

ASI 2026 – Theme – APPROVED BY ASI BOARD, Feb. 12, 2026

Shaping a culture of well-being for present and future generations

ASI 2026 will focus on shaping a future where well-being is possible for every generation by strengthening community engagement in policy, structures, and legislation, mobilizing networks and connections, using new evidence and considering emerging trends such as guaranteed basic income and technologies, e.g., social media, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and robotics.

Building on progress made since the ASI policy brief was released in 2022ⁱ and the ASI 2025 program, ASI 2026 will use a Future Generations Approach, emphasizing mental well-being for infants, children, youth, all members of present generations and the generations that will follow, building on Indigenous teachings of the Seven Generations Principleⁱⁱ.

Sub-themes

Community: Key issues include **strengthening community capacity**, creating **inclusive and connected communities**, and supporting strong **governance and leadership** at local, national, and global levels. *What needs to change?* Participants will explore the “soft infrastructure” required for a well-being society, including the mechanisms, structures, resources, and investments that enable communities to act locally while contributing to national strategies. Questions such as: “*How are people finding value and meaning in community?*”, “*What can we do to foster the strengths and capacity of children?*” and “*What can each of us do to support current and future generations?*” will guide discussions.

Well-being: ASI 2026 will help build a **common language of well-being**, highlight successful initiatives and challenges, and promote the role of **boundary spanners** who link internal and external networks. The event will also emphasize learning communities, mentorship and sharing of knowledge to advance the Geneva Charter’s vision of a well-being societyⁱⁱⁱ and a more informed, equitable, inclusive, caring and interconnected world.

Policy: Enabling policies that take a whole of government approach and create a system that supports well-being at all levels. Reflecting on cultural traditions, as embodied by the Indigenous principle of ‘Seven Generations’¹. intergenerational fairness has been coming to the

fore in recent years, not only with respect to climate change, but a whole range of environmental, social, technological and economic conditions.

The Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion^{iv}, Geneva Charter for Well-being and the UN Pact for the Future^v emphasize the need for a global commitment to security, peace, sustainable development, social justice, equity, and climate action as prerequisites for health. We will reflect on the implications for local and provincial action, and continue to learn from Wales, which created a Wellbeing of Future Generations Act in 2015 - <https://futuregenerations.wales/>.

Closing

ASI 2026 Forum will build on global policy and explore local context and evidence, advancing the four priorities of the ASI Policy Brief^{vi}, i.e., mental health in all policies, intersectoral approaches, sustainable funding and investment in support of infant, child and youth mental health promotion to strengthen community resilience and societal well-being.

Endnotes:

ⁱ ASI Policy Brief (2022) Investing Upstream: Placing infant, child and youth mental health promotion at the forefront. <https://asi-jea.ca/en/asi-policy-brief/>

ⁱⁱ The concept of *seven generations* is a guiding principle in many Indigenous cultures across North America. It is often expressed in the idea that decisions made today should consider their impact on the next seven generations. This reflects a deep sense of responsibility, sustainability, and interconnectedness with both ancestors and future descendants. The idea is sometimes called the *Seven Generations* principle, emphasizing a chain or continuum of generations, while in other contexts it's referred to as thinking in terms of the *Seventh Generation*—that is, considering the impact of today's decisions on the generation seven steps into the future.

The variation in phrasing often depends on context, regional usage, or even personal preference, and both are widely recognized in discussions of Indigenous philosophy and environmental stewardship. However, the principle consistently emphasizes long-term thinking, environmental stewardship, and social responsibility. In practice it values continuity, respect for ancestors, and care for descendants. (Chat GBT 2025)

ⁱⁱⁱ World Health (2022). Geneva Charter for Well-being. <https://www.who.int/publications>

^{iv} World Health Organization (1986). Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion. <https://www.who.int/publications>

^v United Nations (2024) Pact for the Future, Global Digital Compact and Declaration on Future Generations. <https://www.un.org/en/summit-of-the-future/pact-for-the-future>
