



Indigenous Guardians Toolkit – Chapter 6: Funding Your Program

List of Potential Government and Philanthropic Funding for Indigenous Guardians

This document is not a complete list of funding for Indigenous Guardian Programs, but instead provides a variety of examples of the types of grants and funding opportunities that may be available to Guardian Programs. You will need to reach out directly to the program or funder to verify the relevance for your Guardian program. If this document does not show funding for your geographic region, consider searching for similar types of grants in your area or through similar types of agencies. If you have any grants or funding opportunities you would like to add to this list, please email info@indigenousguardianstoolkit.ca For ideas, tips and other resources related to funding an Indigenous Guardian program, please see [Chapter 6 “Funding Your Program”](#) in the Indigenous Guardians Toolkit.

Websites to check regularly for funding:

Crown Government Funding

Environmental Funding:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/conservation/funding.html>

CIRNAC and ISC: <https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1436191420868/1436191651704>

Social Development Grants:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding.html>

Philanthropic Funding

Canadian Environmental Grantmakers Network:

<http://grants.cegn.org/>

Terra Viva International Grants:

<https://terravivagrants.org/>

International Funders for Indigenous Peoples:

<https://internationalfunders.org/>

Links and Resources – Potential Funding Sources

Crown Government Funding Opportunities

Federal Government Funding

Indigenous Guardians Pilot Program https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-funding/indigenous-guardians-pilot-program.html#toc0	
Key Words	Indigenous Guardians, Stewardship
Region	Canada
Organization	Government of Canada



Description	This program will provide Indigenous Peoples with greater opportunity to exercise responsibility in stewardship of their traditional lands, waters, and ice. The Pilot Program supports Indigenous rights and responsibilities in protecting and conserving ecosystems, developing and maintaining sustainable economies, and continuing the profound connections between Canadian landscape and Indigenous culture.
Application Timeline	All multi-year funding options are now closed. The next call for Tier 1 proposals will be issued in late fall 2020/winter 2021.

Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-funding/programs/aboriginal-fund-species-risk.html#toc0	
Key Words	Indigenous capacity, Species at Risk Act
Region	Canada
Organization	Government of Canada – Environment and Climate Change
Description	This fund supports the development of Indigenous capacity to participate actively in the implementation of the Species at Risk Act (SARA)
Application Timeline	Application window opens in the Fall of each year. Check website for specific dates

Coastal Restoration Fund http://dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/crf-frc/index-eng.html	
Key Words	Restoration, Marine
Region	Canada
Organization	Government of Canada – Transport Canada
Description	The Coastal Restoration Fund addresses historically degraded areas and will support projects that contribute to coastal restoration plans; support the identification of restoration priorities; and threats to marine species located on Canada’s coasts.
Application Timeline	Current funding cycle closed, unclear about whether there will be another funding cycle

Community nominated priority places for species at risk https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/nature-legacy/fund/community-nominated-places-species-risk.html	
Key Words	Species at risk recovery, multi-partner initiatives
Region	Canada
Organization	Government of Canada – Environment and Climate Change
Description	CNPP will support multi-partner initiatives in priority places where there are opportunities to protect and recover species at risk and their habitat through multi-species and ecosystem-based conservation action. CNPP is seeking joint proposals (lead applicant plus one or more partners) that: identify defined priority places where there are opportunities to protect and recover multiple terrestrial species at risk listed under the Species at Risk Act and their habitat and implement coordinated, multi-partner conservation actions in these identified priority places.



