



Nishnawbe Aski Nation

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Thunder Bay, ON P7J 1L2



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Development of a Pilot Project for Diabetes Care

Nishnawbe Aski Nation ("NAN") represents 49 First Nations across Northern Ontario encompassing the James Bay Treaty No. 9 and the Ontario portion of Treaty No. 5. Diabetes rates in NAN communities have historically placed among the highest provincially and nationally. Due to colonial impacts, NAN community members have had a drastic impact on their lifestyles over the past 60 years, causing more chronic illnesses like diabetes to develop.

Through this Request for Proposal ("RFP"), NAN is seeking one NAN Tribal Council to provide support for the following work:

1. To address the very serious impact of diabetes in NAN First Nations communities and decrease the incidence of diabetes and its related complications.
2. To pilot innovative diabetes programs to support a transformed health system for the NAN territory.
3. To align the proposed programs to at least one of the categories outlined in the Ontario Aboriginal Diabetes Strategy.

This project will support NAN's delivery of the Ontario Aboriginal Diabetes Strategy, which is a program funded by the Ministry of Health in the Government of Ontario to develop a comprehensive, innovative provincial diabetes strategy for Indigenous communities. The Ontario Aboriginal Diabetes Strategy will support the development of a diabetes strategy for the NAN territory, which aims to set out a long-term approach to diabetes prevention, care and treatment, education, research, and coordination that can be implemented both now and in the future.

The closing date for RFP submissions is October 16, 2026, at 12:00PM EST.

Thank you,

RFP submissions or questions shall be sent by email to:

**Nishnawbe Aski Nation
c/o Health Policy and Advocacy
Email: rfphealth@nan.ca**



Nishnawbe Aski Nation
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BACKGROUND

The Ontario Aboriginal Diabetes Strategy focuses on five inter-related categories: Prevention, Care and Treatment, Education, Research, and Coordination.

Prevention

The goal is to decrease cross-generational incidence of type 2 diabetes by addressing the unique needs of NAN community members and the diverse circumstances of NAN's communities.

The Prevention objectives include:

- Change risk factors and health behaviours by promoting healthy lifestyles
- Achieve community support for diabetes prevention initiatives
- Ensure that diabetes prevention initiatives reach all groups in NAN communities
- Help health promotion and disease prevention services providers to share information on Indigenous diabetes prevention

Care and Treatment

The goal is to establish holistic, community-based, Indigenous-specific diabetes programs and services that will help Indigenous people to manage their diabetes, prevent complications, and promote good health and well-being.

The Care and Treatment objectives include:

- Increase access to Indigenous-specific diabetes care and treatment programs
- Improve access to community health workers and health care providers who provide screening, education, and other diabetes care and treatment
- Develop a standard approach to care and treatment for diabetes, including screening, based on Diabetes Canada's Clinical Practice Guidelines¹ and adapted for use in NAN communities²
- Establish effective community-based approaches to prevent and manage complications

Education

The goal is to establish holistic, community-based Indigenous diabetes education models that reflect Indigenous culture, are designed for NAN community members to meet their communities' needs.

The Education objectives include:

- Establish, coordinate and enhance Indigenous diabetes education programs across the life cycle
- Improve access to diabetes education programs

¹ <https://guidelines.diabetes.ca/cpg>

² <http://guidelines.diabetes.ca/cpg/chapter38>



- Build relationships with diabetes educator programs, and develop new Indigenous diabetes educator initiatives
- Increase health care providers' awareness of the impact of diabetes in NAN communities and their understanding of Indigenous cultures, values and traditions
- Use monitoring and evaluations, professional and program development, and collaboration to improve the quality of education programs

Research

The goal is to support and promote research that increases NAN community members' knowledge of diabetes as well as the impact of diabetes prevention, care and treatment on health outcomes.

The Research objectives include:

- Promote community-based participatory research initiatives that involve NAN community members in designing, implementing, analyzing and disseminating research results

Coordination

The goal is to improve the integration, collaboration and partnerships in Indigenous diabetes policy, programs, and services, and enhance Ontario's capacity to deliver comprehensive, quality programs and services for Indigenous people and communities.

