

# **Request for Proposals (RFP)**

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## **NAHO Survey**

### **Issuing Office:**

Organization for the Advancement of Aboriginal Peoples Health (OAAPH)/  
National Aboriginal Health Organization (NAHO)  
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**April 28, 2008**

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# 1. Statement of Work

## 1.1 TITLE

National Aboriginal Health Organization/Organization for the Advancement of Aboriginal Peoples' Health (NAHO/OAAPH) Evaluation Survey.

## 1.2 INTRODUCTION

NAHO/OAAPH is an Aboriginal-designed and -controlled organization with a mission to influence and advance the health and well-being of Aboriginal Peoples by carrying out knowledge-based strategies. NAHO/OAAPH is a leading organization in knowledge translation for Aboriginal Peoples in Canada and NAHO/OAAPH recognizes the importance of culturally safe care to the improvement of health outcomes for First Nations, Inuit and Métis in Canada.

### **Objects of the National Aboriginal Health Organization**

1. Improve and promote health through knowledge-based activities.
2. Promote understanding of health issues affecting Aboriginal Peoples.
3. Facilitate and promote research and develop research partnerships.
4. Foster participation of Aboriginal Peoples in delivery of health care.
5. Affirm and protect Aboriginal traditional healing practices.

### **Principles of Uniqueness**

NAHO/OAAPH is unique in that it:

- Is founded on and committed to unity while respecting diversity.
- Gathers, creates, interprets, disseminates, and uses knowledge on Aboriginal traditional and western contemporary healing and wellness approaches.
- Views community as the primary focus and views research methodologies as tools for supporting Aboriginal communities in managing health.
- Reflects the values and principles of traditional knowledge and practices.

The Funding Agreement between the legal entity Organization for the Advancement of Aboriginal People's Health (OAAPH) operating as NAHO/OAAPH and Health Canada dated March 2005 states in section 20 that OAAPH must "engage an independent evaluator to conduct an evaluation of the effectiveness of this Agreement for the first four Fiscal Years of this Agreement (from April 1, 2005 through to December 31, 2008) in accordance with the Evaluation Framework." To complete this evaluation, NAHO/OAAPH is required to conduct a survey to assess overall awareness of NAHO/OAAPH among Aboriginal people in Canada, as well as the impact NAHO/OAAPH's activities have had on their health and well-being.

## 1.3 SCOPE/STATEMENT OF WORK

1.3.1 This is an open call to individuals, firms, or organizations to provide a comprehensive proposal for the coordination of the planning, implementation and reporting from start-up to finish of the survey.

1.3.2 The individual, firm, or organization's proposal will demonstrate a solid grasp of the scope of the project, addressing the following items with appropriate recommendations:

- The objectives of the survey. Specifically, NAHO/OAAPH is required to gauge the level of awareness among Aboriginal Peoples of NAHO/OAAPH. NAHO/OAAPH is also required to assess awareness of health behaviors/practices attributable to NAHO among First Nations, Inuit and Métis. The results of the survey will inform the larger NAHO/OAAPH impact evaluation.
- A literature review.
- A description of a culturally competent and ethical survey design for Aboriginal people.
- A description of informants/target populations.
- The tools for measurement inclusive of measurement quality criteria for reliability and validity.
- The data collection methodologies, including strengths and weakness.
- The type of analysis to be conducted.
- A schedule.
- The budget.

1.3.3 The proposal will:

- Identify the concepts and variables to be studied with clear definitions of the concepts and research purpose.
- Select the appropriate research methodology.
- Determine the population and sampling technique, in this case the population is Aboriginal Peoples with three strata; First Nations, Métis and Inuit:
  - For each strata a set sample size must be achieved with a margin of error of five per cent (+-). They are as follows:
    - First Nations: 390
    - Inuit: 387
    - Métis: 390
- Outline the process for data processing.
- Detail the types of analysis to be conducted such as uni-variate, comparative-cross tabulation, and so on.
- Identify, the ways in which results will be reported and assessed in terms of their implications.

