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Indigenous Pathfinders in AI 2026



Thank you for your interest in the Indigenous Pathfinders in AI Program!

Program Overview

Pathfinders is an artificial intelligence (AI) career pathway program for **First Nations, Inuit, and Métis** talent.

- **Location:** The program takes place over seven weeks in-person at Mila - Quebec AI Institute in Montreal.
- **Stipend:** Selected candidates receive a \$5,800 stipend, as well as coverage for travel and accommodation.
- **Curriculum:** Participants will learn about the technical and human dimensions of AI, weaving in cultural components and exploring the emerging area of Indigenous AI.

Timeline

- **Interviews:** Selected applicants will be contacted for a short interview in early March.
- **Onboarding:** Online onboarding begins in the last week of May.
- **Start Date:** The program kicks off in-person in Montreal on June 1st, 2026.

How to Apply

Please follow the steps below to begin your application:

1. **Create an account** and **bookmark** this page for easy access.
2. **Select the program** "Indigenous Pathfinders in AI" in the dropdown menu below.
3. **Start your application.** You can return to **edit** or update it anytime **before** the application deadline.

4. Save your work in progress as you go.

5. Submit your completed application when you're ready for it to be reviewed.

Questions? Please visit the **FAQ** section of our website for more information. If your question is not addressed there, feel free to contact us at pathfinders@mila.quebec

We wish you the best of luck with your application!

— **The Indigenous Pathfinders Team**

Application name

To apply, please complete each section below. All information will be kept confidential and used solely for application assessment and program logistics.

Full Name

Enter your first and last name

Preferred Name (optional)

Enter name if different from legal name

Email Address

example@company.com

Phone Number

(555) 555-5555

City

Enter your city of residence

Province

Alberta
British Columbia

Manitoba
New Brunswick
Newfoundland and Labrador
Northwest Territories
Nova Scotia
Nunavut
Ontario
Prince Edward Island
...

Select your province

Pronouns (optional)

She/Her
He/Him
They/Them
Other
Prefer not to say

e.g., she/her, he/him, they/them

The Pathfinders program is specifically designed to support Indigenous learners. To confirm eligibility, applicants who advance to the final stage will be asked to provide **one** form of Indigenous identity documentation below:

- First Nations Status Card
- Inuit Beneficiary Card
- Métis Citizenship Card

I confirm that I can provide **one** of the listed documents **above** required for the final stage.

Required for program eligibility.

Do you identify as:

First Nations

Inuit

Métis

Other Indigenous communities

Select one

Please indicate, if applicable, the nation(s), tribe(s), hamlet(s)/community(ies) to which you are connected.

e.g., Mohawks from Kahnawà:ke

Please provide details regarding your academic history, starting with your most recent qualification.

Select the option that best describes your situation right now:

▼

College/CEGEP student

Bachelor's-level student

Master's student

PhD student / Postdoctoral researcher

Certificate / training program student

Working professional

Recent graduate (In the last 3 years)

Not currently studying or working

Other

Select your primary status.

Which post-secondary institution do you currently attend, or did you most recently attend?

Please enter the full name of the institution (no abbreviations). e.g., University of Toronto.

What degree or academic program are you currently studying, or did you most recently complete?

Bachelor of Computer Science, Diploma in Business Administration, etc.

What is your main goal for joining the Pathfinders program?

Learning AI basics

- Education or future studies
- Research
- Career development
- Building confidence in tech
- Community impact
- Entrepreneurship / business ideas
- I'm not sure yet — I want to explore

Select all that apply

Please indicate if you have any relevant experience or prior training related to Artificial Intelligence, (optional) 200 words and if so, in what capacity

Examples: Python basics, programming, linear algebra, data analysis, etc.

The Pathfinders program invites participants to co-develop a project related to one of our core thematics. Participants will be grouped according to interest, skill, and background. **Note:** While we take your preference into serious consideration, we cannot guarantee placement in a specific group. Final grouping is determined by the overall mix of skills and backgrounds in the cohort.

Please **select up to three** themes you are most interested in working on during the program.

- Language, Culture and Art
- Environmental Stewardship
- Education, Capacity Building, and Social Impact
- Health and wellbeing
- AI for Social Justice and Economic Reconciliation
- AI Governance, Ethics, and Data Sovereignty

Note: While we take your preference into serious consideration, we cannot guarantee placement in a specific group.

We'd love to learn more about your perspective. Please answer the following questions briefly. Note that each response has a word limit to help keep your answers concise.

Why would you like to participate in the Indigenous Pathfinders in AI program? Please describe how this opportunity aligns with your interests, goals, or future aspirations. 500 words

Focus on your personal motivation and how AI skills could impact your future or your community.

Tell us about a time when you learned in a collaborative or community-based environment. What did you learn, 250 words and what made it a supportive "learning from each other" experience?

Examples can come from anywhere: school projects, community workshops, sports teams, or learning from mentors and family.

How do you imagine AI being used to support Indigenous communities in the future? Share your ideas, hopes, concerns, or vision.

250 words

You don't need technical knowledge to answer this. We are interested in your creativity and unique perspective.

We are committed to creating an inclusive and accessible learning environment. Please let us know if there are any accommodations or supports that would help you participate fully in the program.

Do you have any accessibility needs we can support during the program? (optional)

100 words

If so, please describe.

Do you have any dietary restrictions or allergies?

e.g., Vegetarian, Vegan, Gluten-free, or severe peanut allergy. Please specify if your allergy is life-threatening. If no, type **None**

How did you hear about the Pathfinders program? (optional)

▼

- Indigenous Tech Circle
- Abundant Intelligences
- Mila website
- Jelly Academy
- Indspire
- Friend
- Family
- University / college newsletter
- Community organization
- Social media
- ...

Select one

Please attach your **CV** and any **additional documents** you wish to include with your application (for example, a reference letter or other supporting documents), in **PDF format only**.

Attach Documents Here

CV
Additional Document

All information collected through this form is confidential and will be used solely for the purpose of the selection process.

You may review and edit your application after submission. Applicants are encouraged to submit their application as early as possible; you may log back in and **make updates** to your submission at any time **prior** to the application deadline.

Once the deadline has passed, no further changes will be accepted.

* I hereby declare that the information provided in this application is true and correct. I understand that any false or misleading information may result in the rejection of my application or cancellation of my registration.