



CALL FOR PRESENTERS

2nd Annual Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Water Symposium and Tradeshow:
“First Nations and Water in the 21st Century”
February 26-28, 2019
Scotiabank Convention Centre
6815 Stanley Ave.
Niagara Falls, Ontario

Building upon the dialogue from the first National Water Symposium and Tradeshow “Reconciliation Through Sustainable Water Management” this year the theme will be “First Nations and Water in the 21st Century”. Access to safe water and proper sanitation is a human right. Most importantly, it is our inherent right to the use and protection of our waters and lands. The protection of water and all living beings that depend on it is the sacred responsibility entrusted to us by the Creator. It is the responsibility of Canada to implement Article 25 of the *United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* which states,

“Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.”

First Nations have called for the repeal of the *Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act* and the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) has been directed by the Chiefs-in-Assembly to proceed with national engagement with First Nations to discuss what new First Nations safe drinking water legislation will include.

But this work is only the critical first step in First Nations defining for ourselves what our water future can and should be. New technology brings new opportunity and new challenges. Changing environments physically and politically challenge us to imagine what is possible and what is probable as we chart a new water future for First Nations. We invite you to add your voice to this dialogue.

The 2nd National Water Symposium and Tradeshow will provide an opportunity for delegates to hear from others who are engaged in work related to sustainable water management; innovative technologies and new training methods; the ‘standing up’ of First Nations water laws; climate change adaptation; and, from others that are leading their own approaches to care and control of water and wastewater.

There will be panel presentations along with interactive and interesting workshops where participants can both learn and share their own experiences as well as space for ceremony to occur.

The Symposium topics will include:

- Repeal of the *Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act* and what it means for First Nations;
- Addressing water quality issues and drinking water advisories;
- Climate change impacts on water quality and quantity;
- Health aspects of water and quality of life;



- Solid waste, water and wastewater treatment innovative technology;
- Sustainable Water Management;
- New approaches to training; and
- Medium and long-term trends in water issues and water governance.

Symposium attendees will include: First Nations leadership from across Canada; water technicians, Public Works department staff, other infrastructure technicians from First Nation communities; and, Consultants, Government officials and non-governmental entities and leading members of academia with an interest in First Nation water issues.

The submission format is as follows:

- A description of your presentation (**max length: 200 words**) including how it relates to the 2019 Water Symposium topics of interest;
- The presenter(s)' biography(ies) (**max length: 100 words**) must be included; and,
- Limited to a maximum of three (3) presenters per submission.

The submission should be provided in **MSWord format** and submitted electronically identifying “*AFN 2nd National Water Symposium - Submission*” in the subject line. Please submit by email to kwhiteduck@afn.ca, Please note that submissions may be edited for length for Symposium documentation, digital and/or hard copy.

Submission Deadline: January 19, 2019 2:00 PM (Eastern Standard Time)

Individuals with successful submissions will be notified on or before January 22, 2019. Please note that due to the limited budget for this important event, presenters will be responsible for their own travel costs; however, under exceptional circumstances, a full or partial travel subsidy could be considered on an individual basis, upon request in writing.

If you have any questions, please contact Caleb Behn at cbehn@afn.ca.