Application Timeline	The second call targets projects during the second two years of the initiative (2021 to 2023). Applicants have the option to submit proposals for three or four years (with requested funding ending no later than March 31, 2023), if they have the required information and commitment of matching funds to complete a fully costed application for those years
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EcoAction Community Funding Program https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-funding/ecoaction-community-program.html	
Key Words	Rehabilitate, protect, natural environment
Region	Canada
Organization	Government of Canada – Environment and Climate Change
Description	Funding to protect, rehabilitate, enhance and sustain the natural environment. A national program that funds local action-based projects that produce measurable, positive effects on the environment.
Application Timeline	Contact regional office to get information on development and submission of an application https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-funding/ecoaction-community-program/regional-offices.html

Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-funding/programs/habitat-stewardship-species-at-risk.html	
Key Words	Recovery, Species at Risk
Region	Projects must take place on private lands, Crown provincial lands or Indigenous Lands across Canada
Organization	Government of Canada – Environment and Climate Change
Description	The Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) was established in 2000. It provides funding for projects submitted by Canadians that contribute directly to the recovery objectives and population goals of species at risk listed on Schedule 1 of the Species at Risk Act (SARA) and prevent others from becoming a conservation concern
Application Timeline	Applications open the Fall of each year. Check the website for specific dates

Indigenous Community-Based Climate Monitoring Program https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1509728370447/1509728402247	
Key Words	Indigenous, Climate Change, Monitoring
Region	Canada
Organization	Government of Canada – Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
Description	This program was developed in response to needs identified by Indigenous partners through engagement on the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change : build capacity within Indigenous communities to monitor climate change impacts, and foster the co-application of Indigenous Knowledge and science. The program provides funding to support Indigenous peoples in the design, implementation, or expansion of long-term community-based climate monitoring projects.



Application Timeline	
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Indigenous Habitat Participation Program https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/ihpp-ppha/index-eng.html	
Key Words	Indigenous, Fish, Fish habitat, Conservation
Region	Canada
Organization	Government of Canada – Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Description	Canada launched the Indigenous Habitat Participation Program (IHPP) on June 7, 2019. This \$50 million funding program gives Indigenous communities opportunities to participate in the conservation and protection of fish and fish habitat
Application Timeline	

Northern Contaminant Program http://www.science.gc.ca/eic/site/063.nsf/eng/h_7A463DBA.html	
Key Words	Contaminants, Traditional Food
Region	Canada
Organization	Government of Canada
Description	Working to reduce and, wherever possible, eliminate contaminants in traditionally harvested foods, while providing information that assists informed decision making by individuals and communities in their food use.
Application Timeline	

Science Horizons Youth Internship https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/science-technology/managing/horizons-youth-internship-program/about.html	
Key Words	Youth Employment, Science,
Region	Canada
Organization	Government of Canada
Description	The Science Horizons Youth Internship Program provides wage subsidies to eligible employers to hire university, college and polytechnic graduates in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).
Application Timeline	

Sustainable Development Goals Funding Program https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/sustainable-development-goals.html	
Key Words	Sustainable Development Goals, Innovation, Collaboration
Region	Canada



Organization	Government of Canada – Employment and Social Development Canada
Description	<p>We are funding projects that will identify and implement innovative approaches or complement and augment existing activities in order to work towards achieving 2 or more of the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enhancing multi-stakeholder efforts by promoting partnerships and bridging efforts across sectors in support of the 2030 Agenda • ensuring that Canada’s progress on the 2030 Agenda leaves no one behind, including vulnerable or marginalized groups, and • fostering and integrating Indigenous and local knowledge into approaches and efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda
Application Timeline	We are currently accepting applications, on an ongoing basis

Youth Employment and Skills Strategy Program https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/youth-employment-strategy.html	
Key Words	Youth Employment
Region	Canada
Organization	Government of Canada – Employment and Social Development Canada
Description	Projects to help youth overcome barriers to employment and develop a broad range of skills and knowledge in order to participate in the current and future labour market. Support will be tailored to the needs of youth that are facing barriers to employments.
Application Timeline	