### **1.3 DELIVERABLES/MILESTONES**

The following tentative deliverables and milestones have been identified as key to guiding the completion of the NAHO survey. The individual, firm, or organization's proposal will use these and other relevant milestones deemed critical to the completion of the survey:

- Detailed research and survey design
- Detailed work plan
- Documentation of survey implementation
- Meeting target population estimates
- Successive draft(s) of the surveys data analysis and report
- Revisions of survey report
- Final survey report

### **1.5 THE NATIONAL ABORIGINAL HEALTH ORGANIZATION'S ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- The primary contact at NAHO/OAAPH is Mark Buell, Manager, Communications and Research Unit. He can be reached by email at [mbuell@naho.ca](mailto:mbuell@naho.ca). Support will be provided by Danielle Soucy, Senior Research Officer, Communications and Research Unit.
- NAHO/OAAPH commits to respond to requests within three business days.
- Appropriate access to NAHO/OAAPH files on the shared drive will be granted to the consulting firm upon request through the NAHO/OAAPH primary contact.
- The consulting firm will be provided with physical space within NAHO/OAAPH in order to conduct confidential interviews.
- NAHO/OAAPH and its Evaluation Working Group will be involved throughout the survey process through approving actions and draft documentation proposed by the consulting firm.

### **1.6 CONFIDENTIALITY, PRIVACY AND COPYRIGHT**

It is a condition that, prior to performance of any obligation under any contract resulting from this RFP, the Contractor and any of the Contractor's employees assigned to the performance of such contract respect the confidentiality of participants taking part in the conduct of the evaluation.

The Contractor and any of the Contractor's employees assigned to the performance of such contract also have to adhere to the NAHO/OAAPH Privacy Policy, as stated in the National Aboriginal Health Organization Policies and Procedures.

Any materials developed by the Contractor through this Contract will remain the sole property of NAHO/OAAPH. All written material will adhere to the NAHO/OAAPH Communications Guidelines. Also, any documentation, files or material (electronic or hard copy) used by the Contractor in the course of this contract will remain the property of NAHO/OAAPH and will be returned upon completion of the present Contract.

## **1.7 TIME FRAME**

The services of the Contract will be required for a period commencing on or about June 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008, with key deadlines as follows:

- Draft report due November 15, 2008.
- Incorporation of NAHO/OAAPH revisions to report due December 15, 2009.

## **2. Proposal Instructions**

The specifications of the proposal are as follows:

- The core of the proposal should be no longer than 30 pages. This limit does not apply to annexes or samples of previous work.
- The proposal should be submitted in the letter format, 8 ½ X 11, and should be easily printable by the NAHO/OAAPH representative. It should also have standard margins.
- The proposal should be submitted in Times New Roman with a font size of 12.

### **2.1 CORPORATE /COMPANY NAME**

The proposal shall contain a statement of the name and laws under which the company was legally incorporated (if applicable).

### **2.2 CORPORATE/COMPANY REFERENCES AND RESUMES OF PROPOSED RESOURCES**

Qualifications, previous experience and resumes of each resource.

### **2.3 PROPOSAL SUBMISSION**

- 2.3.1 You are invited to submit a proposal, with three paper copies, to fulfill all the requirements of this RFP. When responding, your proposal is to be submitted

directly to the attention of the NAHO/OAAPH representative whose address is shown on the front cover page of this RFP package entitled Issuing Office.

- 2.3.2 NAHO/OAAPH requires an electronic copy of the proposal, in Microsoft Word format sent to the email address shown on the front cover of this RFP package.
- 2.3.3 Your proposal price must remain firm for a period of sixty (60) days from the closing date.
- 2.3.4 No payment will be made for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of a proposal in response to this RFP.
- 2.3.5 No costs incurred before receipt of a signed contract or specified written authorization from NAHO/OAAPH representative can be charged to the proposed contract.
- 2.3.6 NAHO/OAAPH reserves the right not to award a contract as a result of this RFP.

## **2.4 TECHNICAL PROPOSAL**

Your technical proposal component must be concise and address the elements listed in Section 3 entitled Bid Selection Process in addition to the following points:

- 2.4.1 State your request for any changes to the Statement of Work. Such changes shall be clearly identified and shall be priced separately as an option. However, your technical proposal must meet the requirements of the Statement of Work as specified therein.
- 2.4.2 Identify the proposed personnel who will be assigned to this requirement showing category and qualifications.

