must

Accountabilities/Tasks and Duties: *(Results and outcomes expected when roles are carried out successfully, with supporting details on how results are accomplished):*

- Assist with the research and creation of Indigenous sky-lore themed content for exhibits and displays for the Interpretive Centre.
- Assist with the research and creation of Indigenous sky-lore themed content for summer evening sky-tours for visiting groups.
- Assist with conducting those summer tours during our major public nighttime sky-viewing events in July and August (called 'Milky Way Nights')