

2026



OACP

Award of Excellence in Indigenous Community Collaboration

Sponsored By



Award of Excellence in Indigenous Community Collaboration

This award recognizes individuals, teams, or organizations that have demonstrated a meaningful and sustained commitment to collaboration with Indigenous peoples and advanced reconciliation through leadership, action, and accountability. Modeled after the OACP Traffic Safety Excellence Award, this honour celebrates initiatives that go beyond one-time engagement and reflect long-term relationship-building grounded in respect, trust, and shared purpose.

The award highlights exemplary leadership that meaningfully integrates Indigenous knowledge, culture, and perspectives into organizational practices, policies, and programs. Nominees exemplify courageous leadership, mentorship, and knowledge sharing, resulting in measurable, lasting impacts that strengthen relationships and contribute to systemic change. In this context, “Indigenous” refers collectively to the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples of Canada.

The award will be presented at the OACP 2026 Annual Conference on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, at the Sheraton Fallsview Hotel in Niagara Falls, Ontario. The recipient will be invited to attend the Awards and Life Members Luncheon, during which the award will be formally conferred. The recipient will also receive an engraved plaque in recognition of this achievement.

- Note: Award information is also posted on the [OACP website](#).

How to Submit a Nomination

All nominations for the “*Award of Excellence in Indigenous Community Collaboration*” must be submitted electronically in a format suitable for email distribution to Sharon Seepersad at sharons@oacp.ca. Hard-copy submissions will not be accepted.

Submissions must be received no later than **Thursday, March 26th, 2026**.

All nominations for the “*Award of Excellence in Indigenous Community Collaboration*” must include the following:

- Nominator/nominee information (full name, rank/title, police organization, phone number, and email address).
- Must be endorsed or supported by the Chief of Police, Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, or Designate.
- 500-word narrative describing why the nominated individual/organization should be considered for this award.

Optional Video

If deemed necessary, a 60-second or shorter video can be submitted to support the nomination.

Judging and Selection Criteria

The following criteria will be used to judge the nominations. Please note that “Indigenous” refers collectively to the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples of Canada.

Defined Period of Commitment to Indigenous Collaboration

The nominee has clearly demonstrated a dedicated and sustained commitment to collaboration with Indigenous communities. The initiative or effort must extend beyond a single event or project and demonstrate ongoing engagement, relationship-building, and follow-through. Recognition of the nominee’s long-term efforts and outcomes should be detailed in the nomination submission.

Leadership, Mentorship, and Knowledge Sharing

The nominee has demonstrated courageous and visionary leadership in advancing reconciliation and the inclusion of Indigenous perspectives. They have actively influenced or mandated changes that result in meaningful organizational transformation. Through their leadership, they have inspired others, challenged existing practices, and embedded Indigenous culture, history, and knowledge into the organization’s policies, programs, and daily operations. Their actions reflect a commitment to fostering a culture of respect, learning, and accountability.

Integration of Indigenous Knowledge and Culture

The nominee has demonstrated authentic integration of Indigenous knowledge, culture, and perspectives into programs, policies, or organizational practices. This may include the incorporation of Indigenous ceremonies, traditional teachings, or community-based approaches that promote inclusion and respect for Indigenous ways of knowing. The nominee’s work was shaped by meaningful engagement, shared decision-making, and mutual respect.

Impact and Contribution to Reconciliation

The nomination submission should clearly demonstrate the extent of the nominee’s impact in advancing reconciliation and creating systemic, lasting change. Evidence of improved relationships, policy influence, cultural inclusion, or other measurable outcomes should be included.

Rules

- All nominations must be endorsed by the submitting organization's Chief of Police, Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, or Designate.
- Only one nomination per organization will be accepted.
- All nominations must be received on or before **Thursday, March 26th, 2026**.
- Nominations must be submitted electronically in a format suitable for transmission via email. It is optional, but you can provide a 60-second or less video that supports the nomination.
- Nominations must not exceed 500 words.
- All materials and information submitted as part of the nomination become the property of the OACP and will not be returned.
- Only one (1) organization will receive this award annually.
- OACP reserves the right to utilize any portion of any award submission for publication purposes.
- The winner may be required to provide additional information, such as photos, for the OACP Award Videos.