## **2.5 PRICE PROPOSAL**

The price proposal component shall contain a detailed breakdown of the total quoted price. Provide a breakdown for individual phases or major tasks separately, if applicable. The price proposal should address each of the following, as applicable.

- 2.5.1 Based on the individual and/or labour category to be employed on the project, indicate the proposed time rate. Although detailed support for the rates is not requested at this time, you should be prepared to provide same if requested.
- 2.5.2 Other Expenses

List any other expenses which may be applicable, giving an estimated cost for each (e.g. travel, long distance communications, reproduction, shipping, equipment, rentals, materials, etc.).

### 2.5.3 Goods and Services Tax

Various items in your cost proposal may be subject to Goods and Services Tax (GST) and custom duties, and this charge must be included in the cost estimates where applicable.

## 2.6 NON-COMPLIANCE/UNACCEPTABLE PROPOSALS

2.6.1 Failure to comply with the requirements of this RFP may result in your proposal being declared non-responsive.

2.6.2 Proposals received after the proposal closing time will not be considered.

2.6.3 Incomplete proposals will be rejected.

## 2.7 ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSALS

Proposals sent by fax, telex, and telegraphic means will **not** be accepted.

## 2.8 RIGHTS OF THE NATIONAL ABORIGINAL HEALTH ORGANIZATION

NAHO/OAAPH reserves the right to:

- Enter into negotiations with one or more bidders on any or all aspects of this proposal.
- Accept any proposal in whole or in part.
- Cancel and/or re-issue this requirement at any time.
- Award one or more contracts.
- Verify any or all information provided by the bidder with respect to this requirement.

## 2.9 TIME EXTENSION TO CLOSING DATE

No time extension will be given for the submission of proposals.

## **2.10 CAPABILITY SURVEY**

If an offer submitted in response to this solicitation is favorably considered, a review committee may contact your organization to determine your technical and financial ability to perform. If so, current financial statements and other pertinent data should be available at that time, if not already on file with NAHO/OAAPH.

## **2.11 ENQUIRIES**

All enquiries (in writing only) and other communications related to this RFP, throughout the solicitation period and until contract award, **MUST** be directed **ONLY** to the NAHO/OAAPH representative shown on the front cover page of this RFP package.

## **2.12 PROPOSAL ASSESSMENT METHOD**

Each proposal will be evaluated solely on its content. In order to qualify, a proposal must meet all mandatory requirements, and achieve a minimum total rating of 45 points for the rated criteria and offer the required services within the project budget (this includes travel and GST). Proposals not meeting these requirements will not be considered further.

## **2.13 CLOSING DATE**

2.13.1 The electronic copy of the proposal must be received by 3:00 p.m., EST, on May 23, 2008. Electronic copies of proposals received after this time will result in the whole proposal (paper copy and electronic copy) not being considered.

2.13.2 All paper proposals must be postmarked by May 23, 2008. Proposals postmarked after this time and received by NAHO/OAAPH will be returned unopened.

## **2.14 CERTIFICATION**

The bidder must certify that the information provided in all the personnel resumes has been verified to be true and accurate. Furthermore, the contractor must certify that the personnel offered in the proposal shall be available to perform the tasks described herein within the allotted time frame.

# **3. BID SELECTION PROCESS**

## **3.1 DETAILS OF THE MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS**

**3.1.1** The proposal should clearly demonstrate the consulting firm's knowledge and experience in working with Aboriginal Peoples.

**3.1.2** At least one primary resource of the consulting firm has a First Nations, Inuit or Métis background.

**3.1.3** Any and all relevant experience should demonstrate that the contractor has the capacity, knowledge and experience to do the work mentioned in Section 1.3. Any or all relevant experience should be demonstrated.

**3.1.4** The proposal must demonstrate an understanding of the NAHO/OAAPH requirements and expectations of the proposed evaluation. The proposal should also state any assumptions or concerns.

**3.1.5** The bidder must specify the individual(s) who will be carrying out this work. If more than one person will be involved, the primary resource must be identified. A resume for each individual responsible for carrying out the terms and conditions of the contract must be included with the proposal.

