
PROGRAM

2024 First Nations Energy Symposium: The Future of Electricity – Empowering Progress Through Partnerships

November 5 - 6, 2024
Chelsea Hotel, Toronto



Territory Acknowledgement

Toronto has long been a cultural crossroads and homeland of various peoples and nations. The Wendat, Attawandaron, Haudenosaunee, and Anishnabek have lived here at various times. The origin of the name Toronto is attributed to the Kanien'keha/Mohawk word Tkaron:to, which means "tree in the water there," referring to the ancient fishing weirs situated between Lakes Simcoe and Couchiching which is reached by the Carrying-Place trail and Humber River. This river was called by the French the "Rivière Toronto, and the French forts in the area were known as Fort Toronto.

Currently, Indigenous peoples of many First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities make this their home and care for its lands. The Mississaugas of the Credit entered Treaty 13; the Six Nations, allied with the British, settled in the Haldimand Tract on the Grand River; and other First Nations entered the Williams Treaties.

Cover image:

Sturgeon Moon, courtesy of Adrienne Assinewai, owner of RavenStar Studio. All rights reserved.

Artist's statement

Sturgeon Moon carries the themes of guidance, support, and connection. Within this piece we find turtle, eel, salmon, and sturgeon; all key players in a harmonious and balanced Great Lakes ecosystem. Each being holds an important role and embodies partnerships and coexistence with others with the hopes of moving forward together toward a stronger future.



The IESO is committed to incorporating Indigenous perspectives and knowledge into our practices, policies and decision-making processes. The Indigenous Relations Framework represents a critical step in our journey, laying the foundation for why and how we will engage with Indigenous communities across the province in order to create powerful collaborations and meaningful outcomes.

Message from Lesley Gallinger President and CEO, Independent Electricity System Operator



Lesley Gallinger
President and Chief
Executive Officer at
Independent Electricity
System Operator (IESO)

She: kon, Aannin, Boozhoo

Welcome to the IESO's 8th annual First Nations Energy Symposium.

The theme for this year's event is "Empowering Progress Through Partnerships" and during our time together you will hear from Indigenous leaders and professionals from across the sector on the importance of First Nations partnerships as we look to secure our shared energy future.

This Symposium also provides an important opportunity for the IESO to hear your perspectives on what needs to be done to support First Nations leadership in the electricity sector.

The energy transition is underway, and our electricity system needs to grow at an unprecedented rate to meet rapidly increasing demand for electricity. The work ahead will require billions of dollars in investment and years of hard work and collaboration. We will need to build new transmission lines, new sources of generation and invest in new and emerging technologies to ensure the electricity system is prepared to support current and future generations.

None of this work will be possible without First Nations partnerships and leadership. You bring essential knowledge, skills and perspectives that are necessary to inform the sustainable design of energy projects, to protect cultural spaces and to provide economic development opportunities and enduring benefits for current and future generations.

As the system operator and planner, the IESO works closely with generators, transmitters, technology providers, consumers, municipalities and Indigenous communities, as well as many other sector stakeholders.

We are at a pivotal moment in the energy transition where the only way to go far and fast, is by doing it together. As we change and grow as a sector, we look forward to continuing our collaboration and partnerships with First Nations communities to build a reliable, affordable and sustainable energy future for us all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Gallinger".

Lesley Gallinger

Ontario Energy Network Indigenous Energy Scholarship Recipient For 2024

Congratulations to Joseph Weston for receiving the 2024 Ontario Energy Network Indigenous Energy Scholarship.

This scholarship is jointly sponsored by the IESO and OEN to recognize individuals with outstanding achievement in the areas of electrical trade, engineering, IT and business disciplines, who have made positive contributions to their community.

Joseph is a third-year Bachelor of Science in Engineering student at the University of Calgary and a member of the Miawpukek First Nation. Joseph has a passion for zero and low carbon electricity generation and after graduation he hopes to pursue a career in Ontario's nuclear sector.