Provincial/Territorial Government Funding

Manitoba

Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Initiatives – Manitoba https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/fish_and_wildlife/fish-and-wildlife-enhancement-fund/index.html#fwef	
Key Words	Fish, Wildlife, Protection
Region	Manitoba
Organization	Government of Manitoba – Sustainable Development
Description	Sustainable Development (SD) administers this Fund the purpose of supporting fish and wildlife initiatives, including projects, programs and studies designed to protect and increase fish and wildlife habitats and populations in Manitoba, and government fish hatcheries
Application Timeline	The next intake deadline date is September 1 2020

Heritage Grants Program – Manitoba https://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/grants/hgp.html	
Key Words	Human and Natural Heritage



Region	Manitoba
Organization	Government of Manitoba – Sport, Culture, and Heritage
Description	The Heritage Grants Program has been developed to assist Manitobans in identifying, protecting and interpreting the province's human and natural heritage.
Application Timeline	Deadlines for applications are January 31 and June 1 of each year

Alberta

Indigenous fund for community-based environmental monitoring https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/oil-sands-monitoring/community-based-monitoring.html	
Key Words	Oil sands, Environmental Monitoring
Region	Northeastern Alberta
Organization	Government of Canada, Government of Alberta
Description	The Government of Canada has committed up to \$2 million annually to develop capacity for community-based environmental monitoring in the oil sands region that is designed and led by Indigenous communities. This new funding opportunity will build capacity and provide an opportunity for community leadership in environmental monitoring design and implementation.
Application Timeline	

North West Territories

North West Territories - Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program https://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/en/services/apply-funding	
Key Words	Environmental Monitoring, Cumulative Impacts
Region	North West Territories
Organization	Government of the North West Territories
Description	The Northwest Territories Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program (NWT CIMP) is a source of environmental monitoring and research in the Northwest Territories (NWT). NWT CIMP coordinates, conducts and funds the collection, analysis and reporting of information related to environmental conditions, particularly cumulative impacts and environmental trends, in the NWT. The goal is to produce information that supports better resource management decision-making and sustainable development.
Application Timeline	



Philanthropic Funding Opportunities

Canada-wide Philanthropic Grants

Canadian Community Foundations https://www.communityfoundations.ca/find-a-community-foundation/	
Key Words	Local, community-based
Region	Canada
Organization	Community Foundations
Description	Community Foundations fund a variety of local initiatives. Check your local community foundations and see if they have any grants applicable to Guardian Programs
Application Timeline	

Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation – Environmental Conservation https://www.moore.org/programs/environmental-conservation	
Key Words	Conservation, Sustainability
Region	Global - Canada
Organization	Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
Description	Our Environmental Conservation Program balances long-term conservation with sustainable use. We protect critical ecosystems. We establish models for collaboration that can be replicated and expanded around the globe. And we seek to create lasting change in how land, freshwater and coastal marine ecosystems are managed
Application Timeline	

The Gosling Foundation http://goslingfoundation.org/index.cfm?page=GrantPrograms	
Key Words	Conservation, Biodiversity
Region	Canada
Organization	The Gosling Foundation
Description	The Gosling Foundation provides a variety of environmental conservation grants. The Foundation’s interests include: Protection of lands of significant ecological interest with high biodiversity relevance, prompting actions on behalf of nature by building on people’s inherent interest in living things, with a focus on birds, helping organizations be more effective in protecting nature, and research in plant biodiversity preservation.
Application Timeline	



Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation – Indigenous Rights Grants https://www.leonardodicaprio.org/projects/indigenous-rights/	
Key Words	Indigenous, Land Rights, Sustainability
Region	International - Canada
Organization	Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation
Description	LDF supports indigenous communities who are on the front lines defending their lands, water, people and culture from mounting pressures. LDF funds indigenous led programs that teach local leaders how to map and document their territories, defend their indigenous rights, and increase the impact of their public advocacy efforts.
Application Timeline	

The Max Bell Foundation https://maxbell.org/our-work/granting/	
Key Words	Social, Economic, Technology, Public Policy
Region	Canada
Organization	Maxwell Bell Foundation
Description	We support work that helps Canadians adapt to social, economic, and technological changes while positively impacting the quality of life in our communities. Our strategic priority is to support projects which educate Canadians about public policy and practice alternatives. We prefer to develop project proposals in collaboration with applicants rather than reacting to proposals which are already fully developed.
Application Timeline	There are no deadlines for initial requests. We receive and respond to initial requests throughout the year.

