

Great Lakes Gathering: Confluence

Hidden Valley Resort
1755 Valley Rd, Huntsville, ON
September 16-17, 2026

Theme

Under the concept of confluence and relationship with rivers, we recognize the diversity of rivers that come together which reflect our diversity as First Nations peoples and settlers. When these rivers come together, the waters turn and mix, which can be seen as conflicting. However, over time, these rivers calm and learn to work together to achieve a peaceful river.

Thus, the schedule will recognize the diversity of voice, conflict arising from multiple worldviews coming together, and then together identifying a direction towards peace together.

Day 1: Diversity AM and Conflict PM

Time	Session	Format	Location	Lead / Speaker
6:00 AM	Tobacco Offering	Gathering	Highland Ballroom	Art Jacko
7:00 AM	Registration	On-Going	Outside Highland Ballroom	Katharine and Diane
7-9:00 AM	Breakfast	Gathering	Birches Restaurant	N/A
9:00 AM	Opening Drum and Prayer	Gathering	Highland Ballroom	Manitou Mkwa Signers
9:15 AM	Opening Remarks	Speaker	Highland Ballroom	Kathleen Padulo
9:30 AM	The Diversity of First Nations' Voices needs an effective COA	Keynote	Highland Ballroom	Dr. Deborah McGregor
10:30 AM	Wellness Break	Gathering	Crush Area	N/A
11:00 AM	Reference Day 1 Diversity AM Breakout	Concurrent Sessions	Reference Breakout Sessions	Reference
12:00 PM	Lunch	Gathering	Birches Restaurant	N/A
1:00 PM	How do we address conflict?	Good Words	Highland Ballroom	TBD (Elder)
1:15 PM	Youth Voices Carrying Water Protection	Panel	Highland Ballroom	Land Guardians and MUSH
2:15 PM	Wellness Break	Gathering	Crush Area	N/A
2:45 PM	Reference Day 1 Conflict PM Breakout	Concurrent Sessions	Reference Breakout Sessions	Reference
3:45 PM	Summary of Day and Review of Tomorrow	Closing Remarks	Highland Ballroom	Abraham Francis
5:30 PM	Fish Cleaning Demonstration	Interactive Activity	TBD	Deborah Pine-Bagamwewedamook

Day 1: Diversity AM Breakouts

Time	Session	Format	Location	Lead / Speaker
11:00 AM	Diverse Languages Talking About Water	Panel	Highland Ballroom	Barb Nolan, Wari McDonald, and Lillian Trapper
11:00 AM	River Strategy	Presentation	Muskoka Room	Emilie Derochie
11:00 AM	Georgian Bay Biosphere	Presentation	Algonquin Room	Kyla Judge

Day 1: Conflict PM Breakouts

Time	Session	Format	Location	Lead / Speaker
2:45 PM	Water Governance Coordinators and Challenges with the COA	Panel	Highland Ballroom	Abraham Francis, Jacob Thompson, and Frank French
2:45 PM	Rights of Water	Presentation	Muskoka Room	Susan Robertson
2:45 PM	Biinaagami Map	Activity	Algonquin Room	Passive Engagement

Day 2: Conflict AM and Peace PM

Time	Session	Format	Location	Lead / Speaker
6:00 AM	Tobacco Offering	Gathering	Highland Ballroom	Art Jacko
7:00 AM	Registration	On-Going	Outside Highland Ballroom	Katharine and Diane
7-9:00 AM	Breakfast	Gathering	Birches Restaurant	N/A
9:00 AM	Opening Drum and Prayer	Gathering	Highland Ballroom	Manitou M kwa Signers
9:15 AM	Opening Remarks	Speaker	Highland Ballroom	Mark Fisher
9:30 AM	The Conflict of the First Nations Clean Drinking Water Legislation	Keynote	Highland Ballroom	Linda Debassige
10:30 AM	Wellness Break	Gathering	Crush Area	N/A
11:00 AM	Reference Day 2 Conflict AM Breakout	Concurrent Sessions	Reference Breakout Sessions	Reference
12:00 PM	Lunch	Gathering	Birches Room	N/A
1:00 PM	How do we address conflict?	Good Words	Highland Ballroom	TBD (Elder)
1:15 PM	Reference Day 2 Peace PM Breakout	Concurrent Sessions	Reference Breakout Sessions	Reference
2:15 PM	Wellness Break	Gathering	Crush Area	N/A
2:45 PM	How Do Leaders Cultivate a Peaceful Future?	Panel	Highland Ballroom	Leadership in attendance
3:45 PM	Summary of Day	Closing Remarks	Highland Ballroom	Abraham Francis

Day 2: Conflict AM Breakouts

Time	Session	Format	Location	Lead / Speaker
11:00 AM	Let's Talk About Water Legislation	Panel	Highland Ballroom	Linda Debassige, Kerry Black, Kathleen Padulo, and Irving Leblanc
11:00 AM	Indigenous Climate Action	Presentation	Muskoka Room	Michelle Yanes
11:00 AM	Biinaagami Map	Activity	Algonquin Room	Passive Engagement

Day 2: Peace PM Breakouts

Time	Session	Format	Location	Lead / Speaker
1:15 PM	How do we move towards peace with history of pain? [AOC Panel]	Panel	Highland Ballroom	Britney Bourdages, Lynn Rosales, and Megan Murphy
1:15 PM	Pane gii-giigoohnkewag Anishinaabeg - The Anishinaabeg always fished	Presentation	Muskoka Room	Deborah Pine-Bagamwewedamook
1:15 PM	Biinaagami Map	Activity	Algonquin Room	Passive Engagement

Important Note: This is the year of the Canada Ontario Agreement (COA) renewal. While we did not want the renewal to define or shape the Gathering, we also wanted to ensure there was space for meaningful discussion and alignment around it. Thus, the current iteration of the schedule was born. Below is the potential alignment with the COA with the schedule framework.

- Day 1 AM: Diversity Focus
 - COA Alignment:
 - Annex 8: Habitat and Species
 - Annex 10: Climate Change Impacts and Resilience
- Day 1 PM: Conflict Focus
 - COA Alignment:
 - Annex 5: Areas of Concern
 - Annex 6: Lakewide Management
 - Annex 7: Aquatic Invasive Species
 - Annex 9: Ground Water Quality
- Day 2 AM: Conflict Focus
 - COA Alignment:
 - Annex 1: Nutrients
 - Annex 2: Harmful Pollutants
 - Annex 3: Wastewater and Stormwater
 - Annex 4: Discharges from Vessels
- Day 2 PM: Peace Focus
 - COA Alignment:
 - Annex 11: From Awareness to Action
 - Annex 13: First Nations and the Great Lakes