

Request for Proposals: AI Resources for Indigenous Communities

December 2025

Introduction

The First Nations Technology Council is seeking proposals from qualified consultants to develop resources that support the safe and ethical adoption of AI by Indigenous People. This is part of our ongoing work to enable Indigenous-led decision-making in AI adoption and to support Indigenous People in using AI safely and in ways that meet their needs.

About the First Nations Technology Council

The First Nations Technology Council is an Indigenous-led, innovative non-profit mandated by First Nations leadership in British Columbia to advance digital literacy, improve internet connectivity, and guide data and digital technology for all 204 First Nations across the province.

We are expanding our efforts to advance Indigenous-led decision-making in the era of artificial intelligence by supporting Nations in defining their own approaches to AI adoption and helping Indigenous professionals explore culturally and ethically grounded uses of AI tools.

To achieve this goal, we will be offering free, accessible digital resources and learning opportunities that enable AI use aligned with Indigenous values, protocols, and priorities. We will do this through an online platform that will include the resources outlined in the RFP alongside a course providing an introduction to AI. We see these resources and the course as a first version of the platform that will be updated regularly.

Opportunities and barriers for AI adoption

Recent research conducted by the Technology Council indicates that the use of AI across Indigenous communities in BC is emerging but uneven. Among those working in band councils and economic development corporations, adoption remains in its early stages. It's typically limited to individuals experimenting with AI for writing, analyzing data, or administrative support rather than organization-wide implementation. These users see AI's potential to improve efficiency, streamline reporting, and strengthen governance and time for relational work. Indigenous youth demonstrated strong curiosity and enthusiasm about AI, with a focus on how it

could be used for creative and community-centred purposes such as digital storytelling, content creation, and language revitalization.

The Technology Council's research also identified common barriers that limit meaningful AI engagement. Staff in Nation governments and economic development organizations cited a lack of training and deep concerns around data sovereignty, privacy, and reliance on corporate AI systems that store Indigenous data outside community control. They emphasized the importance of Indigenous-governed, community-specific approaches that align with OCAP® principles. Indigenous youth similarly pointed to ethical concerns about job loss, data misuse, and cultural misrepresentation.

The resources will be freely available on our website to reach:

- Indigenous professionals and entrepreneurs: Indigenous people in roles where Gen-AI can enhance their work and who are interested in learning how to integrate AI responsibly and effectively.
- Leaders and staff within First Nations governments and organizations: Individuals working for First Nations governments and economic development corporations who are advancing Nation-building, service delivery, and governance through digital innovation.

Learning objectives

Building on the Technology Council's research and the needs expressed by Indigenous professionals, youth, and Nation staff, these resources will introduce foundational AI knowledge while centring Indigenous values, protocols, and data sovereignty. Content should assume no prior experience with AI, while supporting participants in making informed decisions about if, when, and how AI tools may support their work.

They will support learners in determining whether AI is the right tool for the task at hand by helping them clarify their goals, understand the roles AI can play, and consider their audience and intended outcomes. Learners will develop practical skills, such as generating and editing content, summarizing documents, and analyzing data, while remaining attentive to accuracy, cultural integrity, and the limitations of AI systems, including bias and misrepresentation. Throughout, the resources will emphasize that AI should enhance, not replace, human expertise, cultural knowledge, and Nation-led decision-making.

Requirements

The resources should assume no prior knowledge of artificial intelligence, while recognizing that many people will already have a general level of digital literacy. Technical jargon should be avoided unless necessary, and any required terms must be clearly explained in straightforward, approachable language.

The resources should offer opportunities for interactive learning, such as reflection prompts, guiding questions, or simple hands-on activities that support people in applying what they learn using AI tools in safe, culturally grounded ways.

The contractor will be responsible for developing content; design and formatting will be completed separately. The Technology Council will share our tone and style guide with the contractor to ensure that content aligns with our other outputs.

The Technology Council expects to update these materials regularly as the field of AI evolves. The contractor may or may not be involved in future updates depending on budget, expertise, and the nature of new material. The Technology Council will work with the contractor to establish written agreements regarding intellectual property and data sharing, outlining clear terms for use, ownership, and permissions.

Building on existing work and research

This project will build on the Technology Council's existing research, early-stage resource development, and AI training curriculum. As part of this work, the contractor will have access to two draft how-to guides focused on writing and editing text with AI, and on using AI for data analysis. These guides outline which tools are best suited to different tasks, why they matter, the value they offer, and key considerations for safe and effective use. We have also begun a draft *Perceptions of AI* report that draws on external research, as well as a preliminary list of AI tools with use cases and OCAP®-aligned safe practices.

In addition, we have drafted case studies illustrating how AI is being used to support language preservation, land and resource management, and other Indigenous-led digital innovations. The contractor will also receive access to the Technology Council's draft AI training curriculum, which includes foundational concepts and custom-authored, Indigenous-centered content. All draft materials will be made available for review, refinement, and expansion. We welcome the contractor to identify additional examples of Indigenous AI tools, Indigenous-led AI practices, or new topic areas that could strengthen and enrich the final set of resources.

While these drafts provide a useful starting point, they were not produced by AI experts. We will rely on the contractor to ensure that all final resources are accurate, accessible, culturally grounded, and aligned with the learning objectives outlined above. The contractor is not expected to rely on the draft materials, nor are we committed to using them as-is; rather, they will be shared at the start of the contract as optional reference points. We also welcome the contractor to identify additional examples of Indigenous AI tools, Indigenous-led AI practices, or new topic areas that could strengthen and enrich the final set of resources.

Deliverables

To meet the requirements outlined above, we are looking for consultants to produce the following deliverables:

1. Introduction on how to engage with the resources and key considerations
2. At least three use cases and stories highlighting how Indigenous people or Band Council staff are using AI
3. At least three guides for using AI for tasks such as writing emails and reports, analyzing data
4. Data sovereignty/OCAP® guidance when using AI
5. List of external resources for people to learn more

Each deliverable should stand alone while limiting the amount of duplicated content across documents. Deliverables should be written in a way that recognizes users may engage with only a single resource rather than the full suite. Contractors should ensure that timelines and budgets allow for two rounds of comments.

Timeline and budget

The project will commence in January with final deliverables due by the end of April 2026. The total available budget for this project is \$35,000 CAD (inclusive of fees, taxes, and any subcontracting costs).

Commissioning process

Please send a proposal including:

1. Your understanding of what is needed and your experience in undertaking similar work. Please include links to published writing pieces.
2. An overview of how you would approach the work, a timeline indicating when you would plan to deliver different activities, key milestones and deliverables against each of these.

3. A detailed budget specifying daily or hourly rates, the number of days proposed and the cost of particular activities.
4. Details of the project team you propose for this work, including a description of the team's skills. Resumes can be included as an appendix to the proposal and do not count toward the page count.

Submitting a proposal

Please send your proposal as a PDF document to Kai@technologycouncil.ca.

Proposals must be submitted by Friday, 16 January 2026, 12.00 pm (PST).

Assessing your proposal

Contracts will be awarded based on the provider whose offer is assessed to be the most advantageous in terms of cost, approach, understanding of the brief and relevant experience.

Proposals will be assessed using the following criteria:

- Skills and experience to carry out all elements of the work
- Understanding of the audience for outputs and appropriate approach to format, tone, and accessibility
- Overall cost-effectiveness of the proposal