

February 14, 2018

Dear Members:

The OPSEU Indigenous Circle invites you to submit your application for the 2018 Indigenous Conference! We welcome all members who desire to bear witness to the essential role of culture in the survival and thriving of Indigenous communities.

The Conference theme is “*Cultural Reclamation and Restoration: Weaving Culture Back Into Our Blanket.*” The goal is to inspire and equip OPSEU members to partner and work with Indigenous communities during this time of reconciliation. The Conference is being planned with elders and community members of Wikwemikong Unceded First Nation. Participants will be equipped with the necessary tools and knowledge to effectively network with Indigenous members within and beyond OPSEU on various projects and campaigns. We will be joined by Maya K’iche’ guests who will lead a workshop on reviving cultural midwifing practices in Guatemala.

Event participants will be selected by the Indigenous Circle with assistance from the Equity Unit. The selection process seeks to achieve a diverse group of attendees, representative of Indigenous and other equity groups within our membership. Confirmation will be issued to the selected participants the first week of May. Expenses will be reimbursed as per OPSEU policy.

Do not miss this opportunity to network, learn, share experiences *and* have some fun. Please submit your completed application by e-mail to [indigenousconference@opseu.org](mailto:indigenousconference@opseu.org) or fax to the Equity Unit **no later than 5 pm, April 6, 2018**. Please note that we will be applying the criteria as set out on pages 4 and 5 of this application for selection. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

In solidarity,

OPSEU Indigenous Circle

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***"Cultural Reclamation and Restoration: Weaving Culture Back Into Our Blanket"***

**Tentative Conference Agenda**

**Friday June 22, 2018**

6:00 to 7:00 PM	Registration (dinner on your own)
7:00 to 9:00 PM	Traditional Anishinabek Opening Blanket Exercise – Part I

**Saturday June 23, 2018**

8:00 to 9:00 AM	Breakfast (provided)
9:00 to 10:30 AM	Keynote by Elder Phyllis Williams, followed by Q & A
10:30 to 10:45 AM	Break
10:45 to 12:15 PM	*Workshop I and II
12:15 to 1:30 PM	Lunch (provided)
1:30 to 3:00 PM	*Workshop I and II
3:00 to 3:15 PM	Break
3:15 to 5:15 PM	Sharing Circles with Elders from Wikwemikong
5:15 to 5:30 PM	Break
5:30 to 7:00 PM	Dinner (provided)
7:00 to 7:15 PM	Presentation by Autumn Peltier, young water protector
7:15 to 9:00 pm	Social and Entertainment with local musicians

**Sunday June 24, 2018**

8:00 to 9:00 AM	Breakfast (provided)
9:00 to 11:00 AM	Blanket Exercise – Part II and Closing Ceremony
11:00 to 11:15 AM	Break
11:15 to 12:00 PM	Debriefing/Evaluation (lunch on your own)

## APPLICATION FORM

(Please Print or Type)

**Applicant Number (to be assigned by Equity Unit):** \_\_\_\_\_

<p><b>Personal Information</b></p>	<p><b>Local #:</b> _____ <b>Union #</b> _____</p> <p><b>Name:</b> _____  <span style="margin-left: 100px;">Last</span> <span style="margin-left: 100px;">First</span></p> <p><b>Home Address:</b> _____          _____</p> <p><b>Phone Numbers:</b> _____  <span style="margin-left: 100px;">Home</span> <span style="margin-left: 100px;">Other</span></p> <p><b>Email Address:</b> _____</p>
<p><b>Sector</b></p>	<p>_____ <b>OPS</b> _____ <b>BPS</b> _____ <b>CAAT-A</b> _____ <b>CAAT-S</b></p>
<p><b>Hotel</b></p>	<p><b>A block of rooms at the Manitoulin Hotel and Conference Centre and the Hawberry Motel is reserved. As per policy, members must stay at one of the event hotels.</b></p> <p><b>More information about hotel reservations will be sent to successful applicants upon completion of the selection process.</b></p>

**NOTE:** Information regarding Advance, Time-Off, Human Rights Accommodations, Childcare Requests, Hotel Accommodations, Travel and Carpooling options will be sent to successful participants upon completion of the selection process. **Due to limited hotel space, participants are strongly encouraged to share accommodations so as many as possible can attend the Conference.**

### PROTOCOLS

The elder leading the ceremonies during the Conference will announce any protocols. The OPSEU Indigenous Circle recognizes and respects the incredible diversity that exists among Indigenous communities on Turtle Island.

Please respect traditional medicines and ceremonies by refraining from being under the influence of alcohol or drugs during the Conference.

**APPLICATION FORM – continued**

Applicant Number (to be assigned by the Equity Unit): \_\_\_\_\_

Spaces available for members attending the Conference will be divided among OPSEU's 7 regions. The selection committee will try to ensure that participants represent the diversity of experience in OPSEU, based on the following considerations:

**1. Please indicate which of the following groups you identify with (please select all boxes that apply):**

- A racialized person**
- If racialized, you identify as** \_\_\_\_\_
- Francophone**
- A person of Indigenous ancestry** (Métis, Inuit and First Nations)
- If Indigenous, you identify as** \_\_\_\_\_ First Nations \_\_\_\_\_ Métis \_\_\_\_\_ Inuit
- If Indigenous, give details (FN community, clan, etc.)**  
\_\_\_\_\_
- A person with a disability**
- LGBTIAQQ2S**
- Female**

**2. What is your age group?**

- 18-25    26-35    36-45    46-55    56-65    Over 65

**3. Are you active in OPSEU (e.g. elected to union position)?**

- No    Yes   What region are you from? \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Are you active in the community (e.g. Volunteer at a community agency or religious organization?)**

- No    Yes

**5. What is your occupation?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**6. If you are active in the Indigenous community, please tell us what you do.**

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**7. What has OPSEU done to promote Truth and Reconciliation? What more can be done?**

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**8. What is the role of culture in the resistance, survival and vitality of Indigenous communities?**

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**9. How does this knowledge impact your interactions with Indigenous peoples at work or in your personal life?**

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**10. In a few words, please tell us why you would like to attend this event.**

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