



Director – Policy and Stakeholder Engagement
Rural Ontario Institute
(Full-time, Two Year, Term-Limited Position)

The Rural Ontario Institute (ROI), located north of Guelph, ON is a non-profit corporation that acts as a catalyst for dialogue, collaboration and action on issues facing rural Ontario and delivers leadership training and development to ensure that rural contributes to a healthy vibrant Ontario. The organization is seeking a champion to support, develop and enhance ROI's vision of being a recognized voice providing leadership for a strong and vibrant rural Ontario. ROI offers a progressive and challenging team oriented work environment and a competitive non-profit compensation package.

POSITION SUMMARY

The Director, Policy and Stakeholder Engagement is responsible to champion ROI's mission of serving as a catalyst for rural community dialogue, collaboration, action and advocacy in order to assist ROI in being a strong voice for rural Ontario. This is accomplished by: engaging rural stakeholders and developing and delivering community engagement strategies; securing and communicating ground intelligence on rural issues; and informing decision makers on rural issues.

QUALIFICATIONS

The position requires someone who has completed post-secondary education in planning, community/ rural development, public administration or a closely related field with 5 or more years of work experience in stakeholder engagement and issue and policy analysis. The successful candidate is knowledgeable about the issues and forces shaping Ontario's rural and agricultural sectors and has highly developed strategic thinking and research skills for policy analysis and synthesis. The ideal candidate is a skilled facilitator with excellent oral and written communication skills including the ability to listen. Well-developed interpersonal skills as well as a demonstrated ability to build relationships are critical requirements for this position. In addition the successful candidate will be a self-starter, able to work both independently and as part of a team, and self-sufficient in all aspects of project administration, coordination and management. A high proficiency in the MS Office suite of applications, Internet, email and interactive social media technologies is expected. This job requires work in non-core hours, evenings and week-ends as necessary and will require travel throughout the province. A valid Ontario driver's license and insured vehicle is required.

Reporting to the Chief Executive Officer, Rural Ontario Institute, the **Director, Policy and Stakeholder Engagement** will:

- Grow the rural and other stakeholder networks and engagement bases by identifying and building relationships and strategic alliances with alumni of the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program (AALP) and other leadership programs; government ministries and agencies; the private business sector; non-governmental organizations; provincial, national and international rural development organizations; and academic research institutions.
- Establish and maintain networks with policy institutes, academic centres, and related organizations (e.g., the PELA Rural Development Institute) for the purpose of leveraging knowledge bases and maximizing the impact of current research work.

- Engage with the ROI network, the various sectoral working groups, and rural stakeholders to identify and analyze issues and communicate information to appropriate stakeholders.
- Develop and implement strategies and actions to plan and implement rural issue initiatives (e.g., roundtable, forum, workshops, webinars, etc.). Work with the ROI team to identify and secure funding for initiatives.
- Analyze and synthesize issue research to prepare reports, research bulletins, and communiqués related to emerging rural issues.
- Facilitate and partner in developing and implementing needed evidence-based research projects to aid policy development.
- Provide leadership in developing innovative, on-line forms of interaction with stakeholders.
- Support ROI program events and initiatives.
- Manage time, workload, project and performance expectations.

Apply in confidence by **April 19, 2010**, by sending your resume via email, fax or mail to:

Competition #ROI-01
c/o Chief Executive Officer
Rural Ontario Institute
5653 Highway #6N, R.R. #5
Guelph, ON N1H 6J2
rblack@ontarioruralinstitute.ca
Fax (519) 826-4208

We thank all candidates for their interest, however, only those under consideration will be contacted.