

Summer Intern, Waterloo Region Black Innovation Centre

Organization Description:

The Caribbean Canadian Association of Waterloo Region (CCAWR) is a Not-for-Profit organization founded in 1975. Its mission is to promote the social, cultural and economic interests of, and advocate for the Caribbean community in the Region of Waterloo. Its flagship Scholarship Program has been in operation for 18 years. The CCAWR recently made a submission to the National Ecosystem Fund Call for Concepts, proposing the development of the Waterloo Region Black Innovation Centre (WRBIC). The WRBIC will be an Innovation Hub with a mission of providing Black entrepreneurs with the support needed to start, grow and scale their businesses. The WRBIC will spearhead the development of innovative strategies that will stimulate sustainable economic prosperity and wellbeing in the Black community. WRBIC will commence initial operations at a level that can be supported without substantial funding even before National Ecosystem Fund support has been secured, in partnership with innovation partners in Waterloo Region and Wellington County.

The CCAWR has secured funding for two (2) summer interns for Summer 2021, in support of the development of the Waterloo Region Black Innovation Centre.

Hourly wage: \$14.25

Number of weeks: 12

Number of hours per week: 40

Tasks and Responsibilities: The summer interns will be tasked with providing support to lay the groundwork for the launch of Waterloo Region's first Black Innovation Hub. They will work as an integral part of the CCAWR team that is developing and implementing the program with partners from the Waterloo Region innovation community, including accelerators, incubators and postsecondary institutions. The interns will be involved in providing support for and developing the website and social media for the program, as well as publicity material, using digital technology. They will interact with key partners, employing communication skills. There will be ample opportunity to develop and refine leadership, and will have access to ample mentorship.

The successful candidates will investigate and explore opportunities for sponsorship and partnership both locally, provincially and nationally. Locally, existing alliances/partnerships will be further developed. Nationally, funding, lobbying and training opportunities announced in the recent federal budget will be reviewed for relevance to WRBIC strategies and goals.

The identification and onboarding of entrepreneurs and program mentors is a critical step towards building a sustainable ecosystem. The summer students will market the program to prospective entrepreneurs and business leaders, developing a database of individuals' skills, knowledge, expertise and business plans. This database will be used to pair entrepreneurs and mentors, as well as to help define the program's course content.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion are important tenets of the program. The WRBIC intends representation across genders and ethnicities who identify as Black, as well as across age groups and abilities. Support for and adherence to principles of inclusion, and a willingness to work towards the elimination of systemic barriers to full inclusion, are non-negotiable.

Requirements: Current undergraduate student or recent graduate

This job is contingent upon funding from the Canada Summer Jobs program

Please send cover letter and resumé to Trevor Charles, trevor@ccawr.onmicrosoft.com