



Healing Our Spirit Worldwide 2023

Call for Abstracts: Oral and Poster Presentations

The 9th *Healing Our Spirit Worldwide* (HOSW) brings together thousands of Indigenous leaders and health-care professionals from around the world to share and celebrate the healing power of traditional Indigenous knowledge and cultures. The Gathering will be held September 11 to 15, 2023 in Vancouver, Canada.

GATHERING OBJECTIVES

- Showcase how Indigenous people have control of their health, healing and wellness that is based on their culture, practices, and languages.
- Provide a safe space for social and intellectual discussion, and for Indigenous leaders to work together on challenges about Indigenous health, healing and wellness.
- Provide participants with an opportunity to partake in different Indigenous ceremonies, culture and presentations.

The HOSW is pleased to announce the call for submissions for the 2023 Gathering for the following:

1. **Workshops:** 55 minutes total – 40-minute interactive presentation; 15 minutes for questions.
2. **Oral Presentations:** 20 minutes total – 15-minute presentation and 5 minutes for questions.
3. **Poster Presentation:** Abstract represented in poster format.
4. **Digital Poster Presentations:** Abstract presented in a 3-5 minute pre-recorded digital presentation.

1. IMPORTANT DATES

Call for Abstract Submissions Opens:	June 15, 2022
Call for Abstract Submissions Closes:	September 30, 2022 Midnight (PST)
Notification of Acceptance:	November 15, 2022
Presenter Response:	December 15, 2022
Conference Dates:	September 11 – 15, 2023

Any late submissions will not be considered. Only online submissions made through the submission site will be considered.

2. STREAMS AND THEMES

Overall Theme for the gathering is:

“Resiliency through Indigenous Teachings, Celebrating Wellness, Health Governance and Nation-Rebuilding”

Health and Wellness Streams:

A. CELEBRATING HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Indigenous communities have self-determined perspectives of health and well-being that are strength-based. Mental, emotional, spiritual, and physical facets are important for a healthy, well, and balanced life. It is critically important that there is balance between these aspects of wellness and that they are all nurtured together to create a holistic level of well-being in which all four areas are strong and healthy.

B. INDIGENOUS HEALING, CULTURE, TEACHINGS AND WELLNESS

Indigenous healing, culture and teaching, support Indigenous people in protecting, incorporating, and promoting their Indigenous medicines and practices, recognizes the complexity and diversity of Indigenous ways of learning and teaching, and Indigenous worldview.

C. HEALTH INNOVATION AND TRANSFORMATION

Health innovation is to develop new or improved health policies, systems, products and technologies, and services and delivery methods that improve Indigenous health.

Health transformations is changing a system that improves health status and quality of care, and decreases health care costs. The transformation must be evidence-based, and supports patient-centre collaborative care within an integrated health care system.

D. WELLNESS AND HEALING TOGETHER – A TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACH

A trauma-informed approach begins with understanding the physical, social, and emotional impact of trauma on the individual, as well as on the professionals who help them. The intention of trauma-informed care is not to treat symptoms or issues related to sexual, physical, or emotional abuse or any other form of trauma but rather to provide support services in a way that is accessible and appropriate to those who may have experienced trauma.

E. COMMUNITY STRENGTHS AND RESILIENCE

Community strengths and resilience is the ability of communities to withstand, adapt to, and recover from adversity. The community uses its assets to strengthen public health and healthcare systems and to improve the community's physical, behavioural, and social health to withstand, adapt to, and recover from adversity.

Presentations will be based on a health and wellness stream and focus on one of the following themes:

■ HEALTH PROMOTION, PREVENTION, EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

Programs aimed to engage and empower individuals and communities to choose healthy behaviors, and make changes that reduce the risk of developing chronic diseases and other morbidities.



■ **RESEARCH, DATA, INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE**

Research, data, and knowledge exchange encompass meaningful and respectful ways of gathering, and sharing knowledge that helps leaders and planners strengthen the health and wellness of Indigenous Peoples.

■ **PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT, IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION**

Health program planning and evaluation includes everything from assessing needs, setting goals and objectives, planning activities, implementation, and measuring outcomes. It shows how your program planning and evaluation met its objectives, involved its stakeholders and community members, and the impact it had on the health of your community members.

