



Indigenous Watersheds Initiative

Funding Application

March 13, 2023 – April 24, 2023

About the Initiative

The Indigenous Watersheds Initiative (IWI) was created in 2022 to support and invest in Indigenous led watershed priorities for healthy ecosystems and communities. Guided by UNDRIP principles, IWI is both funding and supporting First Nation communities in British Columbia working to advance their vision of watershed health and security. IWI supports a model of watershed security that is rooted in long-term resilience, local values, and Indigenous rights and title.

IWI was created with \$15 million funding from the BC Government and is being delivered through a partnership of [MakeWay](#) and [Watersheds BC](#). The funding is helping communities to support, protect, and restore critical freshwater ecosystems, build climate resilience, create jobs, training opportunities, and protect drinking water. This watershed work also supports First Nations watershed leadership, reconnection with land and water, building intergenerational connections, and strengthening Indigenous-led organizations. The IWI team also supports peer learning and regional convening to create opportunities to build capacity and connections within and across watershed boundaries.

IWI builds on the learnings of the [Healthy Watersheds Initiative](#) (HWI), and the IWI team has worked with the HWI [Indigenous Leadership Advisory Circle](#) in developing the IWI granting application and assessment criteria.

Funding Opportunities - Round Two

Round Two focuses on First Nation organizations or communities in BC that have not received funding through the HWI or Round One of IWI. Approximately \$6 million is available for project grants. This funding round prioritizes proposals coming from regions of the province where few or no applications were received under Round One or HWI. This includes the following watershed basins in B.C.: **Mackenzie, Nass, Stikine, Taku, Yukon, Skeena, North Vancouver Island and North and Central Coast.**

IWI funding supports Indigenous led, community-informed visions for watershed health and security. This may look different from watershed to watershed. IWI will prioritize projects that advance watershed health through the following areas:

- Stewarding watershed health through traditional practices, rehabilitating ecosystems, or monitoring;
- Securing safe and clean drinking water for all;
- Sustaining local and traditional food systems;
- Connecting communities to their watersheds;
- Protecting and mitigating against climate change; and,
- Advancing Indigenous laws and knowledge.

For this round of funding, applications will be prioritized that come from regions of the province where few or no applications were received as part of IWI Round One or HWI, particularly the following watershed basins in B.C.: ***Mackenzie, Nass, Stikine, Taku, Yukon, Skeena, North Vancouver Island and North and Central Coast.***

Funding applications will be assessed on how they incorporate one or more of the criteria below:

- Supporting intergenerational learning, mentorship and the fostering of future watershed stewards and champions;
- Supporting the advancement of UNDRIP implementation;
- Incorporating Indigenous knowledge and laws;
- Building or strengthening partnerships;
- Connecting community members to their land, cultures, languages, food systems, and traditions;
- Restoring and rehabilitating watersheds;
- Supporting watershed stewardship such as data collection, ecosystem assessments, implementing traditional stewardship practices, training;
- Supporting watershed planning or mapping;
- Advancing climate adaptation and mitigation; and
- Educating and engaging community on watershed health.



We recognize that there is no 'one-size-fits-all' approach, and that local priorities may look different from community to community. We will also give careful consideration to projects that do not fit discretely in existing government funding programs.

Eligibility

This current funding is available to:

1. First Nation communities or organizations in British Columbia that have not been previously funded by HWI or IWI Round One.
2. New projects and/or projects that are in progress. Funded activities need to be completed by December 2024.

If you have any questions about your organization's eligibility, please contact us.

Application Process

Due to limited funding, we suggest a maximum of two project proposals per organization. A suggested requested amount is \$25,000 – 300,000 per project proposal.

The intention of the application is for it to be simple and easy to complete. Staff are available to answer your questions, talk about your project ideas, and help you navigate the application process.

[Appendix 1](#) (below) is an Application Guidance document.

Please send applications to info@watershedsbc.ca by end of day April 24th.

Indigenous Watersheds Initiative - Application

Section 1 – Organization and Project Information

1. Organization Information

<u>Qualified Donee</u>		
Organization Name		
Charitable Tax #		
Web Site Address		
Intermediary Organization Name <i>(if Lead Organization is not a qualified donee)</i>		
Project lead contact details	Name	
	Email	
	Phone number	
Secondary Contact person <i>(if applicable)</i>	Name	
	Email	
	Phone number	
Authorized Signatory <i>(For grant agreement)</i>	Name	
	Title/Position	
	Email	
	Organization Address	

	City	
	Postal code	

2. Project Information

Project Name	
Project Budget	
Project location/Watershed *see Appendix for more details	
Grant Amount Requested	
Start date of project	
End date of project	

Section 2 – Project Purpose, Description and Plan

Please refer to the questions below as a guide. If you are working with an intermediary, please ensure your proposal narrative describes how the grantee and intermediary organization will work together on this project.

