



Indigenous Digital Enablement Series: Strengthening First Nations Connectivity Through Spectrum Rights

Request for Proposals - February 2025

The First Nations Technology Council (Technology Council) seeks proposals from qualified research firms or consultants to produce an engaging report that integrates key research, case studies, and policy on the topic of spectrum sovereignty.

Purpose of the Spectrum Sovereignty Report

The primary goal of this report is to raise awareness of spectrum sovereignty among First Nations communities in British Columbia and enable communities to advocate for improved access to spectrum. Specifically, the report will:

1. **Introduce the issue:** Provide an accessible, non-technical overview of spectrum sovereignty and the current state of rights and policies in Canada, recognizing its complexity and the need for clear communication.
2. **Applications of spectrum rights:** Through case studies, highlight the benefits of how spectrum rights have been used to develop Indigenous-led connectivity solutions, emphasizing its implications for economic development, cultural preservation, and social and health outcomes.
3. **Support advocacy:** Equip First Nations communities with the knowledge and tools to advocate for improved access to spectrum resources.

Connection to the First Nations Technology Council's Mandate

The Technology Council is committed to improving access to connectivity for all First Nation communities across British Columbia. Spectrum sovereignty has the potential to help achieve this goal, as it addresses the systemic barriers preventing equitable access to digital infrastructure. By advancing spectrum sovereignty, the Technology Council can support communities in developing sustainable, community-led connectivity solutions that bridge the connectivity gap.



First Nations Technology Council

As of 2024, 19.7% of First Nations households on reserves and Modern Treaty lands currently lack high-speed internet access. While we have done the research to measure the digital divide, spectrum offers a promising tactic to help address it.

This report will be the second installment of the [Indigenous Digital Enablement Series](#). The first report explored the state of access to the internet for First Nations in BC.

Methodology

We are looking for proposals to suggest a methodology that will meet the intended purpose of the report. As a starting point, please include the following perspectives and insights:

- **Case Studies of Indigenous-led Spectrum Sovereignty:** Gathering insights from First Nations leaders and relevant Indigenous-led organizations to highlight spectrum sovereignty initiatives.
- **Policy and Legislative:** Exploring Canadian spectrum policies, including the Indigenous Priority Window and Non-Competitive Local Licensing Framework, to assess their impact on First Nations spectrum sovereignty and connectivity.
- **Community Engagement:** Including perspectives from First Nations communities to understand the challenges and opportunities in accessing and using spectrum. Engagement should align with the principles of OCAP, ensuring that First Nations communities maintain Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession of their data throughout the research process.

Audiences for Report

The key audiences for this project are:

- **First Nations Communities:** To enhance their understanding of spectrum sovereignty and empower them to advocate for their rights.
- **Government Stakeholders (Provincial and Federal):** To increase awareness and drive policy changes that improve access to spectrum for First Nations communities.
- **Indigenous-Led Media Outlets:** To disseminate information widely and amplify advocacy efforts through Indigenous perspectives.

Outputs

- **Report with executive summary (max 5,000 words):** An engaging document outlining the issue, its impacts, and recommendations for advancing spectrum sovereignty.



First Nations Technology Council

After finalizing the report and blog, the Technology Council will produce an infographic and video summarising the findings and engaging stakeholders.

Timeline

The project will commence in early March, with final deliverables due by the end of May 2025.

Commissioning Process

Please send a proposal of a **maximum of 7 pages**, including:

1. Your understanding of what is needed and experience undertaking similar work.
2. A proposed methodology, including 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 description of the deliverables you will provide.
4. A detailed budget specifying daily or hourly rates, the number of days proposed and the cost of particular activities.
5. 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 lindsay@technologycouncil.ca.

Proposals must be submitted by Monday, 3 March 2025, 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