



## WELCOME TO APRIL, **Stigma-Free Family!**



We are pleased to announce that we are accepting **new submissions** for the [Inspiring Stories](#) section of our [Student Mental Health Toolkit](#). We are also highlighting a brand-new feature from our Toolkit, and a volunteer opportunity at Stigma-Free Society!

In addition, we are sharing our recent experience of being the target of an elaborate scam and how we managed to turn this negative situation into a remarkable opportunity for growth.

Learn more about these updates below, and discover how you can make a difference in young people's lives by sharing your mental health journey!

**APPLY NOW!**



**CHARITY GRANT WRITER**

**Role Title:** Charity Grant Writer

### **Grant Writer Job Description**

Are you passionate about living in a Stigma-Free world? Do you want to make a meaningful contribution to the work being done around mental health and stigma elimination? The Stigma-Free Society is a smaller, but mighty Charity, creating awareness about stigmas with a focus on mental health. We are dedicated to igniting understanding and encouraging acceptance of all people.

**Are you searching for a meaningful and flexible role as a contracted grant writer?**

**Are you knowledgeable and experienced in the non-profit mental health field?**

**Do you have a passion for achieving big audacious goals with your writing development skills?**

If so, we may be looking for you!

Stigma-Free is seeking to contract a dedicated grant writer to write grant proposals for our Charity. The grant writer will write coherent, organized, passionate and compelling proposals. You will apply your knowledge of fundraising/development methods and plans to help reach the Society's goals. You will report and collaborate with the President of the Society and work with other team members.

We are seeking applicants that are deadline-driven team players with outstanding multitasking abilities.

**Reports to:** Stigma-Free Society President

**Grant Writer Responsibilities:**

- Developing relationships and collaborating with key stakeholders.
- Displaying adherence to the organization's mission.
- Maintaining proficient knowledge of the organization's history and programs.
- Assisting with the execution of the Society's development strategy.
- Identifying grant funding opportunities.
- Writing, submitting, and managing grant proposals.
- Write reports to donors with guidance from the President.
- Furnishing prospective funders with supporting documents.
- Manage grant tracking tasks on Asana Project Management software.

**Grant Writer Requirements:**

- 4+ years of grant writing experience in mental health grant writing.
- Bachelor's degree/diploma in creative writing, fundraising certificate, or related education.
- Proficient with measuring and reaching income goals alongside President.
- Proficient with MS Office and One Drive.
- Excellent knowledge of fundraising opportunities and sources.
- Ability to meet strict deadlines as required by President
- Demonstrate flexibility during fundraising seasons
- Experience with Asana Project Management software is highly desirable.
- Sufficient internet connection
- Use of own technology (laptop) with ability to use Zoom

**Due Date for Applications: April 20th, 2023**

**Interviews will be scheduled in early May 2023**

**This position will be available commencing May 15th, 2023**

**Contractor rate \$60/hour up to \$2500 per month.**

**Additional Information:**

Prefer candidates in British Columbia (PST) but will accept applications from other parts of Canada. Applicants must reside in Canada.

**NOTE: This is not an employment position.**

**This opportunity is of a contract in nature and the successful contractor will be responsible for WorkSafeBC premiums, CPP, EI contributions and remitting their own tax installments.**

Please submit both a detailed cover letter to: Andrea Paquette, President, SFS  
REFER TO: **SFS Grant Writer Application**

**We are excited to hear from you!**



OFFER A MESSAGE OF HOPE:

**Share Your  
Inspiring Story**

Do you have personal experience dealing with stigma and mental health? If so, we have an exciting opportunity for you.

Stigma-Free Society is looking for people to contribute **Inspiring Stories** that will be featured in our Student Mental Health Toolkit. Inspiring Stories are 2 to 4-minute videos where individuals share their lived experience with mental health and the stigma surrounding it. They offer a message of hope to children and teens.

By sharing your story, you can provide support and encouragement to students in grades 4-12.

Sharing your story is easy: fill out our [contact form](#), and we'll get back to you with more information. Feel free to share this opportunity with someone who inspires you!

If you are a teacher, parent/guardian, or school counsellor, check out our [Inspiring Stories](#) page and share these videos with your students or children to educate them and help them feel supported. By sharing our stories and being open about our struggles, we can eliminate the stigma that exists in our communities, whether in-person or online.