■ **MENTAL HEALTH, HEALING AND WELLNESS**

Programs that promote culturally safe, comprehensive, and coordinated continuum of mental health, healing and wellness approaches that affirms, facilitates and restores the mental health, healing and wellness of Indigenous people. Mental health and wellness is a continuum of care that brings together the best of traditional and cultural approaches with western approaches and encompasses a range of fully integrated programs and services.

■ **SUBSTANCE USE AND ADDICTIONS**

Innovative and evidence-informed projects addressing problematic substance use prevention, harm reduction and treatment initiatives. The focus could be on psychoactive substances, including opioids, stimulants, cannabis, alcohol, nicotine and tobacco at the community, regional and national levels.

■ **YOUTH (I.E., 16 TO 29 YEARS OLD)**

Indigenous youth are acting together toward creating the change they seek. Their strengths as youth lie in their willingness to take risks, resilience, energy, creative mindset, cultural knowledge, and ability to engage with other youth, capacity to learn and try new ideas, proficiency with technology, as well as their strong social networks. Supporting the youth within our communities is essential to ensuring the sustainability of our health and wellbeing for future generations.

■ **ELDERS (I.E., 65 YEARS OLD AND OVER)**

This is a theme for programs that impact elders 65 years of age or over. Indigenous Elders support their communities by sharing the knowledge that they have accumulated over a lifetime, while preserving traditions, cultural and social values. Elders hold the wisdom of past generations, and are essential to ensuring the healthy, vital, and strength of our Nations.

Health Governance and Leadership Stream

Supports strong health governance at all levels, which is necessary to ensure that resources devoted to the health programs and services adequate access to health care and improved health. Promotes governance that is carried out efficiently, effectively, and equitably, responsive and sustainable health services and has led to positive health outcomes.



Presentations will be based on Health Governance and Leadership Stream and focus on one of the following themes:

■ **HEALTH LEADERSHIP**

Focuses on: strategic leadership (how to inspire a vision as a leader), leading and managing change (principles and tools need to facilitate change in health care), develop and leading high-performing teams (key components and tools for developing and leading a high-performing team), or tools for impact and influence (such as leadership development action plan).

■ **HEALTH GOVERNANCE**

Promoting Indigenous peoples exercising and having full enjoyment of their rights to self-determination and self-government, including developing, maintaining and implementing their own institutions, laws, governing bodies, and political, economic and social structures related to Indigenous communities.

3. INDIGENOUS DEFINITION

An official definition of “Indigenous” has not been adopted by the United Nations because of the diversity of Indigenous people. Instead they have developed a modern understanding of this term based on the following:

- Self-identification as Indigenous peoples at the individual level and accepted by the community as their member.
- Historical continuity with pre-colonial and/or pre-settler societies.
- Strong link to territories and surrounding natural resources.
- Distinct social, economic or political systems.
- Distinct language, culture and beliefs.
- From non-dominant groups of society.
- Resolve to maintain and reproduce their ancestral environments and systems as distinctive peoples and communities.¹

Any Indigenous person who fits under this modern understanding of “Indigenous” can be a presenter at HOSW 2023.

4. SUBMISSION CONTENT

- The proposed lead presenter must be an Indigenous person.
- Submissions must fit into one stream and one theme. Duplicate submissions will be a basis for automatic rejection.
- Only abstracts that meet the 250 words or less limit will be accepted and must be submitted online.
- Abstracts will be published exactly as submitted. No copyediting will be provided by the HOSW 2023. Submitters are responsible for thoroughly reviewing their submission and ensuring accuracy before submission (no edits/updates).
- Up to two images and/or tables are permitted (file formats: JPG, PNG, BMP). Image content/text and captions do not count towards word limit.

¹https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/5session_factsheet1.pdf



- The submitter will serve as the primary contact for all correspondence regarding the abstract during the submission process. After an abstract is accepted, the presenting author will serve as the primary contact.
- Use only standard abbreviations. Special or unusual abbreviations should be placed in parentheses after the first appearance of the full word.
- The presentation will be conducted in English.
- Abstracts should be structured with subheadings to clearly display the required sections.
- Presenters submitting abstracts are responsible for ensuring that all authors listed on the abstract have been notified of the submission.
- **Copyright issues:** All Speakers must cite original sources of work (research, written materials, quotes, pictures, charts, graphs, videos, etc.) in their presentation that the Speaker did not create or author. It is your responsibility to seek permission to use the material.
- **Consent:** If the Speaker wishes to use personal information or community information (personal stories, experiences from a particular community, customs, traditions, etc.) the Speaker must have the individual and/or community's consent. It is your responsibility to get consent to use this information.

