



## 2026 World Indigenous Suicide Prevention Conference and Cultural Exchange in New Zealand

### 2026 Application Form and Checklist

Checklist - please ensure that you include and consider the following in your application submission

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**Fully completed application**

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**Video submissions must be no longer than 10 minutes**

**OR**

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**Essay submissions must be no longer than 2 pages, single spaced, font 12**

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**Reference for application**

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**Copy of official Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe or Canadian Status Card**

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**Submit your application by the deadline by November 6, 2025**



The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe are excited to announce an innovation of a youth leadership group who will travel to Kirikiriroa (Hamilton), New Zealand from **September 14 - 23, 2026** the 2026 World Indigenous Suicide Prevention Conference (WISPC) and Cultural exchange. We are searching for youth who are interested in taking a journey towards health and wellness, as we prepare to travel across the world to embark on a journey of self-discovery and awareness. This beneficial opportunity will be an expense paid trip for successful candidates who are ready to explore through culture, learning and growth. If you are a devoted youth who is seeking new and fulfilling experiences, then this opportunity is for you.

The WISPC is a global event to bring Indigenous Nations together to share cultural-based approaches of addressing suicide in our communities across Turtle Island and sister nations across the world. During this conference, there is a sharing of methodologies, stories, knowledge, and practices across various communities. From this conference, we hope to share the efforts toward suicide prevention in Indigenous communities with our youth to encourage values of leadership for the future generations.

Leading up to this initiative, the youth will participate in building character, leadership skills, and life-skills. They will also gain traditional knowledge by interacting with cultural knowledge holders within the community. Our goal is to build confidence within the youth's self-identity and prepare them to represent Akwesasne in a good way.

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## Our Unified Mission

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***The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, Akwesasne Child and Family Services, and the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Alcoholism/Chemical Dependency Prevention Program share a unified mission: to protect the inherent rights of Akwesasne residents, build a strong, thriving community, and ensure a healthy future for all by caring, trusting, and believing in one another. We strive to provide a safe, welcoming environment where youth and young adults can develop prosocial skills while promoting long-term health, wellness, recovery, and a drug- and alcohol-free lifestyle.***

# Application Information

## Who can apply for this opportunity?

Any Akwesasronon youth who is between the ages 15-24 and is a registered member with the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne or the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe. The applicant must have a valid passport or be willing and able to obtain one. The applicant must be comfortable with the long-distance travel as well as absence from home for a brief period of time. The applicant must be committed and eager to participate in a program that is designed to prepare youth to travel and represent at the 2026 World Indigenous Suicide Prevention Conference and cultural exchange.

## What is the deadline for submitting application?

The deadline to submit your application is **November 6, 2025**. Applications can be accepted through email at [wispc2026@gmail.com](mailto:wispc2026@gmail.com). A Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx), Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) or JPEG (.jpg) format. Include (WISPC Application-Name) in the subject line of your email.

Hard copies can be dropped off at the following locations:

- A/CDP Ronthahiihsthá:ke Clubhouse M-F, 1pm-9pm, Saturday 12pm-8pm
- Akwesasne Child Family Services office M-F 8am-5pm.

*If you have any limitations for submitting your application, please email [wispc2026@gmail.com](mailto:wispc2026@gmail.com) we will find an alternative way to submit application.*

## Application Information Sessions from 5pm-7pm:

- October 20th - Tetewaienen (90 Whoville Road, Tsi Snaihne)
- October 21st - Kanonhkwatsheri:io Atrium (31 Hilltop Drive, Kanata:kon)
- October 22nd -A/CDP Ronthahiihsthá:ke Clubhouse (66 Margaret Terrance Memorial Way, Hogansburg)
- October 23rd - Ska'nikon:ra Building (65 Tewesateni Road, Kawehnoke)

**Successful candidates will be notified via phone and email.**

**Applications with missing information, or late applications will not be considered.**

**Submit your application by email to: [wispc2026@gmail.com](mailto:wispc2026@gmail.com)  
No later than November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

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## Niá:wen for Taking Interest in This Project.

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To start the application process, we are asking for basic personal information and a submission that reflects who you are and your interest in being a part of this opportunity. During this application process, we encourage applicants to use creativity to showcase who they are in a way that best reflects their character, values, motivation, commitment, and leadership.

Our team will thoughtfully review your responses and successful will be contacted for an in-person interview to follow-up on the initial submission. Your responses will help us understand your suitability and motivation for the opportunity you are applying for.

