



## Call for Proposals

### Context

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is now accepting proposals from organizations or individuals interested in delivering a presentation or hosting a side-event at its National Climate Gathering, taking place at the Yukon Convention Centre on March 3-4, 2020, in Whitehorse, Yukon.

It will bring together First Nations experts, leadership, knowledge keepers, youth, women, and professionals from across Turtle Island to discuss the most urgent crisis of our time – the climate crisis.

This Gathering will emphasize solutions and leadership that First Nations are advancing in the face of rapid change at the local, regional, national, and international levels. It will be organized around the concept of a First Nations “climate lens”, which characterizes the climate crisis as inseparable from the daily experiences of First Nations. In practice, this allows us to see how the climate crisis is accelerating and exacerbating existing challenges (e.g., biodiversity loss, food insecurity, etc.), and enables us to think about solutions in a multi-dimensional, interconnected, and interrelated way. For First Nations, a healthy environment connects to everything – our health, well-being, culture, language, water, food security, housing, etc.

The Gathering will seek to further articulate this “lens” through a diversity of panel presentations, workshops, video screenings, and outdoor activities (where possible). A steering committee will review all applications received.

### Conference Themes

For several decades, our knowledge keepers have told us that Mother Earth is in a crisis. They have been raising their voices to speak about the changes they are observing: changes in species migration, temperature, and irreversible impacts to the land. In this new climate reality, where greater uncertainty is the norm, significantly reducing risks will require a sustained and ambitious approach to climate action. Given the interconnections between the sectors and systems upon which First Nations rely (e.g., health, food, energy, transportation, etc.), this approach must also be holistic, integrated, and systems-based.



To do this, we offer the following illustrative First Nations climate lens diagram to inform submissions, consistent with the six priorities set out in the AFN's Honouring Promises: 2019 Federal Election Priorities for First Nations and Canada document ([https://www.afn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Honouring-Promises\\_ENG\\_Rev.pdf](https://www.afn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Honouring-Promises_ENG_Rev.pdf)):

### Potential Themes:

- Climate change and the right to self-determination
- Meeting capacity needs to support First Nations as climate leaders
- Fostering Indigenous knowledge systems and free, prior, and informed consent
- Addressing natural and built infrastructure deficits
- Ensuring self-sufficiency in the areas of food, water, clean energy, etc.
- Advancing a just transitions towards ecologically sustainable and equitable First Nations



### Types of Sessions:

The Steering Committee will review all applications received, making an effort to include a diversity of presentations and formats. This could include:

- Plenary Presentations: oral presentations by an individual or panel (*up to 60 minutes dependent upon structure*)
- Side-Events: Oral/visual presentations during the early afternoon or in the evening (*either 45 or 90 minutes*)
- Technical Workshops: unique session during the early afternoon or evening focused on skill-building with smaller groups (*90 or 180 minutes*)

We are open to diverse formats and innovative methods to engage the audience in learning and discussion.



## Application Requirements (2 page max):

- Outline of Session/Presentation, including its relevance to First Nations and climate action (*max 200 words*);
- Method that will be used to engage presenters and audience, and time required (*max 100 words*); and,
- List of proposed presenter(s) and affiliations (*max length: 100 words*)

If you need assistance in preparing your application, please contact [climategathering@afn.ca](mailto:climategathering@afn.ca). Presenters are expected to cover their own costs, including travel and registration.

Submissions should be provided in MS Word format and be submitted electronically identifying "AFN Climate Gathering - Submission" in the subject line, by January 17.

## Timelines and Process for Submissions:

1. **Applications:** The deadline for submissions is January 17, 2020. Please send your completed application to [climategathering@afn.ca](mailto:climategathering@afn.ca).
2. **Notification:** Successful applicants will be contacted by February 3, 2020.
3. **Registration:** If your proposal is accepted, you must register for the Gathering by February 10, 2020, to ensure that your time-slot is confirmed.

*Successful applicants will be responsible for covering their own event, registration, transportation and accommodation expenses – exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis upon advance request (i.e., by January 17, 2020).*

**For more information: [climategathering@afn.ca](mailto:climategathering@afn.ca)**