



**OFIFC**

Ontario Federation of  
Indigenous Friendship Centres

**Urban Programming for Indigenous People –  
Organisational Capacity Evaluation Project**

**Request for Proposals**

**Deadline for submission:  
August 20, 2019**

## **1. Invitation:**

The Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC) is inviting qualified consultants with experience working with urban Indigenous communities and in-depth knowledge of program planning and evaluation to evaluate the impact of Friendship Centres in Ontario receiving core funding for its' operations.

## **2. About the OFIFC:**

Founded in 1971, the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC) works to support, advocate for, and build the capacity of member Friendship Centres across Ontario.

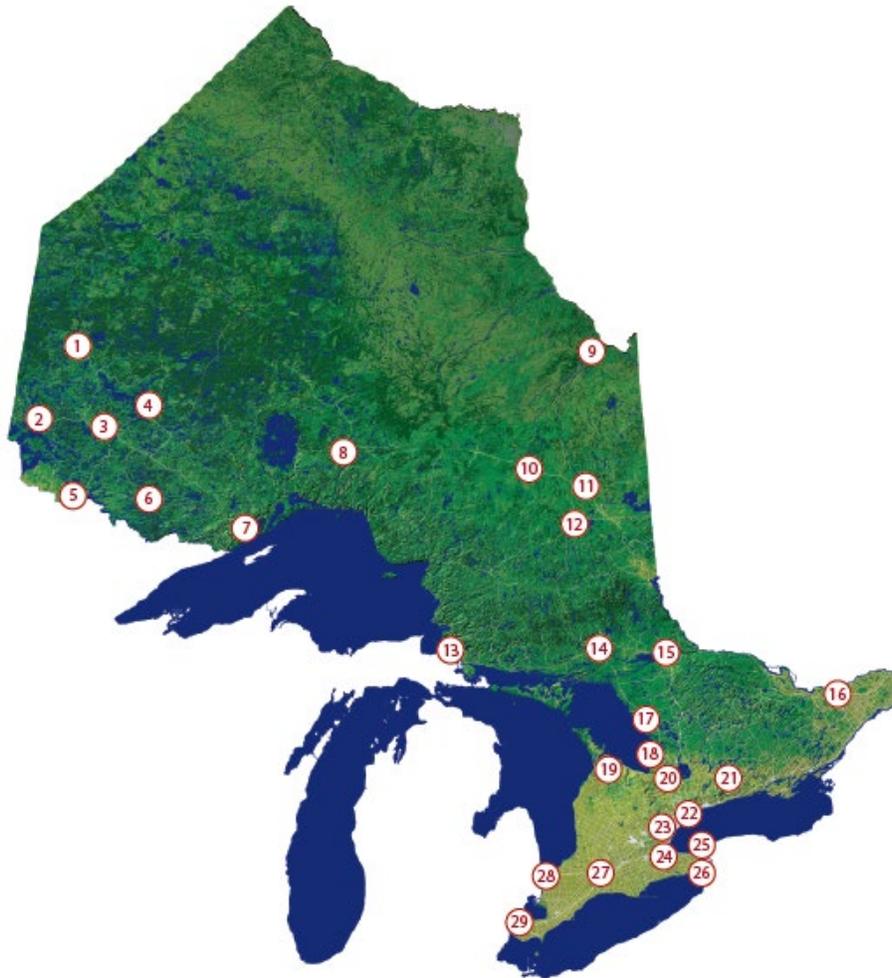
Emerging from a nationwide, grassroots movement dating back to the 1950's, Friendship Centres are community hubs where Indigenous people living in towns, cities, and urban Centres can access culturally-based and culturally-appropriate programs and services every day. Today, Friendship Centres are dynamic hubs of economic and social convergence that create space for Indigenous communities to thrive. Friendship Centres are ideal incubators for young Indigenous people attaining their education and employment goals, they are sites of cultural resurgence for Indigenous families who want to raise their children to be proud of who they are, and they are safe havens for Indigenous community members requiring supports.

In Ontario, more than 84 percent of Indigenous people live in urban communities. The OFIFC is the largest urban Indigenous service network in the province supporting this vibrant, diverse, and quickly-growing population through programs and initiatives that span justice, health, family support, long-term care, healing and wellness, employment and training, education, research, and more.

