



INDIGENOUS LEGACY PADDLE: ARTIST SUBMISSION

The City of Edmonton invites submissions from Indigenous artists based in Treaty Six territory in Alberta and the homelands of the Métis Nation to create artwork on a canoe paddle for the upcoming Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Conference that will be hosted in Edmonton from June 4 to 7, 2026. The FCM conference will welcome elected officials from across Canada to Edmonton as they gather for important discussions on the future of our communities. As the 2026 Host City, Edmonton intends to introduce the exchange of a symbolic canoe paddle, designed to serve as a travelling symbol of national connection passed from one host city to the next. The Indigenous Legacy Paddle will reside with the host city and will then pass on to the next host city at the annual conference.

Legacy Paddle Features

The selected artist will create an artistic representation that aims to capture the essence of the Edmonton region in their interpretation. This includes highlighting its history, people, natural environment and connectivity, as well as showcasing its defining features and attributes, and conveying a sense of hope for the future.

- **Dual-Sided Design:** One side will showcase the unique vision of a local Indigenous artist. The reverse side will serve as a historical record, featuring engravings of each host city, beginning with Edmonton 2026.
- **A Symbol of Partnership:** Encased in a custom-designed travel case provided by the City, the paddle signifies the progression of leadership and the collective responsibility of Canadian municipalities in fostering reconciliation and collaboration across the nation.

The Event: The Closing Gala and Awards Show

The formal Host City Succession Protocol ceremony will be a featured event at the 2026 FCM Closing Gala, taking place on Sunday, June 7, 2026. This will be presented to over 2,500 national delegates, where Edmonton Mayor Andrew Knack will formally transfer the Indigenous Legacy Paddle to Mayor Andy Fillmore, current Mayor of the Halifax Regional Municipality, as the representative of the 2027 Host City, commemorating the inaugural transfer of this national artifact. We invite our Legacy Paddle artist to join us on the stage for this ceremony, if available.

The Opportunity: Artist Commission

The City is seeking to collaborate with a local Indigenous artist based in Treaty Six territory in Alberta and the homelands of the Métis Nation who can bring this vision to life, and has allocated a total of \$5,000 to cover all materials and artistic fees. The canoe paddle will be provided. The artist will retain the intellectual property and

the art will not be reproduced by the City of Edmonton, any future host cities or the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Project Timeline

Submission Deadline: April 2, 2026

Artist Notified: April 10, 2026

Paddle Completed: May 22, 2026

All submissions must be submitted to fcm2026@edmonton.ca.

One artist will be chosen based on their submission. Each proposal should include:

- Name of the artist
- Biography of the artist / link to their webpage
- Examples of the artist's work
- High-level overview of concept for the development of the paddle — conceptual drawing and written explanation
 - Once an artist is selected based on this proposal, the final artwork will be created by the artist with collaborative consultation with the City of Edmonton. This ensures the final piece aligns with the City's vision for the Legacy Paddle while showcasing the unique vision of the local Indigenous artist.
 - The applicant retains the rights to their concept after they are submitted, and the artwork will not be used for any other purpose than to assess and choose the artist to design the paddle.
- Expected Cost within the \$5,000 budget

Any questions can be directed to Kate McIntosh, Chief Protocol Officer, City of Edmonton at kate.mcintosh@edmonton.ca. We thank all artists for your submissions.

Edmonton rests in the heart of Treaty Six territory in Alberta and the homelands of the Métis Nation. The City of Edmonton, through the work and support of the Indigenous Relations Office, is on a continuous journey of building good relations with Indigenous Peoples and honouring truth and reconciliation.