

Askîy Youth Monitor Submission Guide



Otipemisiwak
Métis Government

The Otipemisiwak Métis Government (MNA) Environment and Climate Change department is asking **Métis youth, aged 18-29**, to submit an expression of interest to be one of four Askîy Youth Guardians to participate in a week of fish monitoring activities led by MNA harvesters and staff from February 16-22, 2025.

To enter, youth must tell us in their own words, through a method or media of their choosing **“Tell us about yourself and what it would mean to be part of the ice fishing team?”**. Interested youth should review the schedule on page 4 to ensure their availability before entering.

MONITORING BACKGROUND

The MNA Environment and Climate Change department conducts community-based monitoring programs through an initiative called Askîy (Cree for “Earth” or “land”) to investigate and address Citizen environmental concerns. We have developed programs to monitor plants, fish, wildlife, and biodiversity using methods which braid western science with Traditional Knowledge. Monitoring programs are designed to engage with Citizens, facilitate knowledge sharing within the community, provide opportunities for community involvement in monitoring, and keep Citizens updated on project activities and outcomes.

In March 2021, we launched our Fish Health Monitoring Project, working with experienced harvesters to sample fish from select lakes across Alberta. Using both traditional gillnets and rod and reel techniques, harvested fish were measured and examined for fish health. All lethally-sampled fish were sent home with harvesters to later fillet, eat, and report back on internal fish health and palatability (e.g., taste, texture, smell). In 2022, we returned to many of the same lakes to sample again and collect fish for toxicology testing.

In mid-February 2025 we are continuing this work but are inviting Métis youth to participate and learn both traditional ice-fishing methods and fish health assessment techniques from our harvesters, as well as

scientific monitoring techniques from MNA staff. Youth participants will form the Askîy Youth Guardians Team and learn and work together throughout the week to complete fish monitoring activities.

View the 2023 Youth team in action here:
<https://albertametis.com/AskiyYouthVideo>

SUBMISSION CRITERIA

Submissions can be in any media you choose, such as:

- A video of you answering this question, like a TikTok
- A piece of art (submit a photo of your artwork)
- Written response, a poem, a letter, an essay etc.
- Answer the question: **Tell us about yourself and what it would mean to be part of the Ice-Fishing team? (If you feel it is necessary, you may include a description of how your submission answers this question).**

**All submission rules are provided on page 5 of this guide. We welcome all submissions, regardless of style or format, we want to hear why you want to come ice-fishing with us, in whatever way you choose to tell us.*

EVALUATION

Each submission will be reviewed for completeness and that it answers the question and then deemed valid.

Selected participants will be chosen through a random draw of submissions that are deemed valid.

**More detailed evaluation criteria are provided on page 5 of this guide*

HOW TO SUBMIT

All submissions must include:

- An original response to the question, in a media of your choice
- Confirmation of your availability for the entirety of the week that monitoring will occur
- Completed Google Form, which includes an submission form and participant consent form

Entries must be submitted by **11:59 p.m. MDT on December 15, 2024**. Late entries will not be accepted.



MONITORING PLAN

MNA staff, harvesters, and the Askîy Youth Guardians Team will travel together for the week to complete monitoring activities on three lakes across Alberta. MNA harvesters will teach youth two ice fishing methods and traditional ways to assess fish. MNA staff will provide instruction on western science-based fish monitoring methodologies.

We will depart from Edmonton on **February 16**, and arrive back in Edmonton on **February 22**.

Youth residing outside of Edmonton will be reimbursed any costs for travel and accommodations required to participate in the monitoring activities. This would include bus tickets to Edmonton, mileage for a personal vehicle, and hotel accommodation in Edmonton if necessary for travel days.

Youth will have the opportunity to participate in:

- Setting and pulling gillnets
- Rod-and-reel fishing
- Measuring fish

- Examining fish for health indicators
- Evaluating ice thickness for safety
- Hear stories and learn from the harvesters

We will provide hotel accommodations and a per diem for meals (approximately \$100 per day) and will be issued within one month of the trip. All equipment necessary for monitoring will be supplied, but youth participants must bring their own outdoor clothing and footwear. If cost to attending is a concern, please reach out to us.

