



Gathering Wisdom for a Shared Journey XII
Vancouver Convention Centre, 1055 Canada Place, Vancouver, BC
February 28th - March 2nd, 2023

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE 2023 YOUTH LEADERS PROGRAM

The FNHC is now accepting applications for First Nations youth. We are looking for 15 representatives, ages 18 to 30 years to participate in the Youth Leaders Program at Gathering Wisdom for a Shared Journey XII

The FNHC has raised the importance to have youth participation at the Gathering Wisdom for a Shared Journey forum, as it is vitally important to the work we have in front of us. The Youth Leaders Program is an opportunity for 15 aspiring BC First Nations youth to attend the Gathering Wisdom XII forum, learn from the leaders around them, and take part in a provincial level dialogue on the health and wellbeing of First Nations youth in BC.

Every 18-months, 'Gathering Wisdom for a Shared Journey' events manifest 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 a process of engagement and dialogue, significant, province-wide decisions are made around roles, responsibilities and mandates within the BC First Nations Health Governance Structure.

At Gathering Wisdom XII in 2023, the First Nations Health Council will ask Chiefs and Leaders to endorse the resolution for a 10-Year Strategy. Our delegates' input, wisdom and guidance are the basis of this new Strategy to move us closer to our vision of health system transformation and healthy, self-determining, vibrant BC First Nations children, families and communities.

The Ten-Year Strategy on the Social Determinants of Health, as well as Consensus Paper 2022, are being put forward for the review of Chiefs during the upcoming gathering. This Strategy summarizes years of engagement and is divided into four short-term and long-term priority areas:

1. Healing approaches
2. Cultural infrastructure
3. Financial sustainability
4. Nation-based governance

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 own perspectives on health and wellness challenges in their communities. A youth leader is a champion for positive change and lives the values of respect, discipline, relationships, culture, excellence and fairness.

What will you do as a Youth Leader?

The selected 15 Youth Leader will be asked to attend and actively participate in the 3-day Gathering Wisdom for a Shared Journey XII forum. On the first day of the forum, the 15 Youth Leaders will be introduced to the GWXII forum. On the third and final day of the forum, the 15 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 15 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?

The 15 Youth Leaders selected will receive an all-expense paid trip to Vancouver for the Gathering Wisdom XII forum on February 28th - March 2nd, 2023, including travel, accommodation and meals. In addition, the 15 Youth Leaders will receive a health and wellness prize package for their participation in the forum. Most importantly, the 15 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 application to the Eunice Joe, Director Regional Engagement – Vancouver Island via email vi.engage@fnha.ca by Thursday, February 9th, 2023.

Requirements

- Eligible BC First Nations Youth ages 18-30 are eligible to apply. *Any successful applicant 18 years of age must be accompanied by one guardian.*
- Must be either enrolled in high school or have completed Grade 12
- Must have volunteer and leadership experience
- Must demonstrate community engagement and involvement
- One reference from a non-family member (brief statement in MS Word or PDF including contact information)
- Availability to attend the 3-day forum daily from 8:30 am – 4:30 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
- Three youths from each of the [five BC regions](#) (one from each sub-region)
- Candidates will be accepted based on their submitted applications and relevant experience, ensuring fair representation from across the province
- Candidates with completed applications will be reviewed by Gathering Wisdom XII event organizers as they are received, up to **Thursday, February 9th, 2023**
- Accepted candidates will be notified no later than **Friday, February 10th, 2023**