

# OPEN CALL for Local Workshop Facilitators

## Iridesce: The Living Apology Project

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*Call Open Until August 30, 2019*

With a commitment to the full affirmation of LGBTQIA+ and Two Spirit people, The United Church of Canada is seeking individuals to focus on relationship building, story collection, and facilitation of workshops for [Iridesce: The Living Apology Project](#). We are committed to becoming an anti-racist and intercultural church, to becoming an open, accessible, and barrier-free church, and to engaging in anti-oppression work that seeks to honour diverse identities.

We are extending this Open Call for Local Workshop Facilitators until August 30, 2019. Interviews will be conducted to determine suitability of applicants. Facilitators will be paid an honorarium per workshop conducted, but the work may require some volunteer time.

### **Description**

The Iridesce: Living Apology Project has been inviting all people affected by the Church's 1988 decision (re: membership/ministry and sexual orientation) to share their stories. As we move into the future, these stories will help the church to discern if, and how, it might live into a possible apology to LGBTQIA2S+ people. We are looking for individuals with an awareness of the Iridesce project. Previous engagement in the project will be considered an asset.

Local Workshop Facilitators will begin by building intentional relationships with individuals or communities in their geographical area, with whom the Iridesce Project has not yet connected. These communities include:

- LGBTQIA+ people who are willing to engage in courageous and respectful conversation who are racialized, Indigenous, Two-Spirit, and/or disabled, and are often marginalized within the LGBTQIA2S+ community in the United Church and wider society.
- communities of faith who are willing to engage in courageous and respectful conversation, who have not yet become an Affirming Ministry, who may have been opposed to the 1988 decision or have never engaged the issue, and/or may feel isolated from those in the church who are engaging these issues.

Local Workshop Facilitators will be trained by and work closely with the Project Coordinator. They will reach out to individuals in the focus groups above, to build relationship and establish trust and safety, believing that each person has important perspectives to share. The goal will be to conduct face-to-face workshops that create meaningful discussion groups for remembering, lamenting and discerning wisdom from individual and community experiences around the 1988 vote (if applicable) and/or the years that followed (1988 to the present).

We acknowledge that not all efforts and time spent will lead to financial reimbursement for workshops conducted. Local Workshop Facilitators may refer people to the Project Coordinator or National Facilitator if needed. They must be open to committing to some volunteer time, knowing that the insights gained in such efforts may contribute to Iridesce's final report and challenge to the wider church to build upon in the future.

Each Local Workshop Facilitator will:

- Share all stories received with Project Coordinator
- Submit a report about their relationship building, conversations, stories shared, and workshop conducted, to the Iridesce Project Coordinator.
- Submit invoice for workshops held to GCO staff.

All workshops must be completed - with reports submitted no later than November 30, 2019.

### **Qualifications**

Local Facilitators must be fully committed to the full affirmation of LGBTQIA2S+ people. Reasonable accommodation will be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

Interviews will be conducted to determine suitability of applicants. Facilitators should be familiar with Iridesce: the Living Apology Project, the history of the 1988 decision, and the work of Affirm United.

Previous engagement in the project will be considered an asset. Applicants should have:

- a solid understanding of the structure and relationships of The United Church of Canada
- completed the Racial Justice Training and/or similar intercultural equity programs
- excellent networking skills,
- experience with the creation of safe space,
- the ability to navigate contexts of conflict/trauma with sensitivity
- excellent oral and written communication skills,
- good computer skills (e.g. Word, Excel)
- competency with social media
- comfort with online communication applications (e.g. Zoom).

### **Compensation**

Local Facilitators will receive an honorarium of \$500 for each workshop conducted, and be reimbursed for travel (mileage/bus/transit) and meal expenses. As an independent contractor, they will supply their own business tools.

The honorarium paid for one workshop will include initial contact and time spent in relationship building (online/phone), booking Iridesce posters (with Project Coordinator) as requested, preparation time, time spent traveling, facilitation of the workshop, supplies/photocopying expenses, follow-up with communities of faith after workshop, and written reports back to Project Coordinator. Local Facilitators will be expected to conduct workshops within driving distance of their home (up to 500 km one-way), and will be reimbursed for mileage as well as meals.

### **To Apply**

If interested, send an email with a cover letter that explains how your skills and experience would contribute to this work. You are welcome to submit a resume, but we are most interested in your awareness of, and involvement in, the Iridesce project, as well as your facilitation skills and experience. Email to Jordan Sullivan at [jsullivan@united-church.ca](mailto:jsullivan@united-church.ca).