Friendship Centres receive their mandate from their communities, and they are inclusive of all Indigenous people – First Nation, Status/Non-Status, Métis, Inuit, and those who self-identify as Indigenous.

Learn more about the work the OFIFC does to support Friendship Centres at [www.ofifc.org](http://www.ofifc.org).

## Friendship Centres:



1 Red Lake Indian Friendship Centre 2 Ne-Chee Friendship Centre (Kenora) 3 Dryden Native Friendship Centre 4 Nishnawbe-Gamik Friendship Centre (Sioux Lookout) 5 United Native Friendship Centre (Fort Frances) 6 Atikokan Native Friendship Centre 7 Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre 8 Thunderbird Friendship Centre (Geraldton) 9 Timmins Native Friendship Centre Satellite Office (Moosonee) 10 Kapuskasing Indian Friendship Centre 11 Ininew Friendship Centre (Cochrane) 12 Timmins Native Friendship Centre 13 Indian Friendship Centre (Sault Ste. Marie) 14 N'Swakamok Native Friendship Centre (Sudbury) 15 North Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre 16 Odawa Native Friendship Centre (Ottawa) 17 Parry Sound Friendship Centre 18 Georgian Bay Native Friendship Centre (Midland) 19 M'Wikwedong Native Cultural Resource Centre (Owen Sound) 20 Barrie Native Friendship Centre 21 Nogojiwanong Friendship Centre (Peterborough) 22 Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre 23 Peel Aboriginal Network (Mississauga) 24 Hamilton Regional Indian Centre 25 Niagara Regional Native Centre (Niagara-on-the-Lake) 26 Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre 27 N'Amerind Friendship Centre (London) 28 Sarnia-Lambton Native Friendship Centre 29 Can-Am Indian Friendship Centre of Windsor

### **3. Background:**

Over 85% of Indigenous people in Canada live in urban centres. Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples (UPIP) was created in 2017, based on feedback received during the engagement on the Urban Aboriginal Strategy that took place in 2016. In Ontario, the most recent Statistics Canada indicated that 85% of the Indigenous population lives in urban areas (2016).

In 2014, the federal government announced a realigned Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAS) that replaced the Indigenous Friendship Centre Program (IFCP). This program realignment marked the ending of a permanent program relationship that has existed between the Government of Canada and the Friendship Centre Movement since 1972. When the core funding program was renewed in 2017 under the banner of the Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples (UPIP), there continued to be a lack of recognition of the unique role that Friendship Centres play in Urban Indigenous communities.

UPIP is designed to assist First Nations (status and non-status), Inuit and Métis living in or transitioning to urban centres. Funding is also available for organisations that serve rural and northern areas that act as hubs for those living on reserves or in smaller northern settlements. The organisational capacity (OC) stream offers core funding to Indigenous organisations that deliver programs and services to urban Indigenous people. Core funding covers the day-to-day operating costs of an organisation, like staffing of key positions, utilities, rent, etc.

The Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC) has contract accountability to the Government of Canada for the oversight of Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples (UPIP-OC) investments. OFIFC is responsible for administering the UPIP-OC program stream. Currently, the OFIFC re-applies for UPIP funding every five years and delivers funds annually in UPIP-OC funding to all organisations to serve clients, and to deliver effective culturally appropriate programs and services to urban Indigenous people.

### **4. Project Expectations:**

The project aims to demonstrate the impacts of UPIP-OC investments in selected Friendship Centres in Ontario. The design and implementation of the project must be practical, useful, and relevant to participating Friendship Centres. Participating sites must be engaged in all phases of the process and their voices represented in all aspects of the project. The project activities are to be trauma-informed and aligned with cultural protocols.

#### **4.1. Evaluation Purpose:**

The purpose of the evaluation is to assess the impact of Friendship Centres as it relates to the organisational capacity stream of UPIP. A further goal of this evaluation is to clarify the positionality of Friendship Centres in contemporary urban Indigenous

organisational networks. The findings of this project will be used to inform decision-making related to currently available core funding for Friendship Centres as well as inform sustainability planning of programs and services. The findings of the project will lead to recommendations on wise practices and will be shared with Friendship Centres, the federal government and other stakeholders.