The Coordination objectives include:

- Ensure consistent messages on all aspects of diabetes prevention, care and treatment
- Collaborate with other Indigenous health and social programs, as well as mainstream chronic disease prevention and health promotion initiatives
- Build effective partnerships and network among community health organizations, hospitals and other providers of diabetes care and treatment in NAN communities

At this time, NAN is seeking a tribal council to implement a new diabetes project and support the development of a diabetes strategy for the NAN territory. The project is funded by the Ontario Aboriginal Diabetes Strategy, a program under the Ministry of Health in the Government of Ontario.

Please note that Nishnawbe Aski Nation is not a service provider.

To learn about the Ontario Aboriginal Diabetes Strategy, please visit the following address from the library catalogue of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to your web browser: <https://collections.ola.org/mon/14000/251251.pdf>



SERVICES REQUIRED

The selected Tribal Council will be responsible for developing and implementing a pilot project in diabetes care that responds to the needs and priorities of its affiliated NAN First Nations.

1. Develop and implement a diabetes pilot project that responds to the needs of one or more of its affiliated NAN First Nations.
2. Align the project with at least one of the five categories of the Ontario Aboriginal Diabetes Strategy: Prevention, Care and Treatment, Education, Research, or Coordination.
3. Work with participating communities and NAN Health Policy and Advocacy staff to finalize the project activities, timelines, intended outcomes, and budget following the award.
4. Deliver culturally relevant and community-informed diabetes programming or activities within the approved project period.
5. Track project activities, participation, information gathered, expenditures, outcomes, challenges, and lessons learned.
6. Submit the required progress updates with a final narrative and expenditure report to NAN.
7. Provide recommendations that may help inform future diabetes programming and the development of a diabetes strategy for the NAN territory.

DELIVERABLES AND TIMELINES

Deliverable	Description	Timeline
Final Project Workplan and Budget	A finalized workplan confirming the project activities, timelines, responsibilities, intended outcomes, and budget.	Within 15 business days of signing the agreement
Project Implementation	Delivery of the approved diabetes pilot project.	From the agreement start date to March 31, 2027
Project Progress Update	A brief update on activities completed, information gathered, spending to date, challenges, and upcoming work.	December 11, 2026
Final Narrative and Expenditure Report	A final summary of activities, participation, information gathered, outcomes, lessons learned, recommendations, and project expenditures.	April 30, 2027

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Requirements include:

- The applicant must be a Tribal Council registered with Nishnawbe Aski Nation.
- The applicant must demonstrate the capacity to implement the proposed pilot project within one or more of its affiliated NAN First Nations.
- The applicant must work collaboratively with NAN Health Policy and Advocacy staff throughout the project.

The selected tribal council will work directly with NAN Health staff, community leaders, and community members to support the new diabetes project and the development of a diabetes strategy in the territory.

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Submissions must include:

- Cover Letter demonstrating interest and need for the funding;
- Project overview and proposed methodology;
- Preliminary workplan outlining the proposed activities, participating communities, anticipated outcomes, staffing responsibilities, and timelines;
- Proposed approach to gathering information, project evaluation, and measuring outcomes;
- Description of how the proposed project aligns with at least one of the five categories in the Ontario Aboriginal Diabetes Strategy;
- Project budget; and
- Project timeline.



EVALUATION CRITERIA

Criteria	Weight
Quality of preliminary workplan and methodology • Include information on the number of staff and their role in the Tribal Council	25%
Quality of information gathering and outcome measurement approach • Types of information or data to be collected • Methods for gathering information and community feedback • Approach to tracking project activities and identifying outcomes	25%
Demonstrated understanding of the Ontario Aboriginal Diabetes Strategy • Preliminary workplan activities align with at least two of the five interrelated categories in the Ontario Aboriginal Diabetes Strategy	25%
Proposed budget and timeline • Budget is reasonable and connected to the proposed activities • Funding can only be expended within the 2026-2027 fiscal year, which ends on March 31, 2027	25%

PROJECT PRICING REQUIREMENTS

The total available budget for this project is \$100,000.00 (inclusive of all professional fees, engagement costs, travel, and Harmonized Sales Tax).

The proposed budget must include a detailed breakdown of all project costs, including staffing, community engagement, travel, program delivery, materials, training, evaluation, administration, and other project-related expenses, where applicable.

RIGHTS AND CONDITIONS

1. NAN reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal.
2. NAN is not obligated to award the contract to the lowest bidder.
3. All intellectual property resulting from this project will be owned by Nishnawbe Aski Nation.
4. The successful proponent must comply with all NAN confidentiality and data protection requirements.

