

# ONTARIO REGION UPDATE



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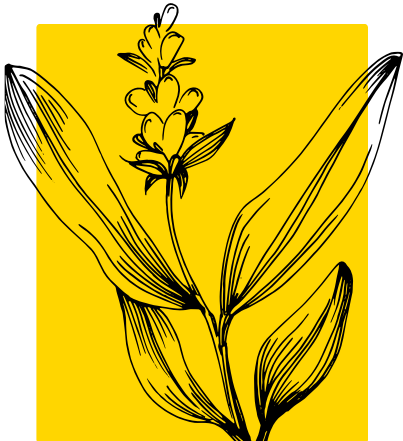
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*For newsletter questions or to request a French copy, please email / Pour questions concernant la newsletter ou pour demander une copie en français, s'il vous plaît envoyez un e-mail :*  
[ontario-communications@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:ontario-communications@sac-isc.gc.ca)



## Staying Alert: Blastomycosis

Blastomycosis is still a relatively rare illness, but for those who do get sick, it can cause severe health outcomes and even death. Early diagnosis and prompt treatment can prevent a severe infection or death.

As it gets colder, please continue to keep an eye out for [blastomycosis symptoms](#), especially if you live, travel, work, or visit areas the fungus is found. More information and resources about blastomycosis can be found in the [June 2025 newsletter](#) (page 2).

[Blastomycosis](#) can be diagnosed at any time of the year. It can take up to three months or more for symptoms to develop after being exposed to the blastomycosis-causing fungus. People who were exposed in the spring and summer months may not show symptoms until late in the fall.



## Help is Here Whenever You Need It

Support is available 24/7 for all First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. Please find a list of mental health helplines below that are able to provide culturally relevant support. To find more services and resources, [visit the national Indigenous mental health page](#).



Hope for Wellness Helpline

Phone: 1-855-242-3310

Online chat: [www.hopeforwellness.ca](http://www.hopeforwellness.ca)

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Support Line

Phone: 1-844-413-6649

Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line

Phone: 1-866-925-4419

Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Services

Phone: 9-8-8 (call or text)



## Survivor-led Committee

Heritage Canada and the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation are accepting for applications to join a Survivor-led committee called the Indian Residential Schools National Monument Steering Committee.

Residential School Survivors and intergenerational Survivors who identify as First Nations, Inuit, or Métis are encouraged to apply and help lead the next phase of work on the national monument. This will include the design selection process, development of educational and outreach materials, and future on-site programming.

**The deadline to apply is September 9, 2025 at 9:00pm** (Eastern Time). Interested individuals can email [Appel81-Call81@pch.gc.ca](mailto:Appel81-Call81@pch.gc.ca) to receive an application package. Please visit [www.canada.ca/residential-school-survivors](http://www.canada.ca/residential-school-survivors) for more information on applying.



## Modern Treaty and Self-Government

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada is accepting funding proposals that support modern treaties and self-government. Funding will go to proposals which:

- Advance implementation of modern treaties and self-government arrangements.
- Promote public awareness, understanding, and build capacity among Indigenous partners.
- Encourage collaboration and co-development of policy between Indigenous governments and the federal government.

**The deadline to apply is October 1, 2025 at 9:00pm** (Eastern Time). To receive the necessary application forms, interested individuals can email [TMAGPartenariatsMobilisation-MTSGPartnershipsEngagement@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca](mailto:TMAGPartenariatsMobilisation-MTSGPartnershipsEngagement@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca).

Write “Expression of Interest: CIRNAC 2025-2026 Call for Proposals” in the e-mail subject line.

Priority is given to [Indigenous and Indigenous-led applicants](#). For more information about how to apply, please visit the [Modern treaty and self-government policy and awareness funding page](#).

## Climate Change and Health

The [Climate Change and Health Adaption Program](#) (CCHAP) is accepting funding proposals to support projects that focus on the health impacts of climate change on First Nations and Inuit communities. There are two funding streams split by geographic region, South and North.

**The deadline to apply for [CCHAP South](#) is September 12, 2025 at 9:59pm** (Eastern Time). Please e-mail [cchap-pccas@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:cchap-pccas@sac-isc.gc.ca) to request a copy of the application guide and proposal template.

There is no deadline to apply to [CCHAP North](#), which has an ongoing intake process. Please visit the [CCHAP website](#) to learn more about both funding streams.



## Accessibility Volunteers

The [Enabling Accessibility Fund](#) (EAF) is looking for youth volunteers (15 to 30 years of age) to become Youth Accessibility Leaders. Volunteers for the EAF – Youth Innovation Component will promote the program and encourage organizations to apply for its funding. Through this process, youth volunteer their time to build a more accessible Canada.

**The deadline to apply is October 6, 2025 at 3:00pm** (Eastern Time). Applicants will be required to collaborate with eligible organizations; this includes Indigenous organizations and municipalities.

Employment and Social Development Canada is hosting a virtual information session on September 24, 2025 for interested individuals. For more information about the information session and the application process, please visit the [EAF website](#).



## Water Leadership Nominees for 2025

This year, eight individuals from Ontario were nominated for the 2025 National First Nations Water Leadership Award. Each person was chosen because they show an outstanding commitment to clean, safe water for First Nations communities.



The nominees have acted in a wide range of community leadership roles, including water operators, knowledge-sharers, historians, protectors, organizers, advocates, and more. All have dedicated their work to improving water conditions in Ontario, for both their generation and the ones to come. A huge congratulations to:

- Adrian Perreault, Garden River First Nation
- Allan Dupuis, Chapleau Cree First Nation
- Chad McRae, Chippewas of Rama First Nation
- Dr. Sue Chiblow, Garden River First Nation
- Hunter Edison, Niisaachewan Anishinaabe Nation
- Judy DaSilva, Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishinabek First Nation
- Sheldon Miles, Mattagami First Nation
- Vernon Simon Kent, Wabaseemoong Independent Nations

The nomination period is now closed for 2025. The team and individual award recipients will be announced later this fall. The National First Nations Water Leadership Award began in 2018 and annually invites nominations of deserving individuals and teams. Information about the nominees and recipients will be posted on the [national award website](#) when available.





## Fall Events 2025

A snapshot of events in Ontario and the surrounding regions that may be of interest this fall and early winter.

### Assembly of First Nations

[Annual General Assembly](#) ° Winnipeg, MB ° September 3 - 5, 2025

### OFNEDA

[First Nations Economic Advancement Conference](#) ° Thunder Bay, ON °  
September 15 - 18, 2025

### Chiefs of Ontario

[Child Welfare Data Symposium](#) ° Virtual ° September 25, 2025

### Bimose Tribal Council

[Education Conference](#) ° Winnipeg, MB ° October 1 - 2, 2025

### NOFNEC Committee

[Northern Ontario First Nations Environment Conference](#) ° Kenora, ON °  
October 8 - 9, 2025

### Chiefs of Ontario

[Fall Chiefs Assembly](#) ° Toronto, ON ° November 18 - 20, 2025

### Community-Based Research Center

[Two-Spirit Symposium](#) ° Montreal, QC ° November 18 - 19, 2025

### Indspire

[National Gathering for Indigenous Education](#) ° Winnipeg, MB °  
November 19 - 21, 2025

### ISC and SFNS

[Ontario Joint Gathering](#) ° Toronto, ON ° November 25 - 26, 2025

### NAFC

[Urban Indigenous Summit](#) ° Ottawa, ON ° December 9 - 11, 2025