

INDIGENOUS WELLBEING GATHERING CONFERENCE 2024



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

About the Conference

The Indigenous Wellbeing Gathering Conference is a multidisciplinary event dedicated to fostering collaborations and knowledge sharing that prioritize the wellbeing of Indigenous Communities. Hosted by the Urban Indigenous Wellbeing Collective, this 2.5-day event brings together Elders, researchers, trainees, practitioners, community members, partners, and artists to address community-identified research priorities and develop cross-university and community networks.

Conference Details

Date: October 3 - 5, 2024

Location: Manteo at Eldorado Resort, Kelowna, BC, Canada (Syilx Territory)

Conference Theme: Visioning for the Future

Submission Categories:

- Individual Papers
- Posters
- Panel Discussions
- Facilitated Roundtable Activities
- Cultural Knowledge Sharing
- Creative Works (performances, film screenings, poetry, dance, etc.)
- Youth Submissions

IMPORTANT DETAILS

Submission Portal

All proposals should be submitted through our Submission Portal. Simply follow the Submission Portal button below to submit your proposal. Kindly fill out the full form.

[Submission Portal](#)

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.
- We will also be offering opportunities to engage in ceremony, such as smudging from an Elder, for spiritual wellness throughout the conference.

Conference Attendance

Due to limited space at our 2024 conference, we are reserving registration mainly for presenters, volunteers, and community members. Don't worry if your work is still in progress – we would love to see your submission! Presenters will receive priority for conference registration, so submitting your work not only enriches our event but also increases your chances of joining us.

IMPORTANT DETAILS

Important Dates

Call for Submissions Open: May 16, 2024

Call for Submissions Close: June 6, 2024

Notification of Acceptance: July 2024

Presenter Registration Opens: July 2024

General Registration Opens: August 2024 (if available)

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 our [2023 Conference Abstracts](#) here to explore the range of presentations featured at the Indigenous Wellbeing Gathering Conference last year. You can also access our [2023 Conference Gallery](#) here.

Contact Information

For any questions or concerns, please contact the Conference Coordinator, Mimi Mutahi, at mimi.mutahi@ubc.ca.

We look forward to receiving your proposals and engaging in meaningful discussions that will prioritize and advance Indigenous health and wellbeing.



SUBMISSION CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

Individual Papers

We invite submissions where researchers, students, practitioners, and community members have an opportunity to share interdisciplinary research or findings that focus on Indigenous wellbeing and this year's theme of 'Visioning for the Future'. We welcome papers that explore diverse topics such as Indigenous health, education, culture, language, land-based practices, and traditional knowledge systems. Presenters are encouraged to consider how their work aligns with wellbeing, Indigenous ways of knowing, and community-responsive collaboration. This category provides a platform to share new knowledge, insights, and perspectives that can advance Indigenous Wellbeing research and practices. It is also an opportunity to move beyond traditional academic ways of knowledge sharing and to open the gathering beyond western systems and institutions, inviting the inclusion of alternative approaches to presenting through storytelling. An abstract of the planned paper should be provided within your submission.

Posters

We welcome poster submissions that focus on Indigenous Wellbeing and align with the theme of the gathering. Posters should include relevant information that can be easily read and understood by attendees, and may include graphs, charts, creative art or images to support the information presented. The open poster session will provide an opportunity for presenters to engage with attendees and answer questions about their work. While each poster submission can have multiple authors, only two to three presenters should be designated to present at the conference.

SUBMISSION CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

Panel Discussions

We invite panel submissions where discussions brought forward, by three to four people, create an opportunity to discuss a specific topic or theme related to Indigenous Wellbeing and the theme of the conference. We encourage submissions that prioritize inter- or multi-disciplinary perspectives and explore the importance of coming together to share knowledge on ways to prioritize Indigenous Wellbeing beyond academic contexts. Panel submissions should identify the panelists and provide a brief description of their contribution to the discussion. Panelists should be from diverse backgrounds and represent multiple perspectives. We are seeking submissions that provide a well-rounded and inclusive conversation on Indigenous Wellbeing, where presenters can share insights, strategies, and research that address wholistic approaches to wellbeing. We welcome submissions from academics, community members, and wellbeing/health practitioners.

Each panel discussion can choose one of the three timeline options:

- 2 hours: This panel is recommended for the larger gathering space and includes topics that require more in-depth discussion. The panel should aim for 90 minutes of discussion and allow for 30 minutes of Q&A and attendee participation.
- 1 hour: This panel is recommended for smaller breakaway groups and includes topics that can be discussed in a shorter amount of time. The panel should aim for 45 minutes of discussion and allow for 15 minutes of Q&A and attendee participation.
- 30 minutes: This panel is recommended for quick presentations or focused discussions on a specific aspect of Indigenous Wellbeing. The panel should aim for 20 minutes of discussion and allow for 10 minutes of Q&A and attendee participation.

SUBMISSION CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

Facilitated Roundtable Activity

This category invites submissions for interactive, participatory activities that focus on collaborative, participatory engagement. These activities should provide an opportunity for attendees to share interdisciplinary knowledge and perspectives on Indigenous Wellbeing, and can include activities such as group discussions, storytelling circles, interactive workshops, or other creative and engaging formats. Submissions should include a clear description of the activity, including its objectives, format, and expected outcomes. Facilitators should plan for active participation and engagement from attendees and allocate time for questions and discussion. The length of these activities can range from 30 minutes to 2 hours, depending on the scope and format of the proposed activity.

Cultural Knowledge Sharing

We welcome submissions from individuals who wish to share cultural knowledge, practices, traditions, and stories that contribute to the wholistic wellbeing of Indigenous communities. Participants are invited to share any form of cultural knowledge they wish, including oral traditions, traditional crafts, ceremonies, storytelling, language preservation efforts, and more. Presenters are encouraged to explore topics that resonate with the conference theme of 'Visioning for the Future' and consider how their contributions align with Indigenous ways of knowing, community engagement, and cultural revitalization efforts. This category provides another opportunity to move beyond traditional academic formats to embrace alternative approaches such as interactive demonstrations, discussions, or presentations that honor Indigenous knowledge exchange. Submissions should include brief description of the sharing activities and knowledge being shared.

SUBMISSION CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

Creative Works

We invite submissions for creative works, such as film screenings, poetry readings, music, dance, and other forms of artistic expression that center Indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing. This category is an opportunity to showcase how Indigenous cultures and communities are preserved, expressed, and celebrated through creative means that transcend academic formats. We encourage submissions that explore non-Western ways of knowledge sharing, storytelling, and meaning-making that are grounded in Indigenous cultures and traditions.

Youth Submissions

As Indigenous youth, your unique perspectives, experiences, and aspirations hold immense value in shaping the discourse around Indigenous Wellbeing. We encourage Indigenous youth to share their stories, research, artwork, poetry, performances, and innovative approaches to promoting wellbeing. Your presence and contributions are vital in fostering intergenerational connections, knowledge exchange, and empowering fellow Indigenous youth to be catalysts in collective wellbeing.

Submission Guidelines

- Submissions should focus on the conference theme of "Visioning for the Future" and align with guiding principles of cultural safety, trauma-informed and equitable approaches, and strength-based practices. Additionally, submissions should ensure relevance to specific communities and contexts wherever possible.
- Avoid discipline- or area-specific terminology to maintain inclusivity and interdisciplinary approach.