



ONTARIO FIRST NATIONS  
TECHNICAL SERVICES  
CORPORATION

## **TechNations 2026 Conference & Tradeshow**

*"FIRST NATIONS SOLUTIONS FOR A CHANGING WORLD"*

**August 18 & 19, 2026**

Delta Hotels Sault Ste. Marie Waterfront  
208 St Mary's River Drive  
Sault Ste. Marie,  
P6A 5V4

### **CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

**All sessions are in person**

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The Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation (OFNTSC) is inviting individuals and groups to submit an abstract for consideration at our upcoming *TechNations 2026 Conference & Tradeshow*. The theme this year is *"First Nations Solutions for a Changing World,"* and presentations should relate directly to this subject.

Each year, OFNTSC hosts a provincial technical conference and tradeshow called *TechNations*. The 2026 *TechNations Conference & Tradeshow* will take place in Sault Ste. Marie, ON at the Delta Hotel Sault Ste. Marie Waterfront, on August 18 & 19. This year, we anticipate hosting over 200 First Nations technical professionals from across Ontario. This event will shine a light on and provide innovative solutions for these focus areas:

- Water/Wastewater
- Asset Management
- Housing
- Infrastructure
- Fuel Systems Management
- Fire & Safety
- Environment
- Engineering
- Project Management

Conference delegates will have the opportunity to engage in face-to-face interactions with renowned speakers, cutting-edge companies, and various community leaders. Our goal is to support the advancement of resilient, self-determining Nations, which starts with ensuring they are well-equipped to sustain their communities for future generations.

# Timeline

**January/February 2026** – Open call for abstracts

**February 27, 2026** – Submission deadline

**March 16, 2026** – Acceptance notification

## Presentation types

- **Breakout Session:** Individual or Panel Presentation (suggest 20 minutes for presentation, 10 minutes for questions).
- **Plenary Presentation:** Individual or Panel (suggest 30 minutes plus 15 minutes for questions at the end of the presentation).
- **Experiential Activity:** Lunchtime presentation, creative performance, personal narration; (20 – 30 minutes)

Breakout sessions are intended to be an interactive opportunity to focus on a particular topic related to the conference theme in detail and/or to build skills or resources in relation to the theme.

## Abstract Submission Guidelines:

Max 750 words

The abstract proposal should explain the topic of your presentation and describe why the material, research, practice, or policy is relevant to the conference theme.

For experiential activities, please provide a narrative description, including the type of activity, purpose, and target audience.

All other abstracts should include the following headings:

- Title
- Background
- Rationale
- Design
- Conclusion.

Indicate the preferred *type of presentation*

- Breakout Session presentation
- Panel presentation

Indicate if your **abstract relates to**

1. Water/Wastewater
2. Asset Management

3. Housing
4. Infrastructure
5. Fuel Systems Management
6. Fire & Safety
7. Environment
8. Engineering
9. Project Management

## Indicate the *area of focus*

**Research:** Presentation focuses on innovation and potential new creative solutions to improving First Nations community infrastructure

**Results:** Success stories from First Nations communities to showcase and highlight positive outcomes from completed projects

**Practice:** Presentation focuses on how to implement existing procedures and technology to improve First Nations communities.

**Policy:** Relevant or forthcoming updates to policy that are pertinent for First Nations technical professionals

**Education/Training:** Presentation focuses on building capacity in First Nation communities (ex: training, certification, professional development).

## Presenter information

The following information should be submitted for the presenter(s): First name, last name, highest degree/designation, First Nation community affiliation (if applicable), e-mail address.

If your abstract is accepted, you will be asked to submit a brief biographical statement and headshot for all presenters for the conference book.

## Review process

Abstract proposals will be evaluated by the *TechNations 2026* planning committee. The review will look at the clarity of content, quality, rigor, relationship to the **Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation's** mission and the **TechNations Conference vision and purpose, interest, and usefulness of content** to conference attendees. Priority will be given to abstracts presented by Ontario First Nations communities.

The abstract review committee reserves the right to make the final determination regarding the classification of your presentation in terms of the relevant topic and focus area.

## Evaluation Criteria

Due to limited space and the need for the most relevant and highest quality program, the TechNations Planning Committee has outlined several criteria by which the quality and relevance of abstracts will be judged.

Each abstract will be scored out of a total possible 7 points; each category listed below will be given a score between 0 and 1, and each score added together for the final score. The descriptions below represent a score of 1 (full marks) for that category:

1. **Asset & Strength-Based:** Approach is explicitly focused on building First Nations community strength and sustainability.
2. **Action-Oriented:** Actions are evidence-informed, realistic, practical interventions & focused on First Nations Solutions for a Changing World through the implementation of immediate goals.
3. **Partnerships or Collective Impact:** Presentation is focused on partnerships with various stakeholders, mediators & facilitators of change, or focused on collective impact and the inclusion of First Nations communities.
4. **Innovative:** Innovation and complex systems thinking is evident. Partners encouraged to take initiative, innovate & transform into leaders themselves.
5. **Engaging & Experiential:** Participatory and experiential focus is strong, effective and woven throughout.
6. **Relevance to Conference:** Highly relevant to conference topics, themes & objectives.
7. **Quality:** High quality. Would shine at a national conference.

## Questions

For questions or additional information, please contact Nathan Hill, [nhill@ofntsc.org](mailto:nhill@ofntsc.org).

Please note that the information provided in the abstract submission will be used to describe your presentation in the final program should your abstract be selected. Please ensure your description is accurate, fully proof-read, and all presenters are listed.

## How to Submit your Abstract

Send a direct email to Nathan Hill, [nhill@ofntsc.org](mailto:nhill@ofntsc.org), with your abstract attached in **PDF format**, by **4:00 P.M. EST on Friday, February 27, 2026**.