McConnel Foundation https://mcconnellfoundation.ca/granting/	
Key Words	Social, Culture, Economic, Environment
Region	Canada
Organization	McConnel Foundation
Description	The McConnell Foundation is a private Canadian foundation that develops and applies innovative approaches to social, cultural, economic and environmental challenges. We do so through granting and investing, capacity building, convening, and co-creation with grantees, partners and the public. We want a country in which public, private and social sectors are engaged in active efforts to close the gap between the socioeconomic wellbeing of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people
Application Timeline	There are no application deadlines for grants. We review applications on an ongoing basis.



Mountain Equipment Coop – Community Grant Programs https://www.mec.ca/en/explore/spring-and-fall-grants	
Key Words	Outdoor Activity, Environmental Stewardship
Region	Canada
Organization	Mountain Equipment Co-op
Description	MEC’s Community Grants program supports organizations that can demonstrate their commitment to at least one, and preferably both, of the following areas: (1) Identify and reduce barriers to outdoor activity and increase the community of active outdoor enthusiasts, (2) Teach responsible outdoor recreation practices and environmental stewardship.
Application Timeline	2020 Fall grants are accepted July 6th to September 8th. Applicants are notified mid-November.

Nature United – Community Visit Grant https://www.indigenousguardianstoolkit.ca/story/funding-available-indigenous-guardian-community-visits	
Key Words	Indigenous Guardian, Knowledge Exchange
Region	Canada
Organization	Nature United
Description	Nature United is receiving applications for funding to visit with other communities to share, learn and be inspired by each other’s Indigenous Guardian work. Get together in-person to exchange knowledge, experiences, ideas, successes and challenges related to Indigenous Guardian programs and to spend time together on the land. Nature United provides grants of up to 5K.
Application Timeline	Rolling application

Oak Foundation http://oakfnd.org/environment.html	
Key Words	Conservation, Climate Change, Marine, Wildlife
Region	Canada
Organization	Oak Foundation
Description	In the Environment Programme we envision a world where our children will grow up in a clean, safe climate, our oceans are free of plastic, and endangered wildlife are protected from cruel and illegal trade. We have three sub-programmes: Climate change, Marine Conservation, and Wildlife Conservation and Trade.
Application Timeline	



Small Change Fund https://www.smallchange fund.ca/	
Key Words	Environmental, Fundraising
Region	Canada
Organization	Small Change Foundation
Description	An organization that helps people raise money for environmental projects, similar to Kickstarter or GoFundMe.
Application Timeline	

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation Grant https://www.td.com/ca/en/about-td/ready-commitment/funding/fe f-grant/	
Key Words	Environmental Education
Region	Canada
Organization	TD Canada Trust
Description	The Foundation supports a wide range of environmental initiatives, with a primary focus on environmental education and green space programs.
Application Timeline	Winter Submission – January, Summer Submission - July

Provincial/Territorial/Local Philanthropic Grants

Alberta

Alberta Ecotrust https://albertaecotrust.com/what-we-do/	
Key Words	Environment, Water, Wildlife, Climate Change
Region	Alberta
Organization	Alberta Ecotrust
Description	Alberta Ecotrust’s work supports the people and projects that effectively address Alberta’s most pressing environmental issues. We accomplish this primarily by making grants to enable Alberta environmental non-governmental organizations to more effectively deliver programs, projects, and results that advance their environmental missions within our issue priorities
Application Timeline	