Day 1 Agenda

8:00 am - 9:15 am	Registration and Breakfast
9:15 am - 10:00 am	Welcome Remarks and Opening Ceremony PRESENTERS Kahnekahnekahtahk Stan Wesley , Master of Ceremonies Elder Gary Sault , Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Welcome Song - All Stars Junior Drum Group Prairie Style Dance Performance
10:05 am - 10:15 am	Welcome Remarks and Introduction of Keynote Speaker PRESENTER Lesley Gallinger , President and CEO, Independent Electricity System Operator
10:15 am - 10:45 am	Keynote Speaker PRESENTER Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige , Anishinabek Nation
11:00 am - 11:20 am	EXHIBITOR HALL Break: Networking
11:25 am - 12:00 pm	Panel Discussion: Increasing Indigenous Participation in Procurement and Supply Chain Opportunities This panel will highlight the importance of Integrating Indigenous businesses and individuals into economic activities. This involves developing supportive policies, fostering partnerships, and ensuring fair access to contracts, ultimately promoting economic growth and diversity. MODERATOR Chuck Farmer , Vice President, Planning, Conservation, Resource Adequacy & Power System Adequacy, Independent Electricity System Operator PRESENTERS Natalie Adam , Director, Supply Chain, Canadian Council for Indigenous Business Alison Fernandes , Senior Manager, Indigenous Programs Procurement & EDI Procurement Supply Chain, Ontario Power Generation Katarine Savic , Director, Advisory Services, Mokwateh
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	EXHIBITOR HALL Lunch (Sponsored by CIBC)
1:05 pm - 1:10 pm	Introduction of Keynote Speaker PRESENTER Carla Y. Nell , Vice President, Corporate Relations, Engagement & Strategy, Independent Electricity System Operator



1:10 pm – 2:00 pm

Keep Moving Forward: How to Overcome Obstacles and Become Unstoppable

Each day, we encounter personal and professional challenges that demand both energy and perseverance. Kendal Netmaker shares Indigenous strategies to help anyone facing challenges in their daily and professional life. Netmaker utilizes the power of storytelling to explore the daily challenges we encounter in both personal and professional spheres. Drawing from his own remarkable journey “from poverty to podium”, as documented in his bestselling book *Driven to Succeed*, Netmaker imparts valuable insights and lessons from his ancestors. This energizing presentation aims to inspire and guide attendees towards a mindset shift, enabling them to refuel, recharge, and reenergize their resilience for ultimate success in all aspects of life.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Kendal Netmaker, Award-Winning Entrepreneur, Author, and Indigenous Speaker

2:05 pm – 2:40 pm

Panel Discussion: Trends in Indigenous Project Financing and the Role of the Financial Sector in Ontario

This panel will highlight some of the financing opportunities that are available to Indigenous proponents.

MODERATOR **Shariq Alvi**, Managing Director, Energy, Infrastructure & Transition Team, Global Investment Banking, CIBC

PRESENTERS

Stephanie Aldersley, Director, Investments – Indigenous Infrastructure, Canada Infrastructure Bank

Penny Favel, Vice President, Indigenous Relations, Hydro One Inc.

Dazaway Landrie-Parker, Director of Strategy and Governance, Mokwateh

2:40 pm – 3:00 pm

EXHIBITOR HALL

Break: Networking

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Panel Discussion: Empowering Community Energy Partnerships – Building Sustainable Futures Together

During this session, attendees will hear from prominent Indigenous and non-Indigenous representatives regarding success stories, challenges and lessons learned from First Nation communities implementing energy projects.

MODERATOR **Beverly Nollert**, Director, Transmission Integration, Independent Electricity System Operator

PRESENTERS

Patrick Boileau, North Vista Advisors

Nishin Meawasige, Project Manager, Waasmooving Energy Inc.

