

Call for Research Proposals: Analyzing Diversity and Underserved Communities in the Canadian Media Landscape

Positions: (1) one, temporary 12 week contract position.

Location: Remote. The option to work out of JHR's head office in Toronto, Ont. for 1-2 days a week is available

Target Start Date: February 4, 2019

Application Deadline: Wednesday, January 23, 2019 at 11:59 p.m.

About [Journalists for Human Rights](#): Journalists for Human Rights (JHR) is Canada's leading media development organization. Since 2002, JHR has worked trained over 15,500 journalists in 28 countries around the world on how to objectively and effectively report on human rights issues. Internationally, JHR currently operates programs in Mali, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Jordan and with Syrian journalists in Turkey. JHR has been implementing programming in Canada since 2013 with the organization's Indigenous Reporters Program.

Call for Research Proposals: Local news coverage, crucially, maintains a basic promise of democracy: that the population should have the means to have their voices heard on political affairs and the issues that affect them the most.

Existing studies showcase recommendations that point to a lack of credible, contextualized and sustainable sources of local news across Canada. While there is a general consensus that there is a lack of local news and a troubling homogenization of diverse voices in the country's coverage, there is a lack of in-depth understanding as to what defines an underserved community and statically how problematic lack of diversity is in media. This research will incorporate and build on ongoing efforts to track where news deserts exist across the nation and where hubs of solutions for innovation are, but its focus will be a preliminary effort to *identify and define communities in Canada that are currently qualitatively and quantitatively underserved by media.*

JHR is seeking to address this lack of in-depth understanding by conducting preliminary research in the first quarter of 2019 and, is accepting research proposals to do so. The final submission will be a 10 - 12 page report including any additional appendices and quantitative data.

The Details:

The Research

- Research is expected to begin in early to mid-February 2019 and will be 12 weeks in length. The final preliminary report should be submitted to JHR at the end of April 2019.
 - *Note: JHR recognizes the limited scope of this timeline for research. These findings are meant to be preliminary and a starting point for future expansion.*
- The researcher will be expected to report regularly to JHR on the status of the research throughout the contracted period. A mutually agreed upon timeline for submission of draft(s) will be agreed upon at the outset of the contract.
- The research should be national in scope.
- In addition to being compensated, JHR will provide a modest travel budget to conduct field research. Trips will be prioritized in collaboration with the JHR team and the researcher.
- The final report will become part of JHR's collection of research and will be published and disseminated online (web, social media, events, etc.) and in print.

Qualifications: The successful candidate will be a motivated, self-directed individual who is extremely comfortable working independently while also being able to relay and communicate information back to a team with ease. They will have:

- Experience conducting research studies, engaging with both primary and secondary sources.
 - Experience conducting research or monitoring in the Canadian media sector specifically is preferred.
- A proven ability to synthesize large amounts of perspectives and data effectively and concisely.
- A strong and demonstrated understanding of the current media sector and landscape in Canada.
- Be comfortable engaging with diverse groups of stakeholders.
- Be outgoing, proactive, creative and organized.
- The ability to bring their own media contacts and networks to the position will be considered a strong asset.
- French language capacity strongly encouraged.

The successful candidate can be located anywhere within Canada and should have a willingness and ability to travel within the country.

How to Apply: Project proposals must be written and submitted in English and should include the following:

- A statement of interest of no more than two pages outlining your proposed approach to the research, your interest in the subject matter, why you feel you feel

you are the best individual to conduct the research and any other relevant details/qualifications you wish to highlight.

- A copy of your resume.
- Up to two writing samples, preferably demonstrating your previous research experience.

Project proposals should be sent via email to research@jhr.ca by Wednesday, January 23, 2018 at 11:59PM.

We thank all those who apply. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted for an interview. Interviews will be conducted on a rolling basis, so applicants are encouraged to submit applicants before the deadline.

No phone calls please.