British Columbia

BC Capacity Initiative http://www.bccapacity.org/application.aspx	
Key Words	Reconciliation, Community Capacity, First Nations
Region	British Columbia
Organization	BC Capacity Initiative
Description	The BC Capacity Initiative prepares First Nations groups to engage in reconciliation discussions by funding projects that enhance community capacities. The expected result for capacity development is that First Nations advance their readiness to participate in reconciliation discussions.
Application Timeline	

The Brainerd Foundation https://www.brainerd.org/funding/eligibility.php	
Key Words	Conservation, Northwest, Environment
Region	British Columbia
Organization	The Brainerd Foundation
Description	Our mission is to protect the environment of the Northwest and to build broad citizen support for conservation. We provide funding and expertise to strengthen the ability of nonprofits, communities, and decision-makers to protect our region's air, land, and water.

Coast Funds – Annual Conservation Funding https://coastfunds.ca/apply/	
Key Words	Conservation, Stewardship, Indigenous Guardians
Region	Great Bear Rainforest and Haida Gwaii
Organization	Coast Funds
Description	Focuses on annual support of multi-year conservation programs such as stewardship offices, regional monitoring (Guardian Watchman), heritage and natural resources, mapping and conservancy management, and more.
Application Timeline	Coast Funds offers First Nations a continuous intake for new applications with four rounds of funding every year. See website for specific deadlines

Columbia Basin Trust https://ourtrust.org/grants-and-programs-directory/	
Key Words	Social, Economic, Environment, Sustainability
Region	Columbia Basin, British Columbia
Organization	Columbia Basin Trust
Description	The Trust supports efforts by the people of the Basin to create a legacy of social, economic and environmental well-being and to achieve greater self-sufficiency for present and future generations. There are a variety of grants available, depending on the focus of the project (See grants and programs directory page)
Application Timeline	



Comox Valley Community Foundation https://cvcfoundation.org/grants/available-grants/before-you-apply-for-your-grant/	
Key Words	Local, Community
Region	Comox Valley, British Columbia (School District #71)
Organization	Comox Valley Community Foundation
Description	Comox Valley Community Foundation helps build a vital community by supporting local initiatives and organizations that strive to improve the community. We support a variety of causes tackling our community's most pressing issues.
Application Timeline	

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation https://www.packard.org/grants-and-investments/for-grantseekers/	
Key Words	Conservation, Restoration
Region	British Columbia - Great Bear Rainforest
Organization	
Description	The Conservation and Science Program invests in action and ideas that conserve and restore ecosystems while enhancing human well-being.
Application Timeline	

First Nations Stewardship Technicians Training Program https://aboriginal.viu.ca/sites/default/files/print_stewardshiptraining-nanwakolas_brochure-updated.pdf	
Key Words	Stewardship Training,
Region	North Vancouver Island or Central Coast Region
Organization	Nanwakolas Council
Description	The First Nations Stewardship Technicians Training Program has been custom designed to give you the applied skills and knowledge required to work for your Nation in the growing field of resource stewardship or to broaden your skills and expertise in your current job as a Guardian.
Application Timeline	

Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation https://hctf.ca/grants/	
Key Words	Conservation, Environmental Education,
Region	British Columbia
Organization	Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation
Description	We fund a variety of conservation work including: Projects that restore, maintain, or enhance native freshwater fish and wildlife populations and habitats, Environmental education, and stewardship projects, Projects that acquire land or interests in land to secure the value of these areas for conservation purposes
Application Timeline	Timeline varies for each grant. See website for details



Pacific Salmon Commission https://www.psc.org/about-us/structure/the-endowment-funds/	
Key Words	Salmon, Restoration, Enhancement
Region	Northern Fund - State of Alaska, the Province of British Columbia and/or the Alsek River drainage in the Yukon Territory. Southern Fund – Southern BC, States of Washington and Oregon.
Organization	Pacific Salmon Commission
Description	The Pacific Salmon Commission oversees two Endowment Funds established in 1999 to support projects in Canada and the United States that develop improved information for resource management; rehabilitate and restore marine and freshwater salmon habitats; and, enhance wild stock production through low technology techniques. There are two funds, the Northern Fund and the Southern Fund.
Application Timeline	Due early September for projects starting the following year in late May or early June.

