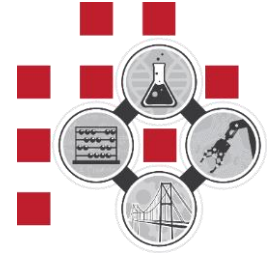# STAN Call for Session Proposals

Submission Deadline: October 28 2024
Conference to be held on February 25-27, 2025

Join us to explore the transformative power of STEM to create a thriving planet—starting with thriving individuals! The STAN Conference is your gateway to a vibrant community of science communicators, educators, researchers, and industry leaders who understand that the well-being of our planet begins with the well-being of its people.

This year's conference centers on the compelling idea that when individuals flourish, so does the world. We'll dive deep into the connections between STEM literacy, mental and physical health, community wellness, and environmental sustainability. By empowering individuals through STEM, we pave the way for a healthier, more sustainable future for all.

We invite you to join us at the 2025 Science & Technology Awareness Network (STAN) Annual Conference, which will be held primarily virtually. We hope to welcome over 150 delegates from across the country. The three-day Conference will include a mix of invited and member-proposed sessions, engaging and interactive sessions, panels, and keynote speakers. Opportunities to network with your Canadian peers will be offered throughout the program. STAN's Annual General Meeting will be built into the proceedings.

This primarily virtual conference will be supplemented with local in-person networking events in locations with sufficient interest.

With your experience and expertise, we can jointly develop a unique conference experience.

Below are the details to help you prepare your conference session proposal.

More information about the theme
In order to support the growth and development of both attendees and the field at large, STAN encourages the development of session proposals that connect to the conference theme and keep science literacy at heart.

Sessions may be focused on one or more of the following areas:

- **STEM Literacy and Community Health**: Exploring how science and technology learning can enhance mental and physical well-being within communities.
- **The Role of Educators in Shaping a Sustainable Future**: How educators can foster a culture of well-being and sustainability through STEM.
- **Integrating Wellness into STEM Workplaces**: Best practices for creating healthy work environments that support both innovation and well-being.
- **Navigating Difficult Conversations for Progress**: Tips for engaging in the challenging but necessary dialogues that drive meaningful progress in STEM and beyond.
- **Collaboration Across Sectors for Sustainable Impact**: How partnerships between education, industry, and policy can drive a thriving STEM ecosystem. Highlighting successful collaborations that are driving advancements across STEM fields.
- **Empathy, Ethics, and Equity in STEM**: Ensuring that STEM-driven solutions promote fairness, inclusivity, and well-being for all.
- **Best Practices in STEM Education and Outreach**: Sharing effective strategies for STEM education and outreach programs that inspire and engage learners of all ages.
- **Integrating the Arts in STEAM**: Advancing the role of the Arts in STEM literacy and exploring how creativity can inspire and invite more people into STEM fields.

Tech details

STAN will set up and host sessions on the online platform for all presenters. The event will run in a Meeting format as it provides more opportunity for connection. Virtual breakout rooms capability is available, and STAN can implement these for you.

STAN will work with you to incorporate some base level of interactivity to your session (for example, interactive polling/ word clouds to warm up the audience and to wrap up your session). We will provide the technology to do so, to provide some level of uniformity throughout the conference. You are welcome to incorporate other interactivity tools in your session and the conference committee will be happy to brainstorm with you.

Session Proposal format

All sessions will be assumed to last approximately 60-75 minutes unless otherwise indicated in your proposal).

We are especially interested in innovative approaches to your presentation or session. Add a trivia aspect, interact with our delegates, encourage critical

thinking, or task everyone with an action item. What will our delegates be able to take away and share with their peers after our event?

Typical formats for sessions include but are not limited to:

Keynote: A single presenter discussing a primary interest to the assembly, designed to arouse enthusiasm and action. (60 minutes + Q&A = 75 minutes)

Traditional Panel: A structured session with three to four presenters in a moderated panel discussion. (60 minutes + Q&A = 75 minutes)

Fireside-chat: A free-flowing session with 2 or 3 people who discuss their work and ideas on a particular topic, in an informal interview-style chat. Questions can be taken from the audience throughout.

Ignite Session: In this format, multiple speakers present in the same track under a strict set of guidelines designed to keep the information flowing. For example, a session might feature five speakers with each one scheduled for ten PowerPoint slides and ten minutes to present their ideas. The result is a fast-paced session that changes topics several times to keep the audience on their toes.

Roundtable: A Roundtable is a 60-minute group discussion on a precise theme among up to 10 participants in a virtual breakout room. Roundtable presenters should bring targeted questions to post to participants at the table in order to learn from and with those attending. The presenter is also asked to summarize and conclude on the subject at the end of the session (5-10 minutes).

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SELECTION CRITERIA
All proposals are reviewed by the STAN Conference Planning Committee considering some of the following criteria as a guide:

1. Offers meaningful, actionable learning outcomes and/or professional development
2. Fits well into Conference theme, and links to at least one secondary theme
3. Demonstrates curiosity, innovation, strategic thinking, playfulness, and/or a vision of the future of Canadian STEM
4.

5. Presents diverse perspectives and ideas and includes a range of role models
6. Encourages cross-discipline collaboration and networking
7. Engages the audience and/or incites critical thinking
8. Is NOT focused exclusively on describing the work of a specific organization - i.e. involves several organizations and/or strives to offer generally applicable take-aways.

Timeline
Call for Proposals deadline: October 28, 2024
Session acceptance letters by November 14, 2024
Presenters must be confirmed by December 6, 2024

Questions? Contact us.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES
Submit a document with the following information, by email to stanrsst@gmail.com before end-of-day October 28, 2024.

Name of session leader / coordinator
Organization
Contact information (email, address)

SESSION PROPOSAL INFORMATION
Session Title:
Session Format:
Session Duration:
Session short description (max 35 words):
Session long description (max 500 words):
Tech requirements or questions (see call for proposal for more details):
Theme connections:
Interactivity:
What skills, tools or knowledge will participants gain, and how will they be able to apply these to their work?
Participant limit (we encourage you to plan for up to 150 attendees):

Presenter information
Session leader (A Session Leader is responsible for communicating with the STAN Conference Planning Committee, ensuring that the speakers are confirmed, that the session is coherent as a whole with a clear strategic intent,

and for successfully meeting the conference objectives as outlined in the proposal.**):**

Number of presenters:

Please include presenters names, preferred pronouns, organizations, positions/titles, social media, languages spoken:

Presenter bios are encouraged, they will be required upon approval

Are any of your presenters people who:

- ❐ have not previously presented at a STAN Conference
- ❐ are youth or students (high school, college, or university)
- ❐ identify as First Nation, Métis and/or Inuit
- ❐ identify as members of the LGBTQ2S+ community
- ❐ identify as members of a racialized group
- ❐ identify as persons with a disability(ies) or differently-abled
- ❐ otherwise identifies with a equity deserving group (please specify)

Agreement:

- ❐ I will provide STAN with an electronic version of my presentation and/or handouts to share with the membership online.
- ❐ I agree to have my session recorded and shared with conference registrants and STAN members.
- ❐ If my proposal is accepted, I have the necessary organisational approvals to attend the conference.

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Signature