



2026 Call for Speakers

Information & Tips

fest@vegottawa.org | vegottawa.org/fest

Speaking at VegOttawa Fest 2026

Thank you for your interest in presenting at VegOttawa Fest 2026! This event promises to be a fun-filled and inspiring day for thousands of residents across Ottawa and beyond.

This document contains the information you need to submit your proposal. Please read it carefully for the best chance of being selected. We look forward to reviewing your application!

Important Info at-a-glance

Festival date:	Saturday, July 25, 2026, 10:00 AM–5:00 PM
Festival location:	Ottawa Conference & Event Centre, 200 Coventry Rd, Ottawa
Application form:	Google Form
Application deadline:	Sunday, March 22, 2026 at 11:59 PM Eastern Time

About VegOttawa Fest

VegOttawa is a non-profit association established in 2006, formerly known as the National Capital Vegetarian Association. We are the main resource for the plant-based community in Ottawa. We support local businesses and community members through our membership program, online resources, and community events.

In 2025, we brought back VegOttawa Fest after a long hiatus. It was so successful that we're bringing it back again this year! This one-day event is part trade show, part conference, and part food festival, including dozens of veg-friendly vendors, entertainment, food, and a full-day programme of talks and presentations. Approximately 2,500 people attended the event in 2025, and we expect upwards of 3,000 guests in 2026, from all walks of life. Visit vegottawa.org/fest/ for more details.



Expectations for Speakers & Presentations

We are accepting applications that meet the following criteria. Please note that all sessions will take place in-person at the event.

Speakers

- Bring a unique perspective on topics relevant to veganism or plant-based living
- Experienced in presenting, ideally to large audiences
- Have an engaging presentation style
- Will present in English or French

Presentations

- Session length: allow for between 15 and 30 minutes per speaker

- Number of presenters: minimum 1, maximum 4 (for panel discussions)
- All presentations must include time for answering audience questions
- Topic must be relevant to living a vegan lifestyle

Presentation formats

- Solo talks
- Panel discussions (up to 4 speakers)
- Cooking demonstrations
- Workshops
- Other (we are open to other formats; please describe your suggestion in detail)

Preparing your submission

Please read the following sections carefully to help you prepare your application.

Themes & Topics

You can choose any theme or topic for your proposal—we are interested in unique topics and perspectives! Examples of topics could include but are not limited to:

- Vegan health, nutrition, & fitness
- Vegan myth-busting
- Animals and the law
- Social psychology in animal studies
- Veganic agriculture & gardening
- The objectification of animals used for food, entertainment, experimentation, etc.
- The future of food: lab-grown meat & other high-tech innovations
- Rethinking our relationships with animals
- Personal/hopeful/inspirational stories about veganism
- Making the vegan movement more inclusive
- Tips for successful vegan advocacy
- The connection between diet & climate
- Cooking demonstrations
- Practical workshops with hands on or interactive elements

Filling out the submission form

Please be detailed but concise when filling out the application form. Ensure that your proposed session title, theme, and description accurately reflect your presentation content. Presentation titles will be published and should indicate at-a-glance what your session will cover. Please link to video footage of you taking part in other speaking engagements/talks/presentations for the best chance of being selected.

Application & selection process

Timeline

Submissions will be evaluated after the submission deadline (March 22, 2026), and we anticipate that decisions will be made by April 6. We intend to follow up with all applicants shortly after this date.

Process

Selections will be made based on a 25-point scale:

- **Relevance (5 points)** – how well presentations align with VegOttawa Association’s and VegOttawa Fest’s mission and goals. They should also be applicable to a broad audience, recognizing that vegans and non-vegans will attend.
- **Originality (5 points)** – the uniqueness or novelty of your approach to a theme or topic.
- **Experience (5 points)** – the proposed speaker’s documented presentation, speaking, teaching, or leadership experience.
- **Cohesiveness/Distinctiveness (5 points)** – how well a session “fits” with other selected sessions, allowing us to develop an engaging and cohesive full-day programme, as well as how well a session contributes to a breadth of topics that will appeal to a wide audience.
- **Budget (5 points)** – how well a speaker’s requested honorarium/travel support fit into our limited budget for the full speakers programme.

Additional Information

Honorariums & Travel Support

VegOttawa is a not-for-profit organization with a limited budget for this event. Honorariums are offered on a case-by-case basis, depending on your organizational affiliation and financial need. Please indicate the requested financial support, inclusive of all fees and taxes, in Canadian dollars.

Multiple Submissions

Each applicant is permitted to submit up to, or be included in, two (2) presentation proposals. If submitting more than one (1) proposal, please let us know in your application which is your top choice.

Acceptance

If accepted without conditions, no major changes to your session's theme, format, or length will be permitted. VegOttawa may also offer conditional acceptance, requesting adjustments (e.g., a shorter talk or participation in a panel) to better align with the program. Accepted speakers must sign a speaker agreement and are expected to promote their talk on social media using materials provided by VegOttawa.

Contact

For any questions, please contact Hilary at fest@vegottawa.org.