1. Project Purpose

In a few sentences, please tell us the main goals of your project. E.g., What are you trying to achieve? What existing watershed condition, issue and/or opportunity will the project address? Why is your project important and how will it benefit the community?

2. Project Plan

What does success look like for your project and how will you achieve it. Please describe the high-level activities and timelines that will help you reach your goals (a table or bulleted list is fine).

3. Communications and Engagement

How will you be communicating and engaging your community in project planning, implementation, and results?

4. Who Will be Involved?

Tell us about your community or organization, who will be participating (for example: project participants, partnerships, supporting organizations, etc.) and how?

5. Outcomes and Benefits

This section will support our ability to share the success stories of IWI project's broadly and will guide our reporting to the Province. Please consider the following categories: i) Learning and Development; ii) Economic and Employment; iii) Climate Adaptation, Restoration, Environmental Benefits. If possible, please consider sharing measurable deliverables.

6. Background

Briefly describe your organization's past success or learning related to this project or provide context on the issues you are currently facing in your watershed. Is this project in response to a specific watershed threat? If yes, please explain.

7. Challenges

What are the potential challenges that you think could arise during your work on this project? What might get in the way of reaching your project goals? How will your team address those challenges?

8. Reporting

Do you have a preference for reporting options? Examples could be sharing reports that are generated as a result of the project work e.g., videos, or a report for this project that needs to be completed for another funder.

9. Is there anything else you would like us to know? (Optional)

Section 3 – Project Budget

Please provide a detailed budget for the work you plan to do with the grant amount requested, describing how the proposed amount will be used.

Expense Type <i>(add rows as needed)</i>	Expense Detail	2023	2024
Core Operating			
Communications			
Direct Program			
Events, Travel, and Peer Learning			
Capital Costs			
Equipment			
IT hardware software			
Administration Fees			
Total Amounts:			
Total Requested for Project:			

Notes:

- Capital Costs: purchases directly related to delivery of project; combined total should not typically exceed 25% of total Project Expenses.

- Events, Travel and Peer Learning: We encourage projects to consider budgeting funds to support elders, youth, ceremony etc. (e.g., honoraria, food, travel). Additionally, IWI will likely be hosting peer learning /gathering events in 2023 and project funds can be used to participate in IWI events.
- Equipment: total should not typically exceed 15% of the total Project Expenses.
- IT Hardware/Software: total should not typically exceed 10% of Project Expenses.
- Administration fees should not be more than 10% of Project Expenses (overhead expenses, including: Board expenses, Accounting, Audit, Legal Fees; Office Space & Operations; Bank Fees; Insurance).
- We encourage projects to pay a living wage for positions funded through this initiative (see rates here: https://www.livingwageforfamilies.ca/living_wage_rates)
- *See Appendix below for more details on expenses

If applicable, please outline any other funding sources, in-kind supports, or budget considerations.

Funding Source <i>(Add rows as needed)</i>	Indicate Secured/Requested	Amount
Total secured from other sources:		

IWI Application Guidance

If you still have questions about the process, eligibility or funding criteria after reviewing this guidance document, please contact our Program Specialist at Natalie@watershedsbc.ca or 236-317-3454.

Your application should not exceed 10 pages.

If you are submitting two project proposals for consideration, please complete two separate application documents.

When your project application is completed, please save it as: **Project Name_IWIApplication** and email it as a Word document to info@watershedsbc.ca by end of day April 24, 2023.

Section 1 – Organization and Project Information

Organization Information & Eligibility

In accordance with the colonial framework of CRA regulations, grants can only be administered to Canadian registered charities or [qualified donees](#). A qualified donee is defined as an organization or public body (e.g., Band Council) that is performing a function of the government of Canada. A full list of qualified donees can be found [here](#). A list of active registered charities can be found [here](#).

Organizations or entities who do not meet CRA registration requirements may partner with a registered charity or qualified donee. If you are unable to identify an appropriate partner, please reach out to our Program Specialist, at natalie@watershedsbc.ca.

What is an Indigenous-led project or organization?

Funding is available for eligible Indigenous-led projects that meet the guidelines found in the [14DM Definitional Matrix](#), developed by the [Circle on Philanthropy](#). This matrix was

developed with guidance from Indigenous partners across Canada, to help define non-profit organizations' relationships to Indigenous peoples.