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

All proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Potential to stimulate discussion and learning
- Clarity and impact of the project
- Potential for the idea/innovation to be sustained and spread
- Alignment with Gather Streams and sub-themes
- Consideration of sex, gender, and diversity as part of the work
- Overall quality and clarity of the abstract

6. UPON ACCEPTANCE

- HOSW will email about the abstract submission to the primary presenter, who is responsible for distributing information to the other authors or co-authors.
- If an applicant accepts and offer to present, but is later unable to attend, they must provide the name of the alternate speaker who is a co-author on the original abstract or the presentation will be withdrawn from the program. Note that the co-author must be of Indigenous ancestry.
- All presenters must register for the conference and pay their registration fee by March 31, 2023 and must attend the 2023 HOSW in Vancouver, Canada.
- Presenters are responsible for all costs for their presentation, own conference registration fees and travel expenses.
- All presentations not received by the deadline will be removed from the program.



7. PRESENTATION OUTLINES:

A. WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

- **Format:** Workshops are a total of 55 minutes (a 40-minute interactive presentation with audience engagement plus a 15-minute Q & A).
- **Moderator and Technical Assistant:** Each session will have a Moderator who will introduce the presentation title, ask the presenter(s) to briefly introduce themselves, and moderate the Q & A at the end of the session. In addition, a Technical Assistant will be present during the entire presentation to assist in the running of the session.
- **Presentation Slides:** Please submit your presentation slides by Wednesday August 16, 2023 for testing and upload onto the conference platform. Only PowerPoint slides in 16:9 format will be accepted. All presentations are required to begin with Learning Objectives slides.
- **Timing:** Please keep to the time allotted. The Session Moderator will warn you at the 5-minute and 1-minute remaining marks approaching end of session. Presentations are not permitted to run into the allotted Q & A time.

B. ORAL PRESENTATIONS

- **Format:** Digital Oral Presentations are a total of 30 minutes (a 20-minute presentation plus a group Q & A).
- **Moderator and Technical Assistant:** Each session will have a Moderator who will introduce the presentation title and moderate the Q & A at the end of the session. In addition, a Technical Assistant will be present during the entire presentation to assist in the running of the session.
- **Presentation Videos & Slides:** Please submit your presentation video and slides by Wednesday August 16, 2023 for testing and upload onto the conference platform. Only PowerPoint slides in 16:9 format will be accepted. All presentations are required to begin with Learning Objectives slides.
- **Timing:** Please keep to the time allotted. Videos running longer than 20-minutes will not be accepted.

C. POSTER PRESENTATIONS

- **Format:** Accepted posters may not exceed 6 feet by 3 feet.
- **Session Delivery:** Poster Presentations will be displayed on Level One of the Conference Centre. At least one author of accepted poster abstracts must be present at their posters (virtually or in-person) during an assigned session to allow for dialogue with participants. Poster sessions may run concurrently with other sessions.
- **Presentation Videos & Slides:** Please submit your presentation video and slides by Wednesday August 16, 2023 for testing and upload onto the conference platform. Only PowerPoint slides in 16:9 format will be accepted.
- **Timing:** Please keep to the time allotted. Videos running longer than 3-minutes will not be accepted.



D. DIGITAL POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Digital Posters will be displayed on one of the conference dates. Recommended times for poster viewing include: During breakfast, lunch, and at breaks.

- **Format:** Digital Poster Presentations are a total of three minutes (a 3-minute pre-recorded presentation only).
- **Session Delivery:** Digital Poster Presentations will be posted as a pre-recorded video to attendees in the virtual poster hall of the conference platform.
- **Presentation Videos & Slides:** Please submit your presentation video and slides by Wednesday August 16, 2023 for testing and upload onto the conference platform. Only PowerPoint slides in 16:9 format will be accepted.
- **Timing:** Please keep to the time allotted. Videos running longer than three minutes will not be accepted.