## **5. Scope of Work:**

The successful consultant will work in close collaboration with assigned OFIFC staff to implement an impact evaluation plan, including defining the evaluation questions, identifying the indicators and data sources, finalising data collection methods and timelines, and reporting.

The successful consultant will engage in one-to-one interviews, talking circles, and/or focus group discussions with key stakeholders such as Friendship Centre staff, Friendship Centres' community members, Board of Directors, and OFIFC staff to understand their needs and the impacts of Friendship Centres in each selected site. OFIFC staff will generate a list of participants including best day/time that they can be reached.

The successful consultant will conduct an environmental scan to develop community profiles for selected sites throughout Ontario. This will support with the identification of potential gaps and opportunities for Indigenous social programming in urban areas. Providing an overview of needs specific to each community will ensure that the OFIFC continues to be responsive to Friendship Centres priorities.

The successful consultant will conduct a social return on investment (SROI) analysis to measure the extra financial value of the impact of selected Friendship Centres as it relates to resources invested through UPIP-OC. Measuring the social value that Friendship Centres contribute to in each participating community will further support the participating Friendship Centres impact assessment.

## **6. Deliverables:**

- Community-relevant evaluation design;
- Analysis of OFIFC documents;
- Environmental Scan, community profiles;
- Data analysis, including SROI;
- Preliminary findings report;
- Final Report; and,
- Training and Information Workshop to OFIFC staff on SROI.

Other supplementary products may be created based on data collected and evaluation findings.

## **7. Timelines:**

The project is anticipated to begin September 15, 2019 and end December 15, 2019.

## **8. Consultant Roles and Relationship with OFIFC staff:**

The successful consultant will report directly to the Program Director, who has the direct management responsibility for this project. Staff at the OFIFC will provide support and guidance to the consultant for the duration of the project. The consultant will meet with the Program Director and assigned OFIFC staff on predetermined dates and as required to provide updates on the project's progress.

## **9. Consultant Qualifications and Considerations:**

- Indigenous senior staff lead(s);
- Knowledge of the Friendship Centre Movement in Ontario;
- In depth knowledge of program planning and design (preferably in urban Indigenous contexts);
- In-depth knowledge of evaluation and performance measurement (preferable in Indigenous contexts);
- In depth knowledge of community development;
- Demonstrated experience in applying quantitative and qualitative evaluation methods;
- Ability to work collaboratively with OFIFC staff; and,
- Ability to manage project to meet deadlines while delivering high-quality deliverables.

## **10. Proposal Requirements:**

- Executive Summary;
- The project, scope, approach and methodology;
- Work plan with timelines;
- Detailed and itemised pricing;
- Declaration of experience and qualifications (attach a separate CV if needed);
- Disclosure of any possible conflict of interest; and,
- References.

The proposal must be submitted as a stand-alone document by the deadline specified below. Supporting documents such as Curriculum Vitae and reference letters must be attached as appendices.

The OFIFC Proposal Review Committee will determine eligibility of each applicants. The adjudication and selection process are the sole responsibility of the OFIFC and its determined decision-making body. Applicants will be notified of the decision regarding their application and next steps by the Proposal Review Committee.

## **11. Budget:**

The total amount allocated for three months is **\$50,000**. Please note that travel expenses will be reimbursed separately, as negotiated once the evaluation plan is finalised.

The OFIFC has prioritised the timeline for this project, therefore, alternative budgets can be considered.

## **12. Application Deadline:**

Please submit one (1) electronic copy of your complete proposal (including scheduling, hours needed, and project budget) before 5 pm on August 20, 2019 to:  
Sean Longboat, Program Director [slongboat@ofifc.org](mailto:slongboat@ofifc.org).

## **13. Questions/Inquiries**

Any questions about this RFP can be directed to Yara Janes, OFIFC Evaluation Coordinator by phone: 416-956-7575 or 1-800-772-9291 or by email at [yjanes@ofifc.org](mailto:yjanes@ofifc.org).