Youth will be expected to:

- Dress appropriately for the weather
- Be on time
- Help the harvesters and MNA staff
- Conduct themselves safely and respectfully

The Askîy Youth Guardians Team will also share a camera to document their experiences throughout the week. The photos and videos will be made into a video and shared on our social media. Participants will also be welcome to post on their channels during the monitoring week, tagging us on Facebook [@ABmetis](#) or Instagram [@albertametis](#) using [#AskiyGuardian](#) and [#MNAyouth](#).

MONITORING SCHEDULE

Exact meeting and departure times will be provided in a schedule to be shared with successful participants.

FEBRUARY 16

Morning: Meet in Edmonton
Afternoon: Drive to Lesser Slave Lake and set nets
Evening: Stay overnight in Slave Lake

FEBRUARY 17

Morning: Pull nets from Lesser Slave Lake,
Afternoon: Assess fish, re-set nets in Lesser Slave Lake
Evening: Stay overnight in Slave Lake

FEBRUARY 18

Morning: Pull nets from Lesser Slave Lake, assess fish
Afternoon: Drive to Moose Lake and set nets
Evening: Stay overnight in Bonnyville

FEBRUARY 19

Morning: Pull nets from Moose Lake, assess fish
Afternoon: Re-set nets in Moose Lake
Evening: Stay overnight in Bonnyville

FEBRUARY 20

Morning: Pull nets from Moose Lake, assess fish
Afternoon: Drive to Pigeon Lake and set nets
Evening: Stay overnight in Pigeon Lake area

FEBRUARY 21

Morning: Pull nets from Pigeon Lake
Afternoon: Assess fish
Evening: Stay overnight in Pigeon Lake area

FEBRUARY 22

Morning: Participate in the MNAs Children and Family Services Frosty Reels family camp
Evening: Return to Edmonton



SUBMISSION RULES

ELIGIBILITY

- The Askîy Youth Monitor Submission Call-Out is open to all individual MNA Citizens aged 18-29.
- Submissions must be unpublished and an original entry. No copyright materials may be used.
- Submissions must be created by the participant.

ENTRY INFORMATION

- Submissions can be provided in any media or format, including video, artwork, written response, but must answer the question: **“Tell us about yourself and what it would mean to be apart of our Ice-Fishing team?”**
- Only one submission per participant. Multiple entries per Citizen or group entries will not be accepted.
- Entries must be submitted through the Google form by 11:59 p.m. (MDT) on December 15, 2024.
- All submissions must include a completed Youth Monitor Week Submission Form and Participant Consent Form to be completed as part of the Google form.
- Any false information provided within the context of the submission by any participant concerning information provided in the Youth Monitor Week Submission Form, ownership or right or non-compliance with the rules or the like may result in immediate elimination of the individual from the program.
- The rules may be changed without notice or reason including, if necessary, to comply with any applicable law. By providing a submission, participants abide by these rules.
- This program shall be governed by and construed in accordance with these rules, the laws of the Province of Alberta, and any applicable federal laws. These rules govern all aspects of the Submission Call-Out and are binding on all participants and other parties including a participant’s parents or legal guardians, if applicable.
- Please contact Anthony Pica at apica@metis.org or more information.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Submissions will be evaluated in a single category, with no preference given for age or gender.
- Four submissions will be selected to participate in the MNA’s Askîy fish health monitoring work in February 2025 as a part of the Youth Guardians Team.
- The MNA reserves the right to cancel, terminate, modify, or suspend the program for any reason, without any prior notice to any participant.

SELECTION OF AWARDS

- All entries that confirm the following criteria will be entered as confirmed submissions - are a youth, are a MNA Citizen, have submitted an expression of interest, and have confirmed their availability for the ice-fishing week.
- Confirmed valid submissions will be reviewed by the team of MNA Harvesters who participate in the Askîy Fish Health Monitoring program.
- Harvester review will be a yes or no decision, if submission answers the question and provides details as to a youth’s interest in participating in the project they will be assigned a yes ranking.
- All submissions that receive a “yes” decision from the Harvesters will be entered into a random draw and four youth will be selected to participate.
- Each selected participant will be notified by telephone or email that they have been selected for the Youth Guardians Team. Arrangements will then be made for their participation and to organize travel details. If the participant declines to attend, the seat may be forfeited and awarded to another.
- If the MNA does not receive entries of sufficient quantity or quality, the MNA reserves the right not to select any participants for the monitoring work.