[Click here to browse our Inspiring Stories or submit your own!](#)

**WE ARE LOOKING  
FOR YOU!**

**NEW VOLUNTEER  
POSITION:  
FRENCH TRANSLATOR**

**APPLY NOW!**



Stigma-Free Society is currently looking for volunteers who are bilingual in French and English (both written and verbal). This role involves reviewing documents that

have been translated into French for accuracy.

- The ideal candidate is a student in a French language program looking to gain experience in reviewing documents for accuracy.
- Time commitment: 5-10 hours/week – ongoing until the project is complete.
- This is a volunteer position; however, we will provide an agreed-upon honorarium for the work completed.

[CLICK HERE to learn more about this position and apply now](#)

Please submit your resume and completed [application form](#) to the Programs Manager, Samara Liberman ([samara@stigmafreesociety.com](mailto:samara@stigmafreesociety.com)), with French Translator in the subject line. We look forward to hearing from you!



**Search Feature in the Student Mental Health Toolkit:  
Find the Material You're Looking for Faster**

Our [Student Mental Health Toolkit](#) now has a **NEW search bar** for teachers, school counsellors, and parents/guardians looking for resources on a specific

topic. We created this function to help you navigate the site easier and quickly find the material you need. You no longer need to scroll through our library - simply click on the section of the Toolkit you'd like to access, type what you're looking for in the search bar, and you'll be directed to the page that fits your needs.

[Visit the Toolkit and try it out now!](#)



### **Why We Are Speaking Out About the Konect Media Scam**

Over the past month, you may have seen Stigma-Free Society in the news spreading an important message: always be on the lookout for scammers, and never let stigma prevent you from speaking out.

On July 25th, 2022, Andrea Paquette, President of Stigma-Free Society, received an email from a fraudulent company that went by the name Konect Media ([www.konectmedia.ca](http://www.konectmedia.ca)). They offered to create advertisements for Stigma-Free Society that would be printed on 10,000 reusable grocery bags and handed out to customers at IGA on Robson Street, Vancouver for a reasonable cost of \$1,500.

Andrea spoke on the phone with a sales representative from Konect Media and verified the sale with IGA to confirm that it was legitimate. Konect Media even provided Andrea with the art for the advertisements. However, after receiving the payment, communication when silent, and Stigma-Free Society was unable to get a hold of any representatives at Konect Media. IGA and Andrea worked together to get in contact with Konect Media for over two months, but never heard back.

## The Bright Side Created by Stigma-Free and the Community

It is unfortunate that fraudsters like this exist and prey on charities that are working to make the world a better place. Nevertheless, Stigma-Free Society decided to turn the situation around and use it as an opportunity to gain exposure and hopefully offer resources to more kids, teens, and adults who need them.

We spoke out about the scam, and our story was featured in several media outlets including:

[Global News](#)

[Times Colonist](#)

[MSN](#)

[Vancouver CityNews](#)

[Rock 101 News](#)

[World News Era](#)

[Sing Tao](#) and [BCBay](#)

In addition to the positive media exposure, IGA on Robson in Vancouver is *generously* hosting a one-month May 2023 fundraiser for Stigma-Free Society to help us regain the funds we lost. We were also contacted by the legitimate company, [Connect Media](#), and they offered Stigma-Free Society complimentary graphic design services for the May Fundraiser at IGA.

[The MARC Group](#), which is the legitimate grocery bag distributor, then gave us the largest ad space on their grocery bags for free. These bags will be handed out at the Victoria Market this summer. As a result of speaking out - and these generous offers - we may even raise awareness than we lost!

Two additional companies were also scammed out of a total of \$2500 and have come forward with their story. Other charitable organizations have personally reached out to Andrea to thank her for speaking out as they have also been targeted by Konect Media.

There is a great deal of stigma around falling victim to a scam. Many individuals and companies are hesitant to come forward when they are scammed because they fear they may be perceived as foolish. In reality, fraud is never the fault of the victim and always the fault of the scammer themselves.

By sharing our experience, we hope to prevent this scam from affecting other charities that are doing meaningful work in their communities and encourage other victims of fraud to speak out.



As with most forms of stigma, the more we talk about it, the less power it has.



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