

day in the life of a

COMMUNITY AMBASSADOR



Name:

Maiesha Rahman

Community:

Toronto Shelter
Network

Tell us about yourself

I am a project coordinator for the Toronto Vaccination Initiative at the Toronto shelter network and I support the community health ambassador program. I work with our health partners in supporting various health promotion initiatives like COVID-19 vaccination promotion, shingles pneumococcal vaccination, STI testing, and ovarian cancer awareness.

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What are you fulfilling in your community?

It hasn't just been health promotion related. It's also been in other areas, like housing. Many have moved onto independent living or finding supportive housing arrangements.

How do you serve your community?

Leveraging lived experience, we give advice on securing and finding housing or employment and other supports, such as opening up a bank account or getting ID.

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What skills are essential to the role?

Lived experience supports the work community ambassadors do because they're able to connect with their peers in ways others cannot.

How do you see the impact of your work?

Mistrust or distrust, which was a huge barrier to vaccination uptake - and I think we've made a lot of progress over the past few years in connecting with people and building trust.