Jason Rasevych, Business Advisor Anishnawbe Business Professional Association

4:00 pm – 4:15 pm

Closing Remarks: Contemporary Dance Performance

PRESENTERS

Denise Jamal, Senior Director, Sector & Community Engagement, Independent Electricity System Operator

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

CHELSEA HOTEL, BB33

Evening Social Event

Featuring David Mowat and The Curbside Shuffle Live Band

Day 2 Agenda

8:00 am - 9:15 am	Registration and Breakfast
9:15 am - 9:30 am	Morning Blessing PRESENTERS Kahnekahnekahtahk Stan Wesley , Master of Ceremonies Elder Gary Sault , Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Welcome Remarks, Introduction of Keynote Speaker PRESENTER Carla Y. Nell , Vice President, Corporate Relations, Engagement & Strategy, Independent Electricity System Operator
9:30 am - 10:00 am	Keynote Speaker Innovative partnerships, and how Indigenous Nations are Building Energy Resiliency and Indigenous-led energy projects. PRESENTER Ontario Regional Chief Abram Benedict
10:05 am - 10:50 am	Panel Discussion: Partnerships and Collaboration Successful partnerships between First Nations, government agencies, industry, and non-profit organizations in advancing clean energy projects. Sharing best practices. MODERATOR Marko Cirovic , Senior Manager, Resource Development and Procurement, Independent Electricity System Operator PRESENTERS James Jenkins , Indigenous Clean Energy Peter Collins , CEO, Chi Mino Ozhitoowin (CMO), Waasigan Transmission Line project Gary F. Kissack , Partner, Fogler, Rubinoff LLP Katarine Savic , Director, Advisory Services, Mokwateh
10:50 am - 11:10 am	EXHIBITOR HALL Break: Networking
11:10 am - 11:55 am	CASE STUDY Empowering Energy Projects: Success Through Indigenous Leadership and Transformational Partnerships This panel will explore the integration of renewable energy systems in the Fort Severn First Nation Community and other remote regions of Ontario. Led by key contributors to the successful solar projects in Fort Severn First Nation, the discussion will highlight the community-driven leadership and resilient project frameworks that have enabled significant progress in renewable energy adoption. PRESENTERS Charles Lewthwaite , Hedgehog Technologies Brian Walmark , Hedgehog Technologies Owen Miles , Community Energy Champion, Fort Severn First Nation

Day 2 Agenda

Scan QR code
to view bios



12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

EXHIBITOR HALL
Lunch (Sponsored by CIBC)

1:35 pm - 2:15 pm

Women in Energy - Leading Beyond the Boardroom

This panel celebrates trailblazing women who are shaping the energy sector beyond traditional corporate roles. This panel will highlight their impactful leadership they bring to the energy sector and beyond.

MODERATOR

Carla Y. Nell, Vice President, Corporate Relations, Engagement & Strategy, Independent Electricity System Operator

PRESENTERS

Tracey Primeau, Board Member, Ontario Power Generation

Fiona Blondin, Board Member, Independent Electricity System Operator

Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige, Anishinabek Nation

2:15 pm - 2:45 pm

EXHIBITOR HALL
Break: Networking

2:50 pm - 3:30 pm

Meet the Community Energy Champions

This annual moderated session will highlight the successes and challenges of Community Energy Champions during their journey. Sharing lessons-learned and advice to peers.

MODERATOR

Denise Jamal, Senior Director, Sector & Community Engagement, Independent Electricity System Operator

PRESENTERS

Evan Belleau, Community Energy Champion, Garden River First Nation

Sioux Manitowabi, Community Energy Champion, Wikwemikong First Nation

Dawn Lambe, Community Energy Champion, Anishinabek Nation

3:30 pm - 3:40 pm

Closing Remarks

PRESENTER

Sonia Fazari, Senior Manager, Indigenous Relations, Independent Electricity System Operator

3:40 pm - 4:15 pm

Ceremonial Closing

PRESENTERS

Elder Gary Sault, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation

TAll Stars Junior Drum Group - Travelling Song, Grand Finale Traditional Dance

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