

Elder-Youth Dialogue on Indigenous Health Priorities

Call for Elder-Youth pairs

The CIHR Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health (IAPH) strives to advance the research agenda to improve the health of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples in Canada. To further this goal, IAPH is seeking applications for Elder-youth pairs to participate in a dialogue on priority areas of Indigenous health and wellness. The purpose of this dialogue is to inform the IAPH Operational Plan, and to ensure that the voices of Elders and youths are privileged when considering IAPH's future directions.

Successful applicants will assume the role of mentor/mentored relationship, and work and travel together to attend a two-day gathering with other First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Elders and Youth from across Canada. Applicants should indicate a willingness/capacity to undertake a participatory role in the discussion of priority research areas in health.

Elder/youth pairs will be asked to share their experiences and knowledge in relation to community health and wellness issues, as well as any collaborative community initiatives related to Indigenous wellness. Potential topics of discussion may include: the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report, foster care and criminal justice systems, and education.

The Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission [Final Report](#) reaffirm and uphold the need to engage meaningfully with all Indigenous Peoples on health-related issues and to build an appropriate health research agenda as determined and led by Indigenous Peoples. It is especially important to seek guidance from Elders and Traditional Knowledge Holders and to look forward supporting Indigenous youth as they grow into strong, valued, and vibrant community members.

Who can apply?

Youth must be between the ages of 16-30, and demonstrate a past experience and/or a strong interest in Indigenous health and wellness. They must have a close working and/or mentored relationship with the Elder and/or Traditional Knowledge Holder they plan to attend with. Knowledge and experience in community-based projects and experience working with Indigenous communities or organizations in health and wellness will be considered an asset.

Knowledge and experience working with Indigenous communities or organizations in areas of health and wellness will be considered an asset. **Elder-Youth pairs are to submit one application.**

When and where is the Dialogue?

The Dialogue will be held on Algonquin Territory in Ottawa, likely from March 12 to 15, 2017. We ask that applicants anticipate that travel will be booked such that they are in attendance for the entirety of the event.

What is the cost?

Travel, accommodation, and meal expenses for Elder-Youth pairs will be paid for by IAPH. If and additional caregiver is required to accompany the Elder, please contact Joanne Nelson or Taylor Fleming (emails below).

Application deadline

The application will be due January 13, 2017. All applications should be submitted to both Taylor Fleming (taylor_fleming@sfu.ca) and Joanne Nelson (joanne_nelson@sfu.ca). Applicants will be notified of the decision by January 27, 2017.

How do I apply?

Elder-Youth pairs should send one 1-2 page letter of interest representing them both, which describes the following:

- First Nations, Inuit, or Métis community of the Elder and Youth
- Priorities/concerns related to Indigenous health and wellness of applicants' community
- Interest and experience in Indigenous health and wellness
- Relationship between Youth and Elder or Knowledge Holder
- What you hope to learn at the Dialogue
- How you will share your learnings with your community

If an interpreter is needed for either the Youth or Elder to participate meaningfully in the event, please be sure to include a note in your application and indicate the language of preference as well.