Non-Competitive Request for Qualification (RFQ): Indigenous Water Management

Issued By: Canadian Water Network Foundation (CWN Foundation)

1. Purpose of this Request for Qualification (RFQ)

This RFQ is intended to establish a database of qualified consultants, consulting teams, and firms that may be invited to participate in future competitive procurement processes undertaken by the CWN Foundation. Through this process, the CWN Foundation seeks to identify organizations with relevant expertise, experience, and organizational characteristics that align with the needs of future projects. Inclusion in the database does not guarantee any minimum volume of work or participation in future opportunities; however, organizations included in the database may be invited to respond to requests for proposals (RFPs), requests for quotations (RFQs), or other procurement opportunities related to the activities described below.

2. About the Canadian Water Network Foundation

The **CWN Foundation** is a newly formed charity whose purpose is to support foundational education and training, research and innovation in the area of water management.

The Foundation is supported administratively by **Canadian Water Network (CWN),** a national organization that works with diverse partners to address complex water challenges through collaboration, knowledge sharing, and innovation. CWN convenes leaders from across sectors to accelerate practical solutions that improve water management outcomes in Canada.

Recognizing the importance of Indigenous leadership and sovereignty in water management, the CWN Foundation has begun working with Indigenous organizations and professionals from across Canada to explore opportunities for co- development of initiatives, collaboration, capacity building, and knowledge sharing in support of Indigenous water management.

3. Project background

Since 2023, Canadian Water Network (CWN) has engaged with Indigenous-led organizations, water professionals, and subject matter experts involved in Indigenous water management. Since then, CWN has joined the Canadian Council of Indigenous Business' Partnership Accreditation in Indigenous Relations (PAIR) program to help integrate how we engage with Indigenous-led organizations across all our work. In 2026, these activities led to the formation of the **Indigenous Water Management Advisory Committee (IWMAC)**. It is a committee consisting of representatives from Indigenous-led organizations that aims to provide culturally inclusive advice on CWN's fulfillment of its Strategic Plan goal on Indigenous Reconciliation. It also acts as a collaborative forum for both CWN and CWN Foundation to

identify needs within Indigenous water and wastewater management, and to co-develop collaborative initiatives to address these needs.

Potential future initiatives identified through early committee meetings include:

- Developing an ecosystem map of organizations, networks, and individuals active in Indigenous water management in Canada.
- Assessing current needs, priorities, opportunities, and challenges within select areas and communities related to Indigenous water management.
- Leadership development and professional training opportunities.
- Communities of practice and peer-learning networks.
- Mentorship opportunities for Indigenous water professionals.
- Indigenous-led innovation and applied research initiatives.
- Resource and knowledge-sharing platforms.
- Other collaborative efforts identified and prioritized by Indigenous partners.

4. Desired expertise and experience

In order to support CWN Foundation and the Indigenous Water Management Advisory Committee's collaborative work, CWNF is seeking qualified consultants, consulting teams, or Indigenous-owned firms with demonstrated experience in some or all of the following areas:

- Indigenous engagement and facilitation, including bringing diverse organizations and individuals to consensus.
- Indigenous water management, infrastructure, environmental management, or related sectors.
- Needs assessments, environmental scans, and ecosystem mapping.
- Stakeholder engagement and qualitative research.
- Development of strategic recommendations and sector analyses.
- Working with Indigenous governments, organizations, and communities across Canada.
- Designing and implementing culturally appropriate engagement processes.

Applicants with Indigenous leadership, ownership, or partnerships are strongly encouraged to apply.

5. Submission requirements

Interested proponents should submit:

Organizational profile

- Overview of the organization or consulting team.
- Relevant experience and areas of expertise.
- Indigenous ownership, leadership, or partnership information (if applicable).

Relevant project experience

- Description of up to three projects demonstrating one or more of the desired expertise and experience requirements outlined in Section 4.

Qualifications of consultants/team

- Names and roles of key personnel.
- Description of relevant expertise and experience.

6. Evaluation criteria

Submissions will be evaluated based on:

- Relevant experience and qualifications.
- Demonstrated understanding of Indigenous water management contexts.
- Experience working with Indigenous organizations and communities.

7. Submission process

Please send all responses to this RFQ to Talia Glickman at tglickman@cwnf.ca by no later than 5:00 p.m. EST on Friday, November 27, 2026.

Responses will be accepted on an ongoing basis after the initial closing date. Submissions received by November 27, 2026 will be considered in the first review cycle.