

# Request for Proposals: Indigenous Artist / Artist Collective

*Digital Illustration & Visual Collaboration*

February 2026

## About the First Nations Technology Council

Mandated by the First Nations Leadership Council, the Technology Council is the designated organization responsible for advancing digital literacy, improving internet connectivity, and guiding data and digital technology strategy for all 204 First Nations in British Columbia. This project supports that mandate by strengthening how we present our work and by enabling access to practical digital learning resources.

We are currently undertaking a comprehensive redesign of our brand, website, and digital learning platform (microsite) to better reflect our mandate, values, and the communities we serve, but we need an artist to help make it come alive and better resonate with the communities we serve.

## Project Overview

The Technology Council is seeking proposals from an Indigenous artist or Indigenous artist collective to collaborate with our external design team on the creation of custom digital illustrations for use across our website and learning platform.

The selected artist(s) will serve as a creative collaborator, contributing original artwork to support a cohesive, contemporary, and culturally grounded visual identity reflective of an Indigenous community in British Columbia.

This role is not production-only. We are seeking an artist or collective interested in concept development, collaboration, and thoughtful visual storytelling.

The design vendor responsible for the broader branding and website project is being procured through a separate RFP on a parallel timeline. The Technology Council will lead creative direction and coordinate collaboration between the selected artist and the design team, including regular check-ins during the design process.

## Scope of Work

The scope of work is expected to include the following:

### **Creative Collaboration**

- Participation in early concept discussions with the design team
- Alignment with the overall brand and visual direction
- Ongoing collaboration during the design process

### **Illustration & Visual Development**

- Creation of a custom illustration system for digital use
- Illustrations may include (but are not limited to):
  - Hero or feature illustrations
  - Supporting illustrations or motifs
  - Visual elements that can be reused across pages and platforms
- Artwork should be suitable for use across:
  - Website
  - Digital learning platform
  - Reports and digital publications

## Deliverables

Rather than prescribing a fixed number of illustrations, proponents are invited to propose an approach that best uses the available budget to create a cohesive and reusable visual system. Proposals should clearly outline:

- Types of illustrations or visual assets
- Approximate quantity
- Level of detail and complexity
- Reuse or modularity strategy

Final files must be suitable for digital use and provided in formats appropriate for web and print applications. At a minimum, we expect scalable vector formats (such as SVG or AI) for any illustrations intended for reuse across platforms, along with high-resolution raster exports (PNG) as needed. Specific format requirements will be confirmed during onboarding.

## Revision Process

The project will include up to two rounds of revisions on illustration concepts and final artwork, informed by feedback from the Technology Council and the design team. Additional revisions beyond this scope may be negotiated separately. We encourage proponents to account for this in their proposed budget and timeline.

## Budget

The total budget for this project is up to \$20,000 CAD, inclusive of all fees and expenses.

We recognize that different artistic practices may approach scope and pricing differently and welcome transparent explanations of trade-offs between quantity, complexity, and reuse.

## Timeline

This project is part of a broader redesign of a website and learning platform, expected to launch by July 31, 2026. The anticipated timeline for the artist engagement is:

- Project start: April 2026
- Initial concepts and direction: May 2026
- Final artwork delivery: June 2026, to allow time for integration prior to website launch

The Technology Council reserves the right to adjust timelines as needed in coordination with the broader project schedule.

## Rights, Usage & Attribution

The Technology Council seeks the right to use the artwork for:

- Website and digital learning platforms
- Reports, presentations, and digital publications
- Promotional and communications materials related to our mandate

Attribution to the artist or collective will be provided where appropriate. Ownership, licensing, and usage rights will be finalized in a contract and discussed openly to ensure respect for Indigenous intellectual property and artistic practice. The Technology Council is open to licensing arrangements that appropriately balance organizational needs with the artist's rights and interests.

## Who Should Apply

This opportunity is open to:

- Indigenous artists or artist collectives
- Artists with experience in illustration, digital artwork, or visual storytelling
- Artists comfortable collaborating with designers and non-artist stakeholders
- Emerging to established artists (we value approach and fit over scale)

## Submission Requirements

Proposals should include:

### **Artist or Collective Overview**

- Background, Nation(s), and artistic practice

### **Portfolio**

- Relevant examples of illustration or visual work
- Digital or applied work preferred
- Portfolio samples may be submitted as a separate document or linked

### **Approach & Vision**

- How you would approach this collaboration
- How you would use the available budget to create a cohesive visual system

### **Proposed Scope & Budget**

- Description of deliverables
- Budget breakdown or summary, including:
  - A clear description of how the budget will be allocated
  - Proposed deliverables within this budget
  - Payment milestones

### **Proposed Timeline**

Proposals should be concise. Portfolio samples and supporting materials may be submitted as a separate document or linked.

## Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

- Artistic quality and originality
- Alignment with the Technology Council's mandate and values
- Thoughtfulness of proposed scope and budget
- Ability to collaborate within a multidisciplinary team
- Experience with digital or applied illustration (preferred)

Shortlisted vendors may be invited to participate in a virtual interview or presentation to discuss their proposal, approach, and team.

The First Nations Technology Council reserves the right to negotiate final terms, timelines, and budgets with the selected vendor.

## Submission Details

Submit your proposal as a PDF to [natiea@technologycouncil.ca](mailto:natiea@technologycouncil.ca) by March 20, 2026 at 5PM PST.

## Additional Terms

- The First Nations Technology Council reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals.
- The First Nations Technology Council is not obligated to award a contract and may cancel this RFP at any time.
- Vendors are responsible for all costs associated with proposal preparation and presentation.
- Ownership, licensing, and usage rights for all artwork created through this project will be negotiated in good faith and finalized in contract. The Technology Council's default expectation is that it will hold usage rights sufficient to apply the artwork across its digital platforms and communications materials.
- The vendor will retain ownership of any pre-existing tools, frameworks, or proprietary materials used in the delivery of the project.
- All proposals will be treated as confidential. Vendors should clearly mark any proprietary or commercially sensitive information in their submissions.
- By submitting a proposal, vendors agree to these terms and conditions.