If you have any questions during this process, please contact us via phone or email.

*Email:*

*wispc2026@gmail.com*

*Phone:*

*Akwesasne Child & Family Services 613-575-5020*

*A/CDP Prevention Office: 518-358-2967*

## Tell us about yourself

**Provide the following basic Information:**

Name/Mohawk Name (if applicable):

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Preferred pronouns:

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Age:

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What grade or year of college are you?

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What school do you attend?

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If applicable, what is your area of study?

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Contact Information (Phone # and email):

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## Submission Guidelines

Tell us about yourself by answering 3 questions by method of video OR essay submission.

Submissions must be no longer than 10 minutes OR no longer than 2 pages single spaced, size 12 font

In addition to written or visual/auditory submission, you may submit a portfolio that showcases achievements, skills, artwork, progress, awards, self-reflections, etc. *(Note that the portfolio is optional)*

**Please answer the following 2 MANDATORY questions:**

- What is your knowledge/vision of spiritual, physical, mental, and emotional health for the Akwesasne Community?
- What is your motivation or interest for applying to this global opportunity to attend the World Indigenous Suicide Prevention Conference and Cultural Exchange?

**CHOOSE 1 question to answer for the submission (Check chosen question):**

- ☐ What does being a leader or role model mean to you, and how have you demonstrated this in the community?
- ☐ Do you have an idea or plan on how to build a healthy lifestyle for yourself, family or community?
- ☐ How do you practice and prioritize self care and wellbeing?

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Hard copies can be dropped off at the following locations:

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- Akwesasne Child Family Services office M-F 8am-5pm.

*If you have any limitations for submitting your application, please email wispc2026@gmail.com we will find an alternative way to submit application.*

**Submission deadline will be on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

## Reference Page

**Please provide 2 references.** The first reference will be the primary person to be contacted. The second reference will only be contacted if first reference is unable to be reached. *(Note: A character letter is also an optional addition to your application submission)*

### Reference #1

Name/Mohawk name (if applicable):

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Relationship to you?

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Contact Phone Number:

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### Reference #2

Name/Mohawk name (if applicable):

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Relationship to you?

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Contact Phone Number:

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#### NOTE:

*A reference person is someone who can describe your character, abilities, accomplishments, and motivation as a person. They are also a person who is willing to speak positively to support you when you are trying to showcase who you are as a whole and how you best fit the initiative you are applying to.*

## Confirmation Form

For the individual applying please complete the following sections

- ☐ Status member of Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
- ☐ Status member of Mohawk Council of Akwesasne
- ☐ Attach Copy of one or both ID's

\*\*Please note status of both is not required

Please check all that apply to applicant

- ☐ I have a US Passport valid until 2027
- ☐ I have a Canadian Passport valid until 2027
- ☐ I will need to obtain or renew a US or Canadian passport before travel

If you need assistance in obtaining your updated documents, please inform us immediately and we will assist with purchase.

**I am the person applying for the Ratinenhri:ne's Opportunity and I certify all information provided is correct.**

**Applicants Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_



## Consent Form

I hereby grant permission to The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, Akwesasne Child and Family Services, and the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Alcoholism/Chemical Dependency Prevention Program to contact previous employers, schools, and other organizations indicated on this application and I hereby authorize my former employers, schools and other organizations indicated to provide information concerning employment, education, and/or character.

I hereby release those individuals or organizations from any and all liability and damages for providing such information

I hereby declare that the information contained in this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

☐ I agree to the following:

**Applicants Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Are you 18 years or older?

YES

☐

NO

☐

If you are under the age of 18, please have your parent/guardian draw their signature in the box below:

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nia:wenkowa/ Thank you for your application**

## Reference Check Questions



Please be advised the questions below are going to be asked during the reference calls, detach this page and send to references.

**Question 1:** Could you please highlight any significant achievements you have observed in the applicant that demonstrate their leadership qualities? (Leadership)

**Question #2:** What skills and/or values does the applicant have that you believe set them apart from others? (Values)

**Question #3:** Could you provide an example of a time when the applicant demonstrated strong commitment to completing a project, task, or personal goal?

**Question #4:** Can you provide an example of a setback or challenging situation the applicant encountered, and explain how they addressed it? (Resilience and problem-solving skills)

**Question #5:** Do you have any other comments to add to highlight the applicant?