

# Indigenous Wellbeing Gathering Conference 2025

## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

### About the Conference

The Indigenous Wellbeing Gathering Conference (IWGC) is a multidisciplinary event dedicated to fostering collaborations and knowledge sharing prioritizing the wellbeing of Indigenous communities. Hosted by the Urban Indigenous Wellbeing Collective, this 2.5-day event brings together Elders, Knowledge Keepers, wellbeing practitioners, community members, researchers, and students to explore community-identified research priorities and develop cross-university and community networks. This gathering aims to create a space for learning and exchange on topics related to the spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical health of Indigenous Peoples across generations.

### Conference Overview

**Dates:** October 23 - 25, 2025

**Location:** The Cove Lakeside Resort, West Kelowna, Syilx Territory, BC

**Conference Theme:**

*“Threads of Connection: Weaving Community, Culture and Knowledge”*

Inspired by the Indigenous Community Advisory Committee for the 2025 IWGC, *Threads of Connection: Weaving Community, Culture, and Knowledge* speaks to the interwoven nature of Indigenous knowledge systems, research, and lived experience. Rooted in relationships, this year's conference aims to bring together diverse voices, knowledges, and practices across disciplines to strengthen connections between community, culture, and research.



## Conference Details

### Conference Attendance

Due to limited space at our 2025 conference, we will be prioritizing registration for presenters, volunteers, and Indigenous community members. Don't worry if your work is still in progress – we would love to see your submission! Submitting your work not only enriches our event but also increases your chances of joining us.

### Submissions

We invite submissions from Indigenous community members, Elders, researchers, wellbeing practitioners, students, and anyone else with something to share about Indigenous wellbeing and this year's theme of *"Threads of Connection: Weaving Community, Culture and Knowledge"*. Topics may include, but are not limited to health, education, culture, language, land-based practices and traditional knowledge.

A key focus of this conference is to centre the voices of Indigenous Peoples. While we welcome non-Indigenous presenters, we require that they either co-present with Indigenous partners or clearly demonstrate within their submission that their work is supported by the Indigenous community they are engaging with. This ensures that non-Indigenous voices are included in a manner that respects and upholds Indigenous knowledges, communities and cultures.

### Conference Accessibility

As a multidisciplinary conference welcoming participants of multiple backgrounds and ages, we strive to ensure that all presentations and conversations are accessible to a diverse audience. We encourage presenters to consider the accessibility of their work, including but not limited to language, format, and content. By making presentations accessible, we aim to foster inclusive dialogue and engagement from attendees from various communities and disciplines. In addition, we are committed to creating an inclusive and welcoming space that embraces 2SLGBTQIA+ attendees, families, and community members of all backgrounds. To support physical accessibility, the conference venue is fully wheelchair accessible, with ramps and elevator access available throughout the space.



## Submission Categories

1. Creative Work
2. Cultural Knowledge Sharing
3. Community Dialogue, Workshop, or Circle Activity
4. Panel Discussion
5. Individual Paper
6. Poster
7. Lightning Round Presentation

## Submission Category Details

### Creative Work

**Presentation Time: 45 - 90 mins.**

- We invite creative submissions such as film screenings, poetry readings, music, dance and other artistic expressions centred on Indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing.
- This category is intended to highlight how Indigenous cultures are preserved, expressed, and celebrated through creative formats that go beyond academic approaches.

### Cultural Knowledge Sharing

**Presentation Time: 30 - 90 mins.**

- We welcome submissions that share cultural knowledge, practices, traditions and stories that support the wholistic wellbeing of Indigenous Peoples and communities.
- Contributions may include oral traditions, crafts, ceremonies, storytelling, language preservation and more.
- This category encourages non-academic formats, including interactive demonstrations, discussions or presentations that honour Indigenous knowledge exchange.
- Submissions should include a brief description of the cultural knowledge being shared and any requirements or protocols for protecting traditional knowledge.



## Community Dialogue, Workshop or Circle Activity

**Presentation Time: 30 - 90 mins; however, this might differ on proposed scope and format.**

- This category invites interactive and participatory activities, including group discussions, storytelling circles, hands-on workshops or other creative and engaging formats that encourage knowledge sharing.
- Submissions should clearly describe the objectives, format and expected outcomes of the activity.
- Facilitators must plan for active participation, including time for questions and discussion.
- Presenters will be asked to provide approximate number of participants you would like to have participate in your community dialogue, workshop or circle activity within the submission form.

## Panel Discussion

**Presentation Time: 45 min panel and 15 min Q&A**

- Panel submissions should be a moderated discussion with 3–4 participants, inclusive of the moderator, on a topic related to Indigenous Wellbeing and the conference theme.
- Submissions should list all panelists and provide a brief description of each person's proposed contribution to the discussion.
- We encourage diverse representation across backgrounds and viewpoints to ensure a well-rounded, inclusive conversation.

## Individual Paper

**Presentation Time: 15 min panel and 5 min Q&A**

- Presenters are encouraged to reflect on how their work supports Indigenous ways of knowing, community-responsive collaboration and holistic wellbeing approaches.
- Submissions can move beyond academic formats and include storytelling or other methods of knowledge sharing.



## Poster

**Presentation Time: 90 min open poster session: Presenters will engage with attendees and answer questions in an interactive setting.**

- Posters must be clear and accessible, and may include graphs, charts, artwork or images to support the content.
- Each poster can have multiple authors, but only 1-2 presenters may be designated to present at the conference.
- Presenters must be present to share their posters at the session.

## Lightning Round Presentation

**Presentation Time: 5 min presentation followed by 10 min Q&A session. Presentations will be repeated to several small groups.**

- Presentations will be scheduled in multiple rounds, with different small groups rotating to each table. This will allow presenters to engage with various audiences throughout the session.
- This session aims to provide opportunity to share works in progress including updates on research, community projects, cultural knowledge, or any other relevant topic, and seek feedback without the need for a lengthy presentation.

## Submission Portal

All submissions, with the exception of oral submissions, must be submitted through the submission portal below. The “Submission Abstract” word count is 250 words and how your submission relates to this years’ theme is 150 words.

*All proposals should be submitted by June 13th using the submission portal.*

[Submission Portal](#)

## Submission Timeline

**Submission Portal Opens: May 2025**

**Call for Submissions Close: June 13, 2025**

**Notification of Acceptance: July 2025**

**Presenter Registration Opens: August 2025**

## Our Website

To learn more about the Urban Indigenous Wellbeing Collective, the Indigenous Wellbeing Gathering Conference, and our ongoing initiatives, please visit [Urban Indigenous Wellbeing Collective website here](#). You can access the [2024 Conference Abstracts here](#) to view past presentations.

### Have Questions?

Please visit our frequently asked questions page for more information about making a submission.

## FAQs

**Contact Information:** If you have any questions about your submission or just need a bit of guidance, don't hesitate to reach out to Mimi Mutahi, Conference Coordinator. You can email her at [mimi.mutahi@ubc.ca](mailto:mimi.mutahi@ubc.ca) or give her a call at 778-214-6838.



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