Project Timelines

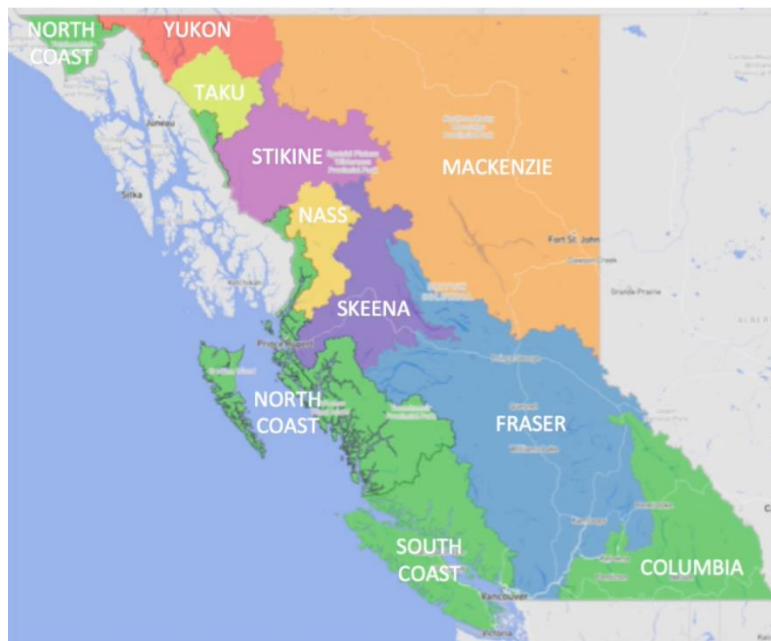
Projects are eligible to apply for multi-year funds, until December 2024. This can include funds for ongoing or new work. Please provide the approximate start and end date for the work proposed to be funded through this round (up to December 2024).

We understand that advancing watershed visions can be generational work. We will work with projects to discuss any changes in project timelines.

Project Site Location - Watershed Basin

Please list the watershed basin where your project work will take place. Refer to the map below or at the following link for approximate watershed basin boundaries.

https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1o3VWtar_qWaMYzw9jO2zmQRNUa55Q1w&ll=52.41796216853689%2C-126.55024945&z=5



- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Mackenzie | Skeena |
| Fraser | Stikine |
| Columbia | Taku |
| North Coast - Pacific Ocean Seaboard | Yukon |
| South Coast - Pacific Ocean Seaboard | Multiple Basins – please list |
| Nass | |

Section 2 - Project Purpose, Description and Plan

- Please provide a brief overview of your project idea, including goals or objectives and major activities. Project purpose descriptions are one of the first things that a reviewer turns to when trying to understand a project and assess its fit to the priority topics identified above (Funding Opportunities).

Here are a few suggestions on some key things to consider when developing your answers.

- Clear project purpose and vision: Why is the work important and linked to other priorities for the nation/organization. Emphasize synergies with other projects, partnerships with other nations or organizations.
- Project goals: What are you seeking to do and where? With or for whom? How? Using what approach or strategy?
- Project relevance: Why is this project important? What issue(s) or challenge is it addressing? What is the significance or scale of the issue and location of work?
- Project Plan: What are the activities and timelines that are going to help you achieve your project goals. This can be a high-level work plan.
- Outcomes: What anticipated changes or benefits to community, lands, and waters will result from the project?

Section 3 – Project Budget

Description of Expenses

Please provide a list of expenses your project is seeking funding for, and a list of other funding sources (if applicable).

Examples of eligible expenses include:

- **Core Operating:** staffing, honoraria, contractors, etc.
- **Administration Fees:** overhead expenses, board expenses, accounting, audits, legal fees, office spaces, operations, bank fees, insurance, etc.
- **Communications:** storytelling materials, photographers, videographers, etc.
- **Direct Program:** programming or research expenses, engagement, training, etc.
- **Events & Travel:** fuel & travel costs, event rentals, food, venues, etc.



- **Capital Costs:** purchases directly related to project delivery (e.g., monitoring stations, fish weirs). Purchases directly related to project delivery should typically not exceed 25% of total program expenses.
- **Equipment:** equipment required to carry out work (e.g., plants, shovels, drones, construction materials). Total should typically not exceed 15% of total program expenses.
- **IT Hardware/Software:** total should not typically exceed 10% of program expenses.

*Any physical infrastructure that will need to be maintained by a Crown government (i.e., B.C. government, local government) is **ineligible**.*