



ONTARIO ABORIGINAL LANDS ASSOCIATION



Hello, OALA family!

As many of you are aware, OALA's 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) is happening from September 17 – 19, 2024 at Hiawatha First Nation. The theme for this year's AGM is **Life and Land**. With all the hustle and bustle of today's day and age, we're taking it back to the basics and reminding ourselves why we all chose to be stewards of the land, working together for a better tomorrow.

In 1995 a small group of Ontario First Nation Lands Managers formed an association to address unique land management issues and related common interests, while providing a forum to strategize on problems and concerns. OALA was formed to support and assist fellow Lands Managers across the province. This group was the first of its kind in all of Canada, and OALA can proudly say that we were the birth of the National Aboriginal Land Managers Association (NALMA) AND the Regional Lands Association (RLA) organizations Nationwide!

I will be putting together a video compilation for this year's AGM reflecting on the past 29 years, and we want to hear from you, our members, partners, and supporters! How long have you been working in Lands? Do you have a fond memory you look back on? I have included a list of questions below to help generate some ideas.

OALA Staff will be conducting in-person interviews at upcoming OALA events and trainings. I am also available for online calls (Zoom or Teams), where we can record the interview to feature in the AGM video. Not comfortable doing a live interview? You also have the option to record yourself/create your own video and send it in. Lastly, if you are not comfortable in front of a camera, OALA would appreciate a short, written testimonial.

Interested in sharing your Lands story? Contact Abby Zalewski, Project Coordinator, at coordinator@oala-on.ca to set up an interview time, submit a self-interview, or send in a testimonial!

Miigwech,

Abigail Zalewski
Project Coordinator
Ontario Aboriginal Lands Association

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OALA 'Life and Land' AGM Interview Questions:

- 🐢 Name, Position, First Nation/organization
- 🐢 How long have you worked in lands?
- 🐢 Why did you get into working in lands? What got you started?
- 🐢 What do you like best about your job?
- 🐢 What inspires you?
- 🐢 Do you have a favourite memory working in lands? Any major success stories?
- 🐢 What do you think of when you hear "Life and Land"?
- 🐢 Why are you attending the OALA AGM?
- 🐢 What do you enjoy most about being an OALA Member? Why should other Ontario First Nations become an OALA Member?
- 🐢 What lands-based topics would you like to learn more about?

Testimonials:

Have you attended OALA trainings that went above and beyond expectations? Interacted with an OALA staff member who went out of their way to assist you? Did the OALA team effectively support you and/or your community in a time of need? We want to hear from you! Please write a short testimonial about a positive experience with OALA.



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