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**Applications are open to join YWCA Canada's delegation for the [United Nations twenty-third session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, which will take place in-person from 15-26 April 2024](#)**

The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) is a high-level advisory body to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The Forum was established on July 28, 2000, with the mandate to support Indigenous issues related to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health, and human rights.

As per motion carried at YWCA Canada's Annual Members Meeting in 2023, the Young Women's Leadership Miles Fund will also be allotted for young Indigenous women and gender-diverse-youth to attend the United Nations permanent forum on Indigenous issues.

Young Indigenous women and gender-diverse folks who are YWCA staff, board members or volunteers and 30 years of age or under are eligible to apply for bursaries through Leadership Miles to cover their travel, accommodation, and expenses.

**The twenty-third session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues will take place in New York.** Representatives of Member States, UN entities, and ECOSOC accredited nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) from all regions of the world are invited to contribute to the session. YWCA Canada's delegation will join YWCA colleagues across the world to advocate for gender equity. **This year's priority theme is ["Enhancing Indigenous Peoples' right to self-determination in the context of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: emphasizing the voices of Indigenous youth"](#)** **YWCA Canada's delegation will arrive on April 14th, 2024, and leave on April 20th, 2024.**

Applications are due **March 7, 2024, at 11:59 AM EST**, and should be completed online at the

**following link:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YXTCWBK>

For this event in specific, a subcommittee of the Truth and Reconciliation

Action Committee has been formed to update the Leadership Miles application form and selection criteria, and to review and select applications received. Please note that up to **three successful applicants** will be selected to receive the bursary to attend the forum.

Applicants interested in attending **UNPFII** will be contacted with a response by March 11th 2024 and must confirm their attendance/acceptance of the bursary by March 15 in order to be registered by the deadline.

**Applicants must acquire approval of an MA's CEO/ED or Board Chair/President. Upon completion of the application, applicants will receive a PDF of their completed application. This should be forwarded to the CEO/ED or Board Chair/President for their records and sign-off.**

**We suggest completing the application for CEO/ED or Board Chair/President endorsement as soon as possible, or, if necessary, sharing your CEO/ED or Board Chair/President endorsement with us before completing the application.**

**There are three ways that they can endorse the application.**

- 1. Applicants can email [ocroke-martin@ywcacanada.ca](mailto:ocroke-martin@ywcacanada.ca) a copy of the email from CEO/ED or Board Chair/President with the completed form and indication that they approve.**
- 2. Applicants can print this form and get a hard copy signature and email a copy to [projects@ywcacanada.ca](mailto:projects@ywcacanada.ca). Please email [ocroke-martin@ywcacanada.ca](mailto:ocroke-martin@ywcacanada.ca) if you would like a copy of your application.**
- 3. You may request that YWCA Canada send a DocuSign link to CEO/ED or Board Chair to confirm that they endorse the application.**

**If you are concerned about submitting your endorsement by the application deadline, please contact [ocroke-martin@ywcacanada.ca](mailto:ocroke-martin@ywcacanada.ca). Extensions may be provided for endorsements – no extensions will be provided for applications submitted past the deadline.**

#### **Information about the Fund:**

The YW Leadership Miles Fund was established at the 2006 Annual Membership Meeting (AMM) to facilitate the leadership development of young women and gender-diverse youth in the YWCA in Canada. The fund's purpose is to subsidize the travel and accommodation costs of young leaders 30 years old or under at YWCA events across Canada and internationally. Member

Associations can access this fund by nominating young women and gender-diverse youth within the movement. The committee fundraises each year to grow the YW Leadership Miles Fund with the intention of funding more young leaders to participate in various leadership development opportunities along with regional, national, and international YWCA events.

Please direct all inquiries about the YW Leadership Miles Fund to Orlaith Croke-Martin at [ocroke-martin@ywcacanada.ca](mailto:ocroke-martin@ywcacanada.ca).