National Director, Our Living Waters
1 year contract (renewable based on funding), 4 days per week (30 hrs/week)
Location: Home office, anywhere in Canada

You are a passionate and visionary leader.
You believe in networking people together to create a positive impact.
You want to make a difference for freshwater health across the country.

Are you looking for a flexible work environment that will leave you feeling fulfilled? Are you as happy holding a vision and facilitating groups to collaborate as you are digging into federal water policy? Do you enjoy getting the operational tasks done to ensure an organization thrives? If you answered yes to the above questions, then Our Living Waters may be the professional ‘home’ you’ve been looking for.

Our Living Waters (OLW), a project on MakeWay’s shared platform, is a collaborative network of organizations working together to achieve the ambitious goal of all waters in Canada in good health by 2030.

We are seeking a people-first leader to fill the role of National Director, providing the overall executive leadership for Our Living Waters and its network and collaborating with and managing the two OLW staff in support of our ambitious goal. Importantly, we are seeking someone who deeply resonates with, and wishes to serve, the OLW water declaration:

- We know—in our bones—that water is sacred.
- We have a responsibility to listen to and take care of the waters.
- Our relationships with each other are a reflection of our relationships to water.
- We are dedicated to working together on behalf of the waters.

If our values align with yours and you want to bring your leadership to Our Living Waters, then we want to hear from you!

What you’ll do

- Maintain and, when required, update the long-term vision and strategy for Our Living Waters incorporating input from core Network members.
- Engage Network members in a way that strengthens their commitment to the collective goals and fosters a collaborative environment.
- Ensure that the Network has a common agenda that outlines the key goals the Network is trying to achieve together and a road map for how we can get there. Our current common agenda is articulated through our shared measurement system.
● Where invited and as appropriate, support the Canadian Coalition for Healthy Waters (CCHW). OLW is currently Chair of this Coalition with the National Director playing an active role in supporting the CCHW.
● Facilitate OLW Teams or other pockets of collaboration within the Network to enable members to drive collective actions on shared goals.
● Manage, evaluate and hire all OLW staff, including periodic performance reviews.
● In collaboration with OLW staff, steward OLW fundraising efforts.
● Work with OLW staff to prepare an annual budget and workplan to be approved by the OLW Steering Committee.
● Monitor cash flow, budgetary expenditures and limits ensuring effective use of resources and OLW’s financial health.
● Direct the proper resources to meet the commitments and deliverables of all grant agreements.
● Provide appropriate and timely information to the OLW Steering Committee, facilitating their decision-making process and obtaining necessary approvals.
● Act as the primary liaison with MakeWay staff to ensure compliance with MakeWay policies.

Who You Are:

● **A strong leader:** You have excellent interpersonal skills, an ability to know yourself, and act with emotional intelligence.
● **Highly relational:** you like forging relationships, partnerships and facilitating collaboration to support greater impact on shared goals.
● **A developer of staff:** you enjoy enabling staff to apply their diverse skills and perspectives to the success of the organization.
● **Committed to Right Relations:** You want to embrace and model the OLW water declaration and direct the organization towards Right Relations.
● **Strategically minded:** you enjoy finding a vision on how to strategically move forward amongst multiple options, and you believe in seeking wide input to get there.
● **Kind:** you embrace levity and like to have fun!

Experience You Bring:

● At least 5-7 years of work experience, including a leadership role with staff oversight. Preferably, this includes experience in the nonprofit sector.
● Undergraduate degree in a field such as environmental studies, resource management, non-profit management, or other related fields.
● Excellent working knowledge of freshwater policy and governance in Canada.
● Experience meeting with, and working alongside, government officials to advance policy solutions.
• Experience facilitating groups towards collaborative decision making and collective action.
• Excellent communication skills, including writing skills.
• Demonstrated ability to work across cultures and bring respectful understanding of different worldviews.
• Lived experience and/or experience working in partnership with Indigenous Peoples and advancing Indigenous rights and leadership.
• Experience understanding and actively managing mid-sized budgets.
• Experience in fundraising including soliciting and reporting on grants.
• Comfort and experience working with online software including Google Documents and video conferencing software (Like Zoom and Teams).

It Would be a Bonus if You Have:

• A postgraduate degree in a field such as environmental studies, resource management, non-profit management, or other related fields.
• An ability to communicate in French.

What We Offer:

• An inspiring leadership position with the opportunity to positively impact freshwater health across the country.
• An annual salary of $76,000 - $84,000 for 30 hrs/week of work (which is equivalent to a full time annual salary of $95,000 - $105,000)
• Competitive benefits package including health, dental, and an Employee Assistance Program.
• 3 weeks vacation plus statutory holidays, and a paid day off for your birthday(!). OLW has implemented a substitution statutory holiday policy which allows employees the flexibility to substitute another day for a statutory holiday. In addition, OLW closes down annually for a paid winter holiday break.
• Flexible work environment from your home office and the opportunity to travel within Canada for yearly staff retreats, conferences and events.
• Opportunities and support for professional learning and growth.

How to Apply:

Together with your resume, please forward a cover letter which includes your responses to the following questions:

1. What interests you most about this position?
2. How are your skills and experiences a good fit for this position?
3. Briefly tell us what your water story is. Whatever that means to you.
Please send your resume and cover letter with your responses to the above questions to info@ourlivingwaters.ca. Posting will remain active until we find our ideal candidate with a proposed start time of fall 2023.

As Our Living Waters is on MakeWay’s Shared Platform, the selected candidate will be a MakeWay employee.

Our Living Waters and MakeWay are strongly committed to creating a diverse workplace environment and we welcome and encourage applications from the communities we serve. We are proud to be an equal opportunity employer.

MakeWay will provide accommodation during all steps of the hiring process, upon request, to applicants with disabilities. Please advise us if you need any accommodation.

Our sincere appreciation to all those expressing interest in the position, however, only those applicants invited for an interview will be contacted. Thank you for your interest! We will accept applications until the position is filled. No phone calls or recruiters please.