Pacific Salmon Foundation https://www.psf.ca/what-we-do/community-salmon-program	
Key Words	Salmon Stewardship, Community Partnership
Region	British Columbia and the Yukon
Organization	Pacific Salmon Foundation
Description	The Pacific Salmon Foundation takes a practical approach to salmon stewardship by leveraging and sharing resources within the community. The impact of every contribution is multiplied by community partnerships that can result in access to matching funds, and donations of additional goods and services for projects.
Application Timeline	Applications open Fall and Late Winter. Check website for specific dates

Sitka Foundation https://sitkafoundation.org/	
Key Words	Biodiversity, Environmental Protection, Public Engagement
Region	Pacific Northwest
Organization	Sitka Foundation
Description	The Sitka Foundation supports environmental changemakers in our communities who preserve biodiversity and protect the environment. The Sitka Foundation granting program aims to support the following 4 key areas : land, water, and ocean conservation, scientific research for nature and the environment, public engagement around the importance of a healthy environment, and innovative conservation efforts in Canadian communities, at the local, provincial, and federal levels
Application Timeline	The Sitka Foundation reviews all complete and qualified applications on an ongoing basis with approximately four grant review meetings taking place per year



Vancouver Foundation – LEVEL Youth Granting https://www.vancouverfoundation.ca/grants/level-youth-granting	
Key Words	Indigenous Youth, Leadership
Region	British Columbia
Organization	Vancouver Foundation
Description	Grants of up to \$50,000 for charities and other qualified donees across the province to engage Indigenous and racialized immigrant and refugee young people in staff leadership and board governance
Application Timeline	

Wilburforce Foundation http://www.wilburforce.org/grants/	
Key Words	Conservation, Sustainability, Wildlife
Region	British Columbia, the Yukon, and Northwest Territories (See website for specific areas in these regions)
Organization	Wilburforce Foundation
Description	Wilburforce Foundation supports organizations and individuals who are committed to science-driven conservation efforts and sustainable policies that will have a meaningful and enduring impact on our natural ecosystems. We use conservation science to identify priority regions that correspond with our focus on wildlands and habitat connections that allow wildlife to thrive.
Application Timeline	Organizations that are interested in submitting a grant proposal must contact the Foundation prior to developing an application for funding

Ontario

Laidlaw Foundation – Indigenous youth and community futures fund https://laidlawfdn.org/funding-opportunities/indigenous-strategy/indigenous-youth-community-futures-fund/	
Key Words	Indigenous Youth, Cultural Practices
Region	Ontario
Organization	Laidlaw Foundation
Description	Through the Indigenous Youth & Community Futures Fund (IYCFF), we invest in opportunities for Indigenous youth to connect with their land, languages and cultures, and strengthen and deepen their relationships within and across Indigenous communities. We also support the transmission of cultural practices and knowledge to future generations.
Application Timeline	Application intake begins in the Winter of each year. Check website for specific dates.



Manitoba

The Thomas Sill Foundation Inc. http://thomassillfoundation.com/guidelines/	
Key Words	Community Well-being
Region	Manitoba
Organization	Thomas Sill Foundation Inc.
Description	The Thomas Still Foundation provides grants throughout Manitoba in response to community needs such as addressing poverty, community well-being, mental illness, students at risk, and water issues.
Application Timeline	There are no deadlines by which applications must be submitted

The Indigenous Guardians Toolkit is a project of Nature United, developed in collaboration with indigenous partners and practitioners, including an advisory group with experience building and supporting Indigenous Guardian Programs across Canada.

We'd love your input and feedback: info@indigenousguardianstoolkit.ca
www.indigenousguardianstoolkit.ca.