

Call for Proposals  
PAA Psychology Conference

***Continuing Competence in Professional Psychology:  
Fostering Intentional, Ethical, and Effective Practice***

Renaissance Edmonton Airport

October 1-3, 2026

The Psychologists' Association of Alberta (PAA) invites proposals for presentations at its psychology conference to be held in October 1-3, 2026. This conference showcases advances and evidence-based practices in maintaining professional competence, aligning with the College of Alberta Psychologists' (CAP) Continuing Competence Program. It also showcases nationally and internationally known Keynote speakers and book signings.

PAA welcomes submissions from psychologists, researchers, educators, and graduate students that relate to ongoing professional development, scientific knowledge, and ethical practice in psychology.

The submission deadline is May 1, 2026. All proposals must be submitted via the online form or as a single PDF document that reflects all of the criteria outlined in the online form and emailed to [paaconference@paa-ab.ca](mailto:paaconference@paa-ab.ca).

Submission form available here: [Call for Proposals | PAA 2026 Conference – Fill out form](#)

### **Proposal Submission Categories**

PAA invites a range of presentation formats. Please choose the format that best fits your content and indicate it in your proposal:

- Individual Oral Presentation: A 30–60-minute talk (including Q&A) by one or two presenters on a specific topic. Suitable for research findings, case studies, or practice innovations.
- Symposium/Panel Discussion: A coordinated session of 60–90 minutes with multiple speakers (up to 5 presenters) offering diverse perspectives on a common theme or engaging in a moderated discussion. Panels should allow time for audience interaction.



- **Poster Presentation:** A research or program poster to be displayed during a dedicated 2-hour poster session. Posters allow one-on-one discussion of empirical studies, practical initiatives, or novel ideas. Presenters are expected to be available beside their poster during the session.
- **Roundtable Discussion:** A facilitated, small-group session (typically 60–90 minutes) designed to promote in-depth discussion and peer exchange on a focused topic in professional psychology. Roundtables emphasize interactive dialogue rather than formal presentation and may include brief opening remarks followed by guided discussion. This format is well suited to practice-based issues, ethical dilemmas, emerging topics, or shared problem-solving related to continuing competence. Facilitators should demonstrate subject-matter expertise and the ability to guide respectful, inclusive discussion among participants.

*If you have an alternate format (e.g., 3-hour pre-conference workshop) that aligns with the conference theme, you may propose it – please provide details and rationale. All presentations should relate to continuing competence, either by sharing scientifically grounded knowledge or addressing ethical and professional practice issues, as described below.*

### **Continuing Competence & Presentation Length (CAP Requirements)**

To ensure sessions meet CAP's Continuing Competence Program (CCP) learning goals, each proposal must specify the intended competence area and session length:

- **Preferred Presentation Length:** Indicate your preferred session duration (e.g., 30-minute talk, 60-minute panel, etc.).
- **CAP Competence Area:** Select which CAP CCP category your content addresses – Area 1: "Professional Knowledge & Practice" or Area 2: "Ethics & Jurisprudence". (Area 1 focuses on scientifically supported professional knowledge and skills; Area 2 focuses on ethics, standards, and jurisprudence in practice.)
- **Description:** Provide 2–3 sentences explaining how your presentation fulfills the chosen CAP area. For example, if you select Area 1, describe how your session updates attendees' scientific knowledge or skills in practice; if Area 2, explain how it enhances ethical understanding or application of professional standards or laws.

*Background:* CAP's CCP requires Alberta psychologists to complete at least 8 hours per year of continuing learning in Area 1 (Professional Knowledge), 8 hours in Area 2 (Ethics & Jurisprudence), and at least 4 hours of Indigenous-focused education and training (Areas 1, 2, 3, or 4). By identifying the area and educational length, presenters help attendees receive credit towards these requirements. Please ensure your content is substantive

enough to count toward the hours you propose (e.g., a 60-minute session should contain ~1 hour of relevant learning outcomes and instructional objectives and content).

### **Presenter Qualifications and Background**

We require information demonstrating that presenters are qualified to speak on their proposed topics. Each presenter listed in the proposal should provide:

- Name, Degree, and Professional Designation: (e.g., *Dr. Jane Smith, PhD, RPsych; John Doe, MA, RPsych; XYZ, Graduate Student*).
- Affiliation/Organization: (e.g., university, clinic, or employer).
- Brief Biography (50–100 words): Highlight relevant experience, expertise, and credentials, especially those that relate to the presentation topic. Include educational background, licensure status, and professional experience for all presenters. This helps reviewers assess the authority and competence of the presenters in the subject matter.

*Eligibility:* PAA membership is not required to submit a proposal. However, at least one presenter should have appropriate professional credentials (e.g., a registered psychologist, registered provisional psychologist, or psychology graduate student under supervision). Presenters should possess expertise in the topic area to ensure high-quality, evidence-based content for attendees. All accepted presenters will be expected to register for the conference (presenter discount information will be provided upon acceptance; and in special cases, presenters may be paid regular PAA continuing education rates).

### **Proposal Format and Submission Guidelines**

Please prepare your proposal as follows (to be included in your single PDF or online submission form):

- *Title of Presentation:* A concise title (max 15 words) that reflects content.
- *Abstract:* A summary of the presentation (approximately 150–250 words). The abstract should clearly outline the topic, methodology or perspective, and conclusions or take-home messages for attendees.
- *Learning Outcomes and Instructional Objectives:* 2–3 specific learning outcomes that state what participants will gain from the session (e.g., “By the end of this presentation, participants will be able to...”). Learning outcomes should be observable and relevant to either professional knowledge or ethical practice. Also include 2–3 specific instructional objectives.