**3.1.6** A detailed work plan is provided by the consulting firm. The work plan should include the critical path, the list of deliverables, the specific timelines for each step of the project and a detailed budget.

**3.1.7** The detailed budget, including per diem rates, all fees, related expenses and applicable taxes, including the firm's GST number is included in the proposal.

**3.1.8** The proposal states the approach(es) and proposed methodology(ies) to accomplish the statement of work, deliverables, and respective time frames. The individual, firm, or organization's proposed methodology for the project, including the mechanism by which relevant information will be gathered, is presented.

**3.1.9** A contingency plan should also be provided, along with the risks assessment. The consulting firm should analyze and determine any major difficulties that may be anticipated and propose a plan to overcome the possible obstacles.

**3.1.10** Provide a sample of previous work, including a work plan and an evaluation report, that demonstrates experience and that would assist in the evaluation of the proposal. Provide contact information of a minimum of three recent references (in the last three years) relating to similar work that was completed by the same or similar project team who will be assigned to this project.

## **4. BASIS OF AWARD/CONTRACT AWARD**

It is understood by the parties submitting proposals that, to qualify, bidders **MUST** meet all mandatory requirements. After that, the contract will be awarded based on a determination of best value taking into account both the technical merit of the proposals, the clarity of the proposal and the price evaluations. To arrive at an overall score achieved by a firm, a weighting has been established whereby technical merit will be valued at 60 per cent of the bid and price at 40 per cent. Proposals must achieve a minimum point score of 52.5 on the Rated Criteria to be considered.

Rating Scale						
Score of	Excellent	Good	Average	Fair	Poor	Unacceptable
5	5	4	3	2	1	0
10	10 - 9	8 - 7	6 - 5	4 - 3	2 - 1	0

## 5. SAMPLE CONTRACT FORM

In the event of being awarded the work, the successful bidder will enter into agreement with NAHO/OAAPH. A copy of a sample contract is available upon request.

## 6. RATING GUIDE – Mandatory Requirements and Rated Criteria

See the following sections for rating guides.

### MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS	Yes	No	COMMENTS
1. The consulting firm demonstrates involvement with First Nations, Inuit and/or Métis.			
2. At least one member of the consulting firm is First Nations, Inuit or Métis.			

3. The consulting firm demonstrates clear capacity to do the work by providing sufficient resources and experienced workers.			
4. A detailed work plan is provided, including a critical path, a list of deliverables, timelines and a detailed budget.			
5. A detailed methodology for the NAHO evaluation is provided by the consulting firm.			
6. A contingency plan and risks assessment of the NAHO evaluation are also included in the methodology.			
7. The proposal was submitted to NAHO in a timely manner and addressed all the elements listed in the Request For Proposals.			
FINAL DECISION REGARDING THE PROPOSAL:			

RATED CRITERIA		Rating	COMMENTS
<b>Aboriginal Involvement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Degree of First Nations, Inuit and/or Métis involvement</li> <li>- Demonstration of knowledge and experience working with First Nations, Inuit and/or Métis</li> <li>- Demonstration of a sound process for achieving ethics approval with First Nations, Inuit and/or Métis</li> </ul>	5 5 5		
<b>Capacity to do the Work</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sufficient resources are assigned to the project team to meet project deadline</li> <li>- The proposed team is composed of a logical balance of the various professional and technical resource disciplines</li> <li>- The bidder and/or assigned team members have completed other similar work</li> </ul>	5 5 10		
<b>Management of the work</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The work plan provides for attainment of the objectives within the time frame given by NAHO</li> <li>- The work plan is organized and consistent with the statement of work</li> <li>- Proposed reporting system satisfies the statement of work</li> </ul>	10 10 5		
<b>Methodology</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The proposed approach to the work indicates a sound and logical understanding of the project</li> <li>- The proposal indicates an appropriate understanding of the area to be studied</li> </ul>	5 5		
<b>Quality of Proposal</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Evaluation of the general presentation of the proposal: clear, concise and well organized</li> </ul>	5		
<b>Total Score</b>	75		