



## **Indigenous Relations Advisor**

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

### **Description**

The Indigenous Relations Advisor – Indigenous Relations (IR) will be involved primarily in supporting the operations of the Waasigan project through responsive Indigenous business and relationship engagement endeavours. The successful candidate will use a combination of strategic thinking and relationship building skills to further the success of Valard's Indigenous engagement efforts.

This role reports directly to the Senior Director, Indigenous Partnerships and works closely with the Indigenous Relations team as well as Valard's Project Management team, this role will support the building of new as well as enhance existing Indigenous relationships while supporting project management teams in the delivery of projects.

The ideal candidate is a self-motivated professional with proven experience in strong relationship development skills, energy experience, and a solid understanding of Indigenous matters.

### **Position Location**

Valard is flexible on location. Frequent travel to communities along the Waasigan project route will be required.

### **Requirements**

The position is responsible for early and ongoing engagement activities with communities that are within the Waasigan project area.

Success in the role will be developing successful and loyal relationships through meaningful engagement that set the foundations for long and trusting relationships with Indigenous communities. The primary focal point will be Indigenous communities, organizations and businesses throughout Thunder Bay and area.

The following are key directives the role will entail and be accountable for:

- Initiate, develop and maintain strong working relationships with Indigenous communities and their economic development organizations.
- As directed by the Senior Director, Indigenous Relations, develop and maintain working relationships with key project stakeholder organizations for the Waasigan project.
- Contribute and support the development of Indigenous engagement plans and assist with the development of achievable targets (i.e. subcontracting and employment) by incorporating the

early engagement knowledge of key communities and support the delivery of engagement activities.

- Strategic to the role will be maintaining an in-depth awareness of relevant political, socio-political and socio-economic issues local to the Waasigan project area.
- Report on all issues and make recommendations to the Senior Director on all matters that may impact Valard's ability to successfully participate in the regions' economy.
- Plan and participate in Trade shows and Job Fairs as necessary as well as representing Valard at key industry conferences/events.
- Accountable to ensure all Indigenous Communications are being recorded and tracked per project requirements, including Records of Engagement, Commitments, and Issues.
- Collaborate with Project Management Team (PMT) on Project Information Packages for distribution to Indigenous Communities, Leadership, Business Ventures, and online audiences.
- Coordinate and schedule Indigenous Community Open Houses, collaborating with PMT, Employee Services, and Procurement teams.
- Work with the Construction PM to ensure that any actions arising from Operational discussions are recorded and addressed, including follow-up with Indigenous Communities.
- Work with the PMT and Procurement to support Business Readiness initiatives within Communities, including interface with Communities, Chi Mino Ozhitoowin (CMO), and Project Team support.
- Interface with CMO and Community Leadership on Employee Engagement concerns, and develop Employee Information packages to provide guidance for new project hires
- Coordinating notifications to Indigenous Communities throughout the project lifecycle, updating on project status or upcoming activities (i.e., brushing, burning, implosive splicing, stringing, etc.).

#### **EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:**

- 5 – 10 years applicable experience.
- Completion of an undergraduate degree in business administration or a business-related discipline is preferred but not essential.
- An appropriate combination of education and experience is acceptable if the experience has been gained through a successful career in Indigenous relations, business and partnership development including significant experience in the field of energy generation and/or construction.

#### **KSAs (KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES, & PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES):**

- Superior critical analysis and research skills to be able to oversee sensitive and high-profile strategic and/or operational issues
- Strong understanding and awareness of Indigenous cultures and communities from a historical and current perspective
- Ability to develop strategic priorities that consolidates input from and mirrors the needs of contemporary Indigenous communities
- Track record of developing and sustaining positive relationships with internal and external stakeholders through collaborative and consultative work processes
- Demonstrated success in managing complex and sensitive issues including associated risk management
- Exceptional presentation and communication skills required to deliver on complex matters (written and verbal)
- Strategic communicator experienced in managing and speaking to complex situations earning the trust of internal and external stakeholders.
- Proven political acumen, demonstrate sound judgement on sensitive issues.
- Clear understanding and appreciation that in order to be successful in this role that frequent travel will be required with medium length absences from home, including, frequent travel in small aircraft and remote road(s) to communities

### **Benefits**

Valard Construction LP is an equal opportunity employer, committed to a diverse workforce. We offer a competitive salary and a complete range of employee benefits.

Please forward resume and cover letter in confidence through the posting on this page.

We thank all applicants for their interest. All applications will be reviewed to determine which candidates' education and experience best meets the needs of the position. Only individuals selected for interviews will be contacted.