- *Presentation Type:* Indicate one of the categories (Individual, Symposium/Panel, Poster, etc.) as described above.
- *Preferred Length & CAP Area:* As detailed in the Continuing Competence section, indicate the session duration and whether it addresses Area 1 or Area 2, with a brief justification.
- *Content Outline/Main Points:* (Optional for individual talks; required for symposium proposals.) In a few bullet points or a short paragraph, outline the key points or agenda of the presentation. For symposiums or panels, list the titles or topics of each speaker's contribution.
- *Presenter Info:* For each presenter, include the name, degree, title/position, affiliation, and the brief bio/qualifications (as noted in Presenter Qualifications above). Ensure educational credentials and any relevant certifications or registrations are listed.
- *References:* (Optional.) If your presentation is research-heavy or data-driven, you may cite up to 5 key references in APA style to demonstrate the evidence base. This is not required for all proposals but is encouraged for scientific research presentations.

**Submission Process:** Combine the above elements into a single PDF file. Name the file with the presenter's last name and a short title (e.g., *Smith\_PAAConferenceAREA1.pdf*). Submit via the online portal on the PAA website or email the PDF to [careeraffairs@paa-ab.ca](mailto:careeraffairs@paa-ab.ca). All submissions must be received by May 1, 2026 (11:59 PM Mountain Time). You will receive a confirmation of receipt. Notification of acceptance will be sent by June 15, 2026.

### **Adjudication Criteria**

All proposals will undergo a peer-review by PAA's Conference Program Committee. Reviewers will evaluate each submission based on the following criteria:

- *Relevance to Theme and CAP Areas:* The degree to which the proposal aligns with the conference theme of continuing competence and clearly addresses Area 1 or Area 2 (professional knowledge or ethics). Content should help psychologists maintain or enhance competence in practice or ethical understanding.
- *Quality and Clarity:* The clarity of the proposal's abstract and objectives, and the overall coherence of the presentation plan. Proposals should have well-defined learning outcomes, instructional objectives, and a logical structure. Any research or data presented should be sound and evidence-based.
- *Audience Benefit:* Usefulness and relevance to the intended audience of practicing psychologists and graduate and undergraduate students. The topic should address



current challenges, skills, or knowledge gaps in professional psychology. Practical takeaways or applicability in Alberta's professional context will be valued.

- *Cultural Competence and Diversity Awareness:* The extent to which the proposed presentation enhances participants' cultural competence and understanding of diversity-related issues in professional psychology. Proposals will be evaluated on how well they acknowledge, integrate, and critically engage with factors such as culture, ethnicity, race, Indigeneity, gender identity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, disability, language, and other dimensions of diversity. Preference will be given to submissions that demonstrate cultural humility, awareness of systemic and contextual factors affecting psychological practice, and relevance to diverse populations served within Alberta and Canada.
- *Originality and Innovation:* Preference may be given to proposals that introduce new ideas, innovative practices, or fresh perspectives on professional development and ethics in psychology.
- *Presenter Expertise:* The expertise and qualifications of the presenter(s) in relation to the topic. Strong proposals will demonstrate that presenters have the background to speak authoritatively (as evidenced by credentials and experience provided).
- *Completeness and Accuracy:* The proposal meets all submission requirements and is free of significant errors. Complete and accurate submissions (all required information provided) will be reviewed favorably. Incomplete proposals or those not adhering to guidelines (e.g., missing CAP area justification or bios) may be rejected without full review.

Each proposal will be reviewed by committee members using a standardized rubric. The Program Committee's decision criteria will mirror the above points. Feedback will be provided where possible. PAA strives to assemble a conference program that is diverse in topics and presenters, and that collectively addresses both Area 1 (professional knowledge) and Area 2 (ethics) learning needs for our members.

### **Submission Checklist**

Before submitting, please review this checklist to ensure your proposal package is complete:

- Title and Abstract are provided (title ≤ 15 words; abstract ~150–250 words) and clearly describe your presentation.
- Learning objectives (2–3) are listed and aligned with your content.
- Preferred presentation format (Individual talk, Panel, Poster, etc.) is specified.



- Preferred length of session (in minutes) is indicated, and CAP Area (1 or 2) is selected, with a brief explanation of how your content meets that category.
- Presenter information for *all* presenters is included: names, degrees, affiliations, and brief bios highlighting qualifications (educational background, licensure, relevant experience).
- Proposal content outline or main points are included (if required for your format, e.g., for panels/symposia).
- (Optional) References are included for any key sources or evidence (if applicable).
- Formatting: The proposal is in a single PDF file, clearly labeled, and follows APA style for any citations. It has been proofread for clarity and completeness.
- Submission method: You are prepared to upload via the online portal or email the PDF by the May 1, 2026, deadline.

By following the above guidelines, your proposal will have the best chance of being accepted. PAA looks forward to receiving your submissions and crafting an enriching program for the 2026 PAA Conference on *Continuing Competence in Professional Psychology*. This event is an excellent opportunity to share your knowledge, engage and connect with colleagues (Area 3 of CAP's CCP requirements!), and contribute to the ongoing professional growth of Alberta's psychology community.

Thank you for helping advance our profession's competence and excellence!