

Gathering Wisdom for a Shared Journey XIII
Vancouver Convention Centre, 1055 Canada Place, Vancouver, BC
June 4 - 6, 2025

CALLING FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR THE 2025 YOUTH LEADERS PROGRAM
The FNHC is now accepting applications from First Nations youth; representatives aged 19 to 30 years to participate in the Youth Leaders Program at Gathering Wisdom for a Shared Journey XIII.

IMPORTANT APPLICATION DEADLINE OF **MARCH 28, 2025**

Please submit your application to Engagement.North@FNHA.ca by **Friday, March 28, 2025**

The First Nations Health Council (FNHC) has raised the importance of having youth participate at the *Gathering Wisdom for a Shared Journey* forum; recognizing that youth participation is vital to the work to further health and wellness for BC First Nations. The Youth Leaders Program hosts 15 aspiring BC First Nations Youth Leaders to attend the Gathering Wisdom XIII forum, learn from the leaders around them, and participate in a provincial-level dialogue on the health and well-being of First Nations youth in BC.

Every 18-months, *Gathering Wisdom for a Shared Journey* manifests the commitments made through the Tripartite BC First Nations Health Plan. These commitments underpin the transformation of health and wellness for BC First Nations. Through engagement and dialogue, significant province-wide decisions are made around roles, responsibilities and mandates within the BC First Nations Health Governance Structure.

The Gathering Wisdom Forum, 2025 will feature discussions on the BC-Specific Approach to Indigenous Health Legislation and the Evolution of the Health Governance Structure. This First Nations Health Council (FNHC) hosted gathering is an opportunity for Chiefs, Leaders and Health Directors to hear updates on engagement, and the roadmap to Gathering Wisdom XIV. There will be opportunities to participate in discussions with the First Nations Health Council (FNHC), First Nations Health Authority (FNHA), the First Nations Health Directors Association (FNHDA) and other health system and government partners.

Who is a Youth Leader?

A Youth Leader is a positive role model in their community. A Youth Leader is ready to represent the views of their peers, and to share their perspectives on health and wellness challenges in their communities. A Youth Leader champions positive change and lives the values of respect, discipline, relationships, culture, excellence and fairness.

What will you do as a Youth Leader?

The selected Youth Leaders will attend and actively participate in the three-day *Gathering Wisdom for a Shared Journey XIII* forum. On the first day Youth Leaders will be introduced to the Gathering Wisdom XIII forum. On the third and final day of the forum, Youth Leaders will be asked to offer closing comments. Throughout the forum, the Youth Leaders will convene as a group to share what they have learned and to prepare their closing comments. This is an opportunity for the Youth Leaders to share their reflections on the forum, their hopes for the future, and their recommendations for further engagement with youth in these discussions.

Why apply?

Youth Leaders selected will receive an all-expense paid trip (including travel, accommodation and meals) to Vancouver for the Gathering Wisdom XIII forum, June 4 – 6, 2025. In addition, the Youth Leaders will receive a health and wellness prize package for their participation in the forum. Most importantly, the Youth Leaders will have the opportunity to connect directly with First Nation leaders from across BC and represent the voices of First Nation youth at the largest Indigenous health and wellness forum in the country.

APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

How to apply?

Please submit your interest via email to Engagement.North@FNHA.ca by **March 28, 2025**. There is not a formal application form, please send an email including the name of your First Nation, and your contact information (phone / email) in an email responding to the following:

Requirements

- Eligible BC First Nations Youth ages 19-30 are eligible to apply.
- Must be either enrolled in high school or have completed Grade 12 or GED.
- Demonstrates volunteer and leadership experience.
- Demonstrates community engagement and involvement.
- Please attach a letter or email from your Chief (or equivalent) or Band Administration or Health Department indicating that your community endorses you to represent your Sub Region and community at the event.
- A letter or email from your Chief (or equivalent) or Band Administration or Health Department indicating that your community's administration will coordinate and pay for all aspects of your travel (e.g., flight, travel to closest airport, hotel etc.) and will provide you with a travel advance as per FNHA expense reimbursement policy. After the event, the community will submit an expense claim to FNHA for reimbursement of your travel costs.
- Availability to travel to Vancouver and attend the 3-day forum (June 4, 5, 6, 2025) daily from 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM.
- Be comfortable with public speaking in front of approximately 700 attendees.
- Experience mentoring youth is an asset.
- Active participation in cultural activities is an asset.

Selection Process

- To be accepted, candidates must show they meet the requirements listed above by submitting an email (with attachments) to Engagement.North@FNHA.ca by **March 28, 2025**.
- One youth from each of the Northern Sub Regions (Northwest, North Central and Northeast) will be selected.
- Complete submissions will be reviewed by Gathering Wisdom XIII event organizers.
- Accepted candidates will be notified